

PRESS RELEASE**A World Tour in a Solar Vehicle, thanks to a Ticino Heart**

53'000 km crossing 40 countries in 5 different continents, 18 month long, for a journey around the world accomplished by the Swiss Louis Palmer, on board of a self made solar powered car, powered by ZEBRA batteries, which are manufactured by MES-DEA in Stabio (Switzerland).

Those are the highlights of the tour around the world accomplished by Louis Palmer and ended yesterday in Lucerne, where it started on July 3, 2007, with the goal of raising awareness on climate changes due to an unsustainable mobility, by showing how suitable technologies already exist which can improve the situation. And this as a taxi, in order to be able to take on board from time to time along the road politicians, scientists, and mobility experts that are acting or have the power to act towards this direction.

Solartaxi has been manufactured keeping in mind all different aspects that allow the most ecological travel as possible: lightweight (500 kg for the car, 250 kg for the trailer car with the solar panels) for a reduced consumption; silent and without any emission, thanks to the electric engine. A consumption of 8 kWh per 100 km, corresponding to only 0.8 liters of gasoline per 100 km, and what's more with energy taken from an absolutely renewable source, that is the sun. A speed of 90 km/h, and a range up to 400 km, thanks to 2 ZEBRA batteries (each one providing 14 kWh) installed one in the car and the other one in the trailer, the vehicle needed in all only 380 charge/discharge cycles, without meeting any kind of problem in all climate and atmospheric condition of the world.

Last week Solartaxi stopped over in Poznan, in Poland, at the international climate change conference, where it has been discussed about a reduction of the emissions up to 10-20%, bringing as a positive example a vehicle that toured the world reducing emissions by 100%, and keeping also energy consumption very low! Electric engine is the only one currently available which allows reaching this goal. Several car makers noticed it, after having neglected it for the last decade, and they are now ready with different competitive models, planning a significant mass production for the very next years. In Ticino, a pioneering region in this field thanks to infovel and to companies like MES-DEA, there are currently about 1300 electric vehicles on the road. The interest for this technology is quite constant over time, although the choice of available vehicles was very limited in the last years. The VEL project is still worldwide taken as an example for his pioneering experiences. Similarly, thanks to its innovative vision which has been successfully carried out, Solartaxi contributes keeping a high interest and awareness towards a mobility which needs to be more sustainable. It proves that it is possible to succeed when willing it. MES-DEA is particularly proud to welcome Louis Palmer and his Solartaxi in Stabio, and to give him an award as acknowledgement of the admiration for the successful feat. Moreover, 53'000 km of Solartaxi total up to the 100 millions of km already covered in all by the electric vehicles powered by a ZEBRA battery, confirming thus further the reliability and efficiency of these batteries.

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