

Solar plane to take off for Spain on Tuesday

July 2 2012



Swiss-made solar-powered aircraft Solar Impulse, piloted by Bertrand Piccard of Switzerland, prepares for take-off from Rabat in June 2012 for a voyage across the Moroccan desert to Ouarzazate. An experimental solar-powered plane, flying without using any fuel, will leave the Moroccan capital on Tuesday for Madrid on its return journey to its home port in Switzerland.

An experimental solar-powered plane, flying without using any fuel, will leave the Moroccan capital on Tuesday for Madrid on its return journey to its home port in Switzerland, organisers said.

The Swiss-made [Solar Impulse](#) will take off at 0800 GMT on Tuesday from the Rabat-Sale airport and is due to land in Madrid's Barajas airport after midnight on Wednesday on its way home, organisers said Monday.

Solar Impulse arrived late on Friday in Rabat on a return journey to Switzerland after its successful flight over the Moroccan desert.

The giant high-tech aircraft, which has the [wingspan](#) of a [jumbo jet](#) but weighs no more than a medium-sized car, is fitted with 12,000 [solar cells](#) feeding four electric motors driving propellers.

Last month, the solar-powered plane made the 2,500-kilometre (1,550-mile) journey from Madrid to Rabat, its longest to date and its first between continents, after an inaugural flight to Paris and Brussels last year.

The flights are intended as a rehearsal for the goal of a round-the-world trip in 2014 by an updated version of the plane.

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