

Aurora in the Global Green Challenge 2009
Report One
18 October 2009

A big bang in the afternoon had us alarmed. Furious checking of electrical components found nothing but it's a scare nonetheless.

This first full day in Darwin was just beautiful, that is if you enjoy sunshine and 34 degrees Centigrade. Our first job was to pick up the trailers from Mazda's carrier Cevalogistics. Joe the driver of one of the two semitrailers met us at 9:00 AM. Every trailer was already hooked up ready to go. This was the smoothest pickup we had done in Darwin.

At the Hidden Valley race track, Peter Schloitte, the Global Green Challenge safety boss was there to welcome us to pits One and Two. They were spotless and the steady unloading of our 'stuff' went well. About six other teams were already at the track, our home until Saturday evening before another big pack up for the on road event itself.



We had visitors. Solar panel constructor of choice, Hans Gochemann and his leading staff member admired their own handiwork on the two Aurora entries. The Japanese TV crew discussed the storyline they planned to cover, including Aurora's participation in the event. Aurora is looking to do well in two categories and is the only team to enter all ten editions of the World Solar Challenge, which now is called the Global Green Challenge.

We did see the fancied Nuna team heading out for road tasting. Their repairs and recovery from a destructive off road crash have been excellent. We expect a strong race performance from the four time champions as they go for their fifth straight victory.



The OSU team from Japan together with the Goko High School team unloaded into pits Three and Four. OSU is favored to win the Adventure Class but Southern Aurora will give them a run for it.

As more entries arrived at the track we were amazed at the ultra slim Japanese car in direct contrast to the 4 wheel upright entry from Malaysia. The Principia car though was the most aggressive with styling literally like a stealth bomber.



Throughout the day we had five more team members arrive from as far away as far north Queensland, Adelaide and Melbourne. By tonight all but one member will be in Darwin.



The most satisfying thing for us was the small amount of finishing off we needed for our two solar cars. We were not allowed on the Hidden Valley Motorsports Complex race track itself but all seemed to be working well in the more limited testing we were able to do with both cars around the large car park. Real action on the race track begins tomorrow.

We don't want to hear the big bang again.

P.S. Two of our team members are Raj Shetgar and Satish Thimmaiah. They are great team members but a challenge to feed. Nasi Goreng for breakfast! We have failed to find spicy Indian cornflakes.