

Sailing around the world without sails – powered by Victron

The “Solarwave-Project” is building a unique catamaran. This boat will have no sails nor will it have a combustion engine. It will be exclusively powered by solar panels and wind generators. Solarwave has asked Victron to aid this historically unparalleled project.

Every imaginable luxury to which western societies are accustomed is present on board. However, no fossil fuel will be used: no gas for cooking, no diesel to power and no fuel cell (which is indeed fueled by methanol). The result: no fumes, no pollution and no noise.

After four years of thorough testing, Solarwave has come to the conclusion that circumnavigating the world with zero emission can be done. And more importantly, they have found out how it can be done. Never before in the history of mankind has a ship without sails and/or without the use of fossil fuels covered such a long distance.

The two-man crew is preparing itself for a 20-month journey starting in December 2009.

During the voyage the produced energy will be stored in batteries. This energy will be used for electrical propulsion as well as to supply all domestic appliances and navigational instruments. It is Solarwave's goal to prove that it is possible to drive for weeks without stopping. And additionally, to live self-sufficiently for several months while enjoying modern luxuries such as an electric stove, a microwave, a washing-machine, a vacuum cleaner, a freezer and fridges, a television, computers and an air condition system. Even the drinking-water will be produced out of sea-water.

The efficiency and reliability of energy will prove to be a crucial factor. For this matter, Solarwave has contacted Victron; an independent electric power specialist. Victron has supplied the ambitious team with two of their newest products: the Phoenix MultiPlus Inverter/Charger 48/5000/70 and the EMM (Energy Management Module). Mag. Michael Köhler of the Solarwave team said: “Only the best suppliers are part of our team. I am very glad that Victron Energy is one of the chosen companies supporting the project.”

EMM - Intelligent Hybrid Power Management

The EMM provides status information to the user by one or more hybrid displays. It reports failures and warnings in case of an event which needs attention. Furthermore the EMM can start and stop the generators automatically when needed; the system can function completely autonomous. The EMM can also control the output voltage of the generators in order to control the charge current of the batteries. Once the batteries are completely charged, the voltage is reduced in order to prevent damage to the batteries.

