

# THE URBAN TRANSPORTATION MONITOR

© 2011 Lawley Publications. All Rights Reserved.

VOL 25, NO 3

APRIL 11, 2011

## *Cruise Car Solar Electric Vehicles Taking Low-Speed Transportation Off-the-Grid*

Cruise Car, Inc., the leading supplier of solar electric vehicles in the United States, has announced that, after their initial full capacity charge, many users of the company's 'All American' solar electric Low Speed Vehicles (LSV) report that they are able to drive up to 10 miles daily without having to recharge their vehicles using external power sources. The onboard solar panels are producing enough charge to keep the All Americans at a state of full charge, eliminating the need for remote charging stations and the attendant infrastructure.

"Particularly in this environment of rapidly rising gas and energy prices, being able to take a facility's low speed transport needs totally off-the-grid represents a huge savings in not only fuel costs, but also the vehicle support infrastructure – no remote charging stations, wiring, etc.," said Ken Chester, president of Cruise Car Inc, in a March 16 press release. "Our All American welded aluminum space-frame and aluminum-alloy extrusions not only eliminate rusting, a huge problem in seaside environments, but the lighter weight has yielded the additional benefit of extending the All American's range. This off-the-grid capability is not just a valuable savings, but is also vital in instances where transportation is mission critical non-withstanding grid outages."

Cruise Car spokesman Rich Schineller told UTM recently that it costs \$7,000-\$11,000 to purchase such a car. Asked about the range of the vehicle, Schineller said that standard range is about 40 miles, however, customers can upgrade the battery pack to achieve a range of 60+ miles. "There is even a "dual pack 14 passenger shuttle that doubles this range," he added. "Distances can be further extended with a premium AC motor."

Schineller explained: "The solar does not replace a standard wall charger and is not used to charge batteries that are completely discharged. Instead, the solar is used to keep the batteries topped off. If a vehicle is driven about five-seven miles a day our clients find that the vehicles are



*The solar panel allows up to 10 miles of travel. (Photo: Courtesy of Cruise Car, Inc.)*

able to operate off grid. (Some claim even further driving range per day). Keeping the batteries from cycling too low between charges will decrease their life. Many operators make the mistake of driving for days and only plugging in their vehicles when they begin to drag ... the solar helps to avoid this bad habit."

The cruise car can also be charged through a regular electrical outlet.

Cruise Car engineers and manufactures the All American in Sarasota, Florida with up to 50% recycled or certified remanufactured parts and materials integrated on welded aluminum space frames with custom aluminum-alloy extrusions. Covered by a new vehicle warranty, the All American meets the requirements of Executive Order 13514 mandating that government agencies reduce vehicle fleet petroleum use by 30 percent by 2020 and increase recycling and waste diversion by 50 percent by 2015. The 'All-American' Line is GSA Schedule approved and Cruise Car has received orders from many branches of government as they work to attain these sustainability goals for federal agencies.

There are 30 percent federal tax grants currently available. Cruise car has also developed a proprietary leasing program that allows tax exempt organizations that nor-

mally would not be able to benefit from the grant to utilize them to make adopting the vehicle systems more affordable.

Cruise Car provides strong, reliable, easy to maintain, low maintenance vehicles made in the USA. The aluminum vehicle chassis eliminates rusting, a significant benefit in seaside or corrosive atmosphere environments. Optional removable hard doors and utility box configurations are available, and solar power assist reduces energy consumption, lowers carbon footprint, and offers off-grid driving.

Cruise Car is the market leader in GSA schedule-approved solar electric transport solutions for municipalities, military bases, college campuses, corporate parks, resorts, federal agencies and planned communities. Planning engineers are now including Cruise Car solar/electric carts in their multi-modal transportation street designs for municipalities and communities seeking to integrate alternative transportation models to reduce carbon emissions and protect their environment. Cruise Car Inc. builds and sells more solarized low speed vehicles than all others globally. There are over 24 models available.

For information contact Adam Sulimirski at [adams@cruiseinc.com](mailto:adams@cruiseinc.com), call 941-929-1630 or visit <http://www.cruiseinc.com>