

ABB and Solar Impulse get ready for historic round-the-world flight

ABB and Solar Impulse have formed an alliance ahead of the plane's historic round-the-world journey championing the role of innovation and technology in reducing resource consumption

Zurich, Switzerland, January 20, 2015 – ABB, the leading power and automation technology company, is proud to accompany Solar Impulse and its crew on the plane's flight around the world powered only by energy from the sun.

Solar Impulse, based in Switzerland, announced today it will begin its historic flight between late February and early March in Abu Dhabi. In 2014, ABB and Solar Impulse formed an innovation and technology alliance to advance a shared vision of reducing resource consumption and increasing the use of renewable energy.

“Solar Impulse will inspire a new generation to embrace innovation and technology to solve the planet's biggest challenges,” said ABB Chief Executive Officer Ulrich Spiesshofer. “ABB will be with the Solar Impulse team every mile of its journey.”

Three ABB engineers have joined the Solar Impulse team where they are contributing expertise and passion. Their work includes improving control systems for ground operations, enhancing the charging electronics for the plane's battery systems and resolving obstacles that emerge along the route.

On the plane's 40,000-kilometer route, pilots Bertrand Piccard and Andre Borschberg will share duties as the aircraft stops in cities including Muscat, Oman; Varanasi and Ahmedabad in India; Chongqing and Nanjing in China; and Phoenix, Arizona in the U.S. It will also stop in Europe or North Africa.

Among challenges before the mission concludes in Abu Dhabi in mid-2015 will be a non-stop flight of five days and nights from China to Hawaii. The plane, powered by 17,248 solar cells, will soar higher than Mount Everest each day while fully charging its batteries to stay aloft during the night.

ABB's enthusiasm for Solar Impulse stems not merely from shared faith in innovation and technology but also from the company's credo: “Power and productivity for a better world.” Solar Impulse's ethos mirrors ABB's aspirations of helping boost operational efficiency, reduce resource use, enable sustainable transportation and increase penetration of clean, renewable energy.

As the world's second-largest supplier of solar inverters and one of the largest suppliers to the wind-power industry, ABB is a leader in integrating renewables efficiently and reliably into power grids. ABB is helping build the most-comprehensive electric vehicle fast-charging network in Europe and is supplying key equipment for the world's largest network of fast chargers for electric cars in China.

Piccard said the addition of ABB, with its leading technologies that enable energy generation from renewable projects as well as boost efficiency, to Solar Impulse's team have reinforced the endeavor's ability to demonstrate the power of innovation and clean technology.

“This is what the world needs,” said Piccard, the Swiss aviation pioneer who was part of the first team to circle the earth in a balloon in 1999. “Otherwise, we're going to waste all our natural resources.”

Since 2010, Piccard, the project's chairman, and Borschberg, its chief executive officer, have combined to set eight international aviation records including for duration, altitude and distance flown as they crossed Europe, North Africa and the United States in a prototype plane powered only by the sun.

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Press Release



ABB salutes and shares this vision as the journey's next step kindles new interest in aeronautics, clean technology and renewable energy. "Together, we need to run the world without consuming the earth," ABB's Spiesshofer said. "In very simple terms, that's what we stand for."

Visit <http://new.abb.com/betterworld> for more information about ABB's alliance with Solar Impulse.

ABB (www.abb.com) is a leader in power and automation technologies that enable utility, industry, and transport and infrastructure customers to improve their performance while lowering environmental impact. The ABB Group of companies operates in 100 countries and employs about 145,000 people.

For more information on Solar Impulse, go to www.solarimpulse.com and connect on facebook.com/solarimpulse, twitter.com/solarimpulse and google.com/+solarimpulse