

**M**ALCOLM MOSS, MD of Collinda, a chemical distribution company which commits five per cent of its profits to environmental projects under the Responsible Care scheme, is a step nearer to realising his 'solar' dream.

As reported in BCDTA News back in 1996, Malcolm's care for the environment led him to develop the world's first solar-powered water-taxi, operating on Lake Pichola in India.

Now, his idea has been developed further – into a solar-powered four-wheel vehicle which he hopes will eventually replace cycle and motor rickshaws in that country.

The ultra-light weight vehicle has solar panels on the roof to produce electricity that can be stored in batteries or used directly to power the electric motor.

The chassis uses bicycle technology and is capable of being powered by just one person, although it can carry four people.

The installed solar capacity produces power equivalent to five cyclists and the motor can produce 5hp, giving good acceleration and a speed of 30 kph.

The vehicle was recently the joint winner of the transport section of the Eurosolar Prize Awards 2000 at the Sustainable Government Symposium attended by Environment Minister the Rt.Hon. Michael Meacher and Charles Secrett, Chief Executive Officer of Friends of the Earth.

Malcolm, who spent some time with Michael Meacher and Charles Secrett, said, "They were both very impressed that the chemical industry was doing something for the environment through Responsible Care!"

Malcolm says that testing of the vehicle, which has taken three years to develop with research and fabrication costs met by Collinda, is showing that it is much better than expected and is looking as though it will have a range of 100 miles per day in good solar conditions. "Work has already started on a pedalled version, and we will be extensively testing this vehicle during our family trip across Rajasthan in April next year."

Malcolm, along with his sons James 14 and Simon 11, will drive the vehicle from Delhi to Udaipur. It will then be used as a replacement for cycles and motor-rickshaws.

The millions of scooters used by Indians to travel to work every day obviously add to the noise and fumes. Whilst cars, buses and lorries are the main offenders, just some of the pollution could be removed if Malcolm's solar vehicles take over from scooters.

It is hoped to fund ten solar rickshaws in Delhi and Udaipur by running a charity solar expedition in Rajasthan during 2002.

If we can get an ultra-light vehicle that really works, then we can make a significant difference to the world's carbon dioxide emissions. That's my goal," said Malcolm.

\*Malcolm's solar-powered boat, the SB Collinda, entered the record books in 1998 after becoming the first solar-powered craft to cross the English Channel.

# Malcolm seeks the sun to help his power plan



**Above: Environment Minister Michael Meacher takes a test drive in Collinda's solar-powered vehicle. Below: Into the record books – the SB Collinda was the first solar-powered boat to cross the English Channel.**

