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Press Release

Sapienza University at the Solar Decathlon Middle East 2018

Sapienza University of Rome joins the **restrict international group of 22 Athenaeums** that will be competing for two years at the **Solar Decathlon Middle East 2018 in Dubai** with the purpose of designing and building the best full-scale prototype of a **sustainable and energy self-sufficient house**.

The announcement was officially made during the opening ceremony of the **World Green Economy Summit 2016** that is held every year in Dubai, at the presence, among others, of the UAE Minister of Climate Change, the United Nations Development Program Administrator, the International Renewable Energy Agency Executive Director, and the Consul general of Italy in Dubai.

Created at the initiative of the US Department of Energy in 2002, the *Solar Decathlon* is a two-year international competition on architecture, design and engineering, aiming to develop innovation and knowledge and research sharing in the field of renewable energy and sustainable architecture. The challenge thrown to the worldwide Universities is to design and build – in an academic context, and for a period of two years – a prototype of a 100 square meters house with the sun as the only energy source, and to test its efficiency and environmental quality for a period of one month in a specifically dedicated site.

The **Solar Decathlon Middle East 2018** edition, organized by Dubai Water and Electricity Authority (DEWA) in collaboration with the US Department of Energy (DOE), is the **first edition of this important inter-university competition to be held in the Middle East** and will have as a further challenge for the competing teams the confrontation with the local hard climate conditions characterized by extremely high temperature and humidity values.

The 22 competing university Teams, coming from 16 different countries of the world, were selected by an international jury within a shortlist of over 60 applications after a strict technical review process lasted over 3 months.

The project of **Team Sapienza**, lead by the **Faculty of Architecture**, aims to show, with the support of sponsors and patronages of excellence, the most advanced technologies for the design and construction of a sustainable house able to respond to the demand of efficiency, functionality, comfort and affordability of the 21st century architecture: **a smart, sustainable and completely autonomous house, that will focus on “shape, envelope, systems and people”**.

Sapienza's house prototype will be built **in Italy at the CEFME-CTP Center in Pomezia (RM) starting from November 2016 to be then, in October 2018, transported to Dubai** in the competition site where, fully functioning, will be open to the public and evaluated by an



international jury on the basis of 10 contests: architecture quality, construction system, energy efficiency, internal comfort, functionality of devices, electric mobility integration, environmental sustainability, use of vegetation, technological innovation and communication effectiveness.

The participation to the Solar Decathlon will offer to Sapienza students, protagonists of the competition, a unique opportunity of learning through the application of different theoretical concepts on a concrete case study, in an international context. During the two years of the construction phase, Team Sapienza's Solar Decathlon project will be a permanent laboratory for the education and training on sustainable architecture, renewable energy sources integration in buildings, as well as the most innovative automation systems for the management of systems and house devices.