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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLAR RACING NEWS

**Museum of Science and Industry to host
solar car race startline**

Golden, Colo., Feb. 13, 2001 — In what could be called a blast along a road from the past, the American Solar Challenge (ASC), a solar-powered car race to be held July 15-25, will start at the Chicago Museum of Science and Industry and follow historic Route 66 to the Los Angeles area. These cars will make the trip without using a single drop of fuel.

The ASC will feature as many as 60 solar-powered cars built by various university teams, companies and clubs worldwide. Overseas participants expected to race include groups from Germany, Italy and England.

The ASC is the longest solar car race in the world at 2,300 miles, topping the distances of the World Solar Challenge and Sunrayce '99. The World Solar Challenge, a transcontinental route in Australia, is 1,882 miles. Sunrayce '99, from Washington, D.C. to Orlando, covered 1,300 miles.

"The Museum of Science and Industry is delighted to be a part of the American Solar Challenge," said Keith Gill, Curator of Transportation and the U-505 Submarine Exhibit. "Our fascinating mix of historic and current technology exhibits make the race a perfect fit with our mission to educate the public about cutting-edge technology."

ASC's mission is to advance renewable energy and electric vehicle technologies, promote educational and engineering excellence, encourage environmental consciousness and teach teamwork. The educational event, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and its National Renewable Energy Laboratory, EDS and Terion, provides hands-on experience for engineering students, allowing them to build their technical skills for the 21st Century marketplace.

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AMERICAN SOLAR CHALLENGE

In addition to the start and finish cities, the cars will stop at 13 checkpoints along the route: Springfield, Ill.; Rolla, Mo.; Neosho, Mo.; Tulsa, Okla.; Edmond, Okla.; Sayre, Okla.; Amarillo, Texas; Tucumcari, N.M.; Albuquerque, N.M.; Gallup, N.M.; Flagstaff, Ariz.; Kingman, Ariz.; and Barstow, Calif.

The Chicago Museum of Science and Industry will feature an outdoor solar exhibit two weeks before the race begins. The exhibit, called "Solar Independence," is a 4-kilowatt solar electric power system designed to look like the U.S. flag. Its 16 solar panels will power a giant electronic message board with race information before and during race start activities. The system is capable of providing the electricity needs for a 4,000-sq. ft. home and is the type of system commonly used for back up electricity during emergencies. The exhibit uses solar technology similar to that used by the cars entered in the ASC. The start line will be located at the Museum's entrance on 57th Drive, and depart to Stony Island Road where the cars will head south.

Editor's note: A list of participating teams is available online at <http://www.formulasun.org>. Race regulations and route information can also be obtained from the Web site. To view trial run photos from last summer visit ASC at <http://www.formulasun.org/asc/media.html>.

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