FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

aCentauri Solar Racing finishes the challenge of Australia's 3,000 km solar marathon

The ETH Zurich and FHNW student team reaches Adelaide despite setbacks from extreme sidewinds and storms, demonstrating breakthrough improvements in efficiency, aerodynamics and build quality.

In a race defined by extremes, aCentauri Solar Racing, short aCe, traversed the Australian continent powered only by the sun and the determination of a student team that invested more than a year of grit, ingenuity and late nights into the teams second solar car "*Silvretta*". In the 2025 Challenger Class of the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge (24.08.2025-31.08.2025), the Swiss team secured an 11th out of 26 place finish and, more importantly, crossed the finish line in Adelaide as one of only 14 teams to do so. This next milestone stands as a testament to persistence, precision and unwavering teamwork.

> "Crossing the finish line in Adelaide after over 3,000 kilometers of heat, wind and chaos at times really proved what this team is made of." illustrates Gian-Leo Willi, President of aCentauri Solar Racing. "The journey reset our standards and gave us valuable insights for the long-term development of our team on the way to the solar racing elite."

A series of challenges — and the response

Just a few days into outback testing, the team was reminded that the Australian winter brings its own extremes: cold nights, unpredictable winds and rapidly changing conditions. When fierce crosswinds and storm cells battered the Stuart Highway, crew members literally shielded the car to protect its bodywork and solar array, allowing the team to continue racing. On the final race day, torrential rain made the challenge even tougher, with the start unexpectedly delayed for an indefinite period. Yet, when the race finally resumed, the team adapted swiftly and pushed through the downpour. Each challenge and obstacle became a proving ground for aCe's distinctive culture characterized by ownership, composed decision-making, and practical problem-solving.

> “Adversity forced us to execute,” said Clara Noerenberg, Team Manager.
> “The new, highly optimised aerodynamic design paid off and the way the whole team pulled together: strategy, scouts, repair mechanics, media, etc. all working together, supporting each other, led to us delivering a noticeably improved performance during the race. We made measurable gains in efficiency, stability and reliability compared with our last participation and we proved the car’s design and manufacturing quality in some of the harshest conditions imaginable."

Tangible Progress

Although the team had envisioned finishing half a day earlier, the six-day race highlighted clear advances in critical performance areas:

- Effectivity: better energy management, strategy execution and interplay between solar deck and aero,
- Aerodynamics: streamlined improvements that reduced drag and stabilized in crosswinds,
- Quality: enhanced build quality and robustness that withstood storms, rough road and extreme temperature changes.

These improvements mark a significant step forward for aCe, laying a solid basis for the next development cycle.

About the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge

The BWSC is a six-day endurance event covering over 3,000 kilometers from Darwin to Adelaide. (University) teams from across the globe compete together to design, construct, and race cars that run exclusively on solar energy. Beyond the competition, what truly stands out is the atmosphere: a unique community where teams connect, support each other, and exchange ideas, a network that can spark the innovations and companies shaping the mobility of tomorrow.

The Challenger Class, in which aCe competed, focuses on performance.
Cars carry a single driver and push the boundaries of reliability, aerodynamics, and efficiency on open public roads.

> “Here, crossing the finish line is never guaranteed,” added Flurin Solèr, Race Manager. “Every kilometer is earned through planning, teamwork, and the ability to adapt when the unexpected strikes.

What comes next?

The lessons from BWSC 2025 are already fueling the team's work back in Zurich. aCe will advance the validated aero concepts, refine control strategies and proven manufacturing methods while tackling new goals such as integrating its own in-house electric motor to unlock unprecedented efficiency.
Further mechanical refinements and smarter energy management are also on the road map leading up to the next Challenges: The European Solar Challenge 2026 and the unveiling of a brand-new solar car for the BSWC 2027.

About aCentauri Solar Racing (aCe)

aCentauri Solar Racing is a student-led project and focus project at **ETH Zurich**, founded in **2022**. The team designs and builds high-efficiency solar cars to advance sustainable mobility and inspire the next generation of engineers through hands-on innovation and participation in international competitions.