

Chemin du Glapin 20  
CH - 1162 St-Prex  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41 21 800 95 95  
Fax: +41 21 800 39 24  
[pr@fischerconnectors.ch](mailto:pr@fischerconnectors.ch)  
[www.fischerconnectors.com](http://www.fischerconnectors.com)

**Media contact:**  
Steve Donnet  
International Events & PR Specialist



## Fischer Connectors joins SolarStratos as Official Partner

### Fischer Connectors will provide mission-critical connectivity to enable the solar-powered plane to reach the edge of space

**PARIS/ST-PREX, 19 JUNE 2017 – The Fischer Connectors Group, based in St-Prex, Switzerland, joins the SolarStratos project as Official Partner to provide mission-critical connectivity to the solar-powered HB-SXA plane. This first manned solar plane to penetrate the stratosphere aims to demonstrate the potential of solar energy, and explore new territories for the future of aviation.**

#### The plane

SolarStratos HB-SXA is propelled solely by solar energy, backed by a Li-ion battery. It will be the first piloted solar-powered aircraft to enter the stratosphere, and the first solar-powered twin-seater commercial aircraft in history. Designed and built in 2016 in Switzerland, SolarStratos took its maiden flight in Payerne, Switzerland on May 5<sup>th</sup> this year. With a wingspan of 24.8 m and a length of 8.5 m, it weighs just 350 kg. The project is led by SolarStratos' founder and pilot Raphaël Domjan, supported by an international team of experienced professionals and partners including engineers, a former astronaut, pilots, meteorologists and doctors.

#### The mission

SolarStratos' mission aims to demonstrate the potential of renewable energy, looking ahead to the commercialization of manned and unmanned solar-powered aerial vehicles. The next steps are:

- 2018 – Preparation of the plane for the stratospheric flight; first flights with space suit
- 2019 – Record flight in the stratosphere
- From 2020 – Beginning of the commercial phase.

SolarStratos' first international "stopover" will be from June 15<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> in Montreal, Canada, where it will be the guest star of the Northern Solar Festival and the 12<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress.

#### The challenges

In the hostile environment on the edge of space, the human and technical challenges are daunting. The pilot and aircraft will be subjected to temperatures down to 70°C below zero and cosmic radiation. All technology on board has to withstand extreme environments and be totally reliable. Faultless connectivity between the pilot and his team, as well as with supporters and the general public worldwide, will be crucial to ensuring the success and impact of this historical Swiss and global adventure.

## The connectivity partner

Fischer Connectors' electrical and optical connectivity solutions have been selected by SolarStratos for their:

- track record of high reliability in extreme environments;
- optimal ratio of light weight and high performance;
- ability to transmit large volumes of data fast over long distances;
- wide range of standard and customized rugged connectors and cable assembly solutions;
- Swiss-made technology and footprint.

Fischer Connectors' engineers are partnering closely with the SolarStratos team to design and deliver the ideal solutions to ensure the mission's success.

As Jonathan Brossard, CEO of Fischer Connectors, explains: *"Fischer Connectors and SolarStratos have so much in common. We're both pioneers in innovation with a passion for going beyond what's considered possible and pushing back the limits of human understanding. We're both Swiss and global, collaborating with many partners locally and globally, and harnessing Swiss high-performance technology and our passion for renewables to re-invent the aviation of the future. Protecting the environment and using solar energy lie at the heart of our strategy, and we're looking forward to installing a solar rooftop at our HQ in St-Prex, Switzerland this summer. We consider ourselves more than partners to SolarStratos – we're devoted fans!"*

For more information:

- **SolarStratos:** <https://www.solarstratos.com/en/challenge/>
- **Northern Solar Festival:** <http://www.festivalsolairenordique.ca/en/solar-festival.html>
- **12<sup>th</sup> Metropolis World Congress:** <http://montreal2017.metropolis.org/>
- **Fischer Connectors:** [www.fischerconnectors.com](http://www.fischerconnectors.com)

---

**About Fischer Connectors:** Fischer Connectors has been designing, manufacturing and distributing high performance connectors and cable assembly solutions for more than 60 years. Known for their reliability, quality and resistance to extreme environments, Fischer Connectors' solutions are used in fields requiring faultless quality, such as medical, industrial, instrumentation, audiovisual, transportation, energy, and defense and security. The Group's head office is in St-Prex, Switzerland (Canton of Vaud), where the Research & Development Center and its manufacturing facilities are located. The Fischer Connectors Group has an international presence with its subsidiaries and a wide network of distributors and agents, as well as its cable assembly sites in Europe, the United States and Asia.