

2003 World Solar Challenge

Darwin > Adelaide 19 - 28 October 2003

Report 10 Tuesday 21 October 2003

RACE UPDATE

Alice Springs

Today was the 3rd day of racing, with the top 3 places leaving from Alice Springs, and headed for a long stretch to end at Cadney Station. Nuna, having arrived yesterday earlier than Aurora and MIT, left at 8:09am, whilst Aurora left at 8:34am and MIT left at 8:35am. It was the perfect day for solar cars, not one cloud in sight, and just a gentle breeze. So from Alice, speeds were around 100km/h, and by about 11am MIT decided to pass Aurora, and finally reached Cadney Station at 1:54pm, 11 mins ahead of Aurora. Nuna had arrived at 1:19pm, and so had extended their lead over Aurora to 46 mins. At Cadney St., both MIT and Aurora needed to change the tyres on their motor wheel. This took longer for MIT, and they lost 6 mins in doing so. Towards the end of the day, and south of Coober Pedy, Aurora had regained 2nd position, and ended 8km ahead of MIT for the day, or approx 7 mins.

Nuna ended up 84km ahead of Aurora, or about 40 mins ahead. All 3 had to replace tyres. This was because of very strong side winds in the afternoon, causing lots of side load on each of the cars.

Aurora is ahead of Nuna's 2001 pace, and averaged 94.7km/h for the day. Nuna averaged 97.4km/h. All three now face the challenge of trying to reach Adelaide by tomorrow evening, which will depend very much on the weather. In fact, it has been raining in Adleaide. There are two media stops tomorrow, the first will be Glendambo, and the second Port Augusta. It should be an interesting day!