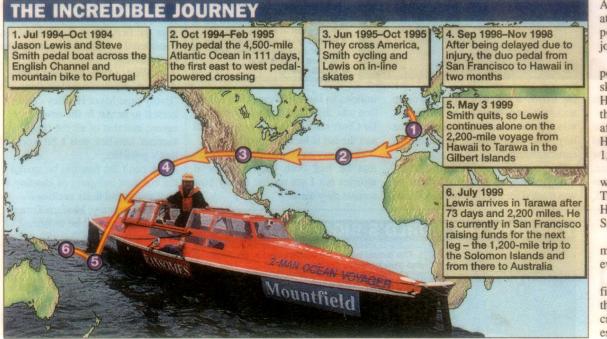


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Pedal power explorer gets new companion



AN adventurer nearly six years into an attempt to cross the world by human power is preparing to continue his journey with a new partner.

Jason Lewis, who is travelling by pedal boat, bicycle or in-line roller skates, is halfway across the Pacific. His 26ft pedal boat Moksha is now in the Gilbert Islands, where he landed after a 2,200-mile voyage from Hawaii. He is now preparing to pedal 1,200 miles to the Solomon Islands.

Mr Lewis, 31, from Bridport, Dorset, will start this part of the trip with Chris Tipper, who helped build the Moksha. He replaces former companion Steve Smith who is pursuing other projects.

When completed, the near 7,000-mile Pacific voyage will be the first ever crossing by a pedal boat.

Mr Lewis has already achieved the first east-west pedal boat crossing of the Atlantic and the first in-line skates crossing of the US. The trek has an estimated three or four years to run.