



Day 20: Earthrace eco-boat ahead of world record attempt as it approaches mid-way point

London/Pacific Ocean, 18 May 2008 – Earthrace is ahead of the current world circumnavigation record as the eco-boat approaches the midway point at the Marshall Islands.

Earthrace is a 78ft wave-piercing trimaran that runs on biodiesel and is currently in day 10 and the third leg of its global challenge.

The crew aim to set a new world record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe, running renewable biodiesel fuel, and with a net zero carbon footprint.

The boat is currently en route to Hawaii and is two stops away from its midway point at the Marshall Islands. The boat, under Kiwi captain Pete Bethune, is still ahead in the attempt to beat the 10-year-old speed record of 74 days.

Captain Bethune, speaking from the Earthrace cabin said: “We had hoped to be in and out of San Diego quickly, but it took a little longer than expected including well over a full hour just clearing customs.

“A number of supporters generously brought down a mountain of supplies and we’ve chosen carefully because every kilo counts, and carrying extra weight to Hawaii will just slow us down.

“Chief engineer Tino has done a great job. I was loyal to him in insisting he be my chief engineer, and he’s repaid this many times over.”

Day 20

Last 24 hours: 359nm (includes refuelling stop)

Total Distance covered: 7962nm

Ahead of world record: 1162nm

GPS Location: 32 27.513N, 118 41.687W

ETA Hawaii (21st May)

- ends -

PRESS RELEASE



100% biodiesel - 100% carbon neutral

Notes to editors:

About Earthrace

Earthrace is a 24m (78ft) tri-hull wavepiercer that has been designed and built specifically to get the record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe. She is an advanced endurance vessel, capable of submarining up to 7m (23ft) underwater as she powers across oceans.

It aims to set a new world record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe, running renewable biodiesel fuel, and with a net zero carbon footprint.

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)

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

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.

Pictures and Video

High resolution, copyright-free photographs and video footage are available to download from our FTP site

Go to: <ftp://assets.earthrace.net/>

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