

Rallye solaire 2006



Girona, Spain to Toulouse, France
1st - 4th June 2006

Day 6

We had camped overnight in cabins by an artificial lake. Once again, the sky was clear---perfect weather for solar cars.



An artificial lake near the overnight campsite

Today, the cars will be travelling a total of 107 km, with stops in the towns of Mirepoix, Mazeres, Aureville and Torunefeuille.

The first stop was in front of the Cathedral in the central square of Mirepoix. The ultra-modern vehicles certainly stood out against the ancient buildings of the town square.



Helios and Solelhada outside the Mirepoix Cathedral



The Italian-made Elettrica arrives at Mirepoix

From Mirepoix we moved on through the narrow city streets to Mazeres, where we had our main stop for lunch. We were welcomed by Mayor of Mazeres and the Mayor of an adjoining town, and many of the locals came to the square to see the vehicles. We were also joined by a new solar car team from Clearmont Ferrand in France, led by Professor Lionel Batier. They are planning to be at the 2007 World Solar Challenge with a 4 x 1.5 m car (ISF 4000 class). Helios have also decided to build a new ISF 4000 car---the larger solar cars are simply too big for the narrow European city streets.



The Soc Electric Twike arrives in Mazeres



Theresa schmoozes with the Mayor of a nearby town



The four small electric vehicles recharging in the shade of the town square



Members of the new Clearmont Ferrand solar team



The ??? departs Mazerres

After lunch, David Fewchuk, Kon, Peter and Theresa headed off to Toulouse to find a hotel for the night, while David Sims Williams, Dennis and Mike followed the Rallye to the next stop. We eventually found the hotel, but parking for the Land Rover and trailer was a problem.



A balloon vendor in Toulouse

So we returned to the final Rallye stop for the night, at Tournefeuille, and sent the other support car out to find a hotel. They found a hotel nearby, and we retired for the night.

Tomorrow is the final day of Rallye Solaire.