



## Press Release

### **Jean-Louis Etienne and Jason Lewis join PlanetSolar's prestigious panel of official supporters**

**Following on from Jean Verne, Jean-Luc van den Heede, Albert Falco, Nicole and Serge Roetheli, another two celebrities add their name and credibility to PlanetSolar, the first solar-powered round-the-world project, ready to sail in 2010.**

**Yverdon-les-Bains, 12 June 2008** – PlanetSolar, the project for the first solar-powered circumnavigation of the globe, announces the addition of another two famous names to its list of official supporters.

Jean-Louis Etienne and Jason Lewis have confirmed their support and offered their moral endorsement for the project.

Dr Jean-Louis Etienne has taken part in countless expeditions all over the world. After round-the-world racing as a crew member for Éric Tabarly on Pen Duick VI in the 1970s, he made a name for himself with his scientific expeditions, attracting media coverage that did a great deal to raise awareness about environmental knowledge, research and protection. After being made an Officer of the Légion d'honneur in 2006, Jean-Louis Étienne became the director of the Oceanographic Museum of Monaco in 2007. *"I send you every encouragement for this technical and sporting maritime adventure,"* he writes, *"which opens the way for a new era in navigation with the first round-the-world trip using solar energy. What a challenge! We're counting on you"*.

From 1994 to 2007, Jason Lewis completed the first human-powered circumnavigation. He crossed the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans on a hi-tech pedalo, traversed North America on roller blades, cycled and walked across India and the Himalayas, etc... *"Every example that illustrates just how quickly humanity burns up its own resources – i.e. those of the earth – should be welcomed. PlanetSolar, in particular, demonstrates what man can do when he uses his imagination, his enthusiasm, and questions his own priorities. The originators of this project show that the impossible is possible, and that our perceptions of the impossible are just a temporary illusion, laid bare by the visionaries of the future. I applaud their initiative with all my heart."*

Jean-Louis Etienne and Jason Lewis join the prestigious circle of PlanetSolar's official supporters, alongside: Jean Verne, great-grandson of Jules Verne; the French skipper Jean-Luc van den Heede; Albert Falco, diver and captain of the Calypso; Nando Parrado, filmmaker, racing car driver, and survivor of Uruguayan Air Force flight 571 in the Andes in 1972, Nicole and Serge Roetheli; astrophysicist, and CNRS research director Nicolas Prantzos, and Jean-Louis Aucouturier, professor emeritus and president-founder of Electric Boats of France.

Swiss-based PlanetSolar is an international project bringing together a team of physicists, engineers, boat-builders and various personalities engaged in the protection of the



environment. The PlanetSolar boat is a revolutionary multihull design, carrying 180 square metres of photovoltaic solar panels.

A number of businesses have already come on board the PlanetSolar project as Official Suppliers: the Autodesk Group is supplying the boat design software; MGI Group Fiduciaire (Lausanne) will take charge of the administrative side; Horus Networks SARL will, among other tasks, be hosting the PlanetSolar website, while Moser Design (Lausanne) will run the visual communication and identity aspects.

PlanetSolar is set to establish a number of records and world premières: the first solar-powered circumnavigation by any means of transportation; the first Atlantic, Pacific and Indian Ocean crossings by a solar-powered boat, and the first round-the-world by a solar-powered boat.

**For more information:**

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