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## City Tech Team to Compete in 2015 Solar Energy Decathlon

Brooklyn, NY – March 5, 2014 – New York City College of Technology students have been selected as one of 20 teams worldwide to compete in the U.S. Department of Energy's 2015 Solar Energy Decathlon. The teams now begin a two-year process to build solar-powered, highly energy-efficient houses that combine affordability, innovation and design excellence. The teams will design, construct and test their houses before reassembling them in fall 2015 at the competition site at the Orange County Great Park in Irvine, California.

The only team from New York City, the City Tech team will compete with those from Yale University, California State University/Sacramento, Oregon Institute of Technology, Stanford University, SUNY, University of Florida, National University of Singapore, The University of Texas/ Austin, Technische Universitaet Muenchen, University of California/Davis, University of California/Irvine, Vanderbilt University, West Virginia University and University of Roma Tor Vergata.

“The Solar Decathlon can be a positive, life-changing experience for participating students,” said Solar Decathlon Director Richard King. “In addition to developing leadership, team spirit and problem-solving skills, this competition bridges formal education with hands-on experience that helps decathletes excel once they enter the workforce.”

The faculty leader of the City Tech team is Assistant Professor Alexander Aptekar, Department of Architectural Technology. Aptekar's work in the field includes commercial and residential development projects, locally and in Europe. Recently he worked with other colleges to develop a new language of architecture that facilitates collaborative study. Such studies are designed to create a new way of learning by using architecture to create environments that support spontaneous and planned collaboration into the architecture of their new and existing buildings.

To view complete details on the competition and competitors, visit <http://www.solardecathlon.gov/index.html>.

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