

Earthrace thunders into Oman for penultimate port stop of world record attempt



London/Oman, 19 June 2008:

Earthrace, the world's fastest eco-boat, is due to arrive at Salalah Port, Salalah on Thursday 19 June, for the penultimate port stop of its world record attempt.

Earthrace is a 24m tri-hull wavepiercer that runs on biofuel and is on day 54 of its attempt to break the world record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe. The boat is currently 2,500 miles ahead of the world record pace set by the British Cable and Wireless team in 1998.

The crew are hoping for a speedy refuelling at this crucial stage of the race, before setting off up the Red Sea to Suez, the last port stop before returning to Spain. If all goes to plan, the crew hopes to storm into Valencia on 27 June, smashing the record by 13 days. However, they will be battling against adverse weather conditions as they head up the Eastern coast of Africa and later in the Mediterranean.

Earthrace has overcome many obstacles during its journey, the most challenging of which being the replacement of the boat's driveshaft and propeller after hitting sea debris in Palau. A rapid turnaround during the last port stop in India helped the crew claw back valuable time which was lost during these repair works.

"We're so close to the end of the race that I can almost taste the world record," said Skipper Pete Bethune. "I have to keep reminding myself that we still have a lot to overcome. The weather isn't great – we've had to endure monsoon conditions and massive waves on our way to Oman – and passing through the Suez Canal could be tricky. There have been reports of a massive backlog of ships waiting to transit the canal – we managed to overcome the same situation in Panama, and it's vital we don't get delayed here.

"Ground crew, boat crew and everyone else involved are pulling out all the stops to ensure these last legs of the race run as smoothly as possible."

When Earthrace leaves Salalah it will head for its last port stop Ain Sukhna, near Suez, Egypt. Keep up-to-date with Earthrace's progress via the live satellite tracker at www.earthrace.net

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Notes to editors:

High resolution, copyright-free photographs and video footage are available to download from our FTP site: <ftp://assets.earthrace.net>

PRESS RELEASE



Please contact news@earthrace.net for login details.

About Earthrace

Earthrace is a 24m (78ft) tri-hull wavepiercer that has been designed and built specifically to get the record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe. She is an advanced endurance vessel, capable of submarining up to 7m (23ft) underwater as she powers across oceans.

The goal of Earthrace is to set a new world record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe, running 100% renewable biodiesel fuel, and with a net zero carbon footprint.

From the start in Sagunto, the boat will cross the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans and travel through the Panama and Suez Canals as it thunders around the planet's circumference at a maximum speed of 40 knots, attempting to break the round-the-world speed record. The full record route is as follows:

Sagunto (Spain) – Horta (Azores) – San Juan (Puerto Rico) – Colon (Panama Canal, Panama) – Manzanillo (Mexico) – San Diego (USA) – Maalaea Harbor, Maui (Hawaii) – Majuro (Marshall Islands) – Koror (Palau) – Singapore – Kochi/Cochin (India) – Salalah (Oman) – Port Said (Suez Canal, Egypt) – Sagunto (Spain)

Earthrace is run as a not-for-profit venture, with a boat, ground and London HQ crew made up of international volunteers.

You can find out in real time exactly where Earthrace is now by going to www.earthrace.net and clicking on the 'Where is Earthrace' globe.

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