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Media Contacts: Ali Putnam

Office: 512.301.6600

Ali.Putnam@circuitoftheamericas.com

Sandra Zaragoza

Office: 512.471.2129

Zaragoza@utexas.edu

Circuit of The Americas™ to host Formula Sun Grand Prix June 24-29

AUSTIN, Texas (Feb. 6, 2013) – **Circuit of The Americas** announced today that it will host the **Formula Sun Grand Prix June 24-29, 2013**, at its new world-class destination for premier motorsport, entertainment and special events. This is the first time the Formula Sun Grand Prix event will be hosted at an official Formula 1™ racetrack.

“Circuit of The Americas shares the Formula Sun Grand Prix’s commitment to the environment, and is excited to host this competition at the first purpose-built Formula 1 racing facility to become a member of the Green Sports Alliance,” Circuit Director of Sustainability Edgar Farrera said. “The Formula Sun program challenges students to address areas of energy management, aerodynamics, fabrication and high-tech materials, and we hope students’ involvement in this challenge inspires them to seek careers in these critical fields of study.”

The University of Texas at Austin Solar Vehicles Team (UTSVT) will serve as the local university host for the event and will organize a variety of activities for the participating teams. UTSVT is a volunteer, student-run organization committed to developing solar electric vehicles and representing The University of Texas at Austin in international solar car competitions. The team is comprised of approximately 50 members, most of whom are undergraduate engineering students.

“The Cockrell School is excited to partner with the Formula Sun Grand Prix,” Gregory L. Fenves, dean of the Cockrell School of Engineering at UT Austin said. “This race will engage science and engineering students across the nation in solar energy technology, and it is an opportunity for our engineering students on the solar vehicles team to showcase their expertise with new technologies and problem-solving skills.”

The Formula Sun Grand Prix is an annual collegiate solar car track event. Before arriving at the host track, teams design and build a solar-powered vehicle in accordance with the event regulations. Upon arrival, all solar cars go through an inspection process known as scrutineering. These inspections focus on safety checks, adherence to the regulations and cover all aspects of the car, including mechanical, electrical, body and sizing, and dynamic testing. Only teams that successfully pass all inspections are permitted to compete in a three-day track endurance race.

During the race, teams aim to complete as many laps as possible during the designated driving hours each day. Energy management is important as teams have limited solar charging time in the morning and evening each day. After three days of on-track competition, the team logging the most laps is declared the winner.



All of the Grand Prix's solar car events are free and open to the public. The Grand Prix also welcomes students from all universities to participate in this multidisciplinary learning experience. For more information, visit www.americansolarchallenge.org.

About Circuit of The Americas

Circuit of The Americas is a world-class destination for performance, education and business. It is the first purpose-built Grand Prix facility in the United States designed for any and all classes of racing, from motor power to human power, and is home to the FORMULA 1 UNITED STATES GRAND PRIX while also hosting MotoGP™, V8 Supercars™, GRAND-AM Road Racing™, American Le Mans and the FIA World Endurance Championships. The Circuit of The Americas' master plan features a variety of permanent structures designed for business, education, entertainment and race use. Its signature element is a 3.4-mile circuit track. Other support buildings include **The Tower Amphitheater**, an expansive outdoor live music space; an iconic 251-foot, 25-story tower with observation deck; an events and conference center; a banquet hall; and a state-of-the-art medical facility. For more information and downloadable video, audio and photos, visit: www.CircuitofTheAmericas.com or www.TowerAmphitheater.com.

About Innovators Educational Foundation

Innovators Educational Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that hosts solar car challenge events, specifically Formula Sun Grand Prix and the American Solar Challenge. These team events celebrate engineering excellence and promote the use of renewable sources of energy. A core group of dedicated volunteers, mostly former competitors, serve as the event officials, reviewing design reports, performing inspections, and running the events.

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