

# Solar Boat in New York

The solar-powered catamaran *Sun21* reached the end of its historic voyage when it arrived at New York's North Cove Marina at 3 p.m. on 8th May. This was the completion of a 7,000 mile trip across the Atlantic, the first motorised crossing to use not a single drop of fuel oil.



*Sun21 arriving in New York*

The skipper of *Sun21*, Michel Thonney, said: "The transatlantic21 Association set out to showcase the power of clean energy. It has been my 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 of 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."

The Swiss-built catamaran, which was launched in Basel on 16th October last year, left continental Europe on 3rd December and arrived in Martinique in the Caribbean on February 2nd, completing its voyage on the open seas. The last issue of EB News followed its progress as far as Miami.

*Sun21* spent a few days as a guest of the Miami Yacht Club, where it attracted a great deal of interest. The Mayor of Miami, Manuel Diaz, declared Monday 2nd April 'the Sun21 Day of Miami' and said he was hoping to acquire solar boats for public transport in the Miami Bay area.

The solar journey then continued north up the Florida coast via the Intracoastal Waterways, a system of channels and lagoons very different from the open sea. Due to lack of sunshine the crew had to dock at Jacksonville for a couple of days before proceeding along the coast of Georgia and South Carolina, once more on the high seas and under good weather conditions. A north wind of over 40 knots stopped them again just south of Georgetown and there was another enforced stopover for three days of cloud, wind and rain in the biggest marine

harbour in the USA at Norfolk. Although poor weather conspired against the plans of an uninterrupted final leg, *Sun21* reached New York on exactly the day scheduled ('Swiss precision timing' said one of the comments on the website).

The boat's arrival in New York marked the launch of the first annual World Clean Energy Awards, sponsored by the transatlantic21 Association. The awards recognise the best worldwide projects which encourage and implement the use of renewable energies and energy efficiency concepts. 70 candidates from 20 countries were nominated and an international jury, including the Deputy Mayor of London Nicky Gavron, picked nine winners who travelled from Abu Dhabi, China, India, Kenya, Sweden and the USA to receive their awards in Basel on June 15th.