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**SUN21 LEAVES EUROPEAN MAINLAND FOR FIRST TRANSATLANTIC
CROSSING IN A SOLAR POWERED BOAT**

Crew of Five Follows Christopher Columbus's Route to the Americas

Basel, Switzerland, December 4, 2006 – sun21, the solar powered catamaran developed and sponsored by the Swiss transatlantic21 Association, departed the European mainland yesterday with its sights set on the Americas. With a crew of just five, sun21 will be making the first transatlantic crossing in a vessel powered solely by the sun. Following Christopher Columbus's historic route to the Americas, sun21's journey will serve as a powerful example of responsible energy use with wide-ranging applications. It will represent another step away from societal dependence on non-renewable energy sources.

As Columbus did in 1492, sun21 departed from the Spanish port of Chipiona. An official farewell ceremony was held prior to the departure in Seville, Spain and was attended by the mayor of Seville, Alfredo Sánchez Monteseirín; Armin Ritz, the Swiss Ambassador to Spain; and project collaborator Juan Carlos del Olmi, General Secretary of WWF/Adena.

Olmi commented: "sun21 represents the beginning of a peaceful revolution which aims to end two centuries of fossil fuel consumption as well as the environmental damage and wars linked to these non-renewable forms of energy."

The next port of call for sun21 will be the Canary Islands. The solar catamaran is scheduled to arrive at Puerto Calero on Lanzarote on 5 December. A stop-over in Tenerife is planned for mid-December before the boat heads for the Cape Verde Islands. After that, the catamaran will be out in the Atlantic for at least three weeks non-stop. Its final destination will be New York, New York with a scheduled arrival for May of 2007.

The voyage of sun21 can be followed live at www.transatlantic21.org via video and text blogs. Further information and visual material at: www.transatlantic21.org/media-relations/

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