



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@nrcan.gc.ca
George Douglas, NREL, 720-353-7540, george_douglas@nrel.gov

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Minnesota maintains lead as teams cross Canadian border during fifth day of NASC

The University of Minnesota continues to set the pace during the fifth 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. Minnesota was the first car to reach the stage stop in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Four other teams made it through the Pembina/Emerson port of entry into Canada. Following Minnesota were the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Michigan, University of Missouri-Rolla and the University of Waterloo.

With today's results, Minnesota maintains the overall lead with the lowest cumulative time, having traveled 1,633 miles in 38 hours, 45 minutes and 09 seconds. Time penalties, if any, have not yet been assessed.

The NASC has two classes competing; the open class where teams are allowed to use batteries or solar cells of their choice and the stock class where teams use only lead acid batteries and solar cells approved by NASC officials. The stock class leader at the end of five days of racing continues to be Cal Sol followed closely by Iowa State University.

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. Eighteen cars are participating in the event.

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>. Follow the cars online via the NASC's GPS tracking system at <http://americansolarchallenge.org/event/asc2005/gps/index.php>.

(More)

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



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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.

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