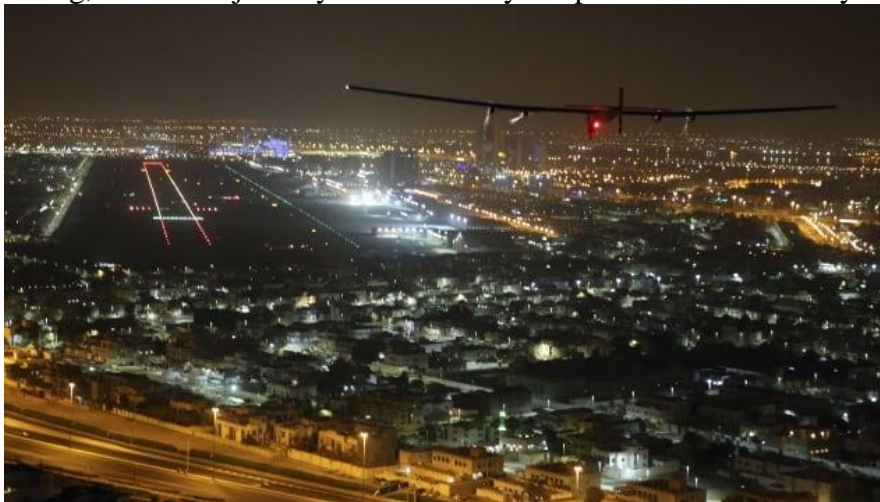


Solar Impulse 2: Around the world with zero fuel

Solar Impulse completes epic round-the-world flight

Source: Farida Fawzy, CNN • Updated 26th July 2016
<https://edition.cnn.com/travel/article/solar-impulse-world-trip-complete/index.html>

(CNN) — The first aircraft powered solely by the sun made its landing into history, reaching Abu Dhabi on Tuesday and completing a 25,000 mile, round-the-world journey that began over a year ago. The Swiss-engineered Solar Impulse 2 was piloted by Bertrand Piccard on the final part of the epic expedition that took off from Cairo earlier this week. The final stop completes its 17-leg, milestone journey that used only the power of the sun's rays.



The Solar Impulse 2 plane approaches Al Bateen Executive Airport in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. [Adam Schreck/AP]

"We have now just watched our shared dream unveil, becoming a reality" the Solar Impulse team said in a blog post. "Emotions, tears, relief, exhilaration is what we are all feeling right now after completing the first Round-the-World solar flight in history."

The lightweight aircraft, which weighs the same as an SUV but has the wingspan of a Boeing 747, is the brainchild of Piccard and Bertrand Borschberg, a Swiss engineer and businessman. The Solar Impulse is a single-seater, so the two men have shared the flying by taking different legs of the journey since March 2015.



Solar Impulse 2 is piloted by Bertrand Piccard, left, and Andre Borschberg. [Aya Batrawy/AP]

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"What I'd like to show with my team is that clean technology today is showing incredible goals. You can fly now longer without fuel than with fuel, and you fly with the force of nature, you fly with the sun. It's the new era now for energy and this is really what we'd like to inspire people to do," Piccard said.



An infographic released by Solar Impulse detailing the route of the aircraft's final leg.
[Solar Impulse 2]

The plane had earlier secured a place in the record books by being the first plane to cross the Atlantic -- from New York's JFK airport to Seville in Spain, then also piloted by Piccard -- without a single drop of fuel.

It also set the record for the longest solo flight -- five days and five nights -- without fuel, from Nagoya in Japan to Hawaii. The revolutionary voyage, which the team labeled a "13-year exploit," demonstrates the biggest exploration of energy efficient batteries and clean technology that could potentially alter the way we travel.

"The future is clean. The future is you. The future is now. Let's take it further,' Piccard said, concluding the 13-year exploit.

Learn more at the Solar Impulse Foundation Website.

<https://aroundtheworld.solarimpulse.com/adventure>