SOLAR AGENTUR
Solar Agentur Schweiz
Agence Solaire Suisse
Swiss Solar Agency
Organisatorin Schweizer und Europäischer Solarpreis
Sonneggstrasse 29
CH-8006 Zürich
Tel.: +41 (0) 44 252 40 04
Fax: +41 (0) 44 252 52 19
info@solaragentur.ch
www.solaragentur.ch

SolarTalents 2026 – A Platform for the Next Generation of Solar Visionaries

With SolarTalents 2026, architecture, civil engineering, and related-discipline students from across Switzerland are invited to **present their visions for sustainable construction with a strong emphasis on the integration of solar energy**. As part of the Swiss Solar Prize framework, the competition aims to promote emerging talent, showcase innovative student perspectives on the energy transition, and enrich the solar discourse with forward-looking ideas.

Eligible participants - **individual students or teams enrolled at Swiss universities and Swiss universities of applied sciences** - are invited to submit an A1-format poster presenting a project related to topics such as sustainable construction, technological innovation in the building sector, solar architecture, energy efficiency, or energy-conscious planning and design.

All submissions that meet the competition criteria will be prominently exhibited during the 36th Swiss Solar Prize Award Ceremony, taking place in late October 2026. During the event, visitors will be able to view the projects on site and participate in a live audience vote. In parallel, an independent expert jury will assess the projects based on creativity, feasibility, and design quality.

The project with the highest overall score **will be awarded the SolarTalent 2026 title and celebrated on stage during the award ceremony**. The winner will receive an official certificate, a monetary prize of up to CHF 2,000, and extensive visibility through Solar Agentur Schweiz's communication channels, including social media, newsletters, and the following year's Swiss Solar Prize publication. In collaboration with the Solar Architecture team at SUPSI, an article featuring a short interview with the winner will also be published on solarchitecture.ch.

For participating students, SolarTalents 2026 offers a **unique opportunity to gain visibility in a prestigious professional context, receive recognition for innovative and sustainability-driven ideas, and connect with experts and potential employers within the energy and construction sectors**.

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SolarTalents 2026 – Competition Regulations

1. Purpose of the Competition

SolarTalents 2026 is a national student competition organized by Solar Agentur Schweiz. It aims to showcase and promote young talent in architecture and engineering by providing a platform to present innovative project ideas and visionary designs for sustainable construction. The competition emphasizes the integration of solar energy as a key element of holistic design, combining aesthetic quality, functional performance, and social acceptance.

The competition forms part of the Swiss Solar Prize ecosystem and contributes to raising awareness of young perspectives on the energy transition. SolarTalents 2026 theme is developed in collaboration with SUPSI and its international platform solarchitecture.ch, highlighting solar architecture and building-integrated solar solutions within the wider built environment.

2. Organising Body

The competition is organised and administered by:
Solar Agentur Schweiz SAS
Sonneggstrasse 29
CH-8006 Zurich
www.solaragentur.ch
info@solaragentur.ch

3. Eligibility

3.1 Bachelor's and Master's students currently enrolled at Swiss universities or Swiss universities of applied sciences are eligible to participate.

3.2 Fields of study include architecture, civil engineering, environmental engineering, or related disciplines.

3.3 Participation is open to individuals as well as teams.

3.4 Each participant or team may submit one project.

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4. Competition Theme – Solar Integration for the Built Environment

SolarTalents 2026, aligning the competition with innovation dynamics, professional practice and international discourse thanks to the joint collaboration of SAS and SUPSI, invites students to explore how solar energy can become an integral, expressive and transformative element of the built environment and infrastructures, rather than a purely technical add-on.

The competition focuses on solar integration as a driver of space quality, environmental performance and social acceptance, encouraging visions where photovoltaics actively contribute to the identity, functionality and cultural value of buildings, public spaces and infrastructures.

Submitted projects may address, individually or in combination, the following thematic directions:

- Solar architecture as design language: Integration of solar technologies as part of architectural form, materiality and spatial expression, enhancing beauty, identity and meaning in buildings and infrastructures.
- Performance-driven integration: Innovative solar solutions that improve energy performance, comfort, resilience and lifecycle efficiency of the built environment, including façades, roofs, envelopes and hybrid systems.
- Urban and infrastructural scale: Forward-looking visions for solar integration in cities, districts, public buildings, transport infrastructures and landscapes, addressing density, multifunctionality and collective use.
- Social acceptance and cultural integration: Design approaches that enhance public perception and acceptance of solar technologies through quality design, transparency, contextual sensitivity and user engagement.
- Innovative and systemic thinking: New concepts combining technology, architecture, engineering and planning to rethink how solar energy is embedded in construction processes and everyday environments.

Projects may range from conceptual visions to design-driven proposals, as long as they clearly articulate how solar energy is integrated into the built environment as a technical, architectural and societal asset.

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5. Submission Requirements

5.1 Submissions must consist of the following elements:

- An A1-format poster presenting and visualising the project
- A project title and a short-written project description (maximum 500 characters)
- Clear contextualisation of the project within an energy and/or sustainability framework
- Full name(s) of the participant(s) and the name of their university

5.2 Submissions must be provided in digital format (PDF and/or JPG).

5.3 Submissions may be written in English.

6. Submission Process

6.1 All submissions must be sent by email to **info@solaragentur.ch**.

6.2 The submission deadline is **30 September 2026**. Late submissions will not be considered.

6.3 Participants will receive a confirmation of receipt by email.

7. Exhibition of Projects

7.1 All submissions that meet the eligibility and submission requirements will be exhibited at the Swiss Solar Prize award ceremony.

7.2 The exhibition will take place during the 36th Swiss Solar Prize Award Ceremony in late October 2026 in Ticino.

8. Evaluation and Voting Procedure

8.1 The evaluation consists of two components:

- A live audience vote during the award ceremony
- An assessment by an independent expert jury

8.2 Jury evaluation criteria:

- Creativity
- Feasibility
- Design and presentation quality

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8.3 Weighting of the final score:

- 50% audience vote
- 50% jury evaluation

8.4 The project with the highest combined score will be awarded the title **SolarTalent 2026**.

9. Award and Prize

9.1 The winner of SolarTalents 2026 will receive:

- An official certificate titled “SolarTalent 2026”
- The opportunity to feature the project in the Swiss Solar Prize newsletter
- Visibility on the social media channels of Solar Agentur Schweiz
- Inclusion in the Swiss Solar Prize publication of the following year
- Publication in solarchitecture.ch in collaboration with SUPSI
- Prize money of up to CHF 2,000

9.2 The award will be presented on stage during the Swiss Solar Prize award ceremony.

10. Rights of Use and Copyright

10.1 By submitting a project, participants grant Solar Agentur Schweiz a non-exclusive, free-of-charge, unlimited (in time and geography) right to use the submitted materials within the framework of the Swiss Solar Prize and for publication in Solarchitecture (if fine for you).

10.2 This right of use includes, in particular, publication in online and print media (e.g. website, social media, newsletters, Swiss Solar Prize publications) as well as use in exhibitions and events.

10.3 All intellectual property and copyright remain with the participants.

10.4 The names of the authors will be credited in all publications unless the participants explicitly request otherwise.

11. Data Protection

11.1 Personal data collected in the context of the competition will be treated confidentially.

11.2 Data will be used exclusively for the organisation, administration, and communication of SolarTalents 2026.

11.3 Personal data will not be passed on to third parties.

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12. Liability

12.1 The organising body assumes no liability for lost, damaged, or incomplete submissions.

12.2 The organising body reserves the right to exclude submissions that do not comply with these regulations.

13. Amendments and Final Provisions

13.1 Solar Agentur Schweiz reserves the right to amend these competition regulations if necessary. Any changes will be communicated to participants in an appropriate manner.

13.2 The decisions of the jury and the organising body are final and not subject to appeal.

13.3 Swiss law applies. The place of jurisdiction is Zurich, Switzerland.

Contact Persons

Madalena Soares de Faria (FR, DE, EN), Co-Managing Director
Thomas Forrer (DE, EN), Co-Managing Director

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