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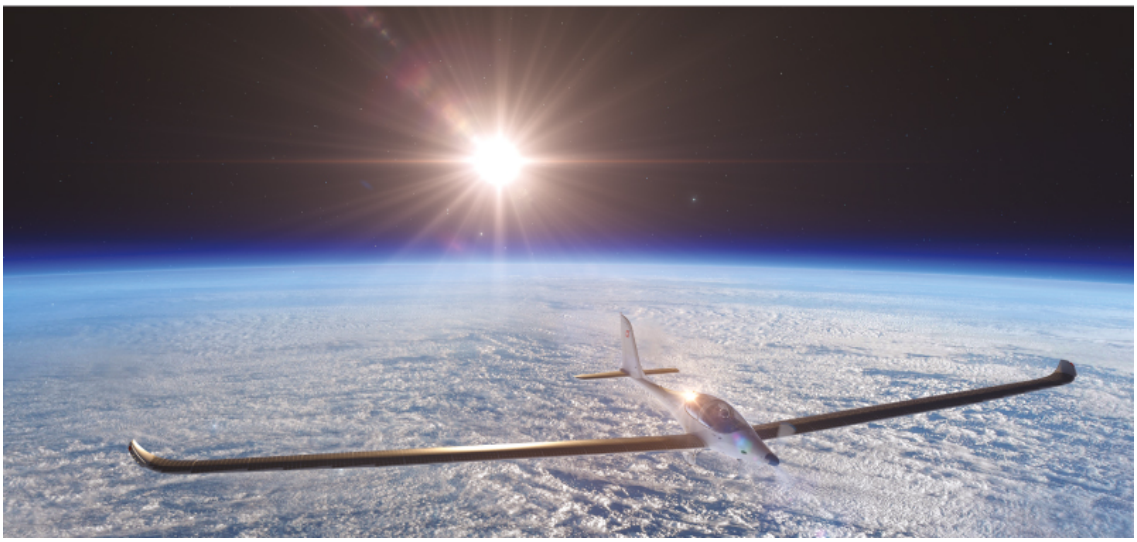
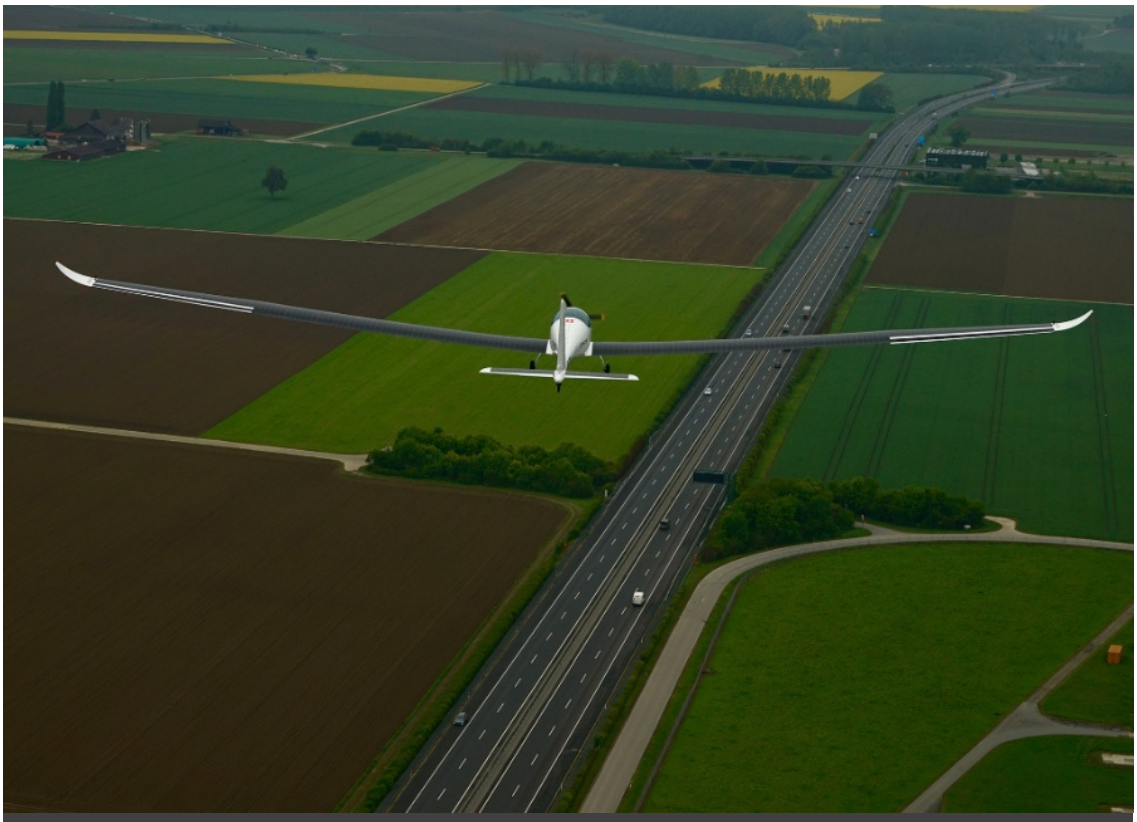
Press release

SOLARSTRATOS
TO THE EDGE OF SPACE



SolarStratos takes flight for the first time

The solar-powered stratospheric aircraft, SolarStratos, flew for the first time in Payerne, Switzerland, today, during a test flight. Conditions were optimal and Raphael Domjan and the SolarStratos team are delighted with the result of years of work. Further test flights are scheduled.



Payerne, Switzerland, 5 May 2017 – Friday, the 5 of May 2017 at 08:00 AM will go down in history for the SolarStratos team. The solar-powered stratospheric aircraft was rolled out of the hanger today for its first test flight by test pilot Damian Hischier. Conditions for the inaugural flight at Payerne airport were ideal.

Under the watchful eye of Raphael Domjan – eco-explorer, SolarStratos pilot and the man behind the project – the test pilot flew SolarStratos for 7 minutes at an altitude of 300 metres before landing and returning to the hanger. The maiden flight of the prototype designed by Calin Gologan (Elektra-Solar GmbH), planned by the SolarStratos engineers and technical team, went off without a hitch. The group will now study the test flight results before scheduling a longer flight at higher altitude.

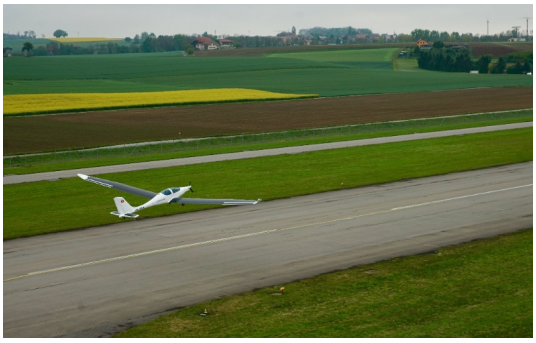
Raphael Domjan, was delighted with the results of the inaugural flight: “We were impatient for this moment and are happy with our first flight and the way that the plane behaved. Now we must continue to work hard to learn how to harness the potential of this solar-powered treasure. We want to demonstrate that with current technology, it is possible to go beyond what fossil fuels offer. “Electric and solar vehicles are among the major challenges of the 21st century. Our plane which can fly at 25,000 metres, opens a window to electric and solar-powered high-altitude aviation – something that has never before been attempted. Only by flying can we work out the plane’s limits and today’s short flight was an important first step on this pathway.”

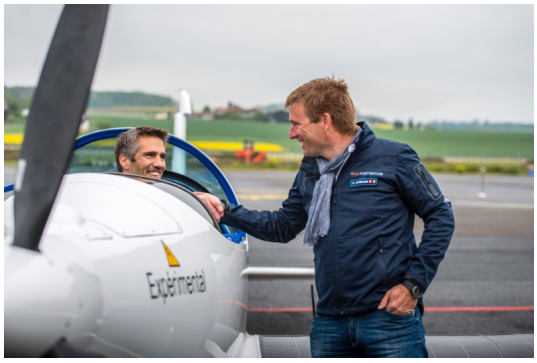
The SolarStratos test pilot, Damian Hischier, was very enthusiastic at the end of the first flight: “The plane is very nice to fly. It is responsive and it is obvious that it has been very well designed and built. The SolarStratos team have an excellent baseline to work from as they progress to the next step of this pioneering and ambitious project.”

Standing on the edge of the runway in Payerne, SolarStratos CEO, Roland Loos, did not miss a moment of the action. “We are particularly pleased to have taken this crucial step in the development of our project. SolarStratos aims to promote renewable energies and to demonstrate that concepts and projects that seemed inconceivable five years ago are possible thanks to the technology available today. Technology in the field of solar-electric aviation is still in its infancy, so this is just the beginning of a great adventure.”

Pictures for the press:

www.solarstratos.com





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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 aircraft was manufactured and designed by Calin Gologan CEO of Elektra Solar GmbH 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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