

World Digest

News

**Solar-powered boat crosses the Atlantic**

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BASEL, Switzerland

BASEL, Switzerland - A Swiss-built solar-powered vessel arrived in New York City on Tuesday on what the group behind the project said was the first sun-powered voyage across the Atlantic.

Dubbed "**sun21**," the catamaran reached North Cove Marina after a journey of six months and some 13,000 kilometres from Chipiona, Spain, to the Caribbean island Martinique and then along the U.S. East Coast to New York, the Switzerland-based group transatlantic21 said in a statement.

The organization said the 14 metre-boat produced 2,000 kilowatt hours of solar energy during its voyage thanks to a roof of photovoltaic panels mounted above the twin-hulled design.

The solar energy was used to power the boat's electric motors and any surplus was stored in batteries, allowing it to travel at a constant speed of five to six knots (10 to 12 kilometres an hour) day or night, the group's website said.

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