

Press release | 29th of September 2016

SolarStratos is establishing its operational base at the Payerne Aeropole in Switzerland.

Raphaël Domjan and the SolarStratos team are bringing their stratospheric project to life with the commencement of construction on their hangar at the Payerne airport Aeropole site in the Canton of Vaud, Switzerland. This operational base for SolarStratos will house the first solar stratospheric plane. The Canton of Vaud, the city of Payerne and the Broye region are also on board in this venture and providing support for the implementation of the SolarStratos project at the Aeropole.

Raphaël Domjan and the SolarStratos team are today launching the construction of the hangar which will house the first solar stratospheric plane, SolarStratos, on the Payerne Aeropole site located in Switzerland's region La Broye. The choice of the Aeropole is a strategic one. The mayor of Payerne, Mrs Christelle Luisier Brodard considers that «Solarstratos and its solar stratospheric mission are perfectly aligned with the development we wanted at this technological park, supporting the growth of a whole region». The 450 m2 hangar will allow SolarStratos to house its future solar stratospheric plane and enable maintenance to be carried out. Its flight simulator will be installed in the hangar which will also provide the opportunity to welcome visitors, media and partners in the venture. The hangar should be operational from November 2016 and at the same time will see delivery of the various elements of the solar stratospheric plane Solarstratos, in order for it to be assembled. Ideally located on the edge of the aerodrome, with direct access to the runway, it will allow pilot Raphaël Domjan and test pilot Klaus Plasa to carry out the first test flights on board of this revolutionary two-seater solar plane. The company's headquarters as well as the communications, marketing and administration teams will remain in Yverdon-les-Bains, in the premises located at the Y-Parc site.

Mr Philippe Leuba, Councillor of the Canton of Vaud in charge of the Economy and Sport Department, is delighted with the development of this project in the canton: *«Throughout history, the energy challenge has been at the heart of the evolution of civilisations. If we take time to think about it, the first solar powered round the world trips have been on board craft such as PlanetSolar and Solar Impulse which were mainly designed and built in the Canton of Vaud, in Switzerland, not in Silicon Valley. This is a fertile area for those who want to be innovative, entrepreneurial or daring. And we want to keep it that way!».*

As a reminder, the Aeropole hosts companies with an aeronautics connection as well as other high value-added industrial and service sectors. This technology and industrial park is specialised in the aeronautic industry and located next to the Broyard's aerodrome. The SolarStratos team is excited to be able to continue its venture and bring its stratospheric solar projects to life in this unique environment.

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About SolarStratos, «To the edge of space»

SolarStratos is a SolarXplorers SA group venture. This mission initiated by the eco-explorer Raphaël Domjan in 2014 targeted to achieve, as of 2018, the first solar stratospheric flight at over 80,000 feet, which is more than 24,000 metres altitude. The solar two-seater plane has been built by the company PC-aéro and its solar systems were developed by the CSEM in Neuchâtel, together with a team of international specialists.

At this extreme altitude, where the temperature is around -70 degrees Celsius and the atmospheric pressure 5%, Raphaël Domjan can observe the stars at daytime and the earth's curvature. The SolarStratos plane will fly at an altitude impossible to reach with a traditional propulsion plane.

In order to rise to this unprecedented challenge, Raphaël Domjan, supported by the DLR (German space agency), has already surrounded himself with a team of specialists such as co-pilot Thierry Plojoux, astronaut Michael Lopez-Alegria, entrepreneur et CEO Roland Loos, engineer and builder of the plane Calin Gologan, as well as other engineering, meteorological, computing and communication experts.

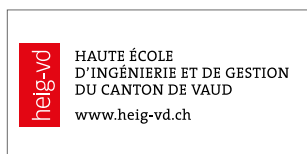
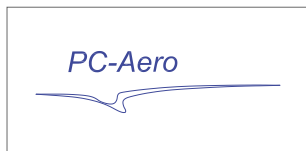
In addition to this venture, Raphaël Domjan and his team have a long term project aimed at opening up exploitation of the stratosphere using solar energy, with the help of solar stratospheric drones.

Scores of partners have already joined the venture.

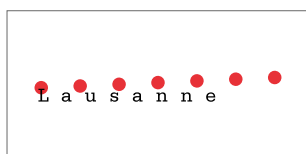
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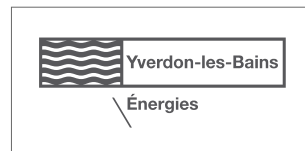
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