

Solar plane makes first intercontinental flight

Prototype aircraft Solar Impulse has taken to the skies on its first intercontinental flight, travelling from Switzerland to Morocco, powered solely by the sun. If successful, a round-the-world flight is planned for 2014



Pilots:
Bertrand Piccard
(top) and
André Borschberg

Propulsion: Four wing pods each contain 6kW motor and polymer lithium battery to power propeller

Cockpit: Non pressurized cockpit limits upper altitude to 8,500m

Wings: Covered with 12,000 solar cells
Wingspan: **60.4m**
Length: **21.9m**
Weight: **1,600kg**

1 May 24: André Borschberg flies first leg from Payerne to Madrid in 17 hours at average speed of 89km/h

2 May 31: Second leg of 2,500km flight piloted by Bertrand Piccard

