



Cruising on sunshine for 4 716km

Dutch team wins solar challenge with top SA car placing fourth

MOTERING STAFF

ON SATURDAY the V&A Waterfront in Cape Town was the scene of celebration as 11 teams from all over the world crossed the finish line after successfully driving just over 27 000 kilometres collectively on public roads on solar power alone.

Dutch team Nuon won the Sasol Solar Challenge after completing 4 716 kilometres, breaking the four-year old record of 4 630km and beating Japanese team Tokai by 172km.

“We’re really excited – we already started celebrating in traffic as we came into Cape Town when we suddenly realised that we’d won. The team that is here has been working on the car for years, so they were very emotional,” said Sarah Bennink Bolt from the Nuon team. The Dutch team managed to stay ahead of strong competitor Tokai, who set the record in 2012 and won the World Solar Challenge on numerous occasions in the past.

With new regulations set for the global competition, all the teams will use the South African event to build completely new vehicles for the 2017 challenge in Australia, which is shorter than the Sasol Solar Challenge.

In South Africa, five local teams held their own against the tough



Dutch team Nuon celebrates its victory at the Cape Town finish line.

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international competition. North-West University finished in fourth position with 3 524km under their belt, and high school team Maragon Olympus crossed the line in seventh place, narrowly beating the University of Johannesburg.

North-West University had to

work hard to come back from an accident during track testing just before the Challenge began but the 28-member team worked long hours, beating two international and four South African teams on the event.

The Sasol Solar Challenge dir-

ector, Winstone Jordaan, said that this has been the most competitive event to date.

The 2016 Sasol Solar Challenge is sponsored by Sasol as a vehicle of inspiration to young South Africans to become the country’s future engineers and scientists.