

CHALLENGE BIBENDUM 2006



Report 3 10th June 2006

Today the Bibendum Energy Challenge was open to invited guests and media from all over the world. Over 500 media attendees filled the Learning Centre and the auditorium for the official opening at 10.00am.

The opening ceremony had speeches from two very senior EU officials, explaining the improvements they had made in transport safety and the importance of new energy initiatives. The new head of Michelin conducted the opening (43 year old Edouard Michelin was tragically killed in a fishing accident on 26 May 2006).



People start arriving at the Learning Centre



Attendees at the opening ceremony



Dignitaries at the opening ceremony

David caught up with one his favourite automotive commentators out of Detroit, Jerry Flint of Forbes magazine. The Australian media contingent consisted of Tony Stanford, Jonathon Hawley and David Berthon. Szusza Zalatnai, marketing manager for Michelin Australia, also attended this important event.



Jerry Flint, from Forbes magazine



The Russian contingent



The Australian contingent

Most of the day was taken up by conference sessions, and ride and drive sessions of the various vehicles.

We also saw some new vehicles, including two electric buses and an electric truck, and low-mass truck trailers made from composite materials.



An electric bus



An electric truck



Another electric bus, with lithium ion batteries, from China

A significant Australian connection to the Bibendum Event is the agreement for Greenfleet to plant trees in Australia to offset the carbon emissions of the Challenge Bibendum entrants.

In the afternoon there were demonstrations of new technologies including low rolling resistance tyres, dynamic stability systems, and safety systems. There were also demonstrations of the FormulaZero go-kart and of two Shell Eco-marathon vehicles. The FormulaZero cart was fast and silent---the only noise was the squeal of the tyres.



The winner of the 2006 Shell Eco-marathon



An Eco-marathon vehicle on the track



FormulaZero go-kart zooming around the track

Tomorrow would have been the day that Aurora led the rally through the streets of Paris to the public display at the Eiffel Tower. Instead, we will just greet other vehicles as they arrive, and hand out the remaining posters of Aurora 101.