

INFORMATION SHEET

Project Title: **Developing a Standard for High Performance Buildings in Qatar**

**You are invited to take part in a research study being conducted by Dr. John Bryant, Dr. Mardelle Shepley, Dr. Zofia Rybkowski, Dr. Alex Amato, and Mr. Saleh Kalantari (graduate student), researchers from Texas A&M University and funded by the Qatar National Research Foundation. The information in this form is provided to help you decide whether or not to take part. If you decide you do not want to participate, there will be no penalty to you, and you will not lose any benefits you normally would have.**

**Why Is This Study Being Done?**

The purpose of this study is to better understand the connection between the performance (primarily energy) of a building and the people who operate, repair, and maintain those buildings.

**Why Am I Being Asked To Be In This Study?**

You are being asked to be in this study because you are one of the people identified as having a maintenance/operational role in the subject building.

**How Many People Will Be Asked To Be In This Study?**

200 people (participants) will be invited to participate in this study locally. Overall, a total of 300 people will be invited from the buildings being studied in Qatar and at the main campus of Texas A&M University.

**What Are the Alternatives to being in this study?**

The alternative to being in the study is not to participate.

**What Will I Be Asked To Do In This Study?**

You will be asked to complete a set of written questions on a survey document. You may be asked to participate in a group interview as well. Your participation in this study will last up to 30 minutes to 90 minutes. **Your responses will be audio recorded.**

**Are There Any Risks To Me?**

The things that you will be doing are no more than risks than you would come across in everyday life. Although the researchers have tried to avoid risks, you may feel that some questions/procedures that are asked of you will be stressful or upsetting. You do not have to answer anything you do not want to.

**Will There Be Any Costs To Me?**

Aside from your time, there are no costs for taking part in the study.

**Will I Be Paid To Be In This Study?**

You will not be paid for being in this study.

**Will Information From This Study Be Kept Private?**

The records of this study will be kept private. No identifiers linking you to this study will be included in any sort of report that might be published. Research records will be stored securely and only the researchers as listed above will have access to the records.

## TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY HUMAN SUBJECTS PROTECTION PROGRAM

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Information about you will be kept confidential to the extent permitted or required by law. People who have access to your information include the Principal Investigator and research study personnel. Representatives of regulatory agencies such as the Office of Human Research Protections (OHRP) and entities such as the Texas A&M University Human Subjects Protection Program may access your records to make sure the study is being run correctly and that information is collected properly. Information about you and related to this study will be kept confidential to the extent permitted or required by law.

#### **Who may I Contact for More Information?**

You may contact the Principal Investigator, John Bryant, Ph.D., to tell him about a concern or complaint about this research at 974-5538-3237.

For questions about your rights as a research participant; or if you have questions, complaints, or concerns about the research, you may call the Texas A&M University Human Subjects Protection Program office at +1 (979) 458-4067 or [irb@tamu.edu](mailto:irb@tamu.edu).

#### **What if I Change My Mind About Participating?**

This research is voluntary and you have the choice whether or not to be in this research study. You may decide to not begin or to stop participating at any time. If you choose not to be in this study or stop being in the study, there will be no effect on you.

By completing the survey and/or participating in the interview, you are giving permission for the investigator to use your information for research purposes.

Thank you.

*John A. Bryant, Ph.D., P.E.*