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Governor Musgrove Announces Federal Express to Transport “Sundancer” Solar Car to Australia

Jackson, MS – In a surprise announcement today at a meeting of the State Board of Education, Governor Ronnie Musgrove told the Sundancer Solar Car team from the Houston Vocational Center that Federal Express would be transporting the solar car to Australia for its race in 2003 at no cost.

“Fred Smith and Federal Express have agreed to fly the Sundancer car to Australia for the World Solar Challenge in 2003,” Musgrove said. “This is tremendous news for the members of the Sundancer Solar Car Team and all Mississippians. We welcome every opportunity to prove that our students can compete with anyone, anytime, anywhere.”

The “Sundancer” solar car competed in the 2001 Winston Solar Challenge, winning the race by a lead of more than 250 miles over the second place finisher. After their victory, the team and the car appeared on NBC’s “Today” show and ABC’s “Good Morning America.”

The team was scheduled to travel to Australia this year to compete, but the recent events surrounding the terrorist attacks and the ongoing military operations in Afghanistan have delayed those plans until 2003.

“The work of these students demonstrates more than ever how important it is for us to invest in education,” said Musgrove. “These students used computers to design and build this vehicle, internet-accessible computers that we are in the process of placing in every public school classroom in the state through the “Computers in the Classroom” initiative.”