

Earthrace eco-boat calls for help in Singapore to save world record attempt



London/Singapore, 3 June 2008:

Earthrace, the world's fastest eco-boat, has sustained significant damage to its propeller as it hit sea debris on its departure from Koror, Palau, the eighth refuelling stop of its world record circumnavigation attempt. The crew are calling on the Singapore business community to help save the world record attempt.

Earthrace is a 24m tri-hull wavepiercer that runs on biofuel and is on day 36 of its attempt

to break the world record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe. Upon arrival in Koror the boat was 2,700 miles ahead of the world record pace, set by the British Cable and Wireless team in 1998.

As Earthrace picked up speed leaving Malakal Harbor, Koror, she hit some sea debris, which damaged the port propeller. The boat limped back to port where the propeller was removed and the drive shaft tested. The shaft has been bent and will require complete replacement in Singapore. The boat is now continuing to Singapore on one engine, whilst the ground crew is doing everything in its power to find a shipyard and facilities to ensure a speedy repair upon arrival.

Her reduced speed of 14-16 knots will still maintain her lead on the current record on this leg, but a speedy repair in Singapore is essential. The crew also face the risk of travelling through notoriously pirate-infested waters on this leg, and with only one engine the boat cannot run at full speed and so may become a target for opportunistic attacks.

"We're in urgent need of help to save the world record attempt," says skipper Pete Bethune, who auctioned off his home and sold his business to fund the USD 3 million project. "We're calling on anyone out there to do anything they can to help us keep this record attempt on track.

"The Earthrace project wouldn't have been possible without all of the fantastic support we've received along the way, and we need help now more than ever.

"The ground crew are doing everything they can, but if we don't have a shipyard and a new drive shaft ready when we arrive in Singapore then we risk forsaking the entire record attempt. We would be eternally grateful for any help we receive at this point."

Anyone able to offer help to Earthrace should get in touch with the team at news@earthrace.net. Interested parties can also support the team by purchasing Nautical Miles from www.earthrace.net.

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PRESS RELEASE



Notes to editors:

High resolution, copyright-free photographs and video footage are available to download from our FTP site: <ftp://assets.earthrace.net>

Please contact news@earthrace.net for login details.

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.

The goal of Earthrace is to set a new world record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe, running 100% 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.

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