



EARTHTRACE, 100% BIOFUEL\_WITHOUT FIRE!

UK fire security company sponsor world's coolest eco-boat for world record attempt

Earthrace is an incredible 78ft wave-piercing powerboat that will be starting a round the world speed record attempt in March from the Vulkan Shipyard, Sagunto in Spain. To increase awareness of the use of renewable fuels and caring for the environment, the boat will use only 100% biodiesel, and the project itself will be carbon neutral.

The project has just announced a new partnership with Churches Fire Security that will ensure the boat and crew can safely journey around the world and beat the record without worrying about the dangers of a fire on board. The Hampshire-based company have presented Earthrace with brand new, state of the art fire extinguishers that are being fitted to the boat this month in Spain. And not only that, but Managing Director, Paul Topley, has also signed up to be a member of the crew on the final leg of the world record from the Suez Canal to Sagunto, near Valencia in Spain!

Paul Topley said: "We are delighted to become one of the official sponsors of Earthrace and its attempt to break the record using biofuel. Becoming environmentally aware is no longer optional or just for extremists.

Legislation, customer demands and the fact that it is simply the right thing to do mean all industries have to examine the way they operate. The fire protection market is no exception, and the phasing out of halon as an extinguishing medium is just one example of the many ways the industry is having to adapt.

"Churches Fire Security, as one of the largest independent companies in the industry, prides itself on setting the agenda for others to follow by recycling all of its waste products. On a personal note, I'm very excited about the prospect of actually being on board when she brings home the world record!"

Pete Bethune, New Zealand skipper and founder of Earthrace said, "It is vital that we have the best fire safety equipment we can get – at sea, anything can, and often does, happen. We aim not only to beat the record, but to beat it safely. It's a bonus that we've found a fire security company like Churches who are also taking responsibility for the environment."

ENDS

[www.earthrace.net](http://www.earthrace.net)

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## About Earthrace

Earthrace is run as a not-for-profit venture with a boat, ground and London HQ crew made up of international volunteers from New Zealand, the UK, Hungary, the US and Sweden.

The biofuel she is using has been donated by SGC Energia (Portugal). It is derived from waste cooking oil, as well as soya and canola oils from sustainable sources

Not only is Earthrace herself made from environmentally friendly components including hemp, but the project maintains a carbon neutral status through the purchase of carbon offsets from [downwithcarbon.org](http://downwithcarbon.org), who use the income to fund a sustainable biofuel project in Egypt. The offsets account for any CO2 produced through transportation of the biofuel to the different fuel stops, the biofuel itself, and all travel undertaken by the ground crew

From the start in Sagunto, Spain (nr Valencia), the boat will cross the Pacific, Atlantic and Indian oceans and travel through the Panama and Suez Canals as it thunders around the planet's circumference, attempting to break the official round-the-world speed record for a powerboat.

The full record route is as follows:

Sagunto, Spain - Azores - Puerto Rico - Panama Canal – Manzanillo, Mexico – San Diego, USA – Hawaii – Majuro, Marshall Islands – Koror, Palau – Singapore – Cochin, India – Salalah, Oman - Suez Canal – Sagunto, Spain

The current world record holder is British boat 'Cable and Wireless Adventurer' who took the record in a time of 75 days ten years ago in 1998.

The boat is currently in Sagunto in Spain, for her pre-record attempt refit. She will be undergoing sea trials later this month.

You can follow Earthrace as she travels around the globe in real time by going to [www.earthrace.net](http://www.earthrace.net) and clicking on the 'Where is Earthrace' globe.

High resolution, copyright free photographs and video footage is available to download from the 'News and Media' page on [www.earthrace.net](http://www.earthrace.net)

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