

Thursday, 15 January 2015

## 41 metre bicycle seeks to break Guinness Book world record at the 2015 Santos Tour Down Under

A locally made bicycle measuring 41.9 metres and carrying 20 passengers will this Saturday (17 January 2015) attempt to ride its way into the Guinness Book of Records and become the world's longest bicycle.

The attempt will take place on Rundle Road, Adelaide CBD (between East Terrace and Dequetteville Terrace) at 10 am.

The bike will have to travel 100 metres unaided to officially break the current world record which stands at 35.79 metres, set in the Netherlands in August 2011.

Santos Group Executive for Public Affairs Damon Hunt said the bike design and construction was a collaboration between Santos and the University of South Australia, and the culmination of nine months of development and planning.

"The Santos Tour Down Under is already an award winning event," he said.

"For 2015 we wanted to try something new that was not only fun but added another element of interest for race spectators."

Constructing a fully working bicycle longer than three buses is an ambitious engineering project. The design of the bike became a class project for second year mechanical engineering students from the University of South Australia, whose faculty of Engineering and Technology is ranked in the World Top 100.

The students were broken into teams and were required to submit their projects for assessment in mid-September. A combination of their final designs is reflected in what has been built.

Santos engineers also visited the students during the design and construction process.

"The Santos – University of South Australia Big Bike Challenge has been a great success for us on so many levels," said David Lloyd, Vice-Chancellor and President of the University of South Australia.

"Aside from the project itself being great fun, the industry collaboration with Santos has been invaluable. It has allowed our engineering students to engage with both experienced and graduate engineers from Santos, gaining hands-on experience of their own on a client project, while working on a record-breaking challenge."

Spectators are welcome to attend the world record challenge and to cheer on the riders.

The Big Bike will be on public display in Victoria Square as part of the Tour Village for the duration of the Santos Tour Down Under. It is then planned to be put on display at the University of South Australia at Mawson Lakes.

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**Santos and University of South Australia representatives are available for interview. Please call Chris Marks (Santos) on 0429 11 00 14 or Michele Nardelli (University of South Australia) on 0418 823 673 to arrange a suitable time.**

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### Additional information

- The official length measurement recorded is the distance from the front wheel to the back wheel.
- Total weight of the bicycle without riders is 2.5 tonnes. The bike needs to be so heavy to be strong enough to accommodate the flexing of steel that occurs over such a distance and not hit the ground.
- The bicycle consists of six detachable 6-metre sections plus a detachable front and rear wheel section – making a total length of 41.9 metres.
- Top speed has been calculated at 10 km/h.
- It has 20 seats and 19 sets of pedals. The person steering is the only person not required to pedal. It has 20 interconnected bicycle chains with a combined distance of 90 metres.
- The front tyre is from an aircraft and the rear wheel is a custom made metal drum 70 cm wide.
- It is equipped with two sets of disc brakes fitted to the rear wheel that are operated by the last rider. Fully loaded with 20 riders, the 4.3 tonne bike can stop in less than two metres.
- The bicycle was primarily constructed by Weldrite, a manufacturing workshop in northern Adelaide using the technical drawings designed by University of South Australia students a staff. It took three weeks to construct.
- To qualify for a Guinness Book record as the World's Longest Bicycle, Santos and the University of South Australia must comply with (and provide evidence of) a number of criteria. These include:
  - The bicycle must be ridden in the same way as a standard one and powered by pedal and chain
  - Have two wheels
  - Be ridden for a minimum distance of 100 metres continuously and unassisted and not touch the ground (excluding the front and rear wheels)
  - The distance travelled and bicycle length must be measured by a qualified surveyor in the presence of two independent witnesses
  - All documentation must then be submitted to the Guinness Book of Records for official verification

### Additional background footage

- Professionally shot wild video footage of the bicycle's design and construction can be accessed from the Santos Tour Down Under media portal. Please contact Michele D'Aloia (SATC) on 0417 837 896 if you need assistance.

### About Santos and the University of South Australia

- Celebrating 60 years of operation, **Santos** is a leading oil and gas explorer and producer, supplying customers across Australia and Asia. It has the largest exploration and production acreage position in Australia of any company. It has been the major sponsor of the Santos Tour Down Under since 2010.
- The **University of South Australia** is the state's largest University and has six campuses across South Australia. The University has over 33,000 students and in 2014 ranked in the top 100 engineering schools globally (Times Higher Education Rankings).