**Press release**

# THE PROJECT PLANETSOLAR HAS ENTERED ANOTHER STAGE TOWARDS THE FIRST WORLD TOUR USING SOLAR POWER

**Kiel, 31 March 2010**

**For the project PlanetSolar a new chapter has started today. After the christening and the launch of the largest solar-powered boat in the world, the entire team will now concentrate on preparing the catamaran and planning the World Tour.**

With its launch, the project PlanetSolar has entered another stage towards the accomplishment of the first World Tour using solar power. This spectacular manoeuvre has been run by the Knierim boatyard, in charge of the boat building. An imposing 110-metre crane has been required to lift the 60-ton solar catamaran out of the vast hangar and to place it into the Baltic Sea.

From now on the PlanetSolar team will be able to concentrate on preparing the boat for the sea tests and on the itinerary for her forthcoming World Tour. This is a sizeable challenge because the boat will navigate 50,000 kilometres (26,998 nautical miles) following an East to West equatorial route in order to take advantage of as much sunshine as possible. The departure will take place in 2011 from the Mediterranean Sea. The solar catamaran will then follow its route via the Atlantic Ocean, the Panama Canal, the Pacific Ocean, the Indian Ocean and the Suez Canal. Throughout this “voyage”, which should take 160 days, the boat and the PlanetSolar Village will make several stopovers where the public will be able to find out about the origin of the project and its aims, and visit exhibitions on renewable energy.

Undoubtedly, the main challenge during this World Tour will be the energy management for the boat. The crew on board of the solar catamaran must follow the itinerary with most exposure to the sun, whilst also taking into account wind, currents and waves. In order to be able to meet this complex and exciting challenge, the PlanetSolar engineers have developed a solar route simulator. With an average speed of 7.5 knots, the crew will be able to rely on self-sufficient energy estimated at three days. However, this could become limitless if the boat benefits from sufficient sunshine. The key to the success of this World Tour rests on a subtle balance between adjusting the speed of the boat and searching for maximum sunshine.

At the helm of the solar catamaran will be Raphaël Domjan, the initiator of the project, and Gérard d’Aboville, the first man to row across the Atlantic and the Pacific. For Raphaël Domjan it is necessary to look beyond the dream and the feelings that this project awakens, “Most of all the PlanetSolar project is a great occasion to advance scientific research and to show that today technology is already available to design the most environmentally friendly means of transport."

Moreover it is this common objective that brings together the PlanetSolar project and Immo Ströher, the owner of the boat. They are both driven by this desire to show that today there are already solutions available allowing us to consider a different form of mobility and that our future depends on the support of scientific research into the field of renewable energy. This type of collaboration between an ambitious project and a visionary man, full of conviction, is what gives science the means to make progress and to innovate!

Throughout her “voyage” round the world, the PlanetSolar team will be able to rely on the support of its two main partners, Candino Swiss Watch and Immosolar Energy Management.