



**Press release**

## **PlanetSolar: Construction of the boat begins January 6th 2009**

**The biggest solar boat in the world, whose construction begins in a few days, continues to attract partners and abounds with new projects.**

**Yverdon-les-Bains, December 23<sup>rd</sup> 2008** - Construction of PlanetSolar will begin on January 6<sup>th</sup> at the shipyard Knierim Yachtbau in Kiel, northern Germany. Test taking and wind tunnel testing already took place in November at the Australian Maritime College in Tasmania. These tests allowed for the validation of calculations and information simulations.

A technological and humanistic project, PlanetSolar attracts the support of new partners and sponsors. The French Ministry of Ecology, Energy, Sustainable Development and Land Settlement supports the project which, according to Minister Jean-Louis Borloo, is "a terrific demonstration of the potential of renewable energies". La Semeuse coffee also joins the PlanetSolar project as an independent SME wanting to be affiliated with Helvetic solar projects "which will, without any doubt, shape the future".

The boat's constructor, Knierim Yachtbau in Kiel, formalizes its position by becoming an official provider as well.

The Maison D'Ailleurs (Museum of extraordinary voyages) in Yverdon-les-Bains becomes an institutional partner of this adventure which, according to the director Patrick Gyger, "puts new technologies at the service of a visionary and profoundly humanistic project". Thanks to this collaboration, an original novel by Jules Verne will travel around the world onboard PlanetSolar and will then be conserved in the Yverdonian Museum.

The Maison D'Ailleurs will also participate in the action of postcards. In order to keep an authentic trace of this exploit, numbered and limited edition postcards will be brought onboard PlanetSolar and sent to the chosen recipient, once the around the world using solar energy is completed. They will be available for purchase on our website [www.planetsolar.org](http://www.planetsolar.org) as well as at the Maison D'Ailleurs.

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