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The 411 Stories of the Day - Tuesday, May 8, 2007

BOAT...

NEW YORK (AP) - A solar-powered catamaran is making its way to the New York harbor today after traveling seven thousand miles from Spain across the Atlantic.

The sun21 is being piloted by five Swiss sailors. It's the first trans-Atlantic trip in a boat powered solely by the sun. The route the sailors took follows Christopher Columbus' route to the Americas. The boat will dock at the North Cove Marina in Battery Park City.

The developers of the eleven-ton boat say it is powered by the same amount of energy needed to light ten 100-watt light bulbs. Their speed has been three-point-five knots. The vessel has two engines. On a good day, it can go 107 miles.

The crew includes a historian, a doctor-turned-environmentalist, a biologist, a shipbuilder and a professional skipper.

They left Chipiona, Spain, on December third.