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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SOLAR RACING NEWS

Missouri-Rolla takes the lead in First Day of American Solar Challenge

July 15, 2001 – During Day One of the American Solar Challenge -- the 2,300-mile cross country solar car race from Chicago to Los Angeles -- three teams have claimed early lead positions. Although final daily results have not been released, as of 6 p.m. CDT, University of Missouri-Rolla has moved into first place after a day of racing under sunny skies. University of Waterloo and Principia College are in second and third place, respectively.

Missouri-Rolla reached St. Louis, a distance of 328 hundred miles from Chicago, while Waterloo traveled past Springfield, Ill., tallying more than 206 miles for the day. Principia also logged more than 206 miles for the day. Thirty cars are participating in the race.

The race began in Chicago at the Museum of Science and Industry July 15 and continues to Claremont, Calif., through 14 checkpoints in cities and towns along historic Route 66. The American Solar Challenge is an educational event in which participants build and race cars whose only source of fuel is the sun. The car with the fastest cumulative time will win the race.

Official daily results will be posted at www.formulasun.org/asc as early as possible each day. Final cumulative times are based on actual race time, plus time penalties for race rules infractions. Cars can be tracked on the Internet at www.formulasun.org/asc/tracking/index.html July 15-25 through use of a global positioning satellite system that will pinpoint their location at any time.

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The race is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and its National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), Golden, Colo.; EDS, Plano, Texas; and Terion, Melbourne, Fla.