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ENERGY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

LEISURE & SMART CITIES

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HOME & HABITAT

TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

AGRICULTURE & NUTRITION

The Energy Endeavour Foundation is an umbrella & stewarding body for university research competitions and awareness activities in the fields of social, economic and environmental sustainability, empowering today's consumers and tomorrow's citizens to be active responders to energy-efficiency and climate change.

"ENERGY LITERACY IS MANKIND'S GREATEST CHALLENGE."

RICHARD KING, SOLAR DECATHLON FOUNDER



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ENERGY & RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ENERGY ENDEAVOUR FOUNDATION / THE FOUNDATION IN A NUTSHELL

The Solar Decathlon Europe (SDE) is a springboard for the Energy Endeavour Foundation, which promotes competitions beyond the theme of habitation to include mobility, agriculture, energy storage and resource management. Both champion the dynamics of youth, competitive spirit and sustainability to inform, educate and generate the attention of industry leaders, academic researchers, policy-makers and the public at large. Thousands of students participate in these competitions, gaining hands-on training, becoming tomorrow's ambassadors and change agents for energy literacy.

SOLAR DECATHLON EUROPE / BACKGROUND

Initiated in 2002 by the United States Department of Energy, the Solar Decathlon is a university-level student competition for sustainable, responsible and energy-efficient architecture and engineering. Twenty teams compete in the design, construction and management of individual, solar-powered, energy and resource efficient homes. The houses are brought to the competition site (the 'solar village') and assembled within an average of ten days. The site becomes an open forum and exhibition, where the houses are operated and demonstrated to the public and evaluated by a jury of renowned international adjudicators. The competition is structured around ten contests. These are either measured (i.e. electrical production) or juried (i.e. architecture). The results of the ten contests are calculated, thus determining the overall winner.

There is a groundswell to broaden and include other fields for competition such as mobility, energy storage or urban agriculture. The Solar Decathlon Europe is positioned as a premium event within a broader series of competitions – an energy “Olympiad” called the Energy Endeavour.

The Solar Decathlon has been held in the United States seven times, most recently in October 2015. The competition has also been held beyond the United States; in Europe (2010, 2012, 2014), China (2013) and Latin America (2015). Further competitions are planned in the United States (2017, 2019), China (2018), Latin America (2018), Europe (2019) and the Middle East (2018, 2020).

Interest in ensuring further Solar Decathlon competitions in Europe has wide support among a number of European countries. However, no single country is ready or able to do this alone. There has been an explicit wish to make the Solar Decathlon Europe a truly European event, including securing support from the European Commission. The success of the Solar Decathlon in spreading energy literacy has raised interest to extend the competition format into other domains.





ENERGY ENDEAVOUR FOUNDATION
/ AN OPEN PLATFORM


The Energy Endeavour Foundation is a non-profit legal platform established in the Netherlands, adhering to the governance & standards of international organisations. It is aligned with the fundamental values communicated through the Solar Decathlon Europe: intrepid, ingenious, responsible.

The Energy Endeavour Foundation is positioned as a non-profit legal entity to ensure neutrality, trust and independence.



/ NEUTRALITY

The Energy Endeavour Foundation is a neutral legal entity, which consolidates and distributes funds efficiently and equitably. The funding of the Solar Decathlon in Europe and broader competitions in sustainability will come from many sources. Among these are national funding from participating countries (which are customarily awarded to institutions within the respective nations), European Commission funding (both Horizon 2020 calls and other tenders), corporate sponsorship and in-kind efforts of participating institutions. The foundation provides the legal framework to oversee common funds and their distribution.

A nighttime photograph of a city skyline reflected in water, with long-exposure light trails from a moving vehicle in the foreground. The city lights are vibrant, and the water is dark, creating a high-contrast scene.


TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY

/ TRUST

Many of the activities require legal agreements with funding agencies and other government and non-government agencies. As a case in point: the Solar Decathlon Europe will need a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), which holds the rights to the Solar Decathlon brand. While the MOU has no monetary implications or impact, it is still a legal necessity. Here too, the neutrality of the Energy Endeavour Foundation is important. Additionally, the backing of the TU Delft Holding BV will provide agencies such as the U.S. DOE the assurance of a solid, trusted partner.

/ INDEPENDANCE

Persons working toward the goals of the Energy Endeavour Foundation are often employees of universities or other organisations and governments. Members of those groups will likely seek to participate in the events organised through the Foundation. As such, it is necessary for impartial governance to be implemented and recognised in the interests of any single organisation or government.

A close-up photograph of golden wheat stalks, showing the texture of the grains and the stems. The lighting is warm, highlighting the natural colors of the wheat.

AGRICULTURE & NUTRITION



**THE ENERGY ENDEAVOUR FOUNDATION
& THE SOLAR DECATHLON EUROPE**

Previous editions of the Solar Decathlon Europe were organised through individual and singular national agreements. In the interest longevity, the SDE Secretariat was established in May 2015 to pursue the long-term momentum and vitality of the Solar Decathlon competition in Europe. Having successfully secured the SDE at the european level, the Secretariat has offically transitioned into the SDE Council of Experts, which includes other former SDE participants, supporters and organisers. The SDE Council of Experts is thus an advisory group supporting the activities of the Energy Endeavour Foundation. The EEF stewards university research competitions and awareness activities in the fields of social, economic and environmental sustainability; it is the legal entity behind the brand and corresponding values of the Solar Decathlon Europe.



In honour of resource-responsibility,
the Energy Endeavour Foundation serves
to bridge, channel and collect the efforts
of diverse groups and parties from across
Europe and around the world.



**THE ENERGY ENDEAVOUR FOUNDATION SUPPORTS
THE SOLAR DECATHLON EUROPE IN THE FOLLOWING MISSION:**

- **COORDINATING & DIRECTING COMMUNICATION ACTIVITIES**
- **ORGANISING CALLS FOR PARTICIPATING CITIES & TEAMS**
- **GUIDING THE EVOLUTION OF COMPETITION & CONTEST RULES**
- **DOCUMENTING PROCESSES & RESULTS**
- **NURTURING THE LIAISON BETWEEN OTHER SOLAR DECATHLON
COMPETITIONS & RESEARCH BODIES**
- **ENSURING PROPER GOVERNANCE, PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT
& GENERAL ACCOUNTABILITY**
- **STEWARDSHIP THE VALUES, VISION & MANDATE
OF THE SOLAR DECATHLON IN EUROPE**

The Energy Endeavour Foundation stewards the activities of the Solar Decathlon in Europe through host city and team selection, guidance on the SDE values & brand, and corresponding communication & dissemination. It is entrusted by the U.S. Department of Energy to oversee the original mandate of the the Solar Decathlon. This will be a model for other university competitions needing similar stewardship and guidance.



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