Dearborn Group Technology

Vehicle Network Solutions

Dearborn Group Technology Champions Solar Effort

July 22, 2008 Calgary, Alberta—The University of Michigan's Solar Car Team won the North American Solar Challenge, crossing the finish line in Alberta, Canada on Tuesday after more than 50 hours of racing over nine days. The car averaged around 45 mph and led from the first day, besting 15 university teams that raced the 2,400-mile course from Plano, Texas to Calgary. U of M's "Continuum" solar car finished about 10 hours before the second place team.

"This is a testament to the dedication of all the people who came back after the World Solar Challenge (in October 2007) and rebuilt the car. Many of the systems were completely redesigned. We did a lot of testing and that, coupled with a strong team, got us this far. We strived for perfection," said race manager Jeff Ferman, who graduated in May from the College of Engineering with a computer science degree.

"We are extremely proud to play a small part in the success of the University of Michigan's Solar Car Team," stated Mark Zachos, Dearborn Group Technology's General Manager. "The Continuum has 2 vehicle networks on board, one for the critical battery system and another general purpose vehicle network module system. Dearborn Group Technology's standard product for vehicle network engineering and design, our Gryphon S-3, was provided to ensure the stability and information transfer capabilities of these critical networks on the Continuum vehicle."

The victory is sweet because it follows a disappointing seventh-place finish in the 2007 World Solar Challenge in Australia, when an early crash set the team back. No one was hurt. The students rallied to repair the car and managed to pass two dozen teams, but not enough to fulfill their hopes.

"The students of the U-M Solar Car Team have come from all corners of our campus to show that teamwork and innovation are critical to success," said U-M President Mary Sue Coleman. "They have also demonstrated the promise of alternative energy and new technologies with the championship run of their car, Continuum. The campus community applauds such an impressive performance in this year's race."

The North American Solar Challenge normally takes place every other year in the same year as the world race, but in 2007 its previous sponsor backed out. The race's future was in question until Toyota took over the sponsorship. With more than 100 members, U of M's Solar Car is one of the largest student organizations on campus, including students from the College of Engineering, the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts, the Ross School of Business, the School of Art & Design, and the School of Education.

About the North American Solar Challenge…
The 2008 North American Solar Challenge (NASC2008) was a competition to design, build, and drive solar-powered cars in a cross-country time/distance rally event. Teams compete in a 2400 mile drive from Dallas, Texas to Calgary, Alberta.

The American Solar Challenge (ASC) is a competition to design, build and race solar-powered cars in a cross-country event. ASC promotes: A greater understanding of solar energy technology, its environmental benefits and its promise for the future; Educational excellence in science, engineering and mathematics and the creative integration of technical and scientific expertise across a range of disciplines and; a "hands-on" opportunity for students and engineers to develop and demonstrate their technical and creative abilities. www.americansolarchallenge.org

About the University of Michigan Solar Car Team…
The University of Michigan Solar Car Team is a 501(c) non-profit and an entirely student-run organization whose purpose is to design, finance, build, and race a solar-powered vehicle in competitions around North America and the world. We are dedicated to the development of our members as teammates, educators, and leaders, and to the education of our community on the potentials of alternative energy technology.

Students who volunteer for the Solar Car are typically undergraduates, and they come from a wide range of academic disciplines, including majors within the College of Engineering, the Ross School of Business, and the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts. Each project operates on a two-year project cycle and sees as many as 200 students participating on the Team. Although nearly all of our team members opt to work on a strictly volunteer basis, participants can receive credit for their work on the Team through the University's Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program (UROP). www.engin.umich.edu/solarcar

About the GRYPHON® Product Family, from Dearborn Group Technology…
Our GRYPHON® product family including the S-3, Gryphon 2, and Fiber Optic Gryphon, is hardware adapter that provides remote connectivity for multiplexed automation and automotive communication networks. GRYPHON® doesn't require any programming and is ready to run out of-the-box as a stand-alone product. It uses an Ethernet connection to provide a high-speed user interface, with numerous telemetry configurations providing instant and distant data acquisition and processing. Users can interface to the GRYPHON® by either using Dearborn Group's Hercules high performance analyzer or writing their own applications using the provided C++ libraries.

Supported Protocols: CAN (CANbus), GMLAN, GMUART, Honda, ISO9141-2, ISO11898 (CAN), ISO11992, ISO15765, J1850 GM (Class 2), J1850 Ford (SCP), J1850 DCX, J1939, J1962, J2284, J1708, J2411 (GM SW), J2534, KWP2000 (ISO14230), LIN, Dual LIN, SWCAN, UBP, and many others. www.dgtech.com

About Dearborn Group Technology…
Dearborn Group Technology (DG) specializes in the design and development of intelligent software and hardware protocol interface devices for the in-vehicle and controller area network markets. Throughout its history, Dearborn Group (DG) has played a significant role in the growth of in-vehicle and controller area (CAN) networking. DG was the first company to introduce vehicle networking in the automotive industry with a variety of sought-out tools and expertise. Since then, it has brought its technology into many industries worldwide. DG has developed an excellent reputation among automotive manufacturers delivering quality products, training, and services worldwide.

Dearborn Group has successfully brought its technology into many industries including automotive, heavy-duty truck and bus, industrial control, robotics, mass transportation, agriculture, and construction, among others. Our products and services are widely used and service a variety of customers including test, development, and production engineers, along with service technicians, and others. For more information regarding Dearborn Group Technology's products, please visit www.dgtech.com

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