



Japan's Tokai University team wins 2009 Global Green Challenge

Sharp Corporation is one step closer to ensuring future generations have a reliable energy source. Driving a solar car equipped with Sharp compound solar cells, the Tokai University team won the Global Green Challenge, one of the world's largest solar car races.

October 25 saw the solar car team from Tokai University begin its impressive run from Darwin to Adelaide, covering approximately 3000km at an average speed of 100km per hour. The team's journey ended at 2.39pm on October 28, when the car crossed the finish line in first place, well ahead of the second-place finisher, Nuna V from the Netherlands.

The Japanese solar car was designed and built by a team from Tokai University in Kanagawa and is outfitted with high-performance solar cells manufactured by Sharp. The drivers for the event included Kenjiro Shinozuka, who in 1997 became the first Japanese to achieve overall victory in the Paris to Dakar Rally, as well as the students from the University.

A global leader in solar technology, the Sharp compound solar cells boast among the highest levels of conversion efficiency in the world. From a surface area of no more than six square metres, as specified in the race rules, the solar car has an output of 1.8kW, together with a cell conversion efficiency of 30%, one of the highest levels in the world. Sharp first developed these solar cells with high conversion efficiency for outer space applications.

Denis Kerr from Sharp Corporation of Australia pointed out, "By taking advantage of Sharp's highly efficient solar cells, Tokai University's 'Tokai Challenger' solar car maximised its performance under the harsh conditions of the race and went on to win the global race."

Sharp has pioneered solar gains in engineering, design and implementation of photovoltaic technology. Since the first mass-production of solar cells and installations of solar cells that powered navigational buoys in 1963, Sharp's experience and dedication has led to innovation after innovation: developing solar cells for space-based satellites, inventing the first solar powered calculator, creating solar panels that can be used as exterior walls for skyscrapers, and manufacturing revolutionary thin-film solar panels that could lower the cost of generating electricity.

Sharp's solar future is being strengthened even further by construction of one of the world's largest thin-film solar cell plants in Sakai city, Osaka Prefecture, Japan, which is scheduled to come on line by March 2010, embodying the solar commitment that Sharp has demonstrated for decades.

For further product information and full specifications visit www.sharp.net.au or call 1300 135 530.

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