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

July 26, 2005

North American Solar Challenge starts final leg from Medicine Hat on Wednesday

Teams spent Day 10 of the North American Solar Challenge (NASC) preparing for tomorrow's final leg of the 2,500-mile competition. The solar-powered cars will begin leaving Medicine Hat, Alberta, tomorrow at 8 a.m. MDT and will cross the finish line in Calgary, Alberta, later that morning. A list of teams, in start order, follows.

The leading team, the University of Minnesota, made it to Medicine Hat yesterday in 50 hours, 43 minutes and 54 seconds. The University of Michigan was in second place with a time of 51:13:05, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was third, with a time of 52:50:55. Michigan arrived first at the Medicine Hat stage stop, but fell into second place when penalties were calculated.

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 10 days of raycing was Stanford with a time of 63:34:38. Stanford is in ninth place in the overall standings after trailering times and penalties were calculated.

The cars will start tomorrow from Medicine Hat College, 299 College Drive, and are anticipated to cross the finish line at the University of Calgary in downtown Calgary between 10 a.m. and 11 a.m.

The competition began in Austin at the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum July 17, traveling through 10 checkpoints in cities and towns along the route. The NASC is an educational event in which participants build and drive cars whose only source of fuel is the sun. 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. Follow the cars online via the NASC's GPS tracking system at http://americansolarchallenge.org/event/asc2005/gps/index.php.

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.

(More)

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.

Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) plays a pivotal role in helping shape the important contributions of the natural resources sector to the Canadian economy, society and environment. The department conducts innovative science to generate ideas and transfer technologies, and represents Canada's international interests to meet our global commitments related to natural resources. By promoting the responsible use of natural resources, NRCan builds on the Government of Canada's commitment to ensuring the quality of life in communities, a healthy environment and continued economic prosperity "for the Canada we want, for ourselves and for future generations".

###

Start Time	**Organization**	**Car#**	**Class**
8 a.m.	University of Minnesota	35	Open
8:01 a.m.	University of Michigan	2	Open
8:02 a.m.	Massachusetts Institute of Technology	6	Open
8:03 a.m.	University of Missouri - Rolla	42	Open
8:04 a.m.	University of Waterloo	24	Open
8:05 a.m.	Western Michigan University	786	Open
8:06 a.m.	Principia College	32	Open
8:07 a.m.	University of Missouri - Columbia	43	Open
8:08 a.m.	Stanford University	16	Stock
8:09 a.m.	CalSol	254	Stock
8:10 a.m.	Iowa State University	9	Stock
8:11 a.m.	Auburn University	7	Stock
8:12 a.m.	University of Calgary	65	Open
8:13 a.m.	Kansas State University	28	Open
8:14 a.m.	Queen's University	100	Open
8:15 a.m.	Red River College	95	Stock
8:16 a.m.	McMaster University	116	Stock
8:17 a.m.	Illinois State University	88	Stock

College Sports Television, www.cstv.com, plans to broadcast a one-hour special on the North American Solar Challenge this fall.

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