



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF **ENERGY**

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MEDIA ADVISORY

Solar Decathlon 2013 Media Preview on Wednesday; Competition Features Student-Designed, Solar-Powered Houses

First Look at Completed Houses, Advance Interviews & Opening Ceremony with Students, VIPs

IRVINE, CA – Collegiate teams involving more than 1,000 students from around the world are putting the finishing touches on their highly energy-efficient solar-powered houses built at the Orange County Great Park for the U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon 2013 ([see photos here](#)). The collegiate teams have spent the last eight days constructing their one-of-a-kind houses in preparation for the competition that begins Thursday, October 3. Before the event opens to the public, members of the media are invited to take an exclusive sneak peek at these innovative houses and to attend the opening and ribbon cutting ceremonies.

WHAT & WHEN: **Media Preview Day & Open House:** Wednesday, October 2

10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Media registration; welcoming program and guided tour through the Solar Decathlon village, featuring student introductions of solar-powered houses

12:00 – 2:00 p.m. Sneak peek inside completed houses; advance interviews with students, sponsors and event officials; compelling video and photo opportunities of student teams showcasing their solar-powered houses

Opening Ceremony: Thursday, October 3

8:30 a.m. All-team photo of students in east end of Solar Decathlon village (suggest media arrive by 8:15 early if planning to capture)

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. Media set-up and advance seating in Hangar 244

9:30 – 11:00 a.m. Opening ceremony in Hangar 244 with students, event officials, sponsors, special guest speakers, and VIPs

11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m. Interview availability, guided tours, and house access

WHERE: Orange County Great Park, Irvine, California – [view directions and map](#)

RSVP: Media wishing to attend should RSVP by contacting Jason Lutterman, DOE media lead for the Solar Decathlon, at Jason.Lutterman@ee.doe.gov or (202) 779-3295.

Solar Decathlon 2013 teams competing at the Orange County Great Park:

- **Arizona State University and The University of New Mexico**
- **Czech Republic** (Czech Technical University)
- **Kentucky/Indiana** (University of Louisville, Ball State University, and University of Kentucky)
- **Middlebury College**
- **Missouri University of Science and Technology**
- **Norwich University**
- **Santa Clara University**
- **Southern California Institute of Architecture and California Institute of Technology**
- **Stanford University**
- **Stevens Institute of Technology**
- **Team Alberta** (University of Calgary)
- **Team Austria** (Vienna University of Technology)
- **Team Capitol DC** (The Catholic University of America, George Washington University, and American University)
- **Team Ontario** (Queen's University, Carleton University, and Algonquin College)
- **Team Texas** (The University of Texas at El Paso and El Paso Community College)
- **University of Nevada Las Vegas**
- **The University of North Carolina at Charlotte**
- **University of Southern California**
- **West Virginia University**

The U.S. Department of Energy Solar Decathlon is an award-winning program that challenges collegiate students from around the world to design, build and operate solar-powered houses that are affordable, highly energy efficient, attractive, and easy to live in. Team houses will open to the public free of charge **October 3-6 and October 10-13** from **11:00 a.m. – 7:00 p.m.**, and the overall winner will be announced on October 12 at 10:00 a.m.

Visit our [online press room](#) and download our [online media kit](#). For full event information, shuttle options, current standings, high-resolution photos, videos, an event schedule and daily results, visit www.SolarDecathlon.gov. You may also follow the competition in real time on Facebook at [Facebook.com/DOESolarDecathlon](https://www.facebook.com/DOESolarDecathlon) and Twitter at [@SolarDecathlon](https://twitter.com/SolarDecathlon). Photos are also available on Flickr at http://www.flickr.com/photos/solar_decathlon/.

For the first time, the Solar Decathlon will be hosted alongside XPO, a clean, renewable and efficient energy exposition, featuring visionary and innovative companies, products, and educational opportunities, organized by the City of Irvine and Orange County Great Park. Through fun, interactive exhibits and activities, the XPO will provide visitors with information about the broad spectrum of energy efficiency in home design, transportation, consumer products, food production and education. Visitors will experience a 21st century festival of creativity, technology, design, and educational experiences that will inspire children and adults alike. Learn more at www.The-XPO.org.

More about the Solar Decathlon

The competition shows consumers how to save money and energy with affordable clean energy products that are available today. The two-year projects will culminate in an unprecedented display of affordable green living and design on the Orange County Great Park in Irvine, California. The Solar Decathlon also provides participating students with hands-on experience and unique training that prepares them to enter our nation's clean energy workforce, supporting the Obama Administration's goal of transitioning to a clean energy economy, saving money for families and businesses.

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