

Subject: Communication on Engagement
Seller: Stichting Solar Team Twente

With this letter, we would like to inform the Global Compact about the practical actions and results Foundation Solar Team Twente has taken in succession to the commitment to the Global Compact's principles.

First of all, I am pleased to confirm that Solar Team Twente will continue to support the initiative and the principles of the UN Global Compact. With this commitment, we express our intent to support the Global Compact advancing these principles, in particular principles 7, 9 and 11 of the Global Compact on human rights and environment.

Next I would like to give a description of the practical actions that Solar Team Twente has taken to support the Global Compact. I would like to divide our actions into three categories: actions to promote the Global Compact and our commitment to the SDGS, actions regarding principles 7, 9 and 11 of the Global Compact and finally sustainable partnerships.

Actions to promote the Global Compact and commitment to the SDGS

We think it is important to show our stakeholders and partners our commitment to the Global Compact. We promote this via our website, but I would like to point out a few other examples. Firstly, one of the major ways to promote our commitment and the SDGS is through presentations. As a team, we give a lot of presentations at companies, schools and similar institutes about our goals, mission and vision. Over the past two years, we have given more than 30 presentations in which we show our commitment to the Global Compact and show our support and actions for principles 7, 9 and 11. For a lot of our partners, sustainability and the SDGS are an important aspect of why they would like to commit themselves to our project, and therefore we emphasize this especially in presentations for new partnerships, of which we have had around 20 over the past nine months. We also attend events in our region (Region Twente) where the SDGS are an important part of the event. One example is the 'Red Carpet' of January 2019, where we as a student team showed our commitment to the principles 7, 9 and 11 and discussed the importance and impact of these goals with several important stakeholders of the region. The third example I would like to point out is our belief in solar energy and a sustainable future. We try to promote solar energy everywhere we go, and convince others to invest in a sustainable future too. We do this for example by guiding tours for schools at our office and by teaching young kids about sustainable energy. Furthermore we teach them why it is important to develop and innovate technology for the future. Another example is the FBK Games (the biggest Dutch athletics event) of the 9th of June, 2019. They are a symbol for experiments with innovations, and we took part in a race between a solar car and a runner: a race between humans and technology. With this project we reached over 10.000 people at the event to be aware of the importance of solar energy and developing technologies.

Actions regarding principles 7, 9 and 11 of the Global Compact

By developing and building a solar car, we take actions on several aspects regarding the principles 7, 9 and 11.

First of all, since 2005 we are developing a solar panel and innovating and improving it every edition. This contributes to affordable and clean energy (7) because the systems we develop for the solar panel could be applied to solar panels for for example houses, cars or solar fields. One example or our solar panel innovations is our Sabine system, designed to balance the solar cells as much as possible and thus increase the performance. We developed Sabine in 2015, but in October 2017 it was further improved and used for the Bridgestone World Solar Challenge where it worked brilliantly. If this system is developed even further it could be applied to all different kinds of solar systems to increase the performance and hence contribute also to principle 11 (sustainable cities and communities). Of course, innovation is one of the biggest parts of our whole project.

Therefore, principle 9 is very important to us. Every year, we develop and innovate our technical systems to build an even better car with systems that could be placed in real family cars or other applications in the future. One example of this is our motor controller. We develop our electro motor and motor controller ourselves, with help of regional companies. One of these companies (called 3T) helps intensively with developing our motor controller, and they are already planning to use our system in some products of their own. We are very proud to see innovations from our solar car becoming part of real products.

I already mentioned our involvement with schools and young kids. Besides teaching them about sustainability we also think it is important that they are involved with technology and innovation at a young age. Therefore the RED Engineers Challenge was established a few years ago. A few big companies have already taken over this challenge to scale it up and bring kids into contact with technology. In the past two years, we organised the Flying RED Challenge, in which high school kids could develop their own plane powered by solar energy. This challenge was organised in collaboration with two high schools (one from Germany and one from the Netherlands) and in the past two years we have reached over two hundred kids with our tours and challenge.

Sustainable partnerships

The final action I would like to explain, is the establishing of sustainable partnerships. Over the past years and editions of Solar Team Twente our network of stakeholders has grown a lot and keeps on growing. This edition, for the first time, we established a long term partnership where support was shown for more than one edition. We are focussing on more partnerships like these. Our partnerships are important to continue with our development and innovation. More major partnerships were established than ever before, and in combination with long term agreements we try to contribute to sustainable collaborations for the future.

We also try to collaborate as much as possible with other companies or institutes who support sustainability and the Global Compact. One example is our partner Royal Haskoning. They are not only supporting and helping us to keep innovating, but they also help us establishing more sustainable partnerships for the future with big stakeholders.

I hope that with this letter, I have explained our commitment and have emphasized the importance of innovation for a sustainable and green future. Important key words for us are education, innovation and sustainable partnerships.

Yours sincerely,



Ms. A.F. Dekker
Teamleader Solar Team Twente