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IB Roof Systems Supports Michigan's Largest Solar Power Source

MUSKEGON, Mich. – [Chart House Energy](#), [IB Roof Systems](#) and [Inovateus Solar](#) are working together to install a new roof and a 150kW solar power system atop an existing 28,000-square-foot roof belonging to the [Torresen Marine](#) sailboat facility in Muskegon, Mich. This is the largest solar power project in the state of Michigan.

Initiated, managed and owned by Chart House Energy, this \$840,000 re-roofing and solar array project will provide a new power source for Torresen Marine and the community of Muskegon. To document this historic installation, Chart House Energy is capturing the entire process via a [live webcam](#), which refreshes every 30 seconds. These still images will be used to create a time-lapse video when the project is complete.

The Torresen Solar system will produce 30 percent of Torresen Marine's annual usage and 100 percent of their summertime peak power usage. The energy produced is equal to that required to power 38 to 40 homes in the community. According to calculations provided by Inovateus Solar, by relying on solar power rather than carbon emitting energy sources, the Torresen project will create clean air benefits equivalent to removing 24 passenger vehicles from the road.

[Blake Lord Associates](#), a roofing contractor from IB Roof Systems' exclusive network of certified installers, was contracted to install the solar integrated roof system. Inovateus Solar has provided the solar system panels that will be installed now that the re-roofing portion of the project is complete.

"We selected IB Roof Systems for the job because their roof systems are proven to have the longevity and durability to last the life-span of the solar power system. They are an integral part of the success of the project," said Robert Rafson, Chart House Energy president.

"[Roof-mounted solar projects](#) have significant costs associated with them," said Shawn Stanley, marketing director for IB Roof Systems. "The entire solar panel system is in jeopardy if the roof it sits on fails partway into the lifecycle of the solar panels. That's why it is so important to protect your investment by installing a roof proven to last as long as your roof-mounted solar power system."

About IB Roof Systems

IB Roof Systems designs and manufactures the highest quality roofing products and accessories that combine to create well coordinated systems for the roofing and re-roofing industry. The business was founded in 1978 as a part of parent company, L.J. Stanley & Associates, in Eugene, Ore. It has since expanded to serve customers throughout the United States. IB Roof Systems limits the availability of products to a restricted pool of authorized installers to facilitate a quality end product. For more information, please visit www.ibroof.com or call (800) 426-1626.

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Backgrounder

Michigan's Largest Solar Power Installation

Chart House Energy is partnering with Torresen Marine, Inovateus Solar and IB Roof Systems to install a new roof and a 150kW solar array system atop Torresen Marine's sailboat storage facility in Muskegon, Mich. Blake Lord Associates, an IB Roof Systems' certified roofing contracting company, was contracted to install the integrated solar panels rack on to a new roof, and Inovateus Solar will finish the project by supplying the solar power system equipment. The building integrated solar system will cost \$840,000, and will have taken roughly eight weeks to complete.

Chart House

Chart House Energy is an independent power producer, providing discounted, emission-free electricity to governmental, commercial and private customers by developing, owning and operating sustainable clean on-site energy generation systems. Chart House specializes in building partnerships with the businesses they provide power for.

Rob Rafson, president of Chart House Energy, proposed installing a solar array system on the roof of Torresen Marine as an alternative, renewable energy source. By using Federal stimulus funds, feed-in tariffs and other financial incentives, Chart House is able to install a new roof and the solar power system with little cost to the business on whose roof he installs the system. Once the power system is installed, Chart House sells the power to the business at a discounted rate, providing a clean, renewable power source and reducing energy costs.

Torresen Marine

Torresen Marine is West Michigan's largest retail outlet dedicated to sailing. With customers in more than 75 countries, Torresen offers comprehensive service for everything from dinghy sailboats to day sailers and cruisers to high-tech race boats, and is equipped to house more than 150 slips, with acres of indoor and outdoor storage.

"Torresen Marine has always been an eco-conscious company," says Larry Larsen, chief operating officer at Torresen. "We specialize in sailboats," he said. "By the nature of our focus, we're all about wind, which is another natural resource. Our commitment to the environment made us a good fit to work together."

Torresen Marine's commitment to the environment is part of company philosophy. In 2009, Torresen proudly earned the Michigan Clean Marina certification after several years of implementing and testing environmental upgrades to their business operations.

"Rob Rafson has been a longtime customer and sailor," said Larry Larsen, chief operating officer at Torresen Marine. "Being the entrepreneur that he is, he noticed we had several large buildings with good roof exposure and approached us about the solar project."

IB Roof Systems

IB Roof Systems, a flat roofing material manufacturer based in Eugene, Ore., was chosen to supply the new roofing materials. The highly reflective, white .80 mil membrane was chosen for the new roof due to its longevity and proven performance.

“We selected IB Roof Systems for the job because their roof systems are proven to have the longevity and durability to last the life-span of the solar system,” said Robert Rafson, Chart House Energy president.

Inovateus Solar

Inovateus Solar is a distributor for numerous Photovoltaic (PV) Manufacturers including: Uni-Solar, Scheuten, Kyocera, Schott and more. Additionally, we distribute inverters and other PV System parts. Our commitment to research keeps us on the leading edge of PV products and design, ensuring reliable and efficient installations.

From turn-key installations to simple purchases of PV modules, Inovateus Solar provides all the assistance necessary to make an installation or purchase from our extensive inventory successful. Inovateus Solar partners with industry leading and innovative companies to like IB Roofing to ensure the longest lasting and highest quality PV systems in the industry.

Blake Lord Associates

“A solar system has a lifespan of 40 years, so you want to make sure the roof lasts a long time,” said Joe Scanlan, vice president of Blake Lord Associates. “That’s one of the reasons we used IB Roof Systems’ .80 mil membrane. It even comes with a lifetime warranty.”

Roofing systems without proven durability may not perform as long and cause a costly removal and re-install of the solar power system and new roofing material, possibly negating any savings that the solar array system provided.

“We don’t add it into calculations, but the albedo – the light reflected off of the white roof – will bounce back into the solar panels, slightly increasing the system’s output,” said Tim Polega, director of engineering at Inovateus Solar.

Summary

“The new solar array system will offset the power of the Torresen Marine facility by about 30 percent of their electric bills,” said Rob Rafson. “The power produced at Torresen Marine is equivalent to the energy required to power 38 to 40 homes in the Muskegon area.”

To watch the progress of the solar installation project, view the live web cam at www.torresensolar.com.

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