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Massachusetts Institute of Technology takes lead in third day of the NASC

During the third day of the North American Solar Challenge – the 2,500-mile cross-country solar car challenge that began in Austin, Texas on July 17 and ends on July 27 in Calgary, Alberta, – one team now holds both the daily and overall lead. As of 9 p.m. CDT, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) was in first place and was the only car to reach the checkpoint in Omaha, Neb., 921 miles from Austin.

Twelve other teams made it through the checkpoint in Topeka, Kan. Following MIT in order were the University of Minnesota, University of Waterloo, University of Michigan, University of Missouri-Rolla, Principia College, Western Michigan University, Auburn University, Iowa State University, CalSol, University of Missouri-Columbia, Stanford University and the University of Calgary. Eighteen cars are participating in the race.

With today's results, MIT takes the overall race lead with the lowest cumulative time of 24 hours, 10 minutes and 37 seconds. Minnesota and Waterloo are in second and third overall. Time penalties, if any, have not yet been assessed.

The North American Solar Challenge is an educational event in which participants build and drive cars that run on 100 percent solar power. The car with the fastest cumulative time will win the competition.

Official daily results will be posted at <http://americansolarchallenge.org/index.html>. Final cumulative times are based on actual time, plus time penalties for rules infractions. High-resolution JPEG photos with photo captions are available at <https://www.eere-pmc.energy.gov/nasc05>.

(More)

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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.

DOE's overarching mission is enhancing national security. The priorities of the department's energy programs are to increase domestic energy production, revolutionize our approach to energy conservation and efficiency, and promote the development of renewable and energy efficiency technologies.

NREL is DOE's primary national laboratory for renewable energy and energy efficiency research and development. NREL is operated for DOE by Midwest Research Institute and Battelle.

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