



Press Release – 18 March 2014

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Mission SolarStratos “To the edge of space”

Raphaël Domjan at the conquest of the frontier of space by solar plane.

Raphaël Domjan, eco-adventurer and conference speaker, having successfully completed the first round-the-world flight using solar energy, has, together with his new team, unveiled his new solar adventure: the SolarStratos Mission. On board the first two-seater solar plane, he will ascend to more than 80'000 feet. This solar adventure planned as from 2017, will have the aim of opening a door on a commercial touristic activity at the edge of space. This ambitious mission is a first, permitting once again a demonstration of the potential of renewable energy.

After having made the first round-the-world trip powered by solar energy and having demonstrated that it is possible to travel in this autonomous way while protecting the environment, Raphaël Domjan, has decided to go even further and overtake what has been achieved with fossil fuels. It was during the Atlantic crossing on board Planet Solar that the idea came to him of fulfilling the mythical flight of Icarus and approaching space by using solar energy. An international team was formed and today the next challenge is launched. This adventure is without precedent. It is ambitious and carries many risks, but it will once again demonstrate the potential of renewable energy. This new eco-adventure, entitled Mission SolarStratos, is planned as from 2017 on board a commercialised two-seater solar plane, which was conceived and built by Calin Gologan and his company PC-Aero GmbH. This solar powered-plane will be modified accordingly and will be pushed to the limits of its technical possibilities for this stratospheric flight.

The SolarStratos Mission carries some risks because Raphaël Domjan will be flying at temperatures of around -70°C. His plane cannot be pressurised so he will be equipped with an astronaut's space-suit which will not allow him, in case of problems, to get out of the plane to use a parachute.



This solar plane is 7.70m in length, has a wingspan of 20m and will weigh 350kg. The twenty square meters of solar panels of the plane should allow the two-seater a flight duration of 24 hours, enough to permit Raphaël to achieve his eco-adventure which requires about five hours to climb up to 80'000 feet (more than 24km) to contemplate the stars before returning to the earth.

To meet this challenge, Raphaël has surrounded himself with a team of specialists recognised in their particular fields. Michael Lope-Alegria, an astronaut who has piloted space-shuttles and completed four missions, will be the flight director. Calin Gologan, aeronautical engineer, founder and CEO of PC-Aero GmbH, will be the developer and designer of the SolarStratos plane. Géraldine Fasnacht, wingsuit pilot and professional rider, will bring her technical expertise to the project and be responsible for flight safety. Other experts in engineering, meteorology, computers and communications complete the team.

Beyond this adventure, Raphaël Domjan, and his entire team plan to open a door into the commercial use of electric and solar aviation at the edge of space with the goal of achieving unique flights for private passengers and scientists.

Jean Verne, the great-grandson of Jules Verne and Marie-Vincente Latécoère of the Pierre-Georges Latécoère Foundation, enthused by these projects and admirers of the energy developed by Raphaël Domjan to save our planet, has agreed to be the sponsor of this new, ambitious solar eco-adventure.

Several partners have already joined the adventure. They include Solstis SA, Horus Networks Sàrl, PV-Lab du CSEM, PC-Aero GmbH and the City of Lausanne.

Contact for press information:

Coralie Jugen

+33 6 12 97 78 63

press@solarstratos.com

Press area: www.solarstratos.com/press

ask for your access at press@solarstratos.com

www.solarstratos.com