

SunRace 2003



Daily Report

Day 0 - Friday 14th February, 2003

Report 1

The Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car is entered in the annual Sunrace event which starts in Adelaide at 10.00 AM on Saturday 15 February. The team supporting this entry is drawn from Aurora's associated institution, RMIT University and is made up of predominantly new team members.

Our major competition will be the Sunswift solar car from the team at UNSW. This team were second to Aurora in the AGO Sunrace 2002 in a closely contested battle to be first to reach the Sydney Opera House where the 2300 km event finishes. Aurora set a new race record average speed in 2002 at 94.5 km/h. Aurora has won the Sunrace on one other occasion in 1998 when it established the Hay Plains record for averaging 100.9 km/h over the 100 kilometre stretch between Hay and Balranald.



The new 10 person RMIT team is made up of Dennis Thoroughgood, Marko Levatic, Danny Jutrisa, Stella Ngondi, Damien McArthur, Tom Baker, Kon Kotsonis, Caroline Murphy, Carol Bates and Ian Bates.

This is the last planned event for the solar car in its present technology level and culminates an outstanding 18 months of world record breaking action. At the completion of Sunrace 2003 the solar car will be undergoing a complete rebuild in order to prepare it for the 2003/04 program of international events.

The Sunrace technical rules place restrictions on solar power, capped at 1200 watts and on battery size to be half of that allowed in the World Solar Challenge. These rules will ensure a close fight between Aurora-RMIT 101 and Sunswift.



Adjusting the solar array power back to 1200 watts to meet Sunrace 2003 regulations

Activities today include scrutineering and time trials. The team drove into Adelaide on Wednesday evening. The support cars are the Ford Courier supplied by the Ford Motor Company, the two-stroke Festiva supplied by the Orbital Engine Company and the Ford Falcon provided by Ian Bates. The main Aurora trailer and the Aurora tool trailer round out the support fleet.

The team has undertaken 3 practice runs with the car in order to familiarise the 3 new drivers with safety and command procedures.

Sunrace 2003 marks the seventh occasion this popular event has been staged. Race Director, John Hoerner has created an excellent match of solar cars and fledgling electric cars in order to assist Australian entries in their preparations for the World Solar Challenge which is scheduled for October 2003.