Around the world powered by the sun

Press Release

"A milestone in the progress of solar mobility"

Launch of the largest solar yacht in the world, the "TÛRANOR[1)] PlanetSolar" – Owner Immo Ströher wants to advance the development of leading-edge technology – Pioneer for sustainable energy technology - Solar catamaran built by the Knierim shipyard in Kiel/Germany

Kiel, 31st March 2010 – With today's launch of the largest solar-powered boat in the world, this event is a potent symbol for the advancement of solar shipping. The "TÛRANOR PlanetSolar", with its PV modules covering approx. 500 m², can navigate up to three days even without exposure to the sunlight. For solar shipping, bridging the time without insolation by means of storage capacity and efficient propulsion is the main challenge - met by these new technologies. "We are on our way to demonstrate that motorised shipping can work without fuel", is how entrepreneur and owner of the "TÛRANOR PlanetSolar", Immo Ströher, succinctly puts it.

Immo Ströher has already been investing in the sector of renewable forms of energy for 17 years. What Ströher already puts into daily practice in his energy management company IMMOSOLAR GmbH (Langen, Hessen) through the use of static renewables, he now plans to propel forward into the area of solar mobility. Central to his investment is the efficient utilisation and storage of renewable energy. "The path towards a practical utilisation of solar energy inevitably requires efficient energy management; and that also applies to solar shipping", claims Ströher. The 31 m long solar catamaran (costs: approx. €12.5 million) was built by the Knierim shipyard in Kiel/Germany. This shipyard specialises in the construction of individual yachts using carbon sandwich technology.

1) The name TÛRANOR is derived from the Lord of the Rings Saga of J.R.R. Tolkien and translates into "The Power of the Sun".

K2K Market Relations & Corporate Strategies ... Kornelia Kneissl ... Händelstrasse 1 ... D-81675 München ... www.k2k-services.de
Tel. +49 89 98247938 ... Fax +49 89 98247940 ... Email: info@k2k-services.de
Im Auftrag der Rivendell Holding AG ... Poststrasse 22 ...CH-6300 Zug

Around the world powered by the sun

The yacht will be launched from the dock of the Howaldtswerke-Deutsche Werft, which brought its own experience regarding the integration of energy storage to bear on this project. The energy storage used on the “TÛRANOR PlanetSolar” is Lithium-ion batteries, which are characterised by the highest output and energy density. This is an essential element, if the longest possible navigation capacity is to be ensured. The PV modules onboard the "TÛRANOR PlanetSolar" are supplied by SOLON AG, Berlin, a company in which Ströher has a shareholding.

The long-term performance of the "TÛRANOR PlanetSolar" is to be tested for the first time in a circumnavigation of the globe. The PlanetSolar SA (Yverdon-les-Bains, western Switzerland), a partner in this joint-venture, has currently scheduled the first circumnavigation exclusively with solar power for 2011 - the journey is likely to take 160 days, during which new information regarding the mobile use of solar energy can be gained.

Furthermore, "TÛRANOR PlanetSolar" will be a flagship carrying the message about the efficient application of renewable energies around the world (www.planetsolar.org). In addition, the solar catamaran should realise a "worldwide economic return" through further development amongst boat builders and component manufacturers and generate new business opportunities in the renewable energies sector.

Immo Ströher sees himself as a pioneer in solar shipping and he is committed to "smoothing the way" for this technology. He is also concerned with the general improvement of the image of renewables. Immo Ströher: "I want to demonstrate that it is possible to achieve commercially realistic earnings over the long term with advanced technologies."

After the scheduled circumnavigation, the "TÛRANOR PlanetSolar" should find a further use commensurate with its intended role as ambassador for renewable forms of energy (e.g. through educational seminars and conferences, etc.). Immo Ströher: "It is my vision to see solar power take its rightful place - not only on rooftops, but also on the roads, seas and in the skies of the future."

For further information: K2K Kornelia Kneissl, +49 89 98247938, mail@solar-mobility.org

K2K Market Relations & Corporate Strategies ... Kornelia Kneissl ... Händelstrasse 1 ... D-81675 München ... www.k2k-services.de
Tel. +49 89 98247938 ... Fax +49 89 98247940 ... Email: info@k2k-services.de
Im Auftrag der Rivendell Holding AG ... Poststrasse 22 ...CH-6300 Zug