



## The Ford Global Challenge - A Green Car That Runs On Air?

Posted by [Phil Hart](#) on September 6, 2008 - 10:18am in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

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The challenge set by Ford Global Technologies is to design a Model-T for the 21st Century - an inexpensive, innovative and sustainable car. Deakin University is the only Australian university and one of only five worldwide invited to participate in the Challenge, part of the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of the fabled Model T; the car that changed the 20th Century.



[Deakin University's](#) 'under wraps' design for the Ford Global Challenge left for Detroit on 29th August carried by Deakin's Tim de Souza (Chief Design Engineer) and Stuart Hanafin (Portfolio Coordinator). Deakin's project is code-named T2 ('TSquared').

[Forget petrol, forget electric... how about air?:](#) Hanafin and de Souza believe their model, which has an engine powered by the release of compressed air, fits the bill.

"Fitting the compressed air technologies into cars of today which are quite heavy and large is infeasible," de Souza told 2GB's Jason Morrison. "Whereas the concept we've come up with is a really small, lightweight vehicle that can make use of this type of technology."

Although the idea of a compressed air engine suggests it wouldn't last long without needing a 're-fill', de Souza insists his model would have real staying power.

"One of the conditions [of the competition] is that it had to have a 200 kilometre range. So we've engineered it to make sure we have that range," he said. "It's a slightly tweaked system where we re-heat the air... which gives it a bit of a boost. If you just used plain compressed air you'd probably get 60 to 70 kilometres."

There were announcements late last year that IT MDI-Energy was to setup manufacturing facilities for air-powered cars in Australia. You can read more from TOD about that in [The Air](#)

We hope to bring you the results of the Ford Global Challenge soon..



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