

For Immediate Release

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Solar Decathlon Winner and Two Additional Homes Feature Uponor PEX Plumbing Systems

On Oct. 3, the U.S. Department of Energy announced the winner of the 2011 Solar Decathlon competition, which awards collegiate teams for designing, building and operating the most cost-effective, energy-efficient and functional solar-powered homes. The University of Maryland's WaterShed house, which features an Uponor PEX plumbing system, came out on top with a total of 951.151 points out of 1,000.

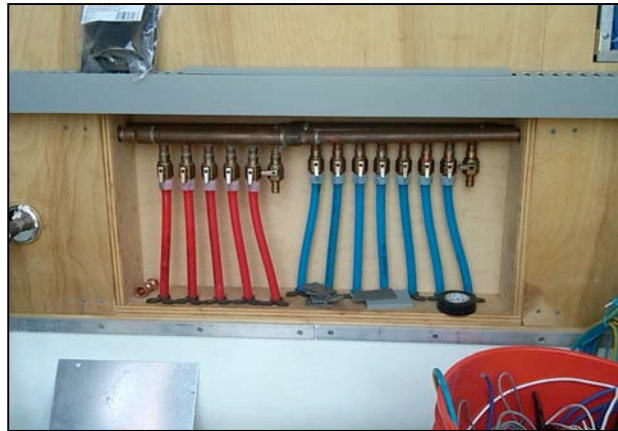


The winner of the 2011 Solar Decathlon, the University of Maryland's WaterShed House, features an Uponor crosslinked polyethylene (PEX) plumbing system.

Two other Solar Decathlon homes also featured Uponor: sixth-place Southern California Institute of Architecture (SCI-Arc) and California Institute of Technology (Caltech) team, and ninth-place Team Massachusetts, which included Massachusetts College of Art and Design and the University of

Massachusetts at Lowell. Both homes featured Uponor for the plumbing and the fire suppression systems.

Dick Rhodes, sales manager at Taze & Hewitt, helped coordinate the plumbing product donation from Uponor for the University of Maryland WaterShed house.



The University of Maryland WaterShed house features red and blue Uponor AquaPEX® tubing and ProPEX® fittings for the hot and cold potable plumbing system.

“To be part of a great effort to increase the awareness of solar energy is very important to us,” says Rhodes. “I was very impressed by the students’ involvement in the design and construction of the project. They all took great pride in their work and that’s great to see.”

Uponor manufacturer representative Urell, Inc. and distributor The Granite Group helped to coordinate the Uponor donation for the University of Massachusetts house. The California team received their product directly from Uponor.

“It was nice to see so many other manufacturers, distributors and contractors in our area who donated their time and materials,” says Rhodes. “Ferguson was a great contributor, and a local plumbing and heating contractor, Fred Werth of Kensington Plumbing and Heating, volunteered a lot of his personal time to assisting the Maryland team as well.”

Uponor, Inc. is a leading supplier of plumbing, fire safety and radiant heating and cooling systems for the residential and commercial building markets in the United States. Uponor, Inc. employs 380 people at its North American headquarters in Apple Valley, Minn. For more information, visit www.uponor-usa.com or call (800) 321-4739.

For more information about Uponor, visit the Uponor media room at <http://uponor.oreilly-depalma.com/>

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Hi-res versions of a photograph to accompany this release are available for immediate download in .tif format by using this link:

<http://uponor.oreilly-depalma.com/2011/solar-decathlon.shtml>

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