

## Press Release from Biberach University of Applied Sciences

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### *Student competition*

### **SDE21 moved: HBC team sees opportunities for increased interdisciplinary cooperation**

The Solar Decathlon Europe 21 competition in Wuppertal is postponed. This is the organization team's reaction to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The main event of the international university competition was originally scheduled for September 2021. The University of Applied Sciences Biberach (HBC) will also take part in the competition with its X4S (Extension for Sustainability) team.

As announced by the German organization team, the decision was made in close coordination with the participating teams and the cooperation partners. "A major event with 18 teams from eleven countries and a high visitor turnout would possibly encounter more difficult conditions in 2021. What forces us to postpone the event, however, is above all the fact that the teams are currently severely impaired in their work". The quantity and quality of the entries would be in question at the originally planned date, reports project manager Dr. Daniel Lorberg.

"The schedule of SDE21 is tight. In just under two years, the teams have to design entire buildings and construct a residential unit from them in Wuppertal", emphasizes Dr.-Ing. Katharina Simon, Project Director for Architecture and Urban Innovation: "The postponement and the time buffer gained as a result continue to guarantee fair competitive conditions". The scientific research accompanying the Solar Decathlon Europe 21 is also currently not feasible due to Corona. "SDE21 is not about putting up any houses on the site with difficulty, but about finding real answers for the city of the future. This is exactly what we are creating the conditions for with the shift," Lorberg sums it up. "We are looking forward to a great event in the summer of 2022, which is all about sustainable living and living in the city of tomorrow. Especially in times like these, feasible, innovative solutions for existing challenges are in demand," concludes Simon.

The project managers at Biberach University of Applied Sciences - Professor Andreas Gerber (Dean of Energy Engineering) and Lena Frühschütz from the Institute for Building and Energy Systems also see the postponement as an opportunity: "The project extension gives us the opportunity to work more intensively on some topics and, above all, to strengthen interdisciplinary cooperation". The Biberach team is composed of students, professors and staff from all fields of construction studies, such as energy and civil engineering, project management and architecture. The team's goal is to contribute to the smart and sustainable addition of a new building to the existing urban stock in order to reconcile the need for living space with the challenge of climate protection. The 73-member group is currently working on the tasks of structural analysis and building design.

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