



SWISS BECOMES WORLD'S FIRST AIRLINE TO INTEGRATE SYNHELION SOLAR FUEL INTO ITS FLIGHT OPERATIONS

News / Airlines, Manufacturer



SWISS has become the first airline in the world to integrate the solar fuel manufactured by the Swiss-based Synhelion clean-tech company into its regular flight operations. Synhelion delivered a first 190-liter barrel of synthetic crude oil from its DAWN production facility to a refinery in Northern Germany, where the oil, which had been manufactured using solar energy, was processed into certified Jet-A-1 aviation fuel. The fuel was then fed into SWISS's flight operations infrastructure via the fuel supply system at Hamburg Airport.

The fuel supplied are some seven percent of the fuel required for a Hamburg-Zurich flight – a symbolic start, but a hugely significant one. It may sound little, but it's a landmark for the aviation sector, confirming that Synhelion's technology works and is ready for the next steps ahead. Its seamless integration into existing refinery processes is crucial to securing the swift global scalability of Synhelion's technology.

SWISS CEO Jens Fehlinger commented: "This first delivery of Synhelion's solar fuel marks a

genuine milestone in our long-standing partnership. We have intentionally invested in a Swiss start-up; and we are delighted to celebrate this landmark achievement together. This is the first time that solar fuel has been used in civil aviation. And we are truly proud to be playing such a pioneering role, in partnership with Synhelion, in driving and developing this vital new technology for a more sustainable aviation sector.”

Synhelion co-founder and co-CEO Philipp Furler stated: “Sustainable fuels are a key lever in reducing air transport’s reliance on fossil fuels. Our delivery of this first barrel to SWISS may be a symbolic action. But it’s a concrete one, too, towards a more sustainable aviation sector. This milestone brings us one step closer to globally scaling up our solar fuel technology. And we’re very grateful to have such invaluable support from our partners at SWISS and the Lufthansa Group as we continue on this journey.”



Sustainable fuels such as Synhelion’s solar fuel are key if the aviation sector is to achieve its ambitious carbon reduction objectives. This is why it is so vital that all the parties involved play their full part and join other airlines, business and industry, the political world, the research field and consumers in driving and promoting the adoption of such fuels with all possible speed. SWISS has been serving as a strategic partner to Synhelion since 2020 to support the commercialization of the company’s pioneering technologies. SWISS has also been an investor in Synhelion since 2022.

Further steps remain before solar fuel can be more extensively used in the aviation sector. The facilities required to ensure continuous production of the fuel and adequate production capacities are now being developed to permit a commercial market entry from 2027. The EU Renewable Energy Directive stipulates that sustainable synthetic fuels must achieve a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions of at least 70 percent compared to fossil kerosene. The life cycle assessment carried out by an independent institution confirms that the fuels from the DAWN production facility can significantly exceed this target. As a next step, Synhelion and SWISS are

now jointly driving forward the sustainability certification of the production process and the fuel in accordance with the requirements of the EU directive.

As part of the Lufthansa Group, SWISS can both draw and build on decades of experience in the sustainable aviation fuel field. The Lufthansa Group is involved in research and pilot projects, is an active member of various industrywide alliances and offers numerous innovative sustainable aviation fuel products and incentives for both corporate and private customers. It has also concluded a number of long-term fuel procurement agreements which send a strong signal to the global fuel markets and help further drive and shape the industry's transformation.



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