



Press release

PlanetSolar: Construction begins January 6th 2009

The biggest solar boat in the world, whose construction begins in a few days, continues to attract partners and abounds with new projects.

Yverdon-les-Bains, December 23rd 2008 - Construction of PlanetSolar will begin on January 6th at the shipyard Knierim Yachtbau in Kiel, northern Germany. Test taking and wind tunnel testing already took place in November at the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania. These tests allowed for the validation of calculations and information simulations.

A technological and humanistic project, PlanetSolar attracts the support of new partners and sponsors. The French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Settlement supports the project which, according to Minister Jean-Louis Borloo, is 'a terrific demonstration of the potential of renewable energies'. La Semeuse coffee also joins the PlanetSolar project as an independent SME wanting to be affiliated with Helvetic solar projects which will, without any doubt, shape the future. The boat's constructor, Knierim Yachtbau in Kiel, formalizes its position by becoming an official provider as well. The Maison D'Ailleurs (Museum of extraordinary voyages) in Yverdon-les-Bains becomes an institutional partner of this adventure which, according to the director Patrick Gyger, 'puts new technologies at the service of a visionary and profoundly humanistic project'. Thanks to this collaboration, an original novel by Jules Verne will travel around the world onboard PlanetSolar and will then be conserved in the Yverdonian Museum. The Maison D'Ailleurs will also participate in the action of postcards. In order to keep an authentic trace of this exploit, numbered and limited edition postcards will be brought onboard PlanetSolar and sent to the chosen recipient, once the around the world using solar energy is completed. They will be available for purchase on our website www.planetsolar.org as well as at the Maison D'Ailleurs.

Another significant project taking place at the end of this year is the partnership with 'Sept autour du monde' (Seven around the world) by Cabrera editions. The magazine dedicated to the ecology and the discovery of the world, intended for youth of 10-15 years of age, will put forward a comic book that will recount the daily life of 5 children, accompanied by their mother and a teacher. They will navigate on PlanetSolar which will give them the opportunity to follow our adventures and increase their awareness on the solutions to preserve our environment. An educational kit in French will be created as well as an internet site to especially allow children to follow the PlanetSolar adventure.

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