

Sail the seas in e-style with an electric yacht, eVTOL and sub combo

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Here's the ultimate fully charged three-vehicle package for a spot of adventure on the high seas: a solar-powered electric yacht that has enough room to carry an electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) craft and an electric submarine.

Solar catamaran firm Silent Yachts has partnered with eVTOL manufacturer VRCO and e-sub builder U-Boat Worx to offer the intriguing electric triple threat. Essentially, the new Silent 120 Explorer superyacht has been designed so it can carry VRCO's XP4 eVTOL and a U-Boat Worx Nemo submarine.

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The 36.75-metre Silent 120 Explorer is due for launch in 2024, and will be the firm's largest solar-electric yacht yet. It has a volume of 499 gross tonnes, with Silent claiming that it is capable of trans-ocean journeys. Power comes from a pair of 340kW electric motors, which draw energy from an 800kW lithium-ion battery.



The top of the yacht is covered with 40kWp (kilowatt peak) of solar panels, which Silent says is capable of producing enough energy to

cover the yacht's 'hotel loads' and 'significant' fossil-free cruising at six-eight knots. At full power, the craft can travel up to 16 knots.

Of course, sometimes you'll need to quickly leave your solar yacht – but that's not a problem with the Silent 120 Explorer. Silent says that a combination of the catamaran hull and the lack of space required for large combustion engines has freed up room that can be used to carry other vehicles.

The first is the Xcraft XP4, an eVTOL due for certification next year that can carry up to four people. Described by the British firm as 'a hyperluxury supercar of the skies', the XP4 will feature an electric powertrain with a hydrogen-based range extender motor.



The landing pad on the Silent 120 is revealed by the solar panels sliding outboard, and those solar panels can also be used to deliver power to the XP4. That goes both ways: if needed, power from the eVTOL's battery can be fed into the yacht.