



WORLD SOLAR  
CAR CHALLENGE  
OCTOBER 17 - 26

# The 5th Darwin to Adelaide World Solar Challenge



Osaka Sangyo University – OSU Model S



## World Solar Challenge – ‘Brain Sport’ to the Max

The 1999 World Solar Challenge set to commence its epic trek from Darwin on October 17 and finish in Adelaide from October 20 onwards is destined to be a ‘battle of the brains’ with an outstanding entry list from some of the world’s greatest institutions of learning.

A total of 42 entries are planning to leave the Northern Territory capital representing 11 nations. - Australia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, England, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Singapore, and USA.

Twelve teams each from both Japan and Australia make up the majority of the entries, but the American interest is also very high with a total of eight entries.

From the US Yale College will be pitted against the likes of MIT, University of Michigan, University of Minnesota and the Winston Solar Car Team from Texas. The Japanese contingent includes teams from the Tokyo Salesian Polytech, Osaka Sangyo University, Kanazawa Institute, and the Tokai Shoyo High School.

The Australian entry list is also a ‘who’s who’ of learning institutions with the Adelaide Annesley College entry, Central Queensland University, Northern Territory University, University of Queensland, and University of NSW among those taking up the challenge.

Jona Sun – Japan




## Preparation ‘On Track’ for the last great adventure of the millenium

One man who has already ‘competed’ on the World Solar Challenge route twice this year is Event Manager Chris Selwood, albeit relying on petrol power rather than solar!

Chris has driven the course, first in reverse from Adelaide to Darwin and then back again to ensure that all is in order for the event come October.

Arrangements have been made for scrutineering at the Darwin Showgrounds, speed testing at Darwin’s Hidden Valley motor racing complex, and of course all points on the route including compulsory ‘media stops’ at Katherine, Dunmurra, Tennant Creek, Alice Springs, Cadney Homestead, Glendambo, and Port Augusta.





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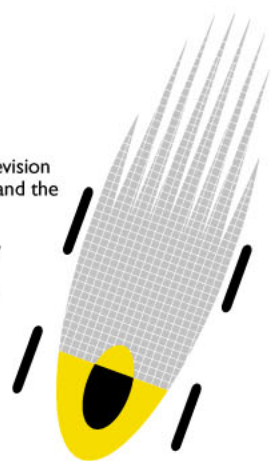
# Media interest high for event

Media awareness is already high for the '99 event with expressions of interest regarding television documentaries coming from producers connected with the National Geographic Channel, and the Discovery Channel, as well as Japanese and American film makers.

World Solar Challenge organisers are finalising arrangements for a media bus to accompany the race and to provide daily satellite television news feeds to free to air channels. Radio reports and the posting of digital still photographs on the event's web site and direct to photo agencies is another media service being planned.

Event Manager Chris Selwood says that part of the challenge of the event is the remoteness of the route which poses special problems for teams and media alike.

"Our aim is to make the '99 World Solar Challenge the most media friendly and accessible event yet held" Chris says.



## Major Sponsors



# Race Finale in Adelaide

Adelaide's Victoria Park will be the place to be for tens of thousands of people wanting to see solar cars and ETSA solar cycles after they have made their respective journeys from Darwin and Alice Springs.

On the week-end of October 23 and 24, forty two solar cars together with the ETSA Power Solar Cycle Challenge machines will be on display at the former Grand Prix and current Clipsal 500 city motor racing circuit. The solar cycles will cross the finish line on the race circuit after their 1500km event.

To complete the theme, model solar cars and boats will also be a major part of the weekend festivities. Another feature display will be the Prince Alfred College solar boat that holds the record for distance travelled on an inland waterway - the River Murray.



University of NSW car Sunswift 11 at Sunrace 99

# History of the World Solar Challenge

When adventurer Hans Tholstrup and motor racing legend Larry Perkins crossed Australia from West to East in a fragile vehicle powered by the sun in 1983, no-one could have guessed that it would lead to the creation of the world's most prestigious solar car race.

Four years later, in 1987, 23 solar powered cars from seven countries set off from Darwin bound for Adelaide in the first World Solar Car Challenge.

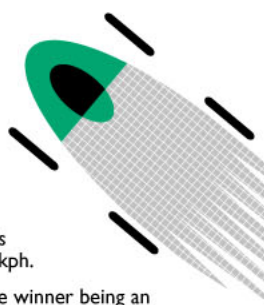
The event was an outstanding success, helped along by the performance of General Motor's 'Sunraycer' that surprised the experts with its average speed for the journey of close to 67kph.

The event could only go from strength to strength. In 1990 there were 36 starters, with the winner being an entry from the Swiss Engineering School, Biel. Less than perfect weather kept the record of GM's 'Sunraycer' intact.

The bar was more than raised in 1993 with 53 entries in a race that was dominated by the high-tech Honda Dream that took the honours at an average speed of 85kph.

Honda was back three years later and set a new record for the event covering the 3,000km plus distance in 33 hours 32 minutes at an average speed of 89.76kph.

The World Solar Challenge is recognised internationally as THE premier solar car event, and is the only open road race not run in stages. It is also the only event that crosses a continent and is seen as the ultimate test for amazing examples of technology and team ingenuity.



**1999 WORLD SOLAR  
CHALLENGE  
GROUP OF EVENTS**

## WORLD SOLAR GROUP OF EVENTS

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