



For Immediate Release

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Who: International Solar Decathlon Competition-
Team Texas (UTEP & EPCC)
What: Media Event for Groundbreaking on Solar Home
When: Wednesday, May 5, 10 a.m. (45 min duration)
Where: UTEP Engineering Building Patio

Students prepare to break ground in global Solar Competition
ADAPT Solar Home to represent state of Texas

El Paso, Texas -- Team Texas, consisting of students from the University of Texas at El Paso and El Paso Community College, are preparing to start construction on their completely solar-powered home as part of the US Department of Energy Solar Decathlon. The home will be constructed in El Paso, broken into three modules and then transported to Irvine, California for the October 2013 competition. The team is hosting a media event Wednesday, June 5 2013, 10 am at the UTEP Engineering Building Patio to celebrate the groundbreaking on the innovative project.

The combined team of UTEP and EPCC represent the only team from Texas and the only community college involved in the event. Students have been working with community partners for months, focusing on designing and drafting a home that represents the region and the cutting-edge developments in sustainable building practices. The house, dubbed the ADAPT home, will demonstrate the culture of the Southwest while showing the possibilities of a region that annually receives more than 200 days of direct sunlight.

The biennial competition invites competitors from around the world to compete in developing an innovative solar home for under \$250,000. The homes will also be judged on architecture, comfort, market appeal and community involvement leading up to the event. Competitor teams include University of New Mexico, Stanford University, University of Southern California, Team Tidewater Virginia (Hampton and Old Dominion University), Vienna University of Technology, University of Calgary (Alberta) and the Czech Technical University.

The team, consisting of almost 70 members, is a cross-section of education in El Paso with representatives from Electrical/Mechanical Engineering, Construction Management, Communications, Accounting, Literature, Graphic Design and the Arts. The competition is an exercise in interdisciplinary methodologies bringing together the best of what each major can offer.

The first phase of construction is anticipated to begin in early June. The home will be built on a UTEP property near the airport then reassembled on campus. The home will then be split into sections and transported to the Orange County Great Park in Irvine, California. More than 100,000 people are expected to attend the competition and sustainability expo from October 3 – 13, 2013.

The initial construction phase is funded primary through a generous contribution from El Paso Electric Company, however additional resources are necessary to ensure the completion and transportation of the home and team. Team Texas is seeking community partners to assist in capital development, community awareness, and project funding.

For more information about the team or to get involved, please visit <http://solardecathlon.utep.edu/>.