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PassivSystems joins ModCell's project to develop renewable schools for the future

UK schools set to get A grade for smarter energy*

4 March London, EcoBuild 2010 – Two British clean technology firms have combined forces to unveil a blueprint for the eco schools of the future. PassivSystems is to work with ModCell® on the creation of the ModCell Renewable Schools across the UK, targeting the Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

The schools will be built using ModCell's renewable, carbon capturing materials that lower heating costs by up to 85 per cent, whilst any energy used on lighting, computers and other technology will be reduced even further using the PassivEnergy energy management system. The first school is scheduled for completion in September 2010 and will be an exemplar of how Zero Carbon Schools will be delivered.

ModCell® is one of the first products to make large-scale, carbon-negative building a commercial reality. The ModCell® system utilises the excellent thermal insulation qualities of straw bale and hemp construction to form prefabricated panels, made in a local Flying Factory™. This allows super-insulated, high-performance, low energy 'passive' schools to be built using renewable, locally sourced, carbon sequestering materials.

The BSF programme is the biggest-ever school buildings investment programme, with the aim being to rebuild or renew every school in the UK.

"BSF provides an enormous market opportunity for ModCell and PassivSystems and the recent £600m Somerset County Council selection of its preferred bidder for its schools shows just how big," explained Craig White, of ModCell. "The combination of our two companies' technologies makes for an extremely compelling proposition, enabling schools to reduce their carbon emissions drastically."

Once the schools are constructed, PassivSystems will supply its energy management system, PassivEnergy™ into every classroom, the first time occupancy management has been used in schools. PassivEnergy™ works using sensors and actuators that connect to a building's heating, hot water and electrical appliances and manages them via an online account.

PassivEnergy™ also has an innovative 'Adaptive Occupancy Control' function to further optimise energy use, which will learn about a school's working day and automatically adjust and control energy consumption accordingly.

“Adding PassivEnergy to the ModCell® Renewable Schools’ super efficient building system will make these first schools a blueprint for any further schools intent on lowering carbon emissions,” said Colin Calder, CEO of PassivSystems. “A school’s energy needs will vary on an hourly basis and from classroom to classroom and PassivEnergy will learn and manage those requirements to significantly reduce energy use.”

ModCell and PassivSystems finalised the agreement to work together on the Clean and Cool Mission to San Francisco, which took place last week. The mission saw 19 leading UK clean tech companies spend a week in San Francisco taking part in a range of activities designed to help them open up their business to the US market.

Ian Gray Chief Executive of the Technology Strategy Board said:

“We are delighted to hear that Clean and Cool Mission has brought together two of the UK’s clean tech Companies to develop a joint offering into the Building Schools for the Future programme.

“The mission was a huge success with companies reporting a high success rate in establishing new contacts, starting valuable interactions with venture capitalists and forming new and exciting collaborations, such as the partnership between ModcCell and PassivSystems.”

“The unique combination of high energy efficiency, use of renewable materials, and the ability to capture and store carbon in the structure, that the ModCell renewable School offers combined with the energy control that PassivSystems delivers, are a very exciting prospect for the market.”

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About PassivSystems: www.passivsystems.com
PassivSystems Ltd was established in 2008 and aims to be the leading provider of Home Energy Management Systems. Bringing together specialists from two normally separate sectors, energy and telecoms, the PassivEnergy Home Energy Management System has been designed to help people reduce wasted energy, increase comfort and save money. The system is due to be launched in early 2010 and has been designed to be simple to install and easy to use.

PassivSystems was one of ten companies chosen by UK Trade & Investment in January 2010 to be part of an exhibition of Britain’s best new technologies at the world’s largest consumer electronics show, CES. PassivEnergy was showcased to thousands of journalists from across the world and named as one of the top gadgets on display.

About ModCell® www.modcell.co.uk Contact Finlay White +44 (0) 117 954 7325
ModCell® was established in 2005 and leads the world in offsite renewable materials building systems. ModCell® is a research led organisation and developed the ModCell System™ to make large-scale, carbon-negative building a commercial reality.

About Clean and Cool Mission

The Clean & Cool Mission is a collaboration between the Technology Strategy Board, UK Trade & Investment, Orrick Herrington & Sutcliffe, BP Alternative Energy, Arup, Polecat, Volans, Enterprise UK and the Cleantech Group. The Clean & Cool Mission is a competition to identify the top 20 fast growing Clean & Cool companies in the UK. The 19 companies that make up the Clean & Cool Mission are now in San Francisco for an intensive week-long agenda of events meeting investors, potential partners, media and peers on the West Coast.