Prestigious Clean Energy Competition Open to the Public for Final Weekend

IRVINE, Calif., Oct. 12, 2013 /PRNewswire-USNewswire/ -- The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013 today announced the winners of this global competition among collegiate teams to build the most energy-efficient solar-powered house at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine, Calif. Team Austria, made up of students from the Vienna University of Technology, won top honors overall by designing, building, and operating the most cost-effective, energy-efficient and attractive solar-powered house. University of Nevada Las Vegas took second place, followed by Czech Republic, comprised of students from Czech Technical University, in third place.

"The Solar Decathlon is inspiring and training the next generation of clean energy architects, engineers and entrepreneurs, and showing that affordable, clean energy technologies can help homeowners save money and energy today," said U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Ernest Moniz. "Congratulations to the Solar Decathlon 2013 competitors – your hard work and creativity is helping to build a cleaner, more sustainable energy future."

Reflecting the quality of the Solar Decathlon 2013 houses, the winning teams' final scores were the closest they have ever been since the beginning of the competition. Team Austria earned 951.9 points out of a possible 1,000 to win the competition, followed by University of Nevada Las Vegas with 947.6 points, and Czech Republic with 945.1 points. Contributing to their overall win, Team Austria performed well in several of the

individual contests, finishing first in the Communications Contest, second in Market Appeal, and tied for first in the Hot Water Contest. Every house in the 2013 competition produced more energy than it consumed.

Nineteen collegiate teams from across the country and around the world competed in 10 contests over 10 days that gauged each house's performance, livability and affordability. The teams performed everyday tasks, including cooking, laundry, and washing dishes, that tested the energy efficiency of their houses. The winner of the overall competition best blended affordability, consumer appeal, and design excellence with optimal energy production and maximum efficiency. Full competition results and details about the individual contests may be found at www.SolarDecathlon.gov .

The results of the Engineering Contest also were announced today with Team Ontario, comprised of students from Queen's University, Carleton University and Algonquin College, taking first place by scoring 95 out of 100 possible points.
Czech Republic
claimed second place in the Engineering Contest with 94 points, and
University of Nevada Las Vegas
, The
University of North Carolina at Charlotte
, and Team Austria all tied for third place with 93 points each. Full details on the contest results will be available at
http://www.solardecathlon.gov/contest_engineering.html
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Student teams in the 2013 competition spanned two continents, including teams from the United States
,
Canada
,
Austria
, and the
Czech Republic
. Since the first competition in 2002, the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon has provided unique training to approximately 17,000 students, preparing them to become the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs in clean energy technology and efficient building design. The competition also shows consumers first-hand how to save money and energy with affordable clean energy products that are available today.

The highly efficient solar-powered houses will be **open to the public for free tours today and for one final day on Sunday, October 13, from**
11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.
Media interested in covering the Solar Decathlon may visit our
online press room
and download our
online media kit
. For full event information, final competition results, daily photos, virtual tours, videos and B-roll, visit
www.SolarDecathlon.gov
. You may also follow the Solar Decathlon on Facebook at
Facebook.com/DOESolarDecathlon
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. High-resolution photos are available on Flickr at
http://www.flickr.com/photos/solar_decathlon/
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