

Lightening fast fuel stop in India sees Earthrace eco boat back at sea after just 3 hours - and still ahead of world speed record

London/Cochin, 15 June 2008: Earthrace, the world's fastest eco-boat, undertook a lightening fast refuelling in Cochin today, departing within just over three hours.

The boat is now 2,331 nautical miles ahead of the world record as it thunders through the Indian Ocean towards Oman, with 18,351 nautical miles under the crew's belt and just 5,500 to go to end of the race.

Earthrace is a 24m tri-hull wavepiercer that runs on biofuel and is on day 46 of its attempt to break the world record for a powerboat to circumnavigate the globe, which was set by the British Cable and Wireless team in 1998.

Earthrace arrived at Cochin Port at 14.30 local time today after battling monsoon weather and 3m waves on its journey from Singapore. The delayed start time, combined with other unforeseen circumstances during the trip, has landed the crew in the middle of monsoon season, testing the boat's wave-piercing design to the extreme.

Cochin Port Trust, GAC world shipping, Michael's Land Resort and local supporters rallied together, and the boat was refuelled and stocked up with provisions in just three hours and 15 minutes, leaving time for a quick meet and greet with the local media before Pete Bethune and his crew jumped back into the driving seat and set off for their next stop – Salalah, Oman.

The speedy turnaround in Cochin has helped the crew to claw back valuable time which was lost due to weather conditions and essential maintenance in Singapore.

"We're all really stoked about how quick and efficient the turnaround was in Cochin Port," said Skipper Pete Bethune. "It's always great to see some friendly faces after a long stretch at sea – and even better when they help us on our way again in the shortest time possible!"

"We're 46 days into the race now and we've got our sights firmly set on the world record. Everything else we do – eating, sleeping – is just a way of filling time between now and arriving back in Spain. But that's not to say we're home free just yet – the next leg could be tricky as we navigate through 'Pirate Alley' and attempt to stay out of trouble!"

Canadian Guest Crew Paul Manifould disembarks in Cochin, making room for new Guest Crew member David Howard, an ex British Royal Navy marine engineer, resident in Abu Dhabi.

Earthrace is now en route to Salalah, Oman. Keep up-to-date with Earthrace's progress via the live satellite tracker at www.earthrace.net

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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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