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## Press release

### **Solar vehicle goes round the world: pioneering trip around the planet using solar power soon arriving in India**

**Around the world with the sun – around the world with a solar vehicle. Adventurer and travel editor Louis Palmer has an ambitious plan to travel around the world in a solar-powered vehicle – the solar taxi. After setting off from the KKL Lucerne on July 3, his journey round the world will take at least 15 months. He will be travelling through all kinds of different countries, meeting new and interesting people and, some of the time, taking passengers with him. The aim of Palmer's project is to show that solutions to combat global warming are available. He is going to cross India from West to East with starting point in Mumbai on 22<sup>th</sup> October.**

During the European Sustainable Energy Forum (ESEF) 2007, held in the KKL Lucerne from July 2 to 6, the solar taxi set off on its pioneering journey. In times of low resources, high fuel prices and global warming, Louis Palmer of Lucerne is looking for alternative drive technologies. He has been on the road since summer 2007 in a solar-powered vehicle designed by the four Swiss institutes HTA Lucerne, ETH Zurich, University of Applied Sciences in Aargau and University of Applied Sciences in Berne. His mission: to make people more aware of climate change.

#### **50,000 km with solar electricity**

The solar taxi consists of a solar vehicle and trailer with solar cells. The vehicle is powered by 100% solar energy on its 50,000 km-journey around the world. 50% of the energy comes from its own solar cells on the trailer; the other 50% are produced, certified and fed into the power grid on the roof of the Swisscom building in Berne and accessed via power sockets en route. The solar taxi thus uses electricity from 100% renewable energy and releases no emissions into the atmosphere. On his promotional trip, Palmer wants to demonstrate that sustainable technologies are already perfectly suited to everyday use and that they can even be used to go round the world.

#### **Take a ride in a solar taxi**

The solar-powered vehicle has space for an additional person. Palmer makes use of this space to give various passengers a ride along the way – which is why the vehicle is called a taxi. The solar taxi, which travels at a maximum speed of 90 km/h on its three wheels, is equipped with luxurious, leather-covered bucket seats guaranteeing both fun and comfort. Passengers can actually drive the vehicle, too, as the steering slides across horizontally. The solar taxi is being accompanied by German engineer Thomas Gottschalk, who is travelling in a conventional vehicle. The accompanying vehicle is a necessity as it will carry everything needed for a trip round the world.

#### **Going east – and enjoying 50 countries along the way**

Louis Palmer set off eastwards on July 3 via Germany where he visited his main sponsor Q-Cells. Via Czech Republic, Austria, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Serbia, Bulgaria, Turkey, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Saudi Arabia he arrived in Dubai. By ship he then sent the vehicle to Mumbai, from where he will now start his journey across India. The definitive route will depend on what kind of invitations the solar taxi receives. Palmer has a screen and projector with him for presentations. His goal is to cover at least 50,000 km and to visit 50 countries and 5 continents. The project partner for this initiative is "Presence Switzerland" – the body whose job it is to present Switzerland abroad – together with the Swiss embassies that are organising welcome events along the route. Travel between continents will take place by ship.

If everything works out, this project will set a world record, namely the first motor vehicle not powered by fossil fuel to drive around the world on normal roads. Thanks to state-of-the-art telecommunications technology, Palmer is reporting daily from his pioneering trip in an online diary, which can be followed at [www.solartaxi.com](http://www.solartaxi.com).

His press event is planned to take place in Mumbai on Mon 22<sup>th</sup> Oct, 16:30h at the Somayia College of Engineering.

((Box Project Partners))

### **Project partners**

Palmer has managed to gain support from all kinds of partners from various industries for his unique project. They include:

- **Q-Cells,**
- **Swisscom,**
- **Technopark Lucerne,**
- **wave, grebien network,**
- **Zebra,**
- **Schindler Apprentice Training,**
- **Kühne + Nagel,**
- **Servax,**
- **Rockwell Automation,**
- **Ruthishauser Autopolsterei,**
- **Alu Menziken,**
- **Presence Switzerland,**
- **various Swiss universities and many more.**

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### **Media information**

Pictures can be downloaded from: [www.solartaxi.com](http://www.solartaxi.com).

**Continuative links Solartaxi:** <http://www.solartaxi.com>

**Swisscom:** <http://www.bluewin.ch/solartaxi>  
<http://solartaxi.blueblog.ch>

**Eurosolar:** <http://www.eurosolar.de>

**or Google:** [\*Eurosolar Solartaxi\*](#))

**Spiegel online:** <http://www.spiegel.de/auto/fahrberichte/0,1518,453240,00.html>  
<http://www.spiegel.de/reise/aktuell/0,1518,487883,00.html>

**Further information:** [\*Google search for „Solartaxi“\*](#)

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