



FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christopher Powers, DOE, 720-320-8692, christopher.powers@go.doe.gov
Anna Martinez Barnish, DOE, 720-320-8694, anna.martinez-barnish@go.doe.gov
Media Relations, Natural Resources Canada, 613-992-4447, media@nrcc.gc.ca
George Douglas, NREL, 720-353-7540, george_douglas@nrel.gov

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MEDIA ADVISORY

2,500-mile Solar Car Challenge Crosses Canadian Border

What: Participants in the 2005 North American Solar Challenge (NASC) will make history as the first solar car teams to cross an international border as they head toward the Pembina/Emerson port of entry July 21.

The American Solar Challenge is normally held every two years within the U.S., but in this special international edition, students will design, build and test solar-powered cars across the United States and Canada. The 2,500-mile challenge begins in Austin, Texas, July 17 and will finish July 27 in Calgary, Alberta. Teams from universities in the U.S. and Canada will compete in what each hopes will be the fastest solar-powered car.

The NASC follows mostly U.S. Route 75 and the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 1), with checkpoints in Weatherford, Texas; Broken Arrow, Okla.; Topeka, Kan.; Omaha, Neb.; Sioux Falls, S.D.; Fargo, N.D.; Winnipeg, Manitoba; Brandon, Manitoba; Regina, Saskatchewan; and Medicine Hat, Alberta, before reaching the finish in Calgary.

The NASC is an educational event in which teams compete to build and drive solar-powered cars across country. As many as 18 solar-powered cars from the U.S. and Canada are participating in the competition. The car with the fastest cumulative time will win NASC, the longest solar car challenge in the world.

When: Solar cars are expected to arrive at the border **July 21 - July 23**. The fastest cars could reach the border sometime mid-morning on July 21, with the other cars coming in intermittently throughout the day.

Where: Pembina/Emerson port of entry

Covering: Media are encouraged to cover the border crossing where drivers and other team members will be available for interviews. Media team representatives and NASC sponsors will also be at the site. Daily results and other information will be posted at <http://americansolarchallenge.org/index.html>. High-resolution JPEG photos with photo captions are available at <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/nasc05>. Follow the cars online via the NASC's GPS tracking system at <http://americansolarchallenge.org/event/asc2005/gps/index.php>.

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The contest is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), Natural Resources Canada, DOE's National Renewable Energy Laboratory, TransAlta, University of Calgary, CSI Wireless, AMD and Manitoba Transportation and Government Services.

P.O. Box 30 Freeman, MO 64763
Phone: 800-606-8881 Fax: 509-968-3602