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Special Programs

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Solar Car Team

UK’s 20 member Solar Car Team competed for the 2nd Year in a Row and placed 2nd in the Stock Class Category in the Formula Sun Grand 2004 in Topeka, Kansas May 19-21, 2004. Named for the 1982 KY Derby Winner, The Gato Del Sol took 4 years and $70,000 to build. Its nick name is the “Blue Bomb,” and has shocks from a mountain bike and a steering wheel from a kid’s dragster, as well as an aluminum chassis, an electric motor, 8 square meters of solar paneling on it fiberglass shell and a top speed of approximately 80 miles per hour. The project started as a student run engineering project with support from the College of Engineering. The team consists of multi-disciplines that require the best and most determined students. The team has individuals from electrical, chemical and mechanical disciplines as well as bio-systems, agriculture, and computer science engineering. Team Members: Donnie Jones, Adam Kelty, Qiang Li Saravana, Krishnan Kannan, Matt Hatfield, Adam Brown, Dale Reid, Zachary Jacobs, Michael Brown, Dennis Carter, Katie Arambasick, Joshua Johnson, Chris Morgan, Karen Robb, Tahir Aweimrin, BJ Hinkle.

B.I.G. B.L.U.E II. Balloon-Launched Experiment

BIG BLUE II was launched successfully on May 1, 2004 in Deer Trail, CO. After snow 2 days prior and long discussions of whether to scrub the planned launch from Saturday to Sunday, the day dawned bright and beautiful. The launch and lower ascent were as good as you can have. Although the balloon burst prematurely just over 6,000 ft, the wings were inflated and cured into great flying shape. The premature burst put the touchdown away from the grid of the recovery team. The aircraft was undamaged by the landing impact. B.I.G. B.L.U.E. (Baseline inflatable Glider Balloon-Launched Unmanned Experiment) is a flight experiment developed, designed, built, and flown primarily by students in the College of Engineering at the University of Kentucky. B.I.G. BLUE was conceived as a demonstration of unique technologies with potential for application for Mars exploration. A team of over 40 undergraduate students from mechanical and electrical and computer engineering designed, fabricated, tested and flew a balloon-launched, high altitude, inflatable-wing glider. Team Members: Project Manager: Will Wathen. For a complete list of all the team members, go to www.engr.uky.edu/bigblue/team.php

Wildcat Pulling Team

The UK Pulling Team finished second overall in the Seventh Annual 1/4 Scale Tractor Competition in East Moline, Illinois. The objective of this competition is for students to be involved in all aspects of developing a product for the marketplace — a quarter-scale pulling tractor. Team Members: Will Adams, Katherine Christian, Benjamin Clark, Evan Conrad, Kathryn Duguid, Ryan Figgins, Courtney Fisk, Spencer Guinn, Justin Jackson, Michael Kennedy, Reynold Knasel, Brandon McDonald, Laura Meszaros, Charlie Sorrell, Tyler Mark, Matt Veal, Jonathan Waits, Jason Ward, and Grant Wonderlich. Faculty advisors are Rich Gates, Scott Shearer, Tim Smith, Tim Stombaugh, and Larry Wells.