



## INTERNATIONAL ONLINE COMPETITION SOLAR PARK SOUTH

COMPETIZIONE INTERNAZIONALE ONLINE  
PARCO SOLARE SUD

### Rules

#### 1. COMPETITION PROMOTER AND SECRETARIAT

**Regione Calabria - Town Planning and Territorial Governance Department**

Viale Isonzo, 414, 88100-Catanzaro

Competition Organization: Parco Solare Sud Technical Committee- Town Planning and Territorial Governance Department - Regione Calabria

In collaboration with and employing the technologies of Newitalianblood.com

**Website:** [www.parcosolaesud.it](http://www.parcosolaesud.it)

**Secretariat:** [info@parcosolaesud.it](mailto:info@parcosolaesud.it)

#### 2. OBJECT, GOALS AND CONTEXT

The municipalities of Scilla and Bagnara are crossed by some ten kilometres of Italy's *Autostrada del Sole* (A3 Salerno - Reggio Calabria Highway), constructed, for the most part, in the 1960s and '70s and featuring numerous imposing and, for their time, audacious infrastructures (viaducts and tunnels). This stretch of highway is set to be decommissioned following the construction of a new highway, composed largely of tunnels, designed to ensure the functional modernization and safety of this route. The new section of highway also incorporates the controversial plan for the Strait of Messina Bridge.

Thanks to a series of elegant viaducts designed by Nervi, Zorzi and Morandi, particular sections of the original route offer impressive views of the terraced, and in many cases, virgin rural landscape to one side, and of the sea, the Calabrian coast, the Strait of Messina, Sicily and the Aeolian Islands on the other.

The objective of the "Solar Park South" international competition is to stimulate concrete ideas and revolutionary proposals for the reuse of the soon to be decommissioned highway sections between Scilla and Bagnara. Participants are invited to develop their ideas-projects starting from the basic proposal to:

- Dedicate one carriageway (south-north) to the creation of a space for testing the production of energy using renewable sources, the search for and successive application of new sustainable technologies, and the implementation of measures focused on integrating the Park within the surrounding territory through the upgrading, fruition and valorisation of landscape;
- Reuse the other carriageway (north-south) as an alternative to the National Highway n. 18, which is both obsolete and fragile, in order to ensure better connections between Scilla and Bagnara, and between the latter communities and the surrounding mountainous and rural territory, as strongly requested by local inhabitants, through the reuse of the service roads and technical areas related to the construction of the new highway.

Rather than completely demolishing the old route, with its extraordinary reinforced concrete viaducts, now fully integrated within the landscape and the collective imagination, the reuse and re-development of certain by-passed sections is proposed as a means of boosting the production of renewable energy; experimenting with new eco-friendly technologies; favouring connections between villages and access to the valuable crops on mountain crests; and, finally, developing new forms of environmental and land art capable of stimulating responsible tourism. Instead of spending approximately 40 Million Euros (the estimated cost of environmental refurbishment) to demolish the decommissioned portions of the old highway, dispose of the debris and restore the existing



landscape, thanks to the creation of Solar Park South, the same money (or part of it) can be employed in productive investments.

The recently released images of Daniel Libeskind and Astaldi's preliminary technical study for the design of a large circular public space, with control services for the new bridge, coupled with commercial and leisure facilities, demonstrate a dangerous, yet fascinating beauty that dialogues, in a complex and sometimes conflicting manner, with the natural landscape. What is more, the proposed commercial approach is based essentially on a process of land consumption that is not aligned with the ecological sensibilities of local communities and their way of life.

Solar Park South adopts a conceptually opposite approach of environmental acupuncture, promoting the re-use of the existing before consuming new land, pursuing landscape integration, energy self-production and economic self-sustainability. By beginning with renewable energies, the idea is that of developing a new virtuous cycle founded on the green economy, capable of bringing research, experimentation, technologies, production, employment and tourism to the whole of Calabria.

Furthermore, considering that the financial and environmental cost of transforming the 10 km of decommissioned roadway will be considerably lower than that of its fruitless environmental refurbishment, the creation of the Park optimises public expenditure and brings value to the potentials of the landscape, energy production, agriculture, scientific research and manufacturing.

Participants are thus requested to provide innovative and original contributions for the creation, management and promotion of the Solar Park South in the section of the Salerno - Reggio Calabria highway between Scilla and Bagnara: approximately 10 km of decommissioned highway, with its large viaducts and tunnels, in a highly fascinating landscape overlooking Sicily and the sea.

Proposals must provide design and technological solutions for the Solar Park South in relation to the values of the local landscape and the application and enhancement of mature or experimental renewable energies. Proposals must be economically, energetically and culturally sustainable. The competition explores and further analyses applications in the field of alternative energies, promoting a strong social and mediatic message focused on the widespread diffusion of a culture of sustainability, aimed at demonstrating that energy habits and lifestyles can be changed to better confront pressing post-Kyoto<sup>1</sup> issues.

### 3. THE HISTORY OF SOLAR PARK SOUTH

**Since 1997**, works have been underway to modernize and extend the A3 Salerno-Reggio Calabria highway. The National Highway Authority's plan includes the demolition of the decommissioned portions between Scilla and Bagnara.

**On 24 February 2007**, the idea of Solar Park South was presented, with the intention of reusing the highway sections destined to be demolished, during the Open Space Technology event held in Reggio Calabria and promoted by the Regional Planning and Territorial Governance Department, within the framework of the *Paesaggi&Identità* Programme. This programme aims to inspire strategies and actions to upgrade the territory, rediscover Calabrian landscapes and confront its so-called 'eco-monsters'. In fact, the park can be used as a laboratory of study and research, as a site for the production of clean energy and for naturalist and environmental activities, implying both economic and environmental savings.

**On 6 May 2008**, the Regional Department acknowledged that the Solar Park South proposal was in line with its own governance programme, given its aims to preserve and upgrade the natural-environmental and historical heritage, of which the infrastructure itself is a part (town-territory-environment integration) - in compliance with the directives for landscape protection, that intend the Landscape as an integrated resource (cf. "European Landscape Convention"). The Department presented the "Solar Park South" project in Catanzaro to the primary subjects involved (Anas SpA - Italian Highway Authority; Calabrian Universities; Enea - Italian National Council for New Technology, Energy and the Environment; Enel - Italian National Electricity Board; Local Authorities and other regional departments dealing with related topics) and established a technical committee to commence the operational process.

**On 31 July 2008**, a technical coordination group was designated to steer the Technical Committee in the elaboration of the pre-feasibility study for the creation of the Solar Park South (The Solar Highway), including the constitution of specific working groups.

**On 28 December 2009**, following the hard work of the Technical Committee, the Town Planning and Territorial Governance Department of the Regione Calabria, the Province of Reggio Calabria, the Mediterranea University of Reggio Calabria and the municipalities concerned jointly signed a Memorandum of Understanding at the headquarters of the Provincial Government in Reggio Calabria. This Memorandum established the foundations of the Solar Park South proposal for an Energy Park to be built as an alternative to the integral demolition of the aforementioned sections of the Autostrada del Sole, since its construction is based on the re-use of the same sections.

<sup>1</sup> Climate change protocol signed in 1997 and due to expire in 2012.



**On 15 March 2010**, the Regional Government approved the priority thematic fields to allocate 38 million Euros for pilot/experimental projects directly controlled by the Region, within the resources available for the Intervention provided for by the Decree of the Regional Government n.11 dated 13/1/2010 and related to the Unitary Regional Planning 2007/2013 – Integrated Project of Strategic Regional Development “System of Regional Urban Areas” – Calabria Regional Operational Programme ERDF 2007/2013 – Specific Objective 8.1. Of these objectives, the “Solar Park South” Project is of particular importance.

**On 23 March 2010**, the international “Solar Park South” competition was announced. It was indicated as one of the operational tools of the Technical Committee in the search for innovative proposals and models of territorial organization for the rehabilitated highway sections, which follow an approach of eco-sustainable development and apply mature and/or experimental clean energy systems, technologies and facilities.

#### 4. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The competition will take place in a **single phase** and is open to **professionals and students from all over the world**. Professionals may be: architects, engineers, designers, urban planners, landscape architects, geologists, agronomists, botanists, artists, scientists, researchers, technologists, economists, sociologists, geographers, environmentalists, ecologists, societies of professionals or engineers, companies, etc. Students are intended as those who, as of the date of the announcement of the competition, have not yet graduated or who, during the year 2010, are enrolled in post-graduate courses, such as specialisation courses, master and PhD programmes, etc. Participants may be individuals or groups. In the latter case it is necessary to indicate a group representative. Interdisciplinary, multicultural and trans-national groups are encouraged. The ownership of the idea-project is recognised in equal measure to all members of groups. Each participant or group may develop and submit only one project. Participants may not belong to more than one group.

#### 5. EXCLUSIONS AND INCOMPATIBILITIES

The ideas-projects (images and texts) must be entirely **anonymous** and respect the technical specifications outlined in this document. Failure to respect this clause will result in the disqualification of the submission. The Jury may decide to exclude any participant based on the non-compliance of the materials submitted with these rules or after finding clear elements that may compromise the anonymity of the submission.

The following are not eligible to participate in the competition:

- those who have collaborated in the preparation of the competition;
- spouses, blood relations and similar of Jury members within the third degree;
- those with ongoing employment or business relationships with the Jury members.

#### 6. REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

Participants must complete the **free online registration procedure by 10:00 AM of 15 July 2010** filling in the online form available on the official competition website.

Following the correct completion of the registration procedure, the system will automatically forward each member of the group an email with the User Id and Password, which must be used for the online submission of proposals.

No other form of registration is allowed and it is not possible to modify completed registrations, or to eliminate or add members of the groups.

#### 7. FAQ

Participants may ask questions about the rules and the object of the competition by sending an email to the secretariat: [info@parcosolaesud.it](mailto:info@parcosolaesud.it). All questions must be received before **1<sup>st</sup> May 2010**. The secretariat will publish a summary of the questions and their answers on the website [www.parcosolaesud.it](http://www.parcosolaesud.it) no later than **15 May 2010**.

#### 8. REQUIRED MATERIAL AND SUBMISSION PROCEDURE

Participants must submit **2 images** (which may include different drawings) of the idea-project in .jpg format (dimensions: 945x450 pixels, maximum size: 200 kb each) and a **descriptive text** in English (maximum length: 2,000 characters, spaces included).

The material must be submitted by participants through a self-publication in 2 successive online “pages”, according to simple guided procedures accessible to anyone with a minimum knowledge of Internet and email.

Images and texts must clearly outline the concept, strategy, design, technology and costs necessary for the understanding of the ideas-projects.



- **The first “page”** must contain:
  - a) A jpg-format image (dimensions: 945x450 pixels, maximum size: 200 kb) including at least one three-dimensional image of the entire idea-project (rendering, photomontages, photographs of models, perspectives and drawings are allowed);
  - b) A text in English, of a maximum length of 1,000 characters (spaces included), describing the general concept and the ambition of the idea-project.
- **The second “page”** must contain:
  - a) A jpg-format image (dimensions: 945x450 pixels, maximum size: 200 kb) including at least one three-dimensional close view of the idea-project and a significant detail (rendering, photomontages, photographs of models, perspectives and drawings are allowed);
  - b) A text in English, of a maximum length of 1,000 characters (spaces included), indicating the main technical and technological characteristics, as well as the provisional cost of the idea-project.

Following the successful completion of the self-publication of both “pages”, the system will automatically forward the members of the group a confirmation email with the complete submitted pdf-format file (images and texts) attached.

Participants may substitute previously transmitted projects. The Jury will evaluate only the last project received.

No other form of submission of projects is allowed.

For the self-publication of the images and texts it is sufficient to have access to an Internet connection and a browser, such as Mozilla Firefox (version 2.0 or later for PC Windows or MAC OS X) or Internet Explorer (version 6.0 or later for PC Windows only, no MAC) or Safari (version 3.0 or later for MAC OS X).

The self-publication procedure will be active on the competition website from **10:00 AM of 15 July 2010 to 10:00 AM of 30 July 2010 (Italian time), time limit for completing procedures and, therefore, for participating in the competition.**

Given the considerable amount of time available to competitors for the activation of the aforementioned procedures and the adoption of technical actions that are ordinarily suitable and sufficient, the competition promoter declines all responsibility for failure to access the system and/or failure to activate the online procedures within the fixed time limit, which may result from technical difficulties faced by participants and/or deriving from the system and are beyond the organizer’s control. Examples of such difficulties may be problems in connecting to the system, due to the participants’ use of systems that are unsuitable or inappropriately employed; temporary congestion of the Internet Network and/or of the connections to the online system; natural disasters or catastrophic events caused by human actions, which may affect the competition management system, etc.

## 9. ANONYMITY

The online system univocally and randomly associates an 8-digit numerical code to each self-published idea-project. Not even the author of the project will be made aware of this code. Only following the completion of the Jury’s assessments will the 8-digit codes be associated with the names of the authors. Participants are thus reminded that all texts and images submitted must not contain any references that may compromise their anonymity.

## 10. JURY

The Jury members are:

- 01 **Emilio Ambasz** - Architect and Designer, pioneer and theorist of “Green over Gray” > USA
- 02 **James Wines** / Site - Architect and Artist, pioneer and theorist of “Green Architecture” > USA
- 03 **Mario Cucinella** / Mca - Architect, expert in sustainability and renewable energies > ITA
- 04 **Jörg Schlaich** / Schlaich, Bergemann und Partners - Engineer, inventor of the solar tower > GER
- 05 **Patrick Blanc** - Botanist, inventor of vertical green walls > FRA
- 06 **Vicente Gualart** - Architect, Director and prof. Iaac Barcelona > ESP
- 07 **Hans-Rudolf Schalcher** - Engineer, prof. Eth Zurich, Holcim Found. Management Board > SVI
- 08 **Jana Revedin** - Architect, Curator of Global Award for Sustainable Architecture > AUT
- 09 **Sarah Ichioka** - Director of the Architecture Foundation London > UK
- 10 **Vedran Mimica** - Director of the Berlage Institute Rotterdam > NED
- 11 **Edo Ronchi** - Sociologist, Minister of the Environment 1996-2000, President of the Foundation Sviluppo Sostenibile > ITA
- 12 **Gianni Silvestrini** - Engineer, Scientific Director Kyoto Club, President of Exalto > ITA
- 13 **Ezio Terzini** - Director of Enea Research Centre Portici > ITA
- 14 **Tonino Perna** - Economist and Sociologist, President of the Aspromonte National Park 1999-2004 > ITA
- 15 **Rosaria Amantea** - Architect, Regional Executive of Town Planning and Territory Governance Department Region Calabria > ITA



Each Jury member will be provided with a package of individual votes. The number of available votes will be calculated as 25% of the valid idea-projects submitted. The algebraic sum of the votes of the single Jury members will determine the final classification. After the anonymous viewing of the ideas-projects, the Jury members may vote selecting the most interesting submissions and using the online system. In the event of ex-aequo, the Jury members will be asked to vote a second time by a simple majority.

### 11. GENERAL PRINCIPLES OF EVALUATION OF THE PROPOSALS

The Jury will evaluate the projects submitted according to the following general principles of sustainability:

- Aesthetic Quality
- Environmental Compatibility
- Economic-Environmental Synergies
- Innovation and Research
- Social Impact

### 12. AWARDS AND PRESENTATION IN THE PALACE OF THE REGIONAL COUNCIL

The competition promoter will assign a first prize of **20,000.00 Euros**, a second prize of **7,500.00 Euros** and a third prize of **2,500.00 Euros**. The top 3 projects and the 10 Honourable Mention winners will be invited to the presentation of the competition results, which will be held in the Calabria Regional Council Building as part of an international workshop-event focussed on sustainable development and on the use of renewable energies, linked to the upgrading, conversion and re-use of disused infrastructures and industrial sites with the purpose to positively impact on the territory.

All submitted projects will be published on the official website and the Internet portal

[www.newitalianblood.com/solarparksouth](http://www.newitalianblood.com/solarparksouth).

The authors of the winning projects (prize and Honourable Mention winners) must forward the Solar Park South Technical Committee a presentation of the proposal, composed of 10 UNI A4 horizontal pages, in .pdf format. At their discretion, the authors may attach further material for a better and complete presentation of the innovative idea (with technical calculations, indication of experimental development and/or industrial research of products, models, prototypes, etc ).

Following a further evaluation of the selected projects (including an analysis of technical and explanatory dossiers), the competition promoter will assign fellowships to those projects showing the greatest potential for development and concrete application. Furthermore, the selected groups will be invited to participate in the technical committees established by the Regione Calabria – Town Planning and Territorial Governance Department – supervised by the Technical Coordination Group responsible for the master plan and for Solar Park South’s strategic and economic guidelines.

### 13. RESULTS, PUBLICATIONS AND USE OF PERSONAL DATA

Following the completion of the Jury’s assessment, the secretariat will notify the winners via email and forward the final classification to all participants. The classification, with the images of the winning projects, will be forwarded to international magazines of town planning, architecture, design and landscape.

Registration for the competition authorises the use of the personal data supplied for purposes exclusively related to the phases inherent and consequent to the competition procedures.

### 14. COPYRIGHT WAIVER FOR ALL TEXTS, IMAGES AND DOSSIERS

By the online registration, participants **authorise** the competition promoter to use all of the submitted material (texts, images and dossiers) and declare that the material is not subject to any third- party claims. Participants will make every effort to indemnify the competition promoter in the event of disputes with third parties regarding publications and exhibitions, with specific reference to: catalogue, website, dossiers, brochures and any other use.

### 15. CALENDAR OVERVIEW

Competition announcement: **23 March 2010**

Opening date of registration: **April 2010**

Closing date of registration: **15 July 2010** (h 10:00 AM Italian time)

Opening date for the self-publication of ideas-projects: **15 July 2010** (h 10:00 AM Italian time)

Closing date for the self-publication of ideas-projects: **30 July 2010** (h 10:00 AM Italian time)

Jury’s evaluation: within **September 2010**

Prize-giving ceremony and workshop-event: Regional Council - Reggio Calabria: no later than **November 2010**

Arch. Antonio Dattilo  
*Project manager*

