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SOLARSONIC

Taoyuan International Airport.
Taipei, Taiwan

SolarSonic is a 417' long chromatic glass sculpture suspended in the International Departures Terminal of Taoyuan International Airport in Taipei, Taiwan. The light-responsive sculpture is an homage to Chinese cultural history, aeronautics, space travel and a symbol for Taiwan's high-tech future.

Inspired by the ancient Chinese "Bi," the Neolithic jade discs -- with a central opening that were used to meditate on transcending earth to the heavens -- SolarSonic is a series of 14 lenses suspended within the terminal's exterior glass canopy structure. The lenses -- a tensile ring structure clad on one side with holographic light-defractive glass -- are graduated in size and connected by 20 horizontal cables, woven in a toroidal pattern, tensioned and attached to anchorages at both ends. The overall 100-meter long ensemble is reminiscent of a segmented Chinese Dragon kite as scaled from the fuselage of the SST.

In conceiving SolarSonic, King was reminded of science fiction author, Sir Arthur Clark's short story "Wind from the Sun," about a spacecraft that was propelled by the power of sunlight -- a method of deep space travel that is becoming a reality. SolarSonic is one in a series of chromatic sculptures by King designed to interact with the sun. The sculpture's concave holographic lenses are positioned to face the southern meridian of the sun.