

Solar Plane Flies by Night

A manned solar-powered plane has been flown non-stop for than 26 hours – showing that it can store enough energy from the Sun in the day to keep it going all night. On 7-8 July, Solar Impulse, steered by Swiss pilot Andre Borschberg, flew over the Jura Mountains, taking off from and landing in Switzerland. The one-seater plane, equipped with batteries that are charged by 12,000 solar cells, had power for three more hours of flight when the Sun rose, says the project's co-founder, Swiss aeronaut Bertrand Piccard. "Nothing can prevent us from another day and night, and the myth of perpetual flight" (*Nature*, v.466, July 15, 2010, p.300)