

# Solar Powered Swiss Trace Columbus' Route



Swiss vessel *Sun21* completed the world's first transatlantic crossing by a solar powered boat when she cruised into New York's North Cove Marina on May 8<sup>th</sup>.

The solar powered MW-LINE Type C 60 catamaran was designed by ship builder Mark Wüst and developed and sponsored by the Swiss Transatlantic21 Association.

Its historic arrival marked the conclusion of a 7,000 mile journey across the Atlantic in a motorised boat using not one drop of oil.

Equipped with solar modules, batteries and motors the boat was able to keep a constant speed of 5-6 knots (10-12 km/h) 24 hours a day, equivalent to the average speed of sailing yachts.

From the start of her journey in Chipiona, Spain last December *Sun21* followed Christopher Columbus historic route to the Americas touching the shores in Martinique in February, before completing the journey on the open seas and travelling up to New York through March and April.

Michel Thonney, Skipper of *Sun21* recommended. "It has been my distinct pleasure to be a part of the crew of *Sun21* and to prove we don't need oil to cross oceans. In modern society, we can travel the world in a way that is both efficient and respectful to our environment and our resources. This has been a liberating journey and one which I believe will transform the way we approach travel on our oceans, seas and waterways," commented.

MW-Line are now working with the PlanetSolar team to plan the first circumnavigation of the earth with a solar-hydrogen boat. [APB](#)

[www.mwline.ch](http://www.mwline.ch)  
[www.transatlantic21.org](http://www.transatlantic21.org)

## Round Robin

Solo sailing legend Sir Robin Knox-Johnston received a hero's welcome as he sailed home his Open 60 Saga Insurance into Gunwharf Quays, Portsmouth, having made history in the VELUX 5 OCEANS round the world yacht race.

Smashing the record which he set almost 40 years ago by being the first person to sail non-stop around the world in the 1968-69 Sunday Times Golden Globe, he finished in Bilbao 153 days off his original 312 day record in just 159 days.

Sir Robin said, "This time was easier than 30 years ago; but it is always easier when you know it can be done, which was not the case 40 years ago. Nothing will compare to the first voyage."

Becoming the oldest person to have completed this gruelling 30,000 mile race, Sir Robin finished a respectable fourth position overall to complete what he said will be his last circumnavigation. [APB](#)

[www.velux5oceans.com](http://www.velux5oceans.com)



Photo: onedition

Escorted home from the Needles by the Clipper Round the World Race Fleet, the Royal Navy, the Queen's Harbour Master and hundreds of spectator boats.