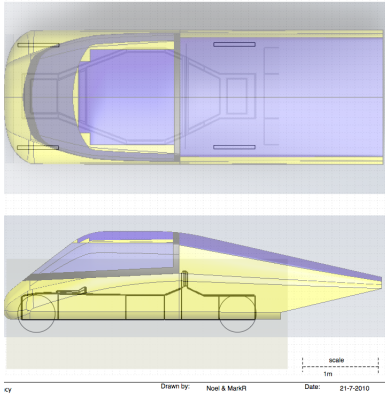




Newsletter
February 2011

Turning Design Into Reality



Students and staff have been active since our last communication. The wooden plug of the life-size body shape has since given birth to the mould and the first fibreglass shell of the new SolarSpirit. This provided our first glimpse of the reality of our project since the CAD design models.

While we were happy with the shape and the learning outcomes for the students, the project team believed that a further weight saving was necessary through using kavlar whilst maintaining structural integrity. It would also provide additional opportunities for students to work with lightweight composite materials.

In order to minimise costs the decision was made to use the best technology from our two previous cars, Kelly and SolarSpirit prototype. Considering we have 10 years of construction and race experience a lot of those items have been well tried and proven. This will keep to the sustainability theme of re-use, re-cycle and reduce.

In last semester of 2010 the mechanical engineering prevoc students worked extensively on the car gaining skills in fibreglass work in addition to metal fab skills. They were an enthusiastic team of workers, taking pride in their work and revelling in the production of a cutting

edge vehicle. These skills and abilities beyond trade skills are sought after by employers and almost all of the students were snapped up by employers prior to the end of the course.



Buffing the test shell

Sponsors Function Dec 2010



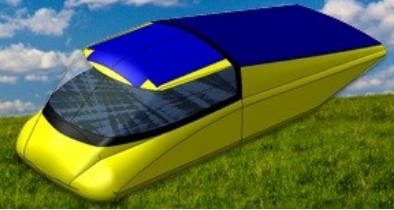
In Dec 2010 we presented the car for first viewing to our sponsors, industry associations and race officials as well as the general public. This also permitted a design check for livery and placement of parts. The colors and elements of graphics applied reflect the state of SA in addition to our TAFE SA brand and permit plenty of space to promote our sponsors. The lines enhance the feel of aerodynamics.

Judging by our visitors' response it was all good news. Chris Sellwood from the

World Solar Challenge was pleased to see us follow the initial intent of the Challenge in that our design is leaning towards a commuter car shape. Sponsors were enthusiastic to see what they are supporting, in the flesh. All are proud to be associated with the project.

To capture the moment MAD Productions Australia filmed proceedings and interviewed VIPs including key sponsors, the managing director from WallCann and the managing director of TAFE SA Adelaide North Institute.

Our next milestone will be the completion of the production phase of SolarSpiritII with the vehicle ready for field trials and final commissioning for the October race. Our celebration in mid June will see our sponsors, members from our industry associations will be invited to celebrate the finish of the production phase together with staff and students from the Mechanical, Electronics and Electrical schools involved in the project.



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The main objectives for the solar car project are to design and build a reliable vehicle which will complete the Darwin to Adelaide Solar Challenge in the most cost effective manner. The environment in which this project will be conducted will adhere to all sound measures of safety, student participation, team work and cost efficiency. Underpinning all of this will be a sense of purpose and enjoyment!

Our mission is to fully immerse renewable energy technologies into educational program delivery resulting in the economic construction of a solar car which will successfully compete in the World Solar Challenge.

We value our 10-year history of successful solar car racing and we are passionate about providing ongoing development of skills, knowledge and attitudes in sustainable energies to our students which will ensure benefits for future generations.

Solarspiritaustralia.com

SolarSpirit Australia TAFE SA Initiative

Tools For Apprentices



First test fibreglass shell

TAFE SA provides great learning opportunities for students and a great example of active learning is the solar car build. Students and tradespeople alike will benefit from attractive discounts provided in purchasing tools through the SolarSpiritAustralia.com web shop. Wall-Cann staff have been particularly active in securing ar-

rangements with our supporting businesses. This will greatly assist to cover costs on the solar car.

Government provides significant allowances for tools for apprentices and our aim is to provide the best value for money for the students.

Direct your apprentices to SolarspiritAustralia.com/shop to get excellent quality tools at bargain prices.



Shainaz measures suspension components for design checks



Engineering students create the moulds