SunRace 2003

Daily Report

Day 1 - Saturday 15th February, 2003

The seventh Sunrace was flagged off from Adelaide by the State Environment Minister at 10.30 AM. The sun conditions in A ideal but this was to be the best for the day. Aurora's array peaked at 900 watts but with already full batteries the team had to t power as they threaded their way out of Adelaide in Saturday morning traffic. One of the new RMIT team-members Danny Ju drove the accomplished Aurora-RMIT 101 solar car on to its journey to Peterborough.

The team picture brfore the start of Sunrace 2003 in Adelaide

Lining up for the start of Sunrace 2003 at the Torrens Parade Ground in Adelaide

SunRace Director John Hoener introduces South A Minister Patrick Conlon at the Adelaide start of

The sleek UNSW solar car followed Aurora-RMIT 101 out of town with the beautiful Chisholm electric car, featuring a new

third place.

The weather conditions worsened with more cloud and this required more care with the battery management. As well, the roa
conditions were rough with many newly laid and coarse gravel sections eventually leading to excessive tyre wear and two flat

At the first scheduled stop at Tarlee the RMIT team had established a small 3 minute lead over UNSW with Chisholm third. T
widened by midday when the event made its next mandatory stop at the foothills of the Flinders Ranges in Burra. RMIT's lea
minutes. Another new driver, RMIT student Stella Ngondi was in charge and handled this higher speed section of the day wit
often reaching the 110kph speed limit.

The day ended in Peterborough with the RMIT team finishing at about 2.45 PM 30 minutes ahead of Chisholm and a whole h
UNSW. RMIT finished with about one third of its battery pack unused and within the next two hours had charged the battery
full condition.

The main problem facing the team over-night is how to get the telemetry system working again as it stopped before reaching
The telemetry system relays important technical information to the control car and is essential for running the solar car at its
performance.