

“Solar Impulse : wings for the future”, by Dr. Ir. Claude MICHEL

Solar Impulse is the only solar plane in the world that can fly day and night with a pilot on board without using a drop of fossil fuel. SOLVAY, the project's first main partner since 2004, is on board of the Solar Impulse with its know-how and its passion for progress, 13 products, around 20 applications optimizing the energy chain, the plane's structure, and reducing its overall weight. Launched as a vision in 2004, the Solar Impulse project became reality in July 2010 when the solar plane achieved the first day and night flight powered only by the sun. The final objective, the Flight round the World (RTW) started from Abu Dhabi in March 2015 and, after a stop during the winter in Hawaii, will be achieved in spring 2016.



Claude MICHEL obtained a Master (in 1973) and a PhD (in 1977) in Chemical Engineering from the INSA / University of Lyon. He immediately joined Solvay, where he held different positions : R&D of specialty plastics, Quality Manager for Research in the plastics sector, Organization Development Manager for the Polyolefin Europe Business Unit, and Head of Internal Communication for the Group. Since 2009, he has been the Head of the Solvay Solar Impulse partnership, involved in the many communication and technical development aspects, and as well as the contact person for all the other aspects of the partnership.