

GREEN RACING UPDATE

The 2009 ALMS Green Challenge Championship Awards



On October 11, 2009, EPA, DOE, and SAE International awarded the first Green Challenge Championship trophies at the annual American Le Mans Series (ALMS) awards ceremony in Monterey, California. The Green Challenge Championship was the culmination of a series of nine races over the 2009 ALMS racing season. The final race was run on October 10, 2009 at Mazda Laguna Seca Raceway near Monterey. The Green Challenge is conducted as part of a partnership between ALMS, EPA, the Department of Energy (DOE), and SAE International. (See EPA Program Announcement, Green Racing Initiative for more information.)



A Race Within a Race

For each of the races, the Green Challenge competition was a “race within a race” where the ALMS sports car races went on as usual, but Green Challenge measurements and computations served as an underlying competition for the fastest and greenest competitors. This year’s

competitors included a hybrid electric race car, diesel powered cars using clean diesel fuel and particulate filters, cars using E-85 ethanol fuel, and cars using E-10 gasoline.

The Winners

Two Green Challenge Championship trophies were awarded, one to each of the engine manufacturers of the winning Prototype and GT class cars for the season. Honda won the trophy in the Prototype class, and Porsche won the GT class trophy. The Green Challenge Championship is not a privately sponsored award and is only bestowed by EPA, DOE, and SAE International. It is awarded at the end of the season to the two winning engine manufacturers based on points from each race during the season.*

The Green Challenge awards are based on measurement and calculation procedures that were developed by DOE and EPA. The season-long championship awards use a point system that starts with a starting allocation of 225 points, and points are deducted after each race depending on the Green Challenge finish place of the car. Thus, the winners have the least number of points at the end of the season.

Honda, the winning prototype class Green Challenge Championship manufacturer, finished with 54 points, which was 106 points ahead of its nearest rival, AER. Porsche, the winning GT class manufacturer, finished with 83 points, which was only 12 points ahead of Chevrolet.

The Green Challenge Championship winners' trophies were presented at the ALMS annual awards ceremony by Margo Oge, EPA Director of the Office of Transportation and Air Quality, Pat Davis, DOE Program Manager for Vehicle Technologies, and Jim Smith, President of SAE International. They also presented a special recognition award to Steve and Tere Pruitt who developed and raced a pioneering hybrid electric racing machine that competed in several of the ALMS races in 2009.

*ALMS and Michelin also sponsor separate awards for racing teams called the Michelin Green X Challenge awards. Using the same measurement and calculation procedures as the EPA/DOE/SAE awards, ALMS and Michelin award trophies to the winning Michelin Green X Challenge race teams for each race and at the end of the season as a team championship. For more on the Michelin Green X Challenge, see http://www.americanlemans.com/index_green.php