

1. Why is the sponsorship budget relatively low, and what strategies do you have in place to increase sponsorship?

We actually do have a large amount of sponsorships. Due to the current economy, most of our sponsors choose to provide equipment instead of cash. We have plenty of companies offering us discounts, licenses, or simply gifting items as their sponsorship. For instance, our recent sponsor, Engineered Material Solutions, provided us with sheets of Sigma Clad 60 metal instead of direct monetary support.

2. Could you explain why the aeroshell is already being applied when the car will be finished next year?

The aeroshell is a long-term development part. We make the carbon Fiber body in-house. Regardless of the date of the race, the aeroshell is put into production as soon as the design is finalized. This is to make sure it gets completed on time for the race. There is also a learning curve for making the shell.

3. The cost of seats appears to be high and repeated from last year. Could you provide insights into this cost?

The American Solar Challenge requires seats with certain compliances. As well as a harness that meets specifications. Both seats were chosen after a cost analysis. We went with the cheapest option given compliance with the American Solar Car Challenges (ASC) requirements.

In terms of the seats, there is no repurchase required. the seats part of the 2023-2024 budget is added by mistake. All seat-related purchases have concluded.

4. While other groups under Bylaw 9 participated in Club Fest, your team did not. Can you share your plans to enhance publicity and increase funding?

We typically are able to attend two different club showcase events, one being MSU Club Fest and the other being MES welcome week. Regrettably, during Club Fest, our team faced unforeseen challenges as several of our executives were unable to assist due to illness, and others were engaged in co-op work commitments. To enhance our publicity and secure additional funding, we are proactively planning information sessions scheduled for September. These sessions will serve as a platform to introduce attendees to our organization's mission, goals, and the diverse opportunities we offer. By engaging directly with potential supporters and sharing our vision, we aim to increase awareness, attract new members, and secure the necessary funding to further our initiatives.

5. How confident are you about securing funding from the engineering faculty?

We were able to secure funding from the faculty successfully last year. We are confident in getting funding this year as well but are unsure of the exact amount that will be provided.

6. Could you provide more transparency regarding your sponsorships?

We most certainly can. Our sponsorship team consistently contacts related businesses for sponsorship (both in cold emailing or introductions for team member coops) We also try to contact companies for sponsorship first when we are interested in purchasing any items.

Names	Amount	Sponsorship Type	Note	Sponsorship Tite
Fabris	\$2,000.00	Financial	Cash	Advanced
Elliott Matsuura	\$2,000.00	Financial	Cash	Advanced
McMaster Students Union	\$1,000.00	Financial	Cash	Standard
Mitutoyo Canada Inc.		Material	Measuring Equipements: Calipers	Standard
LeDAB		Material	Vacuum pumps and related accessories	Standard
Altium		License	Electrical Design Software	Standard
Solidworks		License	Mechanical Design software	Standard
VR3 engineering		Financial	Discount on chassis-welding	
Nomura Co.		Financial	Discount on motor purchase	Premium
Bridgestone Inc.		Material	Solar Car Special purpose tires	Standard
Alumco		Technical	Rim Casting	
Archocell		Technical	Battery Test Pack manufacturing, teaching, and space	Premium
Telos Manufacturing		Technical		Advanced
Applied Precision		Technical	3D scanning	Advanced
Maxeon		Material	Solar Cells	Advanced

The following list shows our current sponsors and what they have provided us.

7. What is your expectation for the accuracy of your cost projections, especially given that many figures appear to be rounded?

When building engineering projects, it is impossible to obtain exact figures until a quote has been obtained. With a lot of our design being actively worked on through design meetings as well as cost reduction requirements, a quote can only be obtained on parts that we decided are absolutely safe and at their most cost-effective. You can see that with the past years' real budget, exact figures are given since the purchase has already gone through. The rounded figures provided are the current budget constraints given to each team. They are not allowed to exceed this allocation in their build. Thus far, our allocations have been relatively accurate and help me manage the team's expenses with better insight.

8. How does the Mac Solar Car plan to prioritize funding from MES, and what steps will be taken to implement this change?

McMaster Solar Car does not plan to prioritize funding from MES, the MSU funding we receive constitutes most of our income. With that being said, relative to other solar car teams, we are still quite

under budget. It will simply take us longer to save enough to build a car than other university solar car teams. This was mentioned in my presentation at the SRA meeting during the summer. To make up for this, we are actively looking for additional sources of funding like from MES or faculty so that we can accelerate our process and create better vehicles at a more frequent pace.

9. Are you considering implementing membership fees as a means of increasing funding?

At the moment we are not, but this is definitely not outside our considerations. Personally, I see it as a last resort if we need a final push.

10. Could you specify the budget allocation for website maintenance?

To answer your question, the mcmastersolarcar.com domain name was paid for by us through Namecheap. I do want to make sure again that the budget I submitted did not specify website fees.

11. Can you offer more details about where the business maintenance budget will be utilized?

Banners, team uniforms for the race, posters, and potentially business cards. Travel (gas) fees for our members in the event that a distant pickup for parts is needed. Additionally, our monthly general meeting is held during dinner time so occasionally pizzas are included which falls under this budget as well.

In addition to these financial inquiries, we'd appreciate insights into the following aspects to better understand Mac Solar Car.

1. How are you ensuring an effective leadership transition within your team?

We have really focused our efforts on documentation so that transitions can be as smooth as possible, in terms of leadership, as it is a technically challenging role, we typically look at our excelling members in each to to promote them instead. Each sub-team is very tight-knit so members get to do a lot with their leads to know the whole process. Monthly large team meetings are also done to give everyone a better perspective of the projects as a whole.

2. Can you provide a timeline for the completion of your project?

We are aiming to race for the next available American Solar Challenge opportunity, which is June 2024. We expect our vehicle to be completed by latest early May and leave the remaining time for final turnings and traveling to the competition site.

3. What plans do you have in place to promote inclusivity within your team, and is hiring from other faculties an option to potentially secure more funding?

We have always welcomed students from other faculties, we have made ads before to recruit arts, science, and business students and we currently do have business and science students part of the team. A large portion of the things we do are not thoroughly taught through the curriculum so we teach everyone from scratch. If you have the passion to learn and contribute, you can and should apply and join. In terms of promotion, we have been sending our recruitment activities through the instagram accounts of clubs in other faculties to spread the word further than just engineering. We have been able to achieve some success in business and science faculties. We definitely are looking to other faculties for more funding but it's harder due to the engineering nature of the team.

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