Ideas competition – How do we build in 2050?

The Competition
The Future of Construction initiative of the World Economic Forum organizes an ideas competition for students and young professionals. Under the theme How do we build in 2050?, teams of 2–6 people are invited to submit their ideas on how to address the industry’s key challenges. The competition is an excellent opportunity to dive into and shape the rapid transformation of the E&C industry.

The winning teams will be invited to a Forum event to present their ideas to senior industry leaders from the Real Estate, Engineering & Construction, and Infrastructure sectors. Successful submissions will also be featured on the project’s knowledge-sharing platform. All ideas will be passed on to the project’s Working Groups – consisting of key experts from industry, policy-making bodies, civil society and academia – which develop new responses to all the varied challenges confronted by the construction industry.

Our academic advisors strongly support this competition and are looking forward to your ideas. These advisors include Franziska Hasselmann – University of St. Gallen, Ibrahim Odeh – Columbia University, Aris Pantelias – UCL, and Shervin Haghsheno – KIT.

We now cordially invite you to develop creative solutions that address one or more of the following six challenges:

(1) Project Delivery: “How can we create certainty, improve productivity and reduce the time from project inception to completion?”

(2) Lifecycle Performance: “How can we reduce the lifecycle costs of assets (while also cutting initial costs)?”

(3) Sustainability: “How can we improve the sustainability of infrastructure and achieve net carbon-positive assets?”

(4) Affordability: “How can we create high-quality, affordable infrastructure, housing and office space for a growing population?”

(5) Disaster Resilience: “How can we build in a way that is more resilient to climate change and how can we respond faster to natural disasters?”

(6) Flexibility / Liveability / Well-being: “How can we improve flexibility and create liveable buildings and cities, increasing the well-being and productivity of the end-user?”

You can find more information on each of the challenges on the pages following.

Your solutions should be as specific as possible (and ideally should be marketable), and can consist of anything from a prototype, project or product sketch, new material, concept, business model or app.

Accordingly, you are free to choose your own format of submission: short film, PowerPoint presentation, business plan, sketches, app, etc. No matter which form you choose, please include a 1-page document answering the following four key questions:

1. How does your solution address the challenge? (i.e. description of your idea)
2. What would be the impact of your solution? (i.e. effect on economic, social or environmental dimensions)
3. Why does your proposed solution not already exist? (i.e. barriers to implementation)
4. What would it take to turn your idea into a reality? (i.e. the way forward, outlining specific steps to implement your solution)
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About the Future of Construction project
The World Economic Forum Future of Construction project is a multi-year initiative, on the (digital) transformation of the Engineering & Construction sector, mandated by the leading industry CEOs at the Annual Meeting 2015 in Davos. The first year’s report, published in May 2016, was based on an assessment of the status quo and the key challenges of the E&C industry. The report constitutes a strong call for action, and outlines a comprehensive transformation framework for the industry, listing more than 30 measures and best practices. The report is available via: http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Shaping_the_Future_of_Construction_full_report__.pdf

Steps of the competition

1. Form a team of up to 6 people (they can be from different departments, faculties, etc.: interdisciplinary thinking helps in finding lessons from other industries and stakeholder groups).

2. Register your team via https://weforum.eu.qualtrics.com/SE/?SID=SV_6urjELnAo5g98dn so that we can send you updates over the next weeks.

3. Develop your ideas. Really think creatively, and propose radical, out-of-the-box solutions.

4. Submit your ideas (max 10Mb) to kayo.hirano(at)weforum.org before December 1, 2016:
   a. Your core submission
   b. A 1-page document answering the four questions

5. The jury, consisting of business and academic leaders, will evaluate all submissions.

6. The winners will be notified in January 2017, and will be invited to present their ideas at a Forum event. Their ideas will also be passed on to the project’s Working Groups, and will be published on the project website www.futureofconstruction.org