



2003 World Solar Challenge

Darwin > Adelaide 19 - 28 October 2003

Report 12

Thursday 23 October 2003

RACE UPDATE

Finishing the event!

Aurora reached Adelaide in 4 days, passing the end of timing at 5:07pm, bettering the Nuna record of 2001. We were in 2nd place, and MIT still had 37km to go to reach the end of timing. Aurora has averaged 91.89km/h and MIT 91.19km/h over the whole race.

The final hour coming in to Adelaide was full of tension, as we were low on battery energy, and cloud had closed in. Finally, we crossed the end of timing at just 70km/h. This morning, Mark Gilligan drove into the official finishing point in the centre of the city, competing with Adelaide's peak-hour traffic. The super Dutch team Nuna 2 reached Adelaide at 3:32pm on the 4th day, which placed them 103 mins ahead of Aurora 101. Their average speed was a spectacular 97.02km/h. The weather on the 4th day was perfect, with no wind. This enabled these records to be set.

Rehame, the media monitoring service, says that there has been over 350 media mentions and stories about the World Solar Challenge in the past month!

Nuna has shown the tremendous potential for solar energy, and we congratulate their great effort. MIT have overshadowed the other American entrants who had done well in the American Solar Challenge, Principia and Queens. We hear that Southern Aurora is still in the race, and beyond Alice Springs. We believe also that Detleff Schmidt is still on the road, hoping to finish the WSC for the first time in 7 attempts. Aurora's team is delighted with its achievements, which include being the fastest qualifier, reaching Alice in 2 days, reaching Adelaide in 4 days, and breaking the record from the last event in 2001. We acknowledge that this has been made possible by the help of our many sponsors.
