

New York
*"Z'Basel a mim Rbi"**
First Atlantic Cross-
ing by Solar-Powered
Catamaran "sun21"
Basel - Sevilla - New York

The first solar-powered boat ever to cross the Atlantic will arrive in Manhattan on May 8th 2007.

Who would have ever expected such an adventure to initiate in Basel, Switzerland? And then again, during the past few years Switzerland has proven to be capable of competing on an international level in the aquatic world – swimming with the big fish so to speak. This, despite being a land-locked country (or maybe because of it?). Successes at the 'World Cup 2003' and the 'circumnavigation Around-Along in 2003' have led the way. This is also true when looked at from a technological standpoint. It is one of the main purposes of this record attempt to demonstrate the tremendous potential of solar technology. A concrete example of positive effects to the environment is the possibility of replacing two-stroke engines, used by sailing boats to get into harbor, with solar-powered electric motors. And on a much bigger scale the demon-

****"Basel on my Rhine River", from a Basel folk song**



Christening of "sun21" on the Rhine River in Basel

strated suitability for high-sea voyages. Switzerland is very active in the sector of clean energy and works on many projects within the field. In 2011 Bertrand Piccard plans again to impress us, this time with a solar-powered flight around the world!. Time and again I am amazed by the spirit of initiation and pioneering that my fellow Swiss portray and due to my own Basel-heritage I am especially thrilled with this current endeavor. Some are scientists, doctors, shipwrights, historians and sponsors - all of them are idealists and adventurers. They put their heads together and came

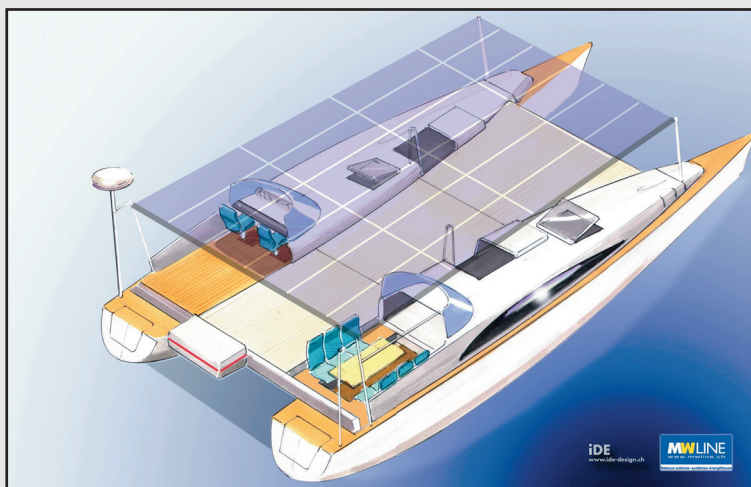
up with the challenging idea of building this catamaran and crossing the Atlantic. Only a few months later, the MW-Line SA transformed fiction into fact. The catamaran was engineered and baptized "sun21" on the Rhine River in Basel in presence of the current President of the Swiss Confederation, Mrs. Micheline Calmy-Rey. The journey leads via Sevilla, Casablanca, Canary Islands to Martinique, the Caribbean islands of Dominica, Guadeloupe and from St. Martin to Miami, continuing up the eastern coast of the U.S. Read more about the exciting voyage in the next Swiss Revue, after "sun21's" ar-

rival at its final destination in New York City, having covered a distance of 7000+ nautical miles!
 For a sneak preview on current locations of the boat with web log and in-depth information on solar technology, the catamaran, its crew and supporters go to:
www.transatlantic21.org
 (an association established to found and implement this project).

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Technical data:

Type:	Aquabus C60
Passengers:	6 bunks, room for several dozen passengers for short visits or excursions
Length:	14 meters
Width:	6.6 meters
Draught:	maximum 1 meter with full load
Weight:	ca. 12 tons
Drive:	2 electric motors, 8 kW each
Batteries:	520 Ah/C5, 48 V DC lead accumulators in each hull
Photovoltaic:	2 x 5 kW solar modules, ca. 65 m2
Speed:	maximum 7 knots (ca 13 km/h) long-range speed ca. 5 knots (ca 9 km/h)

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