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Eleven teams reach Albuquerque by Day 6 of American Solar Challenge

At the end of Day 6 of the American Solar Challenge – the 2,300-mile cross-country solar car race from Chicago to the Los Angeles area – eleven cars have reached the Albuquerque, N.M. stage stop. The leader, the University of Missouri-Rolla, second place University of Minnesota and third place Principia College made it to the starting point for the race's third leg on Thursday. The University of Waterloo, the University of Missouri-Columbia and Western Michigan University were the first three teams to arrive today. Five others also made it to Albuquerque today. The remaining teams must be at the Albuquerque stop by Saturday at 6 p.m. Twenty cars are participating in the race.

On reaching Albuquerque, the teams have traveled 1,420 miles from Chicago and have 880 miles to go. The teams will rest in Albuquerque until Sunday, when they start again with the overall leader leaving at 9 a.m. Missouri-Rolla will be followed by the other cars in rank order at one-minute intervals.

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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