

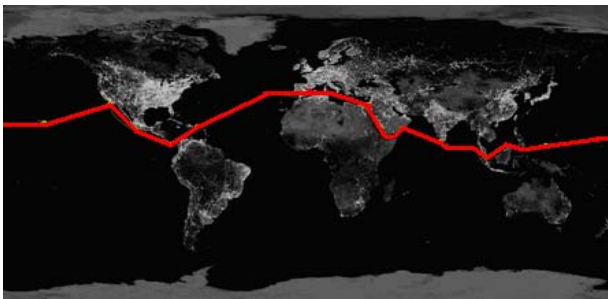
Earthrace eco-boat begins round-the-world record attempt today



London and Sagunto, Spain, 27 April 2008 – Earthrace, the world’s fastest, coolest and greenest powerboat kicks off its round-the-world race at 1300hrs GMT/1400hrs CET today, in an attempt to break the world record and promote the use of sustainable fuels.

Earthrace is an incredible 78ft wave-piercing trimaran that runs exclusively on biodiesel, and has a net zero carbon footprint, making it one of the world’s most environmentally-friendly powerboats.

Skipper Pete Bethune and his crew will blast off from the port of Sagunto, Spain, before crossing the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans as they thunder around the planet’s circumference at a maximum speed of 40 knots.



“For the next 40 days we’re going to be living on adrenaline,” says Bethune, who auctioned off his home and sold his company to fund the building of the GBP 1.5 million boat. “The crew have entered ‘race mode’ and we have one thing on our minds – the world record.

“We are fully committed to beating the record, and we don’t intend to leave anything to chance – the boat is fully geared up and weather conditions are optimum. There have been five attempts, including our own first attempt last year, since the current record was set in 1998 and we’ll do everything we can to mark this tenth anniversary by beating it!”

From Sagunto, Earthrace will head east to the Azores, where it will stop for refuelling before heading to Puerto Rico. You can keep up-to-date with the crew’s progress via the website at www.earthrace.net, where they will be posting regular blogs and video diaries.

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PRESS RELEASE
EMBARGOED UNTIL 0001HRS
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Notes to editors:

About Earthrace

Earthrace is run as a not-for-profit venture, with a boat, ground and London HQ crew made up of international volunteers.

From the start in Sagunto, the boat will cross the Atlantic, Pacific and Indian oceans and travel through the Panama and Suez Canals as it thunders around the planet's circumference at a maximum speed of 40 knots, attempting to break the round-the-world speed record. The full record route is as follows:

Sagunto (Spain) – Horta (Azores) – San Juan (Puerto Rico) – Colon (Panama Canal, Panama) – Manzanillo (Mexico) – San Diego (USA) – Maalaea Harbor, Maui (Hawaii) – Majuro (Marshall Islands) – Koror (Palau) – Singapore – Kochi/Cochin (India) – Salalah (Oman) – Port Said (Suez Canal, Egypt) – Sagunto (Spain)

You can find out in real time exactly where Earthrace is now by going to www.earthrace.net and clicking on the 'Where is Earthrace' globe.

High resolution, copyright-free photographs and video footage are available to download from the 'News and Media' page on www.earthrace.net

International press contacts

International PR and media

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