

Company Creates World's Fastest Electric Passenger Boat

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. Commuter /kə'mju:tər/ (Noun) a person who travels between their home and work each day
Example: The changes they made on the road only made it difficult for commuters.
2. Hydrofoil /'haɪdrəfɔɪl/ (Noun) a device with wings attached to the bottom of a boat, board, etc. that cause it to lift up off the water at a certain speed
Example: They got on a boat that uses hydrofoil.
3. Glide /glɑɪd/ (Verb) to move in a smooth, quiet way
Example: They glided down the slope.
4. Trial /'traɪəl/ (Noun) the act or process of testing something
Example: The scientists are conducting trials for the new medicines.
5. Stable /'steɪbl/ (Adjective) not likely to move, fall, or fail
Example: The table in her office is very stable.



Stockholm, Sweden's capital, is sometimes known as "The Venice of Scandinavia" — and it's easy to see why. The city is made up of 14 main islands, and although boats are a popular way to get around, traveling between the islands isn't always quick, easy or good for the environment. But Swedish company Candela Technology thinks it can change that, with an electric commuter boat that uses computer-controlled hydrofoils to rise up and glide over the water — almost like it's flying.

Called the P-12 Shuttle, the company says it is the world's fastest electric passenger boat, with a top speed of more than 55 kilometers per hour. Almost 12 meters long and able to carry up to 30 people at a time, the P-12 needs to be charged every three hours, and promises to use about 80% less energy than traditional boats.

The people of Stockholm will be able to test it in 2023 when it begins a nine-month trial, starting with a route between Stockholm's city center and the town of Ekerö, around 15 kilometers away. The journey takes about an hour by bus and subway, but Candela hopes to reduce that to 25 minutes by boat. Erik Eklund from Candela promises a journey that is "quiet, smooth and stable" as the electric engine makes little sound, and the hydrofoils allow the boat to move quickly while creating almost no waves. According to the company, there has been a lot of interest in its electric boats, as other cities across the world look for ways to make water commutes easier and cleaner.

DISCUSSION

1. What are the longest boat journeys you've been on?
2. What are the most beautiful coastal cities you've been to? Did you travel by boat during your stay?
3. What's the easiest way to get around your town or city?
4. Is there anything you'd like to change about public transport where you live?
5. Which of the cities you've been to had the best transport?