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Clean Tech Case Study

Harvesting the Sun

A Conversation with Utility Scale Solar, Inc.

Utility Scale Solar, Inc., (USS) is in the business of tracking the sun and their mission is just as ambitious—to become the largest global provider of single and dual-axis solar tracking systems serving the Photovoltaic (PV) and Concentrating Solar Power (CSP) industries. We spoke with Jonathan Blitz, CTO and Vice-President of Product Development for USS in Palo Alto, California. Jonathan and his team believe their technology and products will forever change the economics of solar power.

"The contributions from Autodesk and KETIV to emerging companies like ours is proof that they are genuinely committed to innovative clean energy solutions and technologies for improving the environment.

Jonathan explained the differential benefits of their products. While so many others have put their energies and resources into designing better surfaces to collect solar energy, USS sees greater return for their clients by optimizing the performance of sun tracking equipment itself.

Strong reliable and accurate tracking of heavy solar panels and mirrors may seem easy. But conditions in high solar

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- Our relationships with key VC organizations, and groups such as the Environmental Business Cluster, allow us to help our clients locate and obtain funding
- We've developed a cost-effective services package for Clean Tech startups that positions them for success with Venture Capital firms
- Our program enables clients to satisfy the requirement to demonstrate a high probability of success

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isolation regions, frequently desert or semi-desert, tend to be harsh. Temperature extremes, penetrating sand, grit and superfine dusts, moisture and condensation, corrosion, shifting sands and dunes, floods, and many other forces typically interfere with ground-level structures and solar tracking machinery. Solar regions have frequent high winds that can bend, crack, or seize the delicate clockworks inside of traditional gear drives. Traditional mechanisms for moving large objects on mass scale are too costly and are ill-suited to the solar tracking task. USS is designing a new generation of utility-grade solar tracking products to overcome these obstacles. To help design and develop their product line, USS turned to KETIV and Autodesk Inventor.

KETIV 'Went to Bat' for USS

Jonathan is grateful to the people of KETIV for recommending USS to receive an Autodesk software grant for emerging clean tech companies in North America. USS has digitally prototyped their system in AutoCAD Inventor Professional including FEA. Their geographically dispersed team uses Autodesk Vault 2010 to maintain version control. USS allows KETIV to access their data through Vault, so help can be immediate. USS also produces marketing and product images with Showcase.

"We are leveraging the software's ability to rapidly generate and revise production drawings," explained Jonathan, "to work with our manufacturing partners to collaboratively improve the design while controlling IP access."

Jonathan says that KETIV has been a hero and champion for USS. Working in a true partnership, KETIV's application engineers train, troubleshoot, and support the USS team as they work on their flagship product, the Megahelion™ MH144 heliostat. Currently in full digital prototype, the USS product is being made ready for manufacture using Inventor. The routed systems for this product line will be run using Inventor's routed system module.

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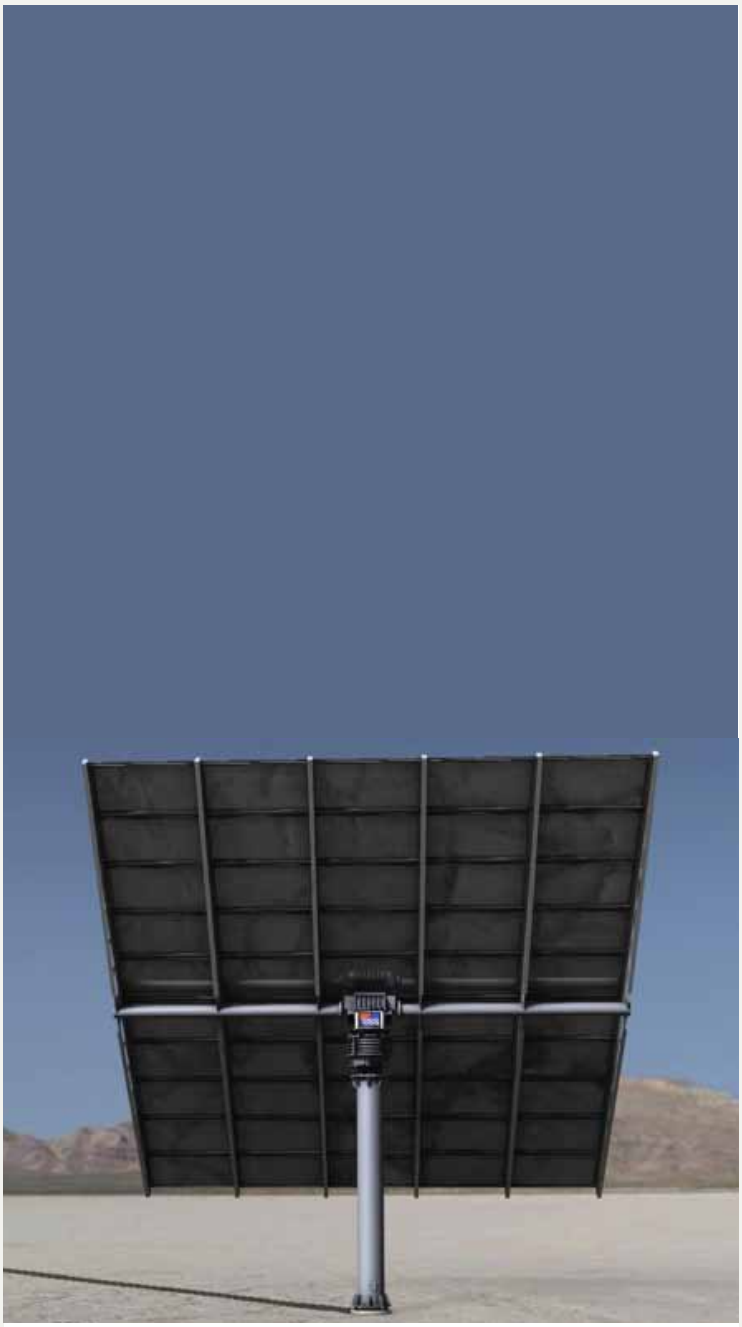

USS
UTILITY SCALE SOLAR, INC.

USS Megahelion™ MH144 Heliostat and Drive
Developed in Autodesk Inventor
U.S. and International Patents Pending.

Utility Scale Solar, Inc.
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