

Solar plane lands in Spain on way back home

8 July 2012



The Swiss-made solar-powered plane, Solar Impulse piloted by Bertrand Piccard, takes off from Rabat airport on Friday. The plane has landed in Spain on its way back home after breaking a record with the first intercontinental flight by an aircraft run on the sun's energy, organisers say.

A solar-powered plane landed in Spain Saturday on its way back home after breaking a record with the first intercontinental flight by an aircraft run on the sun's energy, organisers said.

Swiss adventurer Bertrand Piccard, 54, piloted the experimental plane [Solar Impulse](#) on the 17-hour flight from Rabat in Morocco and landed at Madrid's main airport overnight early on Saturday, his team said in a statement.

The Solar Impulse, which is made of [carbon fibre](#) and flies without fuel, is on its way back to Switzerland after last month flying from Spain to Morocco, the first time a solar-powered aircraft has crossed [continents](#).

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

The 900-kilometre (560-mile) Morocco to Spain leg was "a particularly tactically challenging flight" at an average of 60 kilometres an hour, with the plane hitting strong crosswinds, the team said in a statement.

"The aircraft's technology has once again proven its reliability and its energy-saving efficiency," Solar Impulse co-founder Andre Borschberg said in the statement.

"This flight has taught us even more about the aircraft, allowing us to fly through winds superior to the speed of the [airplane](#)."

The statement said the plane would stay in Spain for "a few days" of official and sponsorship events before heading for Switzerland.

(c) 2012 AFP

APA citation: Solar plane lands in Spain on way back home (2012, July 8) retrieved 1 December 2022 from <https://phys.org/news/2012-07-solar-plane-spain-home.html>

This document is subject to copyright. Apart from any fair dealing for the purpose of private study or research, no part may be reproduced without the written permission. The content is provided for information purposes only.