

## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Innoptus Solar Team wins 2023 Bridgestone World Solar Challenge with the support of Axalta

**26 OCTOBER 2023** – Axalta, a leading global supplier of liquid and powder coatings, congratulates the Innoptus Solar Team from the University of Leuven, Belgium, on defending its World Champion title in the *Projecta Challenger Class* of the biennial Bridgestone World Solar Challenge.

The race, the first World Solar Challenge since 2019, culminated in the coastal city of Adelaide in South Australia with *Infinite* crossing the finish line at 1044am Australian Central Daylight Time on 26 October 2023 after a 3,021km journey from Darwin. The students from the Belgian university showcased their ingenuity in engineering and innovation in the manufacturing of the Team's single seater solar car, *Infinite*, which was painted by Axalta's premium Refinish brand Cromax® and which sports the paint manufacturer's logo.

Olaf Adamek, Axalta Refinish Brand Manager for Europe, the Middle East and Africa, says, "Congratulations to the whole team on this impressive achievement. It is an honour to be part of the Team's journey once again and fantastic to see all the hard work has paid off."

*Infinite's* victorious journey lasted 34 hours and 4 minutes and 41 seconds, 48 minutes faster than the Team's 2019 win. After travelling at an average speed of 88.2 km/h, it charged across the finish line in Adelaide 20 minutes ahead of its nearest competitor.

*Infinite* was painted at Axalta's world-class training facility, the Axalta Refinish Academy, in Mechelen, Belgium. The Ultra Performance Energy System from Cromax that uses revolutionary and patented Axalta Fast Cure Low Energy technology was the obvious choice paint system to be used. The technology considerably reduces energy consumption in the spraybooth while still achieving the best quality repair, meeting both the Team's goals on sustainability and having a coating system that could withstand the extreme heat and climatic conditions during the race.

The Bridgestone World Solar Challenge launched in 1987. The 3,021km route included nine mandatory check points, where the teams stopped and performed basic maintenance. The fully self-sufficient participants travelled as far as they could until 5pm each day before setting up camp in the desert, wherever they were.

For more information on the Innoptus Solar Team and its car, *Infinite*, visit [www.solarteam.be](http://www.solarteam.be) and to find out more information on the relationship between Axalta, Cromax and the Innoptus Solar Team visit [www.axalta.com/eu/formula-student](http://www.axalta.com/eu/formula-student). To find out more about the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge visit [www.worldsolarchallenge.org](http://www.worldsolarchallenge.org).

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### **About Axalta Refinish**

Axalta Refinish – part of Axalta, a global leader in the coatings industry – is a valued, reliable global paint repair partner to our customers, who demand nothing short of total customer satisfaction. We give them confidence in our fast, efficient, high-quality coating technologies and integrated digital business processes, making the entire paint repair journey faster, easier and more profitable. With more than 150 years of experience in the coatings industry, our dedication to innovation and our constantly developing technology means we offer our customers an unlimited colour choice for perfect colour matches. Most importantly, we work tirelessly to anticipate our customers' needs so they can address the challenges they face every day. We have an impressive portfolio of brands for every bodyshop requirement, for every segment of the market, and for every level of market maturity. For more information visit [refinish.axalta.eu](http://refinish.axalta.eu) and follow us on [LinkedIn](#)