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American Solar Challenge Take Off From Albuquerque on Sunday

On Day 7 of the American Solar Challenge, the cars prepare to leave tomorrow at 9 a.m. for the race's final leg. Teams will take off in one-minute intervals, with first place team the University of Missouri-Rolla leaving first, second place team the University of Minnesota taking off one minute later, and so on until all 20 teams are on their way to the next checkpoint in Gallup, N.M. Please visit www.americansolarchallenge.org for a complete list of teams and their standings. The Challenge, a 2,300-mile cross-country solar car race from Chicago to the Los Angeles area, is the longest solar car race in the world.

The cars start from the "Pit" at the South Campus of the University of New Mexico, and the public is encouraged to come cheer the racers and talk with team members.

Each team has 880 miles to go before reaching the finish line in Claremont, Calif.

The race began in Chicago at the Museum of Science and Industry July 13, traveling through 13 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.americansolarchallenge.org. Final cumulative times are based on actual race time, plus time penalties for race rules infractions. Photos of the race and other information also are available at the Web site.

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The race is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and its National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), BP Solar and EDS

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