



PRESS RELEASE
For 9 March 2025

10th anniversary of the start of Solar Impulse's historic solar-powered round-the-world flight

Lausanne, Switzerland, 19 February 2025 – **FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, celebrates the 10th anniversary of the start of Solar Impulse's historic round-the-world flight, the first-ever circumnavigation powered solely by solar energy. On 9 March 2015, the pioneering aircraft took off on its record-breaking journey, proving the potential of renewable energy in aviation and setting multiple FAI world records. A decade later, its legacy continues to inspire innovation and sustainability in flight.**

Swiss pioneers Dr. Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg embarked on an ambitious journey from **Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**, aboard Solar Impulse 2, a single-seater aircraft equipped with over 17,000 solar cells. Their mission: to fly around the globe without a drop of fuel.

Over the course of **17 legs**, Solar Impulse 2—alternately piloted by Piccard and Borschberg—covered **more than 43,000 kilometres**. The journey took them across Asia, the Pacific Ocean (including a layover in Hawaii), the United States, the Atlantic Ocean, and Europe, with a final stop in Cairo before returning to **Abu Dhabi on 26 July 2016**.

This extraordinary expedition not only demonstrated the potential of solar-powered aviation but also set multiple FAI world records, including:

- **Duration in a Solar-Powered Aeroplane:** André Borschberg piloted Solar Impulse 2 from Nagoya, Japan, to Kalaeloa, Hawaii, USA, from 28 June to 3 July 2015. This leg lasted a record 117 hours and 52 minutes (Free Distance along a course: 7,039.9 km) – still current - [FAI record file](#)
- **Distance in an Electric Aeroplane:** Bertrand Piccard covered 5,851.3 km from New York, USA, to Seville, Spain. He thus completed the first solar-powered flight across the Atlantic Ocean on 23 June 2016 – still current – [FAI record file](#)
- **Altitude in an Electric Aeroplane:** Bertrand Piccard reached the altitude of 9,232 m on 24 July 2016 during the last leg from Cairo, Egypt to Abu Dhabi, UAE – still current – [FAI record file](#)

The Solar Impulse mission has left an indelible mark on the aerospace community, inspiring ongoing research and development in sustainable aviation technologies.

Notes for editors

- [Bertrand Piccard's records](#)
- [André Borschberg's records](#)
- [Solar Impulse Foundation media library](#)
- [FAI logo](#)
- [FAI media corner](#)

About FAI

FAI, the World Air Sports Federation, is the world governing body for air sports and for certifying world aviation and space records. The FAI was founded in 1905 and is a non-governmental and non-profit-making organisation recognised by the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

FAI activities include Aerobatics, Aeromodelling, Airships, Amateur-Built and Experimental Aircraft, Balloons, Drones, Gliding, Hang Gliding, Helicopters, Manpowered Flying, Microlights, Parachuting, Paragliding, Paramotors, Power Flying and all other Aeronautic activities and Space records.

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