

Loon Solar Boat Wins Mansura Award

Solar-Powered Boat Business in Rome, NY

Acclaimed at International Competition in London

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Rome, NY. - Business partners Ray Hirani and Monte Gisborne have good reason to toot their little steamhorn these days – their 10-passenger recreational solar boating innovation known the Loon has won the “Nobel Prize of Green Boating” in their category, the Mansura Award. The accolade puts their product on the same level as the first solar boat to cross the Atlantic Ocean in 2007 (the *Sun 21*) and the 100-passenger Australian *Solar Sailor* which operates in Sydney Harbor. Montgomery Gisborne, president of the Tamarack Lake Electric Boat Company and inventor of the Loon™ solar boat, couldn't agree more as the order book for his innovation increases.



Gisborne (left) and Hirani show off their Mansura medals and a scale model of the 22-foot Loon solar boat which will be built in Rome, NY starting later this year.

This is not the first such award for the duo, in December, their newest version of their innovative solar-powered boat product line also took a first place finish at the “*Future of Electric Vehicles*” conference and exhibition in San Jose, California. Innovators from

around the world found their way to the conference, which focused on land-, water- and airborne vehicles powered by efficient batteries and electric motors.

The Mansura Awards Ceremony was held at the Royal Thames Yacht Club, 60 Knightsbridge, London, UK in the presence of the Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster, Councillor Dr. Cyril Nemeth MBE JP, with the awards themselves being presented by Bernhard Bihr, President of Bosch Engineering, principal sponsor of the Mansura Awards. The German Ambassador was represented by Joachim, Baron von Marschall and the Ambassador of Thailand was represented by Mr Siripakorn Cheawsamoot. The Chief Executives of the Royal Academy of Engineering and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers were present, as were representatives of Imperial College, London, the Royal Yacht Association, Green-Blue and the Royal Thames Yacht Club.

According to Jack Edwards, Chairman of Trustees for the Award, “This design of sturdy inland electric watercraft has undergone a long period of prototype development with the result that it has gained such a reputation throughout Canada and the USA that the builders are starting series production at a brand new facility at Rome NY in the United States with the active encouragement of the local authority.”

Monte Gisborne, the Chief Executive of Tamarack, stated that he and his partner Ray Hirani were utilizing this opportunity to raise awareness of the product in Europe and have shipped a 1:10 scale model of “*The Loon*” from China to show what they have designed. The Judges were impressed by the rigorous development process and proven reliability of the design of this smooth and silent lake and river boat.

Edwards adds: “Once again, we have seen a wide range of technically innovative and well-designed craft demonstrating the huge strides that are being made in the field of marine hybrid propulsion. The generous support of Bosch Engineering GmbH, part of the Bosch Group, has raised our profile in the marine industry to a new level and has enhanced the scope of the competition. While encouraging prototype development, this award recognises the real achievement of the entrants”.

The Loon solar boat is a NYSERDA-supported project in Rome. Production is scheduled to commence in spring 2011. A facility has been located near the Rod Mill Site.

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About Tamarack Lake Electric Boat Company:

Tamarack is a zero-emission recreational products innovator whose products maximize recreational enjoyment while minimizing environmental impact. Best known for their solar-powered boats, Tamarack has a diverse history in research and development in many areas of outdoor products, all employing non-invasive, clean energy propulsion.