



AURORA 101 in Greece

Phaethon 2004, 22-28 May 2004

Report 4 - Thursday 20th May

It's becoming routine. Call the shipping agent, call the race organisers and then call Ford. Still no solar car.

The ship has arrived, around midnight on Wednesday. But the port is on strike so our container cannot be unloaded and we await better news on Friday.



Our big event for the day is an evening reception hosted by the Australian ambassador Stuart Hume. Here we expected to meet up with many other Australians based in Athens, our event organisers and other people associated with the embassy. We were hoping to put the solar car on display at the ambassador's house.

We made another visit to Hellenikon airport to check on the other teams preparing their own cars. The five Japanese entries had arrived and were looking to be very well prepared. One of the newest of the Japanese cars OSU have arrived with a second motor fitted in anticipation of the hill climbing required for this race. Other Japanese entries were fitted with larger motors. The German Heliadet owned by Detleff Schmidt was sporting some changes since it finally finished a World Solar Challenge in Australia last October, with more streamlining and a better platform for the solar panels. The new solar car from Tokyo Salesian Polytechnic from Japan looked terrific although this was built to the smaller ISF 4000 rules.

Back at the Hotel London the Yale team were still waiting for their car to arrive via Spain and were busily drawing up their electrical diagrams required for scrutineering.



By 4pm, the Aurora 101 team, all in uniform were on our way to find the ambassador's residence. Led or misled by three unconnected maps we only got lost three times. Getting lost in Athens is a complicated business. First you have to negotiate some sort of U-turn, second when you ask for directions you get a lot of help but it always ends in, "You ought to ask somebody else". We did find the ambassador, we were 45 minutes late and there was a terrific crowd waiting for us. The guests were disappointed that we didn't have the solar car with us. We were pleased that we didn't have the car with us, negotiating the narrow streets would have been difficult. The Phaethon 2004 organisers had delivered posters and brochures to the embassy for this and we were pleased to see the senior organising committee there as well. This included Costas Cavathas, Dennis Negkas, the Clerk of the Course and others. Media representatives were there also including the BBC. The interest in solar cars certainly was high and we expect to see many of these guests at scrutineering on Saturday.

We only got lost once on the way back. We received news that Nuna from Holland and Futura from Italy had arrived at Hellenikon.



Soon, maybe, if possible we will have our Aurora 101 solar car in our hands ready for real racing.