



Advisory, July 14, 2000

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SOLAR RACING NEWS

Solar cars hit the road to test Route 66 course

WHO'S DRIVING: Teams making the drive are: Lincoln Land Community College (Springfield, Ill.), Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology (Terre Haute, Ind.) and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Cambridge, Mass.) LLC will test only the first leg, from Chicago to Springfield.

STOPS ALONG THE WAY: The media stops/ checkpoints are planned for Chicago, Ill.; Springfield, Ill.; Rolla, Mo.; Neosho, Mo.; Claremore, Okla.; Edmond, Okla.; Sayre, Okla.; Amarillo, Texas; Tucumcari, N.M.; Gallup, N.M.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Flagstaff, Ariz.; Kingman, Ariz.; Barstow, Calif; and Palm Springs, Calif. (*Locations at each stop are below*)

Checkpoints are every 150-200 miles. Teams will spend 15 to 30 minutes at each stop, providing time for interviews and photographs.

WHY: The ASC encourages innovation and interest in science and engineering, creates enthusiasm for educational excellence and the technologies that emerge from that excellence, and demonstrates the power of solar energy and energy efficiency.

CALL US ON THE ROAD: Where we'll be each day during the test run depends on weather and other factors influencing how far the solar cars travel in a day. ASC public relations staff John Horst, George Douglas and Chris Powers will be in constant contact with the cars. All can be reached by cell phone: Horst, 303-882-0777; Douglas, (before July 20) 720-353-7540; Powers, (after July 20) 882-0775.

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AMERICAN SOLAR CHALLENGE

ABOUT THE TEAMS:

Rose-Hulman

Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology's Solar Phantom team has competed in eight national solar car races during the past 10 years. This year marks the 10-year anniversary of its first solar race, GM Sunrayce USA from Orlando, Fla. to Warren, Mich.

During the 90s, Rose-Hulman students constructed four different cars for these competitions and construction is currently underway on the Solar Phantom VI for the ASC in 2001. In May, the Solar Phantom V (the car making the test run) won the Formula Sun Grand Prix in Topeka, Kan. It placed third in Sunrayce 99.

MIT Solar Electric Vehicle Team

The Massachusetts Institute of Technology team is a student-run organization that has competed in nearly 20 solar car races. In 1999, MIT ventured to Australia to compete in the World Solar Challenge. It earned first place in the lead acid (cut-out) class and eighth overall. MIT has also found success in Sunrayce events. The school took first in Sunrayce 95 and second in 97.

Founded in 1985, MIT's solar car team became the nation's first university to enter the Swiss Tour de Sol in 1986. The team also set a record traveling across the U.S. with its Solectria 5

Lincoln Land Community College

The team from Springfield, Ill., has been racing solar cars for almost five years now. In May, LLCC took fifth in the stock car class during the Formula Sun Grand Prix in Topeka, Kan.

The team's car Prominence II uses a hydrogen-powered fuel cell in addition to solar power to run its electric motor. The car's combination of solar cells and hydrogen power is unique, team members say.

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AMERICAN SOLAR CHALLENGE

MEDIA STOPS/CHECKPOINTS FOR TEST RUN

Start: Chicago Museum of Science and Industry
Springfield, Ill. Lincoln Land Community College
Rolla, Mo. University of Missouri Rolla
Neosho, Mo. Near Walmart Shopping Center
Claremore, Okla. Walmart lot
Edmond, Okla. University of Central Oklahoma
Sayre, Okla. Sayre Campus
Amarillo, Texas Big-K lot
Tucumcari, N.M. TBD
Albuquerque, N.M. Walmart lot
Gallup, N.M. Cultural Center
Flagstaff, Ariz. TBD
Kingman, Ariz. TBD
Barstow, Calif. Barstow College
Finish: Palm Springs, Calif. Palm Springs High School

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