

MCN's determination for the fulfillment of its mission to build the future with projects that preserve and empower its community and the firm belief of its team members in sustainable construction made it an easy sell when it was approached by the Universidad Politecnica de Madrid (UPM) about sponsoring their participation in the 2007 Solar Decathlon on the National Mall in Washington DC. The Solar Decathlon is a competition organized by the Department of Energy (DOE) where twenty teams from colleges and universities from around the world showcase cutting edge solar technology incorporated in the design, building and operation of a self sustainable energy-efficient home.

Through an elaborate solar photovoltaic capitation system and a thermal solar capitation system using vacuum tubes, the house will be able to generate all domestic hot water, supply domestic appliances, heating (through a solar chimney effect created by complex induced convection and through ventilation within the house), and cooling while taking into consideration esthetic appeal and the comfort of the end user.

To learn more about the project, please visit the dedicated UPM "Casa Solar" website at <http://www.solardecathlon.upm.es/>.

The participating teams will compete in ten total contests covering architecture, engineering, market viability, communications, comfort zone, appliances, hot water, lighting, energy balance, and getting around.

To learn more about the competition, please visit the Department of Energy Solar Decathlon dedicated website at <http://www.solardecathlon.org/>.

MCN's team members are very excited to be part of this unique project and are working around the clock to help get the *Casa Solar* ready for the opening ceremony on Friday, October the 12th!

The whole week of the decathlon will witness fascinating workshops in addition to open tours of the twenty houses and a building industry day. Please refer to the attached file for a detailed daily event schedule.

We hope you will join us on the National Mall!