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Paris : Official launch of the WINDREAM ONE project with Peggy Bouchet and Stéphane Rousson

This morning Paris saw the official launch of WINDREAM ONE, a project headed up by Peggy Bouchet and Stéphane Rousson, sponsored by the Theolia Group. This ambitious project to cross the Atlantic Ocean in a sail balloon driven only by natural and renewable energy sources, conjures up images of great aeronautical discoveries where courage, perseverance and a slight dose of folly of past visionaries and adventurers opened up the skies for future generations.

WINDREAM ONE is an ambitious project: to make the first successful "aero-maritime" crossing of the Atlantic powered solely by renewable energy sources. The idea is not to establish a record, but to prove that it is technologically possible to cover a distance of 5 000 km flying night and day using sources of energy drawn from the sea, the sun and the wind. All those involved in WINDREAM ONE look forward to participating in a new chapter of aeronautical history, in a context where they contribute scientific knowledge and skills that influence fundamental choices for tomorrow's energy solutions, a field where Theolia is a forerunner.



Map credit : Remi Weil

This adventure has brought together an extended team of twenty private and university researchers, technical and financial partners, all thanks to the inspiration, knowledge and daring of the project's pilots – the creator behind the project **Stéphane Rousson, a renowned expert in aeronautics** and the navigator-adventurer **Peggy Bouchet,** whose project expertise and experience include rowing solo across the Atlantic.

After three years' preparation spent bringing the project to fruition, Peggy and Stéphane are now ready, thanks to their partnership with Theolia, to enter into the concrete stage of the WINDREAM ONE project. Research into highly elaborate aeronautical techniques will soon be completed and the construction of the balloon, the nacelle and navigation appendages will get underway in the month of June.

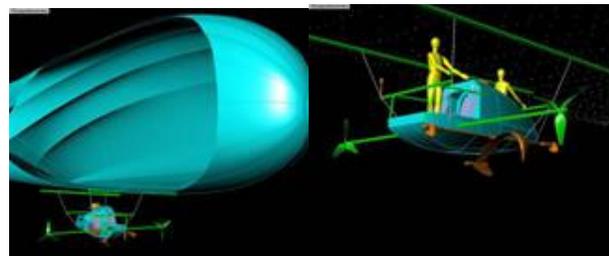


Diagram credit : Gérard Chenu-Stéphane Rousson

The very first flight is scheduled to take place in Toulon in September, followed by a test flight from Nice to Corsica and a demonstration flight over Lake Geneva in November. The WINDREAM ONE team will then head for Dakar in Senegal at the start of January 2008 to set up a new technical base. After reassembling the balloon and a new series of tests, Peggy and Stéphane will be on stand-by for a weather window opening the way to lift off. Both air and sea conditions have to be right for the ten day crossing over to the Martinique.

Sun and wind are the main sources of energy for WINDREAM ONE, but the sea will play a major role in this technological challenge. **WINDREAM ONE is a 900m³ balloon inflated with helium. She is 93ft 6 inches (28.50m) long, and is guided by a «chien de mer», a curved carbon foil which will run under the water's surface. It is linked to the balloon's nacelle**

by a long cable whose length can be adjusted from 65 ft 6 inches to 164 ft (20m to 50 m) and which acts as a keel. This appendage assists the crew in controlling the flight path.

Environmental damage and the diminishing supply of fossil fuels are forcing man to look for new ways to build energy sources for future generations. This is becoming increasingly urgent and groups like Theolia along with the more adventurous among us, like Peggy and Stéphane, are ready to explore new technological horizons, even if it means risking their lives. Renewable energy is still in its early days and we are a long way from understanding how best to exploit it. The WINDREAM ONE project enters into the realms of exploration and hopes to play an educational role in private and public research programmes in the hope of better understanding the wide range of clean energy applications.

Jean Marie Santander – CEO of Theolia : *«Peggy Bouchet, Stéphane Rousson and THEOLIA progress through shared values : strong will, total commitment and the desire to succeed. Our business, renewable energy production, is yet to mature. A lot remains to be done in terms of research if the field is to progress. And in particular for renewable energy to be applied in domains other than the production of electricity. It is for this reason that THEOLIA has given its undertaking to Peggy and Stéphane, to support their technological and adventurous project WINDREAM ONE. If we truly wish renewable energy sources to play a more important role in our daily lives, we really have no choice but to encourage and support initiative of this type ».*



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The Theolia Group produces electricity from renewable energy sources.

Theolia is an independent European company, one of the few companies producing 100% clean energy. Driven by a deep conviction that the future should be preserved, the Group has been developing wind power sources as well as other applications in biomass, biogas, solar energy and co-generation. The company is quoted on the Eurolist B Euronext and is today a major player in the European clean energy market.

Full details about the WINDREAM ONE project on

Downloadable press packs and illustrations on the website or upon request from the Press Office.

A 3D animation is also available. Visualise the Windream One project as you wait to see the first test flights. Also available on the website or upon request.

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