

**Pressrelease for free and immediate publication**

**Watchmaking | Support to sustainable development  
Candino, resolutely focused on the future**

The watchmaker Candino Swiss Watch has agreed to take part in an extraordinary technological and human challenge: the first round-the-world trip powered by solar energy. PlanetSolar, the largest solar-powered boat ever built, will begin its visionary voyage in 2010. Candino, a Festina Group brand, will be one of the main project partners, and the official timekeeper for the adventure.

Completing the first round-the-world trip in a solar-powered boat, to demonstrate the potential of renewable energies, is the objective of PlanetSolar, a catamaran powered only by a silent, non-polluting, electric motor, powered by solar energy. Currently under construction in Northern Germany, the largest solar-powered boat in the world will have impressive proportions. In command of this genuine floating laboratory: Raphaël Domjan, the initiator of the project, and Gérard d'Aboville, the famous French navigator who was first to cross the Atlantic Ocean by rowing.



Inauguration of the PlanetSolar Village: Raphaël Domjan, skipper of PlanetSolar, and Gérard d'Aboville, joint skipper, with Jean-Marc Guillod (in the centre), Sales Director of Festina-Candino Watch SA.

**An instructive and recreational village**

The project was officially presented in Switzerland during the inauguration of the PlanetSolar Village, on 3rd September 2009 in Yverdon-les-Bains. This village, in the form of a travelling exhibition, will accompany the solar-powered boat through its different stages. It will follow the European Tour of the boat from Hamburg to Lisbon, passing through London and Paris. Then, in 2011, during the world tour, to cities such as New York, San Francisco, Dubai and Sidney.

The PlanetSolar Village will increase public awareness of renewable energies, and help them understand and get to know the PlanetSolar project. The village area hosts numerous attractions. Thus, visitors can, for example, operate the PlanetSolar via a simulator, perform remote control solar-powered boat races and learn about the exceptional exhibitions on the theme of sustainable development.

**The project financing is guaranteed**

As of today, 80% of PlanetSolar's budget is guaranteed. Several companies have joined the project and have placed their trust in it. Candino Swiss Watch is the main partner, with the Swiss financial group Rivendall Holding SA. "Sponsoring PlanetSolar is believing in a daring project with values such as durability, rationality, and performance" confirms Jean-Marc Guillod, Sales Director of Festina-Candino Watch SA. "Despite the current economic and financial crisis, Candino wants to support a project for the planet and for future generations", he adds.

In the context of this partnership, the watchmaker Candino intends to design new quartz and automatic models equipped with complications that will be very useful to navigators and globetrotters. These models will be faithful to the brand philosophy: offering a range of varied and quality products at a very competitive price.

**Bienne, Switzerland, 21<sup>th</sup> September 2009**

#### **Media Information**

Mr. Jean-Marc Guillod is at your disposal for any additional information, at +41 32 344 28 28.

#### **PlanetSolar press kit available for download:**

[www.planetsolar.org/presse](http://www.planetsolar.org/presse)

Login: press

Password: julvern06

#### **About Candino:**

Watch brand founded in 1947 and member of the Festina Group since 2002. Executive management and logistics are based at Bienne. The production site at Herbetwil (SO) has a surface area of 1600 m<sup>2</sup> and a daily production capacity of 2000 quartz and mechanical Swiss Made quality watches. Its multi-product collection is targeted at a wide customer base. Retail prices from 150.– to 1200.– CHF. The brand is represented in 65 countries, and is also distributed throughout the 8 subsidiaries of the Festina group.

#### **Key dates**

- January 2010: Launch and first tests
- Summer 2010: European tour
- April 2011: World tour

#### **The biggest solar-powered boat in the world**

- Dimensions: 35 x 23 x 6 m
- Weight: 60 t
- Surface area of solar modules: 470 m<sup>2</sup>
- Average speed: 8 knots (15 km/h)
- Range: 1000 km without light, infinite when the sun shines...