

REPORT FOR THURSDAY, 29 October 2009-

This was another perfect solar car race day in Australia. Warm, clear sun and only a bit of headwind.

But also it was a race to the finish for the group of solar cars in 5th to 10th place.

Tokai had won by finishing yesterday afternoon. This morning both Nuna and Michigan were expected to pass the end of timing at Angle Vale on the outskirts of Adelaide. OSU would also finish and win the Adventure class even with some traffic infringement penalty.

Then it was UNSW, MIT, Principia and Aurora 101. We thought that Southern Aurora would be in the next group along with Goko, Twente and Bochum.

UNSW were already at Glendambo having arrived at 4.40 PM yesterday. They were scheduled to leave control at 8.10 AM.

MIT had parked 30 km back from Glendambo finishing early with spent batteries. They got into Glendambo for their 30 minute stop at 8.23 AM already 43 minutes behind UNSW.

Principia were next at 10.15 AM followed by Aurora 101 at 10.30 AM, just 15 minutes behind Principia. Aurora had also caught time on MIT but not on UNSW.

The next leg to Port Augusta would determine the race results for these four entrants. And so it did. UNSW reached Port Augusta at 11.31 AM, MIT an hour later then Aurora 101 at 2.27, still gaining on MIT and having passed Principia who had to replace a motor by the side of the road before entering the Port Augusta checkpoint. Aurora was now ahead of Principia by 43 minutes.

The day ended by UNSW reaching the end of timing at 3.08 PM, being the first Australian team home in 5th position overall. Also they won the Challenge Silicon class. MIT were 1 hour 23 minutes further back coming second in the Challenge Silicon class.

Aurora 101 should be next but had to stop at Lochiel by 5.00 PM just 100 km before the end of the race.

Principia would also be stopped by the side of the road but not far ahead of Southern Aurora who arrived at Port Augusta at 4.20 PM clearly holding second place in the Adventure class. They also were spending the night on a hot evening amongst the ever present bush flies before looking forward to civilisation again.

Aurora entrants look likely to finish in 7th and 8th positions overall having both lost 6 hours on the first day in separate incidents.



