

Scientists attempt fastest crossing of Antarctica

The 11-man expedition will not only attempt the fastest ever land-crossing of the continent, but will also test new equipment designed to reduce the environmental impact of manned missions to the South Pole

WINSTON WONG BIO-INSPIRED ICE VEHICLE

Named after main expedition sponsor, bio-fuelled, ultralight vehicle used as agile route-finder

Driving of one-man BIV shared by team

Length: 4.5m

Width: 4.5m

Weight: 700kgs

Top speed: 135km/h

CROSSING

Time:

40 days

Distance:

5,790km

Return journey from Patriot Hills

DATA COLLECTION:

Wireless sensors monitor team's health, environmental impact, and navigation systems

Data transmitted to support vehicles and via satellite to scientists at London's Imperial College

Ground-penetrating radar:
Detects hidden crevasses

Solar panels: Power scientific equipment

Engine: Low emission, 7.3 litre, V8 diesel

PREVIOUS RECORDS: 1958 **V. Fuchs, E. Hillary**

Tractors

3,473km 99 days

1981 **R. Fiennes**

Snowmobiles

3,540km 67 days

Sources: Moon Regan Transantarctic Expedition, Imperial College London

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Rotax 914 engine:

Adapted to run on E85 bioethanol – suited to lower temperatures and high altitude

Propeller:

Variable pitch

Skis:

With independent suspension

Spiked brake:

Forced down into ice, drags vehicle to halt

