



Press release

PlanetSolar: The Village opens its doors to the public tomorrow in Yverdon-les-Bains.

The PlanetSolar village will be accessible to the public from tomorrow (September 3rd) in Yverdon-les-Bains (Parking of the Ancien-Stand, 50 metres away from the Swiss train station). PlanetSolar SA takes also this opportunity to announce two first rate new partners.

Yverdon-les-Bains – September 2nd 2009 – The PlanetSolar touring village will finally be unveiled from tomorrow and until September 5th. This totally new and futuristic village will allow the public to become more aware of the renewable energy sources, but also to understand and to discover the PlanetSolar project as a whole. Many important personalities will take part in this inauguration. Among others, the following persons are expected: Pascal Broulis, Jean-Claude Mermoud, Miss Switzerland.

The three spheres of the village house many organized activities for the children as well as for the adults. Thus, the visitors will be able, for example, to take the controls of the PlanetSolar simulator, to do races of radio-controlled boats, to see the 1:15 scale model of PlanetSolar which already allows to assess the size of the future boat and to discover totally new exhibitions on the sustainable development theme. The two protagonists, Raphaël Domjan (project founder and skipper) as well as the famous French sailor Gérard d'Aboville (co-skipper), will be present to reply to the various questions of the public. Do not miss this opportunity to take part – for free – in the launch of this extraordinary adventure.

PlanetSolar wishes to take the opportunity of this inauguration to announce two new partners:

Météo- France, scientific partner of PlanetSolar – PlanetSolar has chosen Météo-France to be the first meteorological partner of the first world tour in a solar boat. Thus, PlanetSolar will be able to benefit, during the three years to come, from the expertise of climatologists and of previsionists specialized in marine meteorology. The boat will be followed 24 hours a day and 7 days a week in order to optimize its route and to be the most efficient as far as energy is concerned. Météo-France will allow PlanetSolar to look and to go for the sun and thus to have an optimal level of battery to sail in the best possible conditions. It is a major partner for the success of the adventure”, explains Gérard d'Aboville.

www.planetsolar.org



SunPower corporation, official partner of PlanetSolar – SunPower Corporation, the American producer of solar cells, a leader in the field, undertakes to support the PlanetSolar project by supplying the solar cells of the boat. The 470 square metres of cells used on PlanetSolar will have a very high minimum rate of efficiency of 22%.

Manuel Brchet (General Manager, International Business Development Group) of SunPower Corporation, is enthusiastic about the idea to associate SunPower with this world first and to be able to show, through the PlanetSolar project, the know-how and the performance of the technologies proposed by SunPower. “We have the most efficient cells of the market and we are delighted that our technology allows PlanetSolar to achieve its objectives of world tour”.

The PlanetSolar chronology:

- 3-5 September 2009: Inauguration of the PlanetSolar Village in Yverdon-les-Bains
- January 2010: End of the construction of the boat and first tests
- April to October 2010: European tour of the boat and of the PlanetSolar village
- April 2011: Departure of the world tour in the Mediterranean (approximately 140 days of navigation)

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