

Toughest leg of Solar Impulse's global journey delayed

26 May 2015



Members of the media crowd around the solar powered aircraft Solar Impulse 2 in the early hours of April 22, 2015, after it landed in Nanjing Lukou International Airport in Nanjing, in China's eastern Jiangsu province

The most challenging leg of Solar Impulse 2's landmark flight around the world powered only by the sun was delayed on Tuesday due to concerns about the weather, organisers said.

The single-seater aircraft was due to leave Nanjing, in eastern China, for the 8,500 kilometre (5,270 mile) [flight](#) over the Pacific Ocean to the US island of Hawaii in the early hours of the morning.

But the much-anticipated seventh and longest section of the maiden solar-powered global circumnavigation was delayed once again due to concerns about the [weather](#).

"The flight that we've been looking forward to tonight is not going to happen," Solar Impulse spokesman Connor Lennon said in a video post on the group's YouTube channel.

Mission director Raymond Clerc said cloud cover over Nanjing and the Sea of Japan made take-off difficult and the journey would have taken an

unacceptably long seven days and seven nights, two more than originally planned.

"We have big problems that added (together) make the risk too high," he said in the video.

Meteorologists are studying weather conditions and should know in "a few hours" whether the aircraft will be able to launch in the next couple of days, he added.

Solar Impulse 2 has already spent nearly two months in China after arriving at Chongqing airport from Myanmar on March 31, where it was also held up for weeks by weather issues.

Its journey began in Abu Dhabi in March and is scheduled to take 12 legs, with a total flight time of around 25 days.

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