



MEDIA RELEASE

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Aussie teams look to tunnel vision to blow away world's best

In the global race to see who can deliver the solution to sustainable mobility, two Australian teams in this year's Bridgestone World Solar Challenge, are hopeful collaboration and cutting-edge research techniques will put them on the podium ahead of tough international competition. Australia's first five-state national entrant, the Australian Technology Network (ATN) Solar Car Team, along with one of Australia's most successful solar electric racing teams, Clenergy Team Arrow, are using state-of-the-art modelling techniques in ATN partner RMIT's Industrial Wind Tunnel, to predict their solar cars performance, in preparation for the 3,000-kilometre endurance event in October.

Speaking at the testing, Matt Millar, ATN Solar Car Team driver, team lead for the exterior design and build and RMIT Master of Design Student, said the wide-ranging aerodynamic testing capabilities could make all the difference when it comes to designing a solar car that can withstand punishing outback conditions, including strong winds and dust storms.

'The RMIT Industrial Wind Tunnel can reproduce wind effects up to 150km/h. We can assess wind drag on our scale solar car models and simulate race speeds allowing us to validate projections and estimations with real data. Instead of having to rely on simulations alone, we can experience real-world testing, which puts us on a more level playing field with our international opposition. We can then fine-tune our design for optimal performance in the desert,' Mr Millar said.

Cameron Tuesley, Team Arrow Founder said his team was excited to have the opportunity to be part of the collaborative testing and to see how its one metre long model performs.

'Having competed in several BWSC events, and been 3rd place podium finishers in 2017, we've experienced first-hand the fickle side of Mother Nature. Success in the Cruiser Class is about much more than speed. If your solar car can't perform in a variety of conditions, you won't make the finish line,' Mr Tuesley said.

BWSC Event Director, Chris Selwood said he was delighted to see Australian teams now having the industry expertise and test facilities once the domain of big-budget international competitors.

'Australian innovation and manufacturing are among the world's best. These two teams are to be congratulated for their collaborative approach – I look forward to seeing this technology in everyday vehicles in the very near future,' Mr Selwood concluded.

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Media background

2019 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge (13 – 20 October)

The world's biggest solar challenge began in 1987 and is a 3,000-kilometre endurance adventure that occurs once every two years. The BWSC has become the world's foremost innovation challenge with teams from around the world vying to become the first to deliver sustainable solar powered electric vehicles. Teams are striving to make the Darwin start line on Sunday 13 October, in their bid to deliver the world's most efficient solar electric car. Three classes of vehicle, Challenger, Cruiser and Adventure, will take on the Aussie outback in a contest of endurance, strategy and innovation. The elite Challenger Class is conducted in a single stage from Darwin to Adelaide and 2019 will see the fourth running of the Cruiser Class, created to encourage the green to the mainstream by designing practical electric vehicles where success is judged on a range of design and performance measures. The Cruiser Class solar car category is unique to Bridgestone World Solar Challenge - it is the race within the race. The stage is set for a total eclipse of past events and achievements. For event details go to: www.worldsolarchallenge.org

Clenergy Team Arrow

Australia's premier solar racing team of Brisbane based entrepreneurs who have a long history of competing in Australia's World Solar Challenge. They are a mix of entrepreneur, industry, past competitors and students. The highest ranked Australian finisher in the 2017 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge (3rd place) they also won the mechanical design award in the Abu Dhabi Solar Challenge. For team details go to: www.teamarrow.com.au

ATN Solar Car Team

Australia's only national team with a vision to design and build a sustainable solar electric car that people will want to drive. The ATN Solar Car Team is a blend of industry expertise and undergraduate students, postgraduate researchers and faculty members from five of Australia's most innovative and enterprising universities: University of Technology Sydney, RMIT University, University of South Australia, QUT and Curtin University. For team details go to: www.atnsolarcar.com.au

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