



BIOGRAPHY

ANDRÉ BORSCHBERG

CEO, Co-Founder and Pilot of Solar Impulse

An engineer by education and a graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in management science, André Borschberg has solid experience in creating and managing companies, as well as in flying. His passion for aviation and his interest in innovative solutions have led him to team up with Bertrand Piccard to direct Solar Impulse and be one of the pilots who will fly around the world in a solar aircraft. In 2015, he breaks the world record of longest solo flight on board of Solar Impulse 2 during the Pacific crossing from Nagoya to Hawaii.

Fascinated by aviation from his earliest youth, André Borschberg, born in 1952, trained as a pilot in the Swiss air force, flying first Venoms and then Hunters and Tigers for over 20 years. Today he holds an assortment of professional airplane and helicopter pilot's licences and also does aerobatics in his spare time. After graduating from the Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL) as an engineer in mechanics and thermodynamics, André Borschberg has constantly developed and led numerous technology projects, companies and start-ups, as both investor and entrepreneur.

He very quickly supplemented his training with a Master's in Management Science from the Sloan School, MIT Boston, preceded by certificates in financial management and business management at HEC Lausanne. He first joined McKinsey, one of the world's leading business consultancies, as a consultant for 5 years, before starting his own entrepreneurial activities.

His strong points are business organization, management and development. From finance to marketing, from engineering to human resources, André Borschberg has acquired solid experience as an entrepreneur, manager and consultant for over 20 years. Initially, he went into partnership with a venture capital company, Lowe Finance. His vast range of professional skills, his versatility and his perseverance enabled him to successfully launch two start-ups in the Internet and new technologies field. With a technical team from EPFL, he co-founded Innovative Silicon, a technology company in the field of micro-processor memories.



André Borschberg has been a member of highly regarded associations such as the prestigious World President's Organization (WPO) and the Chief Executive Organisation (CEO). Sensitive to the well-being and condition of others, proactive and always open to new experiences, he has also been active in the social field, including Restos du Coeur and assistance to the sick. André Borschberg was also awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Mons in 2012.

At the head of the Solar Impulse project with Bertrand Piccard, André Borschberg brings the essential skills of the entrepreneur who helps convert vision into reality. As CEO, he has put together and motivated a team of 90 top specialists from very diverse horizons and origins. "This diversity we have sought at every level stimulates their creativity and gives them their strength. It is from this pooling of experiences that original and totally new solutions arise."

As a mechanical engineer and pilot, he directs the construction of the aircraft and the preparation of the flight missions. "We need to find a way to build an aircraft that is super-robust and super-light at the same time, and above all extremely energy-efficient, so as to need only minuscule amounts of energy in order to fly. But all this whilst maintaining the same strength of materials as in a normal airplane. Hence the great complexity of the project, which gives the true measure of its philosophy and its objectives."

On July 7th, 2010 André Borschberg, for the first time in history, flew 26 hours in the Solar Impulse airplane, so demonstrating that it was possible to fly day and night with only solar energy propelling the airplane.

Between 2011 and 2013, he and Bertrand Piccard took turns to occupy Solar Impulse's single-seat cockpit and fly across Europe, Morocco and the USA. Both of them are now preparing to complete the project's ultimate objective – a Round-The-World solar flight in Solar Impulse 2, that started in Abu Dhabi on March 9th 2015.

André Borschberg has also practised meditation and yoga for many years, developing the latter discipline in order to improve his resistance to fatigue and stress during the long flights planned for Solar Impulse.

Married to Yasemin and father of three children, André Borschberg lives at Nyon in a house built with environmentally-friendly methods and materials. Solar Impulse lies at the crossroads of his passions and concerns: aviation, new technologies, ethics, respect for the environment and industrial ecology.



BIOGRAPHY – RESUME

ANDRÉ BORSCHBERG

CEO, Co-Founder and
Pilot of Solar Impulse

André Borschberg, a graduate engineer in mechanics and thermodynamics from the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, and holder of a Master's in Management Science from the Sloan School, MIT Boston, has a solid background in creating and managing companies. After 5 years as a McKinsey business consultant, he developed and directed numerous technological projects, both as investor and entrepreneur. Fascinated by aviation from his earliest youth, he learned to fly with the Swiss air force. Today he holds an assortment of professional airplane and helicopter pilot's licences and also does aerobatics in his spare time.

Heading the Solar Impulse project together with Bertrand Piccard, André Borschberg brings the essential skills of the entrepreneur who helps convert vision into reality. It was he who assembled the technical team and led the construction of the first prototype. He was at the controls for the night flight of 7 July 2010 and during the longest solar-powered flight from Nogoya to Hawaii. All his flights were awarded 14 FAI world records.

- > 13 December 1952, André Borschberg is born in Zurich
- > 1970-1976: Graduated in Mechanical Engineering, EPFL Lausanne
- > 1977-1978: Certificates in Financial Management and Business Management, HEC Lausanne
- > 1982-1983 : Master in Management Science, Sloan School, MIT Boston
- > 1977-1982: Castolin+Eutectic, Lausanne, Marketing, product manager
- > Master's in Management Science, Sloan School, MIT Boston
- > 1983-1987: McKinsey, Zurich, New York, Tokyo, consultant
- > 1987-1996: Lowe Finance S.A., partner and manager of venture capital and capital development funds
- > 1996-2001: Quanta S.A., Lausanne, founder, chairman of the board, video games and Internet connections
- > 2002-2003: Innovative Silicon S.A., PSE Lausanne, cofounder, new DRAM memory technology
- > Since 2004: CEO and cofounder of Solar Impulse S.A.
- > 1974-1997 Swiss air force reserve military pilot
- > Commercial airplane and helicopter pilot licences
- > Trustee of the Military Aviation Museum in Payerne
- > Member of the World President's Organization (WPO) and the Chief Executive Organization (CEO)
- > Officer of the Order of the Alawites
- > Awards: Aerosuisse Award and Master's Medal 2015 granted by the Swiss Federation Aerosuisse and the British Honourable Company of Air Pilots; Doctor Honoris Causa, Award of the German Society for Aeronautics and Astronautics (DGLR), Brunswick Prize
- > 8 FAI world records in: free distance, free distance along a course, straight distance, straight distance predeclared waypoints, distance along a course, duration, absolute altitude, gain of height

CONTACT

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