

Flying Dutch win world solar car race in Australia

12 October 2017



This handout from the World Solar Challenge 2017 taken and received on October 11, 2017, shows the Nuon Solar Team vehicle "Nuna9" from the Netherlands speeding towards Coober Pedy during the fourth day of racing

Dominant Dutch team "Nuon" Thursday won an epic 3,000-kilometre (1,860-mile) solar car race across Australia's outback for the third-straight year in an innovative contest showcasing new vehicle technology.

The World Solar Challenge, first run in 1987 and last held in 2015, began in the northern city of Darwin on Sunday morning with 41 competing cars, with Adelaide in South Australia state the final destination.

Cheers and chants of "Nuna" roared from the large Dutch contingent as the "Nuna 9" car—travelling at an average speed of 81.2 kilometres per hour (55.5 mph)—crossed the finish line mid-afternoon.

"Welcome to #Adelaide @NuonSolarTeam, winner of the @bridgestone #BWSC17 Schneider Electric Challenger Class," race organisers tweeted.

The US' University of Michigan "Novum" was on

track for second place ahead of Belgium's Punch Powertrain.

The event has become one of the world's foremost innovation challenges with teams looking to demonstrate designs that could one day lead to commercially available solar-powered vehicles for passengers.

Google co-founder Larry Page and Tesla co-founder J B Straubel are past competitors who credit the event in influencing their careers

The win is the seventh for Nuon, with their car overcoming cloudy skies as they took the lead early and stayed ahead in the elite Challenger class, which features slick, single seat aerodynamic vehicles built for sustained endurance and total energy efficiency.

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