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100

RESILIENT

CITIES

VAN
ALEN
INSTITUTE

AECOM

URBANSOS

ALL
SYSTEMS
GO ▶

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URBAN SOS: **ALL SYSTEMS GO**

A global open ideas competition
co-hosted by AECOM, Van Alen
Institute, and 100 Resilient Cities
– Pioneered by the Rockefeller
Foundation

/01 OVERVIEW

Urban SOS: All Systems Go calls on multidisciplinary teams of students to envision more resilient food, water, and energy systems for supplying cities and regions today and in the future.

Across the world, this critical infrastructure is increasingly at risk due to extreme weather, the impacts of climate change, and social and economic strife. In New York City, for example, if storms or a labor dispute were to disable the food distribution hub at Hunts Point for any significant length of time, 22 million people throughout the region would be left with less than three days' worth of food. Despite the importance and vulnerability of these systems, they are rarely prioritized as part of a city's overall resilience, in part because they are largely invisible: Too often we don't pay attention to our pipelines, power grids, and food supply chains until they fail.

Urban SOS: All Systems Go challenges student teams to identify an urban population facing the possibility of disruption to its food, energy, or water systems, and offer strategies that strengthen these systems' ability to withstand future shocks or stresses, while also making them more efficient, equitable, and accessible to diverse populations. Proposals must be located in one of 67 cities that currently make up the 100 Resilient Cities network. (See www.100resilientcities.org/cities for a full list.)

Three short-listed teams will be invited to present their proposals before an interdisciplinary panel at the A+D Museum in Los Angeles in October 2015. *Urban SOS: All Systems Go* jurors will award US\$15,000 in prizes, which may be divided among one or more teams. In addition, AECOM will make available up to US\$25,000 of cash and in-kind staff time to support the implementation of a prototype of the winning team's strategies.



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SYSTEMS AT RISK

If New York City's food distribution hub is disabled, 22 million people throughout the region will be left with less than three days' worth of food.

RESILIENT CITIES



ACCRA
GHANA

AMMAN
JORDAN

ARUSHA
TANZANIA

ASHKELON
ISRAEL

ATHENS
GREECE

BANGALORE
INDIA

BANGKOK
THAILAND

BARCELONA
SPAIN

BELGRADE
SERBIA

BERKELEY
UNITED STATES

BOSTON
UNITED STATES

BOULDER
UNITED STATES

BRISTOL
UNITED KINGDOM

BYBLOS
LEBANON

CALI
COLOMBIA

CHENNAI
INDIA

CHICAGO
UNITED STATES

CHRISTCHURCH
NEW ZEALAND

DA NANG
VIETNAM

DAKAR
SENEGAL

DALLAS
UNITED STATES

DEYANG
CHINA

DURBAN
SOUTH AFRICA

EL PASO
UNITED STATES

ENUGU
NIGERIA

GLASGOW
UNITED KINGDOM

HUANGSHI
CHINA

JACKSONVILLE
UNITED STATES

JUAREZ
MEXICO

KIGALI
RWANDA

LISBON
PORTUGAL

LONDON
UNITED KINGDOM

LOS ANGELES
UNITED STATES

MANDALAY
MYANMAR

MEDELLIN
COLOMBIA

MELBOURNE
AUSTRALIA

MEXICO CITY
MEXICO

MILAN
ITALY

MONTREAL
CANADA

NEW ORLEANS
UNITED STATES

NEW YORK CITY
UNITED STATES

NORFOLK
UNITED STATES

OAKLAND
UNITED STATES

PARIS
FRANCE

PHNOM PENH
CAMBODIA

PITTSBURGH
UNITED STATES

PORTO ALEGRE
BRAZIL

QUITO
ECUADOR

RAMALLAH
WEST BANK

RIO DE JANEIRO
BRAZIL

ROME
ITALY

ROTTERDAM
THE NETHERLANDS

SAN FRANCISCO
UNITED STATES

SAN JUAN
PUERTO RICO, UNITED STATES

SANTA FE
ARGENTINA

**SANTIAGO DE LOS
CABALLEROS**
DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

**SANTIAGO,
METRO AREA**
CHILE

SEMARANG
INDONESIA

SINGAPORE
SINGAPORE

ST. LOUIS
UNITED STATES

SURAT
INDIA

SYDNEY
AUSTRALIA

THESSALONIKI
GREECE

TOYAMA
JAPAN

TULSA
UNITED STATES

VEJLE
DENMARK

WELLINGTON CITY
NEW ZEALAND

/02

PROCESS

In order to encourage truly interdisciplinary work that challenges conventional thinking, *Urban SOS: All Systems Go* asks teams to define the questions and problems they will address, pick a site or sites, and propose solutions at any scale. For instance, teams can address a single building, a neighborhood, or a landscape; they can look at a stage along a supply chain or an aspect of an infrastructure system. Proposals may range from planning frameworks to small-scale physical or social interventions, a landscape strategy, or a single piece of architecture. This open-ended approach requires that teams be specific, strategic, and clear about their objectives and proposed outcomes. At the same time, they shouldn't force their proposals to solve everything.

In particular teams must accomplish the following as part of their proposals:

- **Frame and visualize the problem:** In accessible and compelling graphics and text, describe how the selected systems work, highlighting key problems and their consequences, as well as opportunities for intervention. In particular, teams should identify how the selected system's failure can trigger other systems to fail as well.
- **Think strategically to maximize impact:** The complexity and urgency of strengthening these systems demands high-impact solutions — surgical or small-scale interventions should be replicable, while large-scale thinking must be strategic and consider real-world constraints.
- **Develop implementable prototypes:** Teams must present at least one element or prototype of their proposal that could be realized in the next 12 months.

Teams must also identify at least one local entity working on similar issues that could benefit from collaboration with the team, inform the team's work, and be in a position to further develop or implement the team's prototype. Potential partners could be but are not limited to government agencies; humanitarian, charity, or relief organizations; local community organization or non-profit advocacy organizations; or public institutions such as a school, hospital, or similar entity. AECOM will donate up to US\$25,000 of cash and in-kind staff time to a partner organization for implementation of the winning team's prototype.



BedZed eco-village in London
Photo: BioRegional/CC by 2.0

/03

EVALUATION CRITERIA

Responses will be judged by a jury of leading practitioners from design, engineering and other relevant professions based on these criteria:

- It communicates key existing conditions of the chosen site, system, and city in a clear and engaging way, and shows how the proposal will achieve its stated goals.
- It demonstrates interdisciplinary thinking and collaboration between sectors.
- It resourcefully addresses real-world constraints.
- It improves the performance of the selected system, reducing inefficiency, increasing its reach, or otherwise improving the wellbeing of people it serves, both in crises and on an everyday basis.
- It provides additional, ancillary benefits to the community, town, or city in which the system is situated. These could include additional employment opportunities, better environmental outcomes, etc.
- It includes research on local leadership and institutional networks, and on existing initiatives from businesses, philanthropic entities, and government agencies.



**Agricultural fields in the
San Francisco Bay Delta**
Conservation plan by AECOM
Photo by David Lloyd/AECOM

/04

ENGAGEMENT

In their proposals, teams are strongly encouraged to partner with a local organization working on similar issues that could benefit from collaboration with the team, inform the team's work, and be in a position to further develop or implement the team's prototype. AECOM approved partner will receive a donation of up to US\$25,000 of cash and in-kind staff time from AECOM for this work. Partnership scenarios could be, but are not limited to:

- A government agency
- A humanitarian, charity, or relief organization
- A local community organization or non-profit advocacy organization
- A public institution such as a school, hospital, or similar entity



Itaipu Dam servicing Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Photo: DeniWilliams/CC by 2.0

/05

ELIGIBILITY

The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students at all levels of higher education around the world. Entrants must be enrolled at an accredited institution in a certified program during the 2015 academic year at Bachelors, Masters, or Ph.D. levels.

Submissions must come from multidisciplinary teams of up to four members; individuals may not participate alone. Students from the design fields (Architecture, Landscape Architecture, Urban Design, Urban Planning) who form teams must include members from at least one other discipline outside of their own, including anthropology, sociology, cultural studies, international development, sustainable economics, engineering, ecology, natural resource science, food policy, and other relevant fields.

Site selection is open to any of the 67 cities identified within the 100 Resilient Cities network. They may be at the center of one of these cities or at its fringes. Sites must be geographically identified with a Google Earth or Google Maps reference.

A complete list of the current cities participating in 100 Resilient Cities Challenge can be found **[here](#)**.



Newtown Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant
New York
Photo: VictoriaBelanger/CC by 2.0

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SCHEDULE

June 21, 2015

Pre-registration of interest
deadline at:
aecom.com/urbansos

August 21, 2015

Final submission deadline at:
aecom.com/urbansos

September 17, 2015

Announcement of finalist teams

October 15, 2015

Presentation and critique of
semifinalists' submissions at the
A+ D Museum in Los Angeles and
announcement of the winning team



**Wind turbines at Queen Elizabeth
Olympic Park Stratford, London**
Masterplanning and urban design by AECOM
Photo: NateshRamasamy/CC by 2.0

/07 ABOUT

All Systems Go is the sixth student design competition in AECOM's Urban SOS program. Urban SOS was created to engage students in urban planning and design, architecture, landscape architecture, economics, environmental studies, and engineering with the issues confronting modern cities and allowing them to propose solutions that, if worthy, will be seen by established professionals in their field.

This year, the program is presented in concert with the Van Alen Institute and 100 Resilient Cities –Pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation. 100 Resilient Cities was created to help cities become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. It was launched in 2013 on the foundation's centennial anniversary, as a \$100M+ commitment to build urban resilience. More about 100 Resilient Cities, its interventions and methodologies can be found [**here**](#).

Van Alen Institute brings 120 years of experience organizing design competitions, as well as developing cross-disciplinary research and provocative public programs. Van Alen Institute collaborates with communities, scholars, policymakers, and professionals on local and global initiatives that rigorously investigate the most pressing social, cultural, and ecological challenges of tomorrow.



Lapa, Aquaduct van Carioca
Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
Photo: hansanting/CC by 2.0

/08

COMPETITION

TERMS

Registration

All registration takes place on a dedicated website: aecom.com/urbansos

Registration requires submission of an online form, which includes identification of team members, site selection, and rationale and submission of a site plan. Full details can be found in the “How” section of this document.

Entry fee

There is no entry fee for entering AECOM’s student competition.

Eligibility

The competition is open to undergraduate and graduate students at all levels of higher education around the world. Entrants must be enrolled in a certified program during the Fall Term/Semester of the 2015-2016 academic year. Submissions must be from teams of 2-4 members. Individuals may not apply on their own.

Schedule

See above

Submission requirements

All applicants must pre-register their interest at aecom.com/urbansos by leaving a contact e-mail address. They may do so at any time until the competition deadline of August 21, 2015, but must do so before submitting their final entry. Pre-registration ensures that you receive all relevant updates. Therefore, it is recommended that you register your interest before June 21, 2015.

Final submission is due by midnight EDT on August 21, 2015; entrants must submit:

- A brief description (100-250 words) of their proposal. This statement must clearly identify the name of the city and the challenges and solutions that address the competition theme.
- The name(s) and contact information of the team members.
- Site coordinates (via Google Earth) of the location, or an address that is searchable on Google Maps.
- A PDF slide presentation of up to 10 slides. These must include images and/or text. There is no word limit but font size must be legible when printed at A4 paper size.
- All responses must be in English, with any measurements provided in metric units.
- Optional: Student teams are not required to identify a charitable, humanitarian, relief, government, or non-profit partner group, but if they have one pre-identified they may specify one. If identified, this organization should be clearly stated in the brief description or PDF slide presentation accompanying the proposal.

Entrants are encouraged to focus their submissions on clear, concise communication emphasizing main ideas, key points and visible design

solutions. Students may include photographs, diagrams, drawings, renderings, collages or other visualizations to express their solution.

Slide presentations must be in Adobe Acrobat PDF format. Each file must be no larger than 5MB. They must be A4 paper size and landscape orientation.

Submissions must be uploaded using the submission link on aecom.com/urbansos by midnight EDT on August 21, 2015. Entrants will receive a confirmation that the files have been uploaded. (Please retain confirmation for reference.)

Failure to comply with any of these submission requirements will result in immediate disqualification.

Judging

The three final teams will be selected by a judging panel comprised of AECOM design and engineering professionals from offices around the globe. The three finalist teams will be invited to present their work to a jury at the A+D Museum on October 15, 2015; the jury will announce the winning team at the event.

The jury at the A+D event will include:

Claire Bonham-Carter

Vice President, Design + Planning, AECOM

Stephen Engblom, AssocAIA,

Senior Vice President, Cities, AECOM

David van der Leer

Executive Director, Van Alen Institute

Bryna Lipper

Vice President, 100 Resilient Cities
– Pioneered by the Rockefeller
Foundation

Mimi Zeiger

Co-president, Los Angeles Forum for
Architecture and Urban Design

The jury will be chaired by**Bill Hanway, AIA**

Executive Vice President, Global
Architecture, AECOM

Notification

All entrants will be notified by e-mail
by September 17, 2015 when the
three finalist teams are announced.
The three finalist teams will be given
approximately one month to develop
their proposals further. The winning
team will be announced at the event at
the Center for Architecture on
October 15, 2015.

Winner and prizes

Each of the three semi-finalist
teams will receive an honorarium to
contribute to travel expenses related
to visiting Los Angeles to present the
team's submission. These honoraria
are to contribute to expenses related
to attendance and presentation at
the A+D Museum only and cannot be
exchanged for other prizes. No other
costs or fees will be covered by AECOM
or the sponsors.

The winning team (or teams) will
receive a cash prize. The total prize
money is valued at US\$15,000, which
may be divided among one or more
winning teams.

Up to US\$25,000 of combination of
cash and in-kind staff time will be
donated by AECOM to a charitable or
humanitarian organization or related
agency to help further develop the
winning proposal. Decisions made by
the jury shall be final.

Number of entries

Individuals may participate on only one
team. Each team is permitted to enter
only one submission.

Publication restrictions

Entrants may not refer to projects that
have already been implemented or that
have been designed on the basis of any
agreement entered into by the entrant
or entrants with a public, public/private
or fully private body with the intention
of actual development of the project
in question. Similarly, entries may not
refer to projects published before the
last day of the deliberations of the
judging panel.

**Infringement of copyright and other
intellectual property**

All work submitted for the competition
must be the entrant's original work.
It is the entrant's sole responsibility
to ensure that the work submitted
does not infringe upon the intellectual
property rights of any third party,
including, but not limited to copyright,
trademark and design right. AECOM
shall not be responsible for entrant's
infringement of any third party
intellectual property rights, regardless
of whether said infringement was
known or should have been known
by entrant.

Use of submitted works

Entrant agrees that AECOM and
competition sponsors are granted the
non-exclusive reproduction rights to
all entries for AECOM's advertising,
promotion, exhibition, print publication
and internet purposes directly relating
to the competition. AECOM shall have
no responsibility for any unauthorized
use of the entrant's works by any third
party, including but not limited to the
sponsors.

AECOM reserves the right to cancel the
competition or amend the competition
rules, as well as these terms and
conditions, without notice. However, any
changes to the competition rules, as
well as these terms, AECOM shall notify
the entrants as soon as possible.

By entering this competition an entrant
is indicating his/her agreement to be
bound by these terms and conditions.

This competition shall be governed
in all respects, including validity,
interpretation and effect by the laws of
the State of California without giving
effect to the conflict of laws principles.

All taxes on any prize won are the sole
responsibility of each winner, including,
without limitation, any federal, state,
or local taxes, which may be deemed
applicable in such winner's jurisdiction
of residence.

Further information and questions:

All information required can be found on
aecom.com/urbansos

If you have questions, please contact
AECOM at aidan.flaherty@aecom.com

