



FIRST SOLAR-POWERED VESSEL COMPLETES CIRCUMNAVIGATION

Greeted by the horns of boats moored in Port Hercule, the 115-foot carbon catamaran *MS Tûranor PlanetSolar* arrived in Monte-Carlo, Monaco, on May 4 having completed a round-the-world trip using only solar energy. Setting sail September 2010, she took 585 days to cover the 37,286 miles at an average speed of five knots.

This slightly mad project had its genesis eight years ago when the 32-year-old Swiss engineer Raphaël Domjan met Immo Ströher, a German businessman passionate about solar energy. Domjan was part of the expedition, and for him victory is sweet. "We did it," he says. "This is a positive message for the world: We must protect our planet and our biodiversity. During our journey, we recorded thousands of items of data that will be analyzed. We have just opened

a door to new ways of thinking."

With 5,780 square feet of solar panels, *MS Tûranor PlanetSolar* can produce between 500 and 600 kilowatts per hour in good weather, with that energy being stored in the 11 tonnes of lithium-ion batteries. As a safety measure, the vessel has small combustion engines and carried 171 gallons of fuel. Not a single drop was used, a fact of which the crew is immensely proud.

As for the vessel's future, it is expected to go on a Mediterranean tour and be available for more scientific research. However, in another, slightly more fanciful scenario, an avant-garde owner could buy *PlanetSolar* and make it the first solar yacht.

www.planetsolar.org – XAVIER DE FOURNOUX



DASHEW OFFSHORE ANNOUNCES SALE OF FIRST FPB 97

The latest model in Steve Dashew's FPB—fast patrol boat—line of ocean cruising yachts was designed to meet an owner's specific brief for a large explorer that's just small enough to be owner-operated. This created a 98-footer, which is being built at Circa Marine in New Zealand.

"People continue to ask for an economical series-built FPB scaled to the maximum size a couple can operate together," Dashew says. "The FPB 97 is designed from the keel up to fulfill that mission."

The FPB 97 is the fourth design in Dashew Offshore's FPB Series, which started with the launch of the FPB 83

Windhorse and spans to a 115-footer currently under development. The latest aluminum model boasts a range of 5,000 nautical miles at 11.5 knots and a draft of four feet, 11 inches. A solar array allows fossil fuel independence at anchor, leading to a low carbon footprint.

In keeping with her predecessors, the FPB 97 is designed for optimal comfort and safety, with proven sea-kindliness, heavy-weather capabilities, including self-righting recovery from capsize, and robust systems engineered for minimum maintenance. www.dashewoffshore.com; www.berthon.co.uk; +44 (0) 1590 673312 – KERI FULLER

inBRIEF

ASKING \$31.9 MILLION, U.S. BUILDER DELTA HAS SOLD PROJECT MONARCH, THE 151-FOOT MOTOR YACHT THAT BEGAN AT NORTHERN MARINE.