

Earthrace

100% biodiesel - 100% carbon neutral

8 March 2008

ITALIAN FLOW 3D® TECHNOLOGY HELPED DESIGN WORLD'S GREENEST POWERBOAT, EARTHTRACE

Earthrace is an incredible 78ft wave-piercing trimaran powerboat that runs exclusively on 100% biodiesel. The boat will start an attempt to break the round the world speed record on 29th March, from Sagunto in Spain.

The wave-piercing, three hull construction means the boat can cut through large seas at speed. Her design was aided with help from Italian firm, XC Engineering, who used their revolutionary 'Flow 3D®' simulation technology to test the effects of the flow of water and variables such as pressure and force on the hulls.

Pete Bethune, skipper of Earthrace, said: "Thanks to XC Engineering's Flow 3D® technology, I and the boat builders, Calibre Boats from New Zealand, were able to see in advance of the build, how the boat was likely to perform in the different types of seas we were likely to come across on our global voyage. We were then able to modify the design to ensure that not only speed, but fuel efficiency and safety were taken into account.

On 13th March, in Bologna, Italy, Alessandro Incognito and Stefano (x), from XC Engineering, will present the story of how the Flow 3D® system helped in the build of this incredible bio-boat, at 'Design on Board', an exhibition of design and innovative materials for life on board.

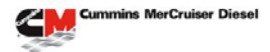
Bethune continued, "The page where we have put XC Engineering's Flow 3D® videos on our website (www.earthrace.net) is one of the most popular...people love being able to see how wave-piercing really works!"

ABOUT EARTHTRACE

The not for profit project is run as a carbon neutral enterprise, making it one of the world's most environmentally-friendly powerboats. The crew aim to secure the world speed record to create greater awareness of biofuel from sustainable sources as part of the solution to counter damage to the environment through fossil fuels, and to promote the need for everyone to lead sustainable lives. Following the world record, Earthrace will go on tour around Europe and the crew are actively seeking sponsorship from any Italian locations or companies that will enable her to visit their city.

www.earthrace.net

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MEDIA NOTES

IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ATTENDING THE START OF THE ROUND THE WORLD RECORD ATTEMPT IN SPAIN ON 29TH MARCH, PLEASE EMAIL US IN ADVANCE FOR SECURITY REASONS

news@earthrace.net

More about Earthrace

Earthrace has a boat, ground and London HQ crew made up of international volunteers from New Zealand, the UK, Hungary, Guyana/Portugal, the US and Sweden.

The biofuel she is using has been donated by SGC Energia (Portugal). It is derived from waste cooking oil, as well as soya and canola oils from sustainable sources

Not only is Earthrace herself made from environmentally friendly components including hemp, but the project maintains a carbon neutral status through the purchase of carbon offsets from downwithcarbon.org, who use the income to fund a sustainable biofuel project in Egypt. The offsets account for any CO2 produced through transportation of the biofuel to the different fuel stops, the biofuel itself, and all travel undertaken by the ground crew

From the start in Sagunto, Spain (nr Valencia), the boat will cross the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans and travel through the Panama and Suez Canals as it thunders around the planet's circumference, attempting to break the official round-the-world speed record for a powerboat.

The full record route is as follows:

Sagunto, Spain - Azores - Puerto Rico - Panama Canal – Manzanillo, Mexico – San Diego, USA – Hawaii – Majuro, Marshall Islands – Koror, Palau – Singapore – Cochin, India – Salalah, Oman - Suez Canal – Sagunto, Spain

The current world record holder is British boat 'Cable and Wireless Adventurer' who took the record in a time of 75 days ten years ago in 1998.

The boat is currently in Sagunto in Spain, for her pre-record attempt refit. She will be undergoing sea trials later this month.

You can follow Earthrace as she travels around the globe in real time by going to www.earthrace.net and clicking on the 'Where is Earthrace' globe.

High resolution, copyright free photographs and video footage is available to download from the 'News and Media' page on www.earthrace.net

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