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# Solar car challenge the first of many

By Argyro Nicolaou

THE SOLAR Car Challenge, the first of its kind in Cyprus, took place over the weekend at the Daytona Race Track in Nicosia.

Organised by the Cyprus Institute, a non-profit science and technology research and educational institution, in collaboration with the Research Promotion Foundation, the event aimed at encouraging interest in the study of electric vehicle technology as well as increasing public awareness of 'clean' transport and solar energy.

Participating teams has to design, build and race solar-powered vehicles.

The event consisted of two categories: a challenge category, in which

vehicles had to cost less than €20,000, and an open one, in which any type of solar vehicle could race, giving the opportunity to solar car enthusiasts to take part in the competition.

Seven teams participated in the challenge category.

These included students from various Cypriot schools, public and private, as well as other teams from abroad.

International participants included the CERN (European Organisation for Nuclear Research) Solar Group from Switzerland and a team from the Jordan University of Science.

All the groups competed with custom-designed vehicles, which were of a remarkably high standard, said Tasos Anastasiou, an Associate of the Cyprus Institute working in the fields of Renewable Energy and En-

ergy Policy.

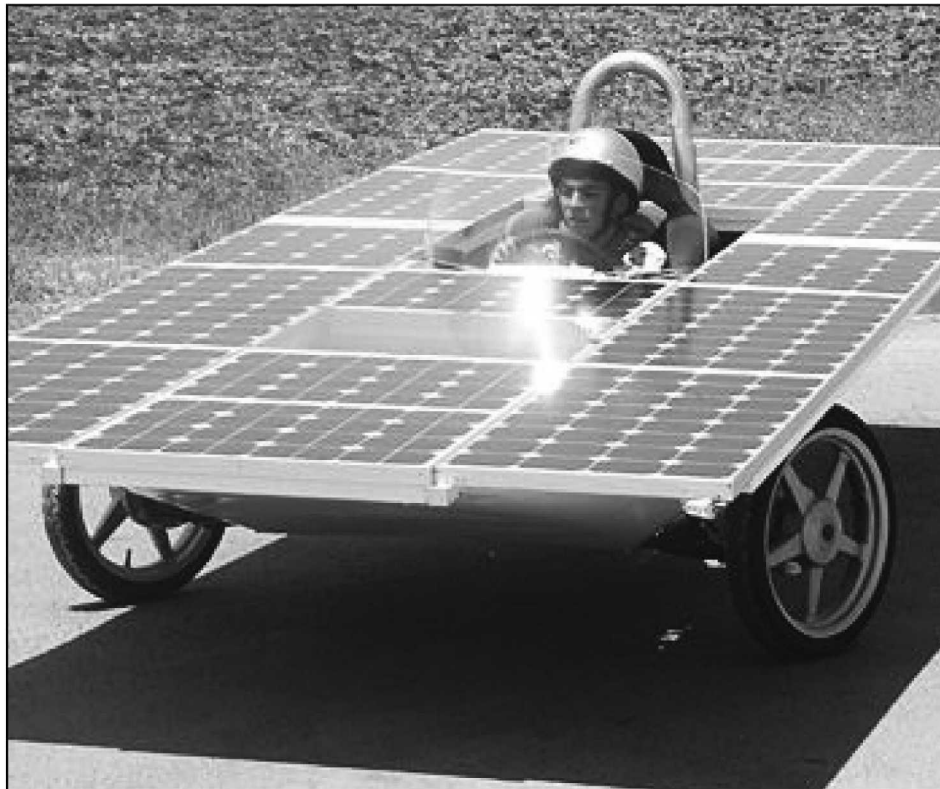
Anastasiou also stressed the importance of this event, the first of its kind in Cyprus and one of the few solar car races in Europe.

"The Institute intends to continue organising such challenges every one or two years, and will continue to invite international teams to participate in the competition," he said.

Members of the public who attended the event got the opportunity to check-out the solar vehicles and talk to the contestants.

In the Challenge category, first prize went to the Avgorou Technical School, and the CERN Solar Group won the Open category.

Minister of Commerce, Industry and Tourism, Antonis Paschalides, presented the awards to the winning teams.



One of the many different types of solar cars out there

(Photo: The Cyprus Institute)