



## Release

### “Innovation meets Passion“

#### **Deutsche Bank is the main sponsor of Solar Impulse for the first solar flight around the world**

ZURICH/FRANKFURT AM MAIN, March 19, 2007 – Deutsche Bank, a global financial institution with more than 135 years of experience in the realization of technological innovations, is supporting the first solar flight around the world, starting immediately, as the main partner. The international partnership with the team from Solar Impulse, which will fly around the world in a solar airplane in 2011, was announced in Zurich today.

**Josef Ackermann**, Chairman of the Management Board of Deutsche Bank AG, said to the press: “Deutsche Bank, like Solar Impulse, stands for innovation, sustainability and performance. Since our foundation in 1870, we have made a large number of technological innovations possible – from the support for railway construction in the 19th century up to the financing of modern wind power and solar cell technologies. Furthermore, responsibility for our environment and society is a significant part of our identity as a corporate citizen. Deutsche Bank thus has quite a lot in common with Solar Impulse. We are looking forward to a great and exciting plan, and wish the team led by Bertrand Piccard and André Borschberg every success.”

**Bertrand Piccard**, President of Solar Impulse, stated: “Solar Impulse believes in the power of symbols. For Solar Impulse, it is important is to establish relationships to the financial industry. Without the participation of the world of finance, it would not have been possible to realize the objectives of environmental protection. Against this background, the partnership with Deutsche Bank is more than just financial support. Thanks to the bank’s credibility and experience, the project gains additional momentum, making it possible for us to generate the enthusiasm of a more widespread public for our objective.”

**André Borschberg**, CEO of Solar Impulse, added: “Solar Impulse is taking the step from concept to concretization. We are currently building the first prototype of our airplane. Deutsche Bank’s support makes it possible for us to finance the future

development of the record-breaking airplane, which will fly around the world with a stop on each continent. With a partner like Deutsche Bank, we can face the challenge, which until recently still appeared to be impossible, with confidence. Deutsche Bank has always shared with us the entrepreneurial and innovative spirit, as well as the willingness to take on risks, that we thrive on.”

With the first circumnavigation of the earth in a solar airplane, Solar Impulse and Deutsche Bank intend to facilitate the breakthrough of a more broad-based use of solar energy, and thus make an important contribution to the responsible use of available resources. The partnership also underlines the great deal of importance that Deutsche Bank attaches to sustainability – both in the bank’s social and cultural activities as well as in the performance of its responsibilities as a corporate citizen in the international community.

All of the bank’s activities as well as its global sponsorship projects are consistently aligned to sustainability criteria. For many years now, Deutsche Bank has pursued a bank-internal environmental protection strategy. In 1999 it was the first large German banks to have its sustainability management system certified according to ISO 14001. In sustainability ratings, Deutsche Bank has performed above average. Furthermore, it is listed in various sustainability indexes for companies with a special commitment to society, such as the Dow Jones Sustainability Indexes and FTSE4Good.

Furthermore, through its commitment, the bank is pursuing a long tradition of innovation, which is part of its identity and brand. For example, the bank entered into commitments in national and international infrastructure projects, such as railway construction in the 19th century. This included the Baghdad Bahn as well as European and North American railway construction. The bank also supported early innovations by high-tech companies such as Siemens and AEG, and the restructuring of mobility firms such as Daimler-Benz in the 1920s. The bank played an active role in the foundation of Deutsche Lufthansa, as it does today in the aerospace industry as well as the wind power and solar technology sectors, among others.

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## **Deutsche Bank**

Deutsche Bank is a leading global investment bank with a strong and profitable private clients franchise. A leader in Germany and Europe, the bank is continuously growing in North America, Asia and key emerging markets. With 1,128 billion euro in assets and 68,849 employees in 73 countries, Deutsche Bank offers unparalleled financial services throughout the world. The bank competes to be the leading global provider of financial solutions for demanding clients, creating exceptional value for its shareholders and people.

In addition to community development and educational programmes, Deutsche Bank's commitment to society comprises support for art and music. With a sponsorship volume globally of approximately EUR 85 million in 2006, Deutsche Bank, together with its foundations, is one of the most highly committed companies. Additional information on Deutsche Bank's corporate social responsibility programme is available at [www.deutsche-bank.de/csr](http://www.deutsche-bank.de/csr).

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## **Solar Impulse**

In a world dependent on fossil energies, the Solar Impulse project represents a paradox, perhaps even a provocation: its objective is to have an airplane take off exclusively using solar energy and have it fly day and night until it has ultimately circumnavigated the earth without fuel and pollution. It is an objective that only can be achieved if the boundaries of today's technologies are transcended. Following a feasibility study conducted by the École polytechnique fédérale de Lausanne, Solar Impulse was launched in the year 2003.

The project is only possible thanks to the support of partners. Solvay made the start of the project and the first design of the airplane possible. Thanks to Omega, Solar Impulse could begin with the construction of the prototype. Deutsche Bank has made the development of the record airplane possible. We are all pleased to welcome Deutsche Bank as the main partner.

[www.solarimpulse.com](http://www.solarimpulse.com)