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Missouri-Rolla takes lead in 4th Day of American Solar Challenge

On Day 4 of the American Solar Challenge – the 2,300-mile cross-country solar car race from Chicago to the Los Angeles area – one team now holds both the daily and overall lead. As of 8 p.m. CDT the University of Missouri-Rolla was in first place and was the only car to reach the checkpoint in Amarillo, Texas, 1,147 miles from Chicago.

Five other teams made it through the checkpoint in Sayre, Okla. Following Missouri-Rolla were the University of Minnesota, Principia College, Queens University, the University of Missouri-Columbia and Western Michigan University. Twenty cars are participating in the race.

With today's results, the University of Missouri-Rolla takes the overall race lead with the lowest cumulative time of 28 hours, 43 minutes and 2 seconds. Minnesota and Missouri-Columbia are in second and third overall.

The race began in Chicago at the Museum of Science and Industry July 13 and continues to Claremont, Calif., through 13 checkpoints in cities and towns along historic Route 66. The American Solar Challenge is an educational event in which participants build and race cars whose only source of fuel is the sun. The car with the fastest cumulative time will win the race.

Official daily results will be posted at www.americansolarchallenge.org. Final cumulative times are based on actual race time, plus time penalties for race rules infractions. Photos of the race and other information also are available at the Web site.

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The race is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy and its National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), BP Solar and EDS

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