

Press release

Swiss Made technology for the future

The watch brand Candino Swiss Watch has agreed to take part in an extraordinary technological and human challenge: the first round-the-world trip powered by solar energy. PlanetSolar, the largest solar-powered boat ever constructed, will start its visionary journey in 2010. Candino, a member of the Festina Group, will be one of the main partners for this project and the official timekeeper for the adventure. Swiss Made quality, a project on an international scale and technological innovation are the main features of this collaboration.

Bienne, 24 April 2009 – “PlanetSolar was once a dream, now this project has become a reality” explains the man behind the mission, adventurer Raphaël Domjan from Neuchâtel. Jean-Claude Schwarz, CEO of Festina industrial Group and Festina-Candino Watch SA, was quickly swept up by the enthusiasm of this passionate skipper. “Candino has been travelling the five continents to distribute its Swiss Made products for over 60 years. What better link than supporting a revolutionary boat flying the Swiss flag?”

Candino watches have long been looking for an opportunity to get involved in an initiative related to sustainable development. Jean-Claude Schwarz is enthusiastic about the idea of being part of this world first: “Candino is proud to be part of a project that shares the same values. For a Swiss quality brand, being involved in an original concept developed by a Swiss team and using cutting-edge technology is a genuine way of committing to environmental protection.”

The catamaran, a floating laboratory topped with solar panels, is ground-breaking, powerful and reliable, making it the ideal partner for an innovative watchmaker. The Festina Group has always tried to be cutting-edge in terms of industry. This is reflected in its continuous research into the development of mechanical watches and the launch of world firsts.

The latest innovation, mhvj (Manufacture horlogère Vallée de Joux), part of the HR watchmaker and owned by the Festina Group, recently developed StruTec, an extremely lightweight exhaust system. Candino hopes to provide PlanetSolar with its technological expertise and people skills by developing a navigator watch to act as a future travelling companion for skippers on the round-the-world trip.

Above all, a watch has to be reliable and made to last. In keeping with this principle, Candino has committed to support PlanetSolar for three years. A commitment which will provide long-term effects thanks to the additional research carried out on the basis of the results obtained on the round-the-world trip.

Wrist movement alone provides the energy required for the mechanical time-piece to run. By contributing to this promising project, Candino also hopes to give out a positive message to the general public: “Conserve our planet by using soft energies!”

About Candino:

Watch brand founded in 1947 and member of the Festina Group since 2002. Executive management and logistics are based at Bienne. The production site at Herbetswil (SO) has a surface area of 1600 m² and a daily production capacity of 2000 quartz and mechanical Swiss Made quality watches. Its multi-product collection is targeted at a wide customer base. Retail prices from 150.- to 1200.- CHF.

The brand is represented in 65 countries, and is also distributed throughout the 8 subsidiaries of the Festina group. Xenia Tchoumitcheva is the ambassador of the brand.

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