

Press Release



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Innovative materials for electric mobility put to the test at 2017 World Solar Challenge in Darwin

On Sunday, 8 October, Covestro will support Team Sonnenwagen as the 2017 World Solar Challenge kicks off in Darwin. Covestro will act as both a material and technical service provider and gold Sponsor of the German solar car team, in what is considered to be the toughest solar car race in the world.

Team Sonnengwagen, made up of students from RWTH Aachen University and Aachen University of Applied Sciences, has developed a solar-powered electric car with support from Covestro and will put it to the ultimate test in the harsh Australian desert from October 8 to 15.

Partnership for solar mobility

“Solar mobility will continue to make an invaluable contribution to protecting the environment and conserving fossil resources. We are proud to support junior talent and demonstrate our commitment to innovation and sustainability through this partnership,” says Rebecca Lee, Managing Director of Covestro Australia.

Covestro has a long-standing partnership with the RWTH Aachen University. A particular success is the joint catalysis research at the on-site CAT Catalytic Center, which was recently extended for an additional seven years. Both partners developed a process at the center for using carbon dioxide as a new raw material in plastic production. The development was so successful that Covestro set up a new plant for the production of a CO₂-based component for polyurethane foam at its site in Dormagen, which went into operation last year.

On top of supporting Team Sonnenwagen, Covestro already has some experience with future mobility concepts: as an official partner of the Solar Impulse project, making a significant contribution to the success of the first



manned flight around the globe in an aircraft powered exclusively by solar energy.

Sustainable materials put to the test

Covestro is supporting the Sonnenwagen project with materials and technical service and as a gold sponsor. Covestro will use the project to test the car's polyurethane coatings under the harsh conditions of the outback route. Temperatures in the Australian desert can soar to 45 degrees Celsius in October, with intense UV radiation and high dust content.

The Sonnenwagen car's body parts are made from temperature-sensitive carbon fiber composites, using a partially bio-based coating rather than the conventional coatings and baking processes, effectively reducing the environmental footprint by around 30 percent.

The solar car also incorporates polyurethane and polycarbonate materials from Covestro, which adds to the lightweight and aerodynamic design of the solar car.

Tough test for solar cars

The World Solar Challenge, considered the toughest race on Earth for solar cars, celebrates its 30th anniversary this year. Approximately 40 teams from around the world will be competing in their "homemade" vehicles to win the 3,000 kilometre race from Darwin to Adelaide – without using one drop of fuel.

The Sonnenwagen race car from Aachen is the only German car at the starting line in the Challenger Class this year. The team is eager to begin and confident about their chances in the race: "we're excited to test our solar car against 40 other teams from five continents in such extreme conditions," says Niklas Kaltz of the Sonnenwagen Aachen team.

"We have experience with zero-emission mobility and we want to show that sustainable mobility is possible in the here and now."

In 2016, two members of the Sonnenwagen team raced an electric car and won first place in the e-CROSS Germany - a four-day, climate-neutral rally through North Rhine-Westphalia. One month prior, the Sonnenwagen members accompanied a team from Bochum in the European Solar Challenge 2016, a 24-hour solar car.

The World Solar Challenge begins in Darwin, Australia on Sunday, 8 October and will conclude in Adelaide, Australia on Sunday, 15 October.



About Covestro:

With 2015 sales of EUR 12.1 billion, Covestro is among the world's largest polymer companies. Business activities are focused on the manufacture of high-tech polymer materials and the development of innovative solutions for products used in many areas of daily life. The main segments served are the automotive, electrical and electronics, construction and the sports and leisure industries. Covestro, formerly Bayer MaterialScience, has 30 production sites around the globe and as of the end of 2015 employed approximately 15,800 people (full-time equivalents).

About Sonnenwagen Aachen e.V.:

Sonnenwagen Aachen has existed as a registered association since September 2015 and is composed of 40 committed students from RWTH Aachen University and Aachen University of Applied Sciences. The goal of the association is to design and build a solar-operated electric vehicle and to take part in the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge in October 2017 – an emission-free race straight through the Australian outback. As the only German team in the Challenger class, the Sonnenwagen Aachen team will compete with other international teams on the 3,022-kilometer-long route. The central purpose behind participation in the race is to raise awareness of the subject of sustainable mobility within society and to make a contribution to the development of relevant technologies themselves.

Find more information at www.covestro.com.

Forward-Looking Statements

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