

Provisional Application for Patent Cover Sheet

This is a request for filing a PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FOR PATENT under 37 CFR 1.53(c)

Inventor(s)

Inventor 1

Remove

Given Name

Middle Name

Family Name

City

State

Country j

Dean

Solon

Gallatin

TN

US

All Inventors Must Be Listed – Additional Inventor Information blocks may be generated within this form by selecting the **Add** button.

Add

Title of Invention

PRE-PANELIZED THIN FILM, RACK, CONNECTORLESS DUAL
CORDPLATE, MOBILE SKIDGET, POWERHOUSE AND BLA TRUNK BUSS

Attorney Docket Number (if applicable)

SHOALS-58

Correspondence Address

Direct all correspondence to (select one):

☒ The address corresponding to Customer Number

☐ Firm or Individual Name

Customer Number

57825

The invention was made by an agency of the United States Government or under a contract with an agency of the United States Government.

☒ No.

☐ Yes, the name of the U.S. Government agency and the Government contract number are:

Entity Status

Applicant claims small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27

☒ Yes, applicant qualifies for small entity status under 37 CFR 1.27

☐ No

Warning

Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

Signature

Please see 37 CFR 1.4(d) for the form of the signature.

Signature	/Carla L. Gannon/			Date (YYYY-MM-DD)	2014-09-09
First Name	Carla	Last Name	Gannon	Registration Number (If appropriate)	56358

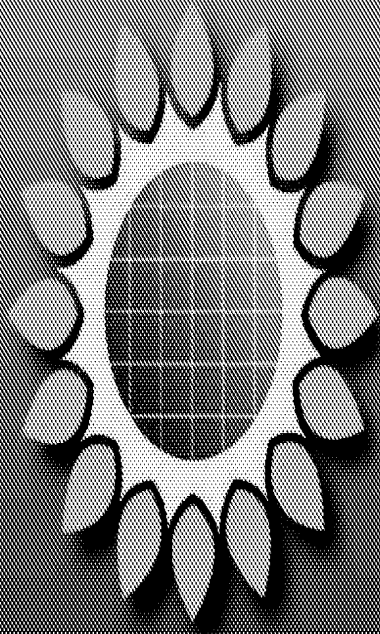
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.51. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 8 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. **This form can only be used when in conjunction with EFS-Web. If this form is mailed to the USPTO, it may cause delays in handling the provisional application.**

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The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that : (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C. 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
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3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
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5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a n other federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (i.e., GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
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9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.



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Harnessing Your Potential

Shoals Technologies Group LLC

Pre-panelized Thin Film “Super Module™” & GMT Rack for
Portrait Orientation for FSLR Series 4™

STG® Connector-less Dual Cordplate Concept

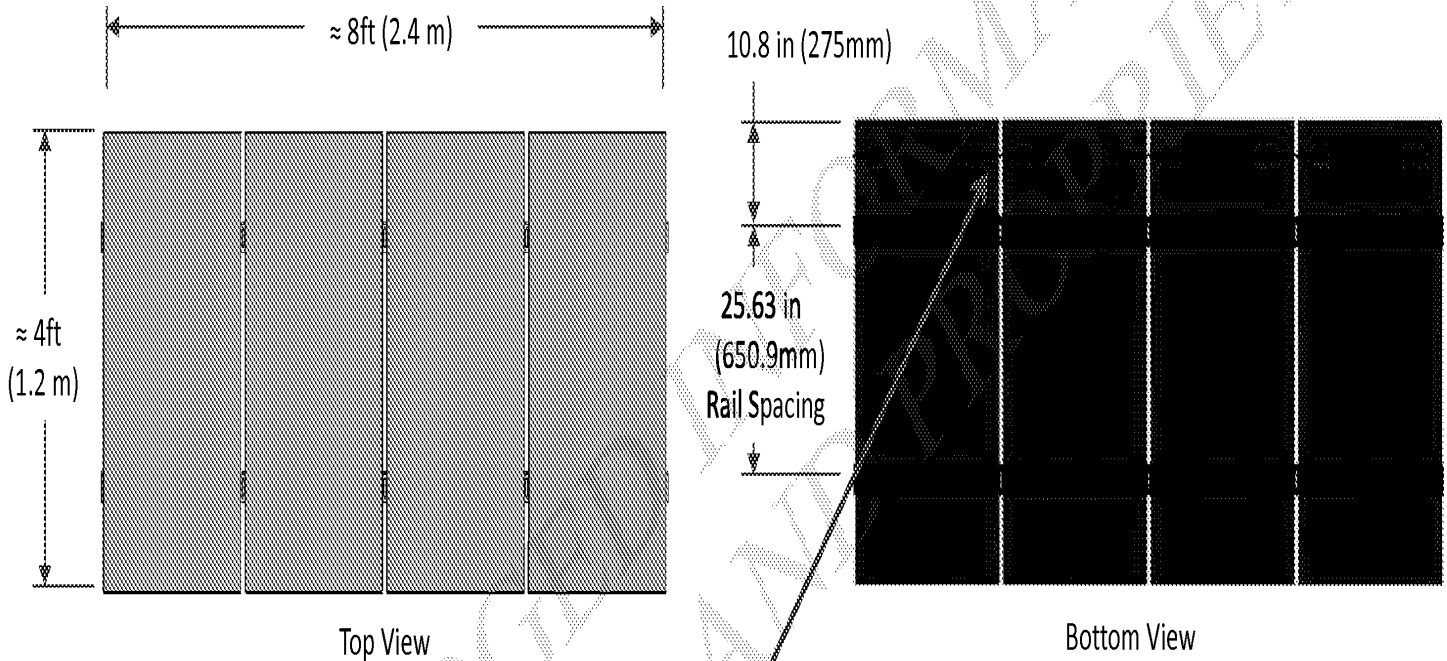
STG® Mobile Skidget™

STG® PowerHouse™



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4-Module Pre-panelized “Super Module™”



A four-module pre-panelized “Super Module™” is composed of four (4) glass-on-glass thin film modules that are adhered directly to rails with electrical connection made with the Connector-less STG Dual Cordplate Concept.

Power rating = $4 \times 90\text{W} = 360\text{W}$ / Super Module

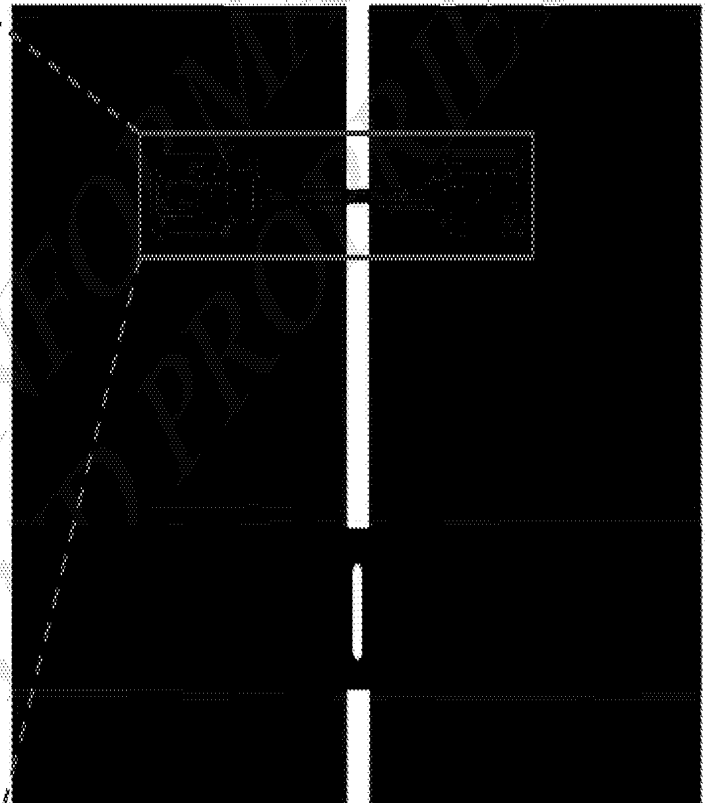
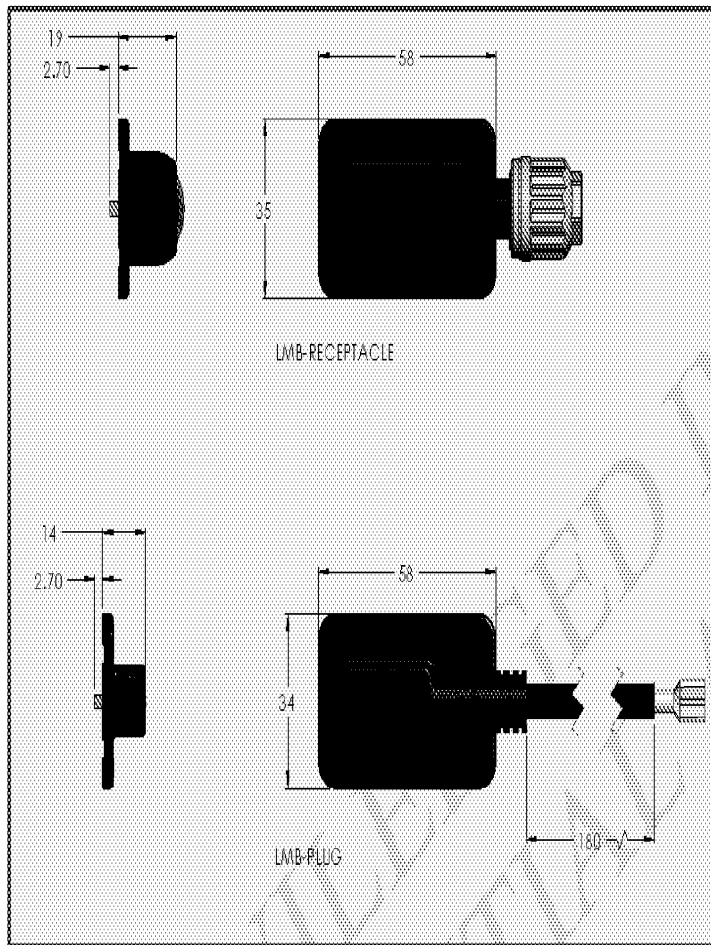
Module mass = 26 lb (12 kg)

Rail mass = 15 lb (6.8 kg)

Super Module mass = ~134 lb (61 kg)



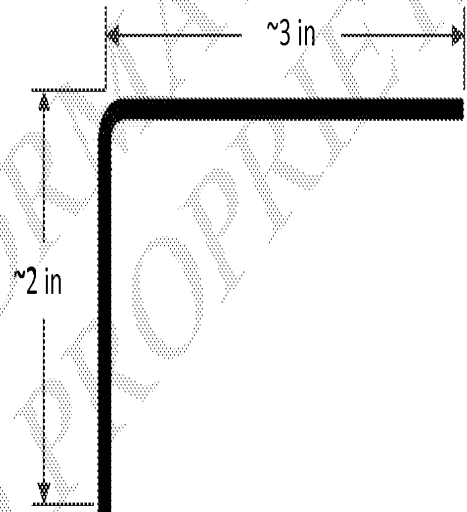
STG[®] Connector-less Dual Cordplate Concept



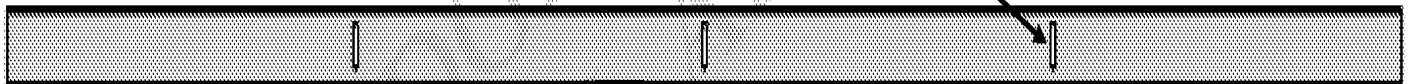
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Proof of Concept Rail Design

The proof of concept rail design is a “standard” (off-the-shelf) 12GA 36ksi G90 pre-galvanized steel angle profile that is approximately 2 in x 3 in x 97.5 in long and has slots cut into the 3 in wide flange and holes punched/drilled into the 2 in wide flange. This design was chosen because we want to test out the handling and manageability of the Super Module and because we needed it to mate to an existing Rack.



Slots on the top flange for fastening hardware attachment to horizontal purlins.

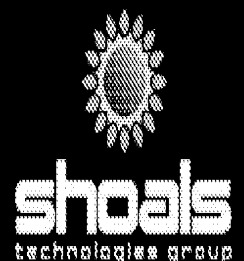


Top View

Holes on the side flange for attachment of cable management clips

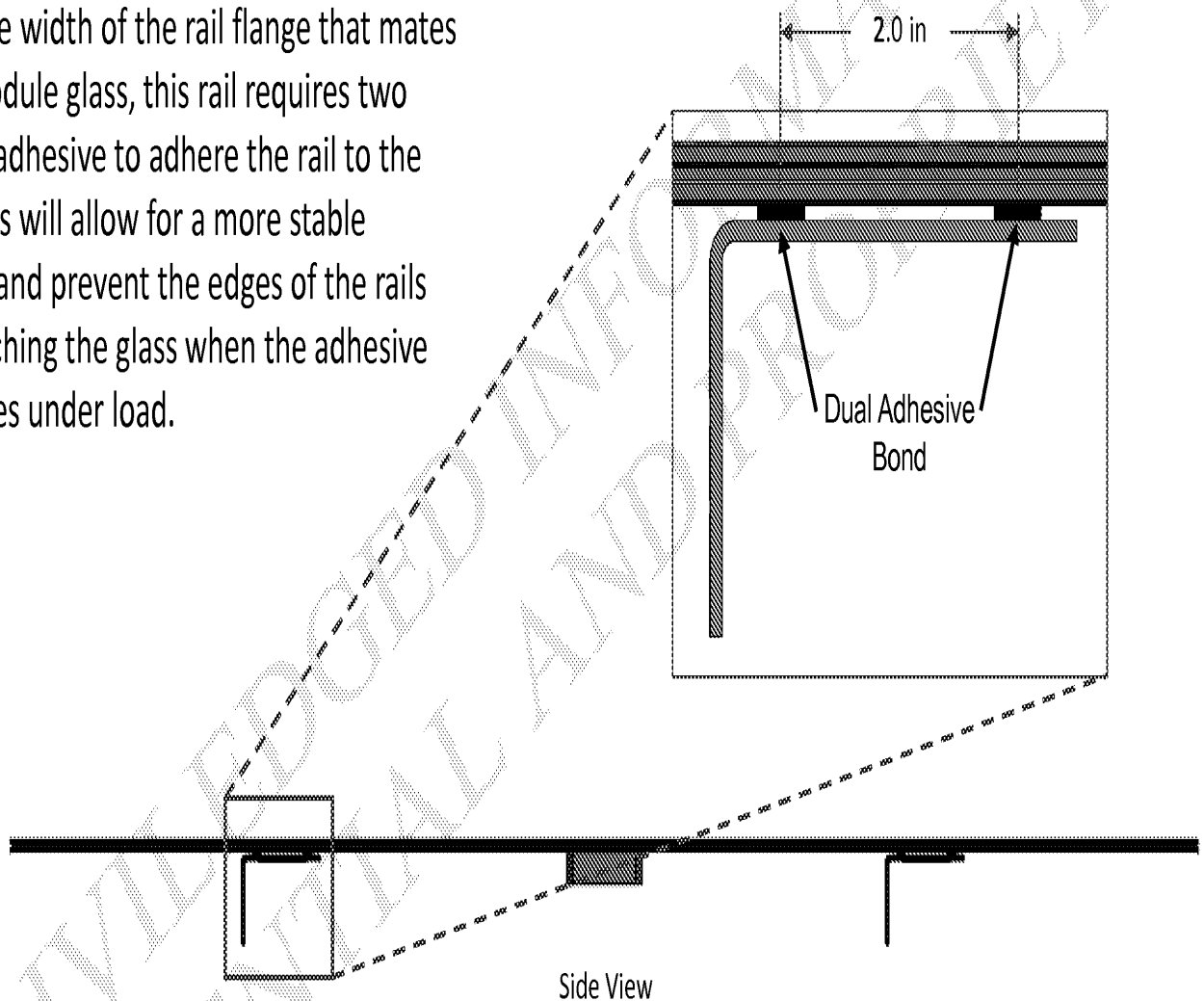


Back View



Rail & Adhesive Detail

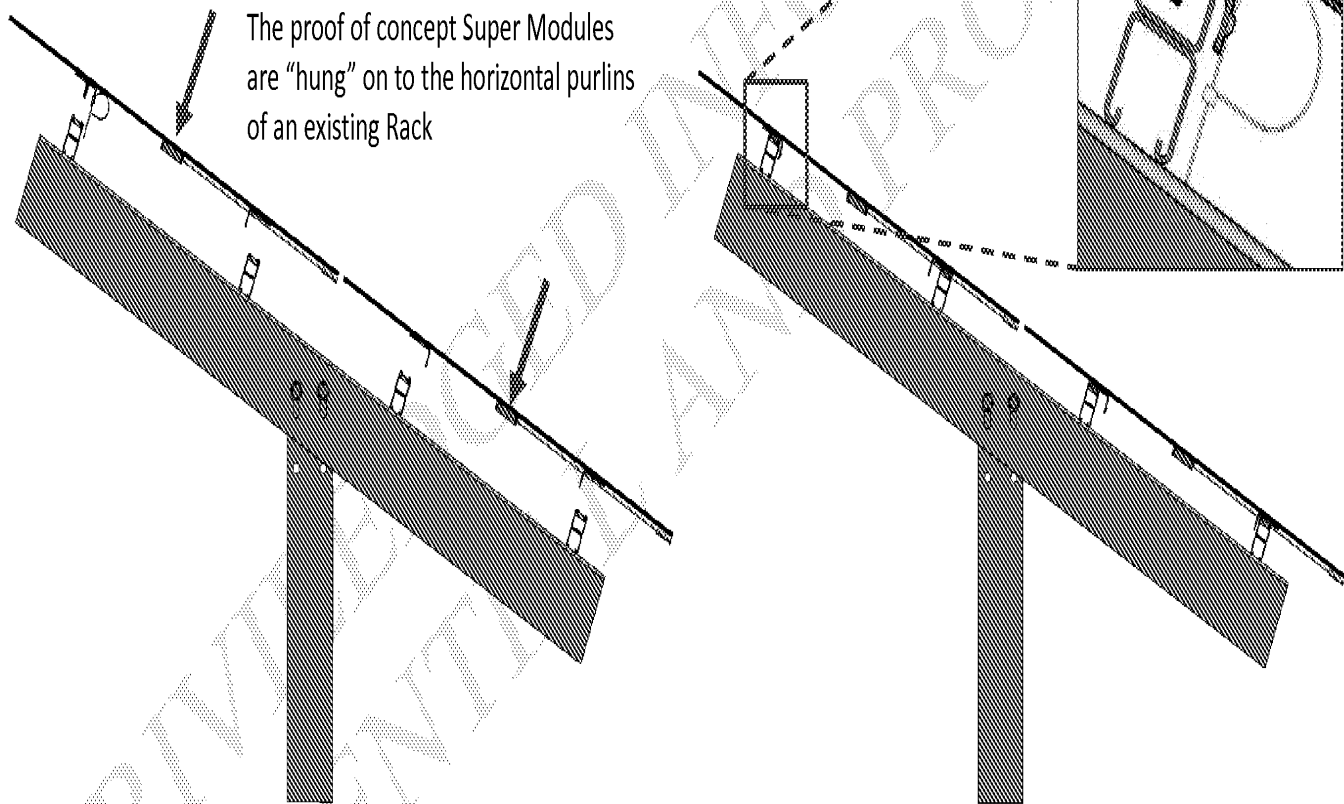
Due to the width of the rail flange that mates to the module glass, this rail requires two beads of adhesive to adhere the rail to the glass. This will allow for a more stable platform and prevent the edges of the rails from touching the glass when the adhesive bead flexes under load.



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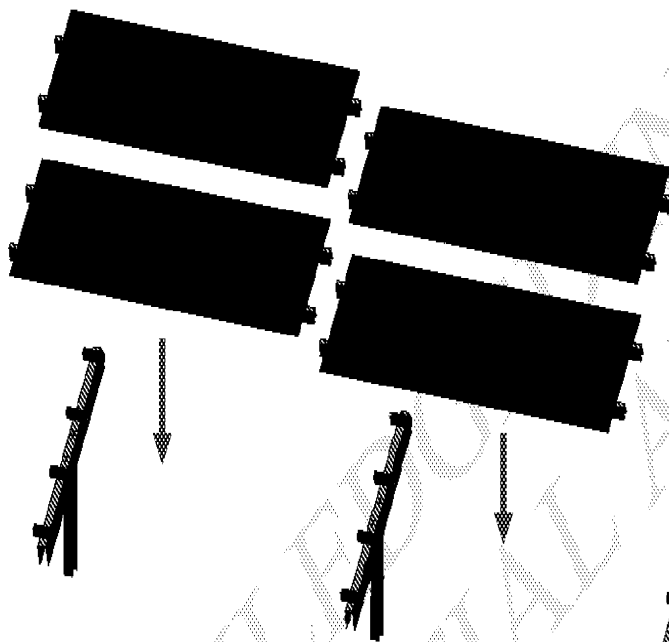
Proof of Concept Installation

The proof of concept Super Modules mount to the horizontal purlins of an existing Rack already installed in the field. The Super Module™ is “hung” on them and then secured to them with self-drilling screws.

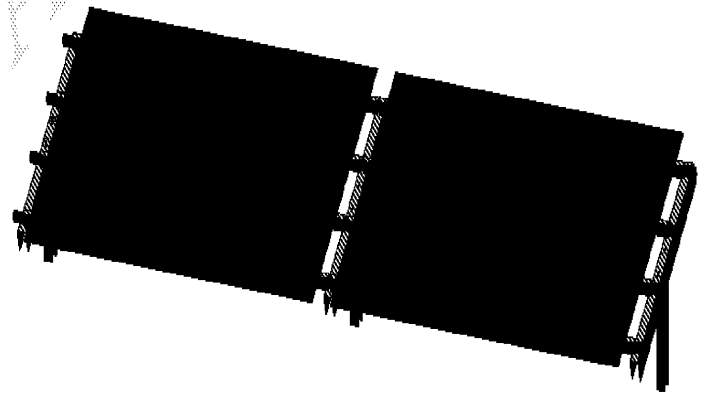


Super Module™ GMT Rack

Once the Super Module™ concept is proven, the next step is to develop a Super Module™ GMT Rack where the Super Modules™ mount directly to the Tilt Bracket & Post assemblies, without the need for traditional purlins. 3-item Rack that consists of a Post, a Tilt Bracket assembly, and Super Module™.



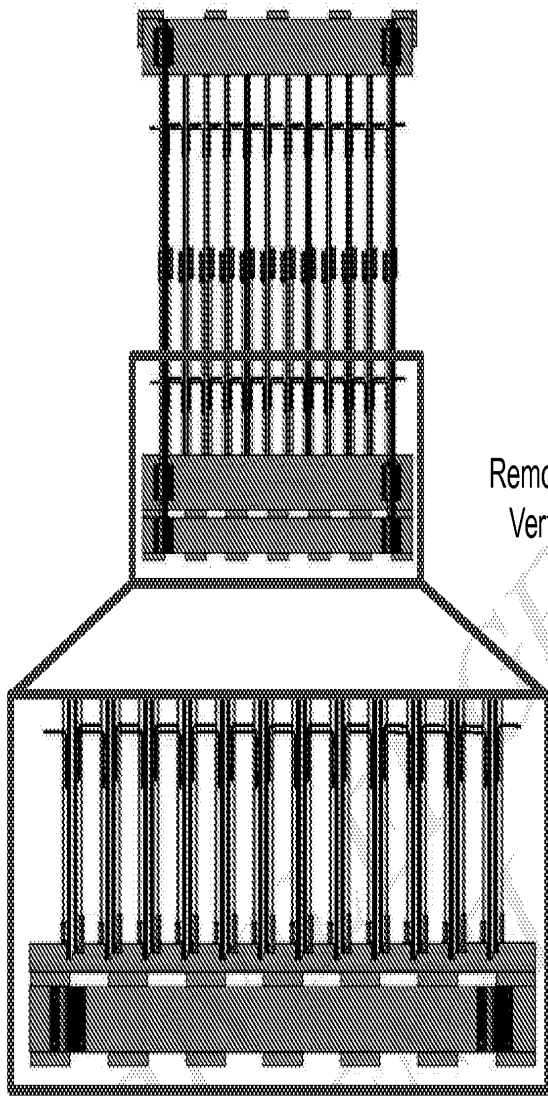
Factory pre-assembled Super Modules mount directly to Tilt Bracket & Post assemblies. The result is a >25% reduction in Racking components.



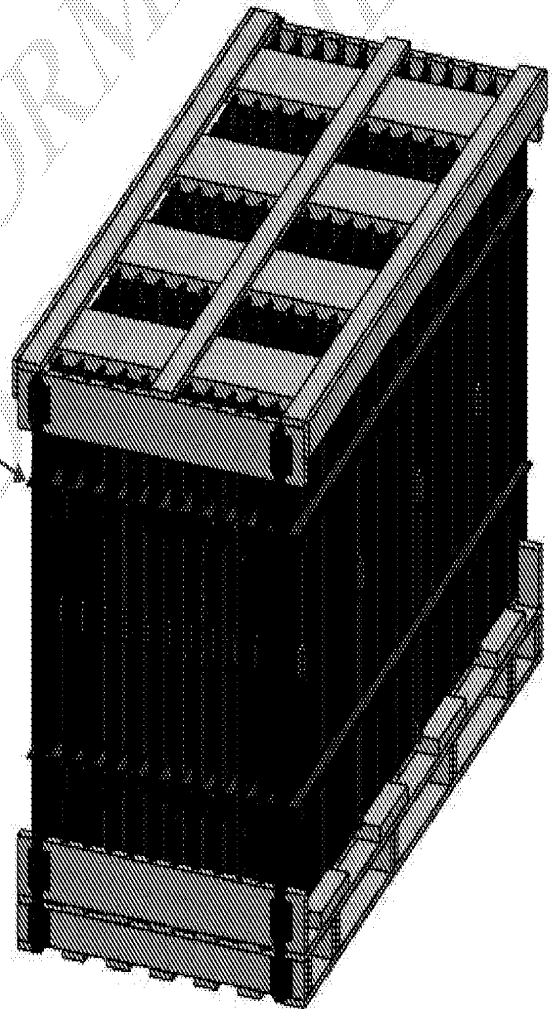
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Proof of Concept Reusable Vertical Stack

24 Super Modules (96 modules) per reusable stack



Removable Pipes Support
Vertical Load of Stacked
Pallets/Crates

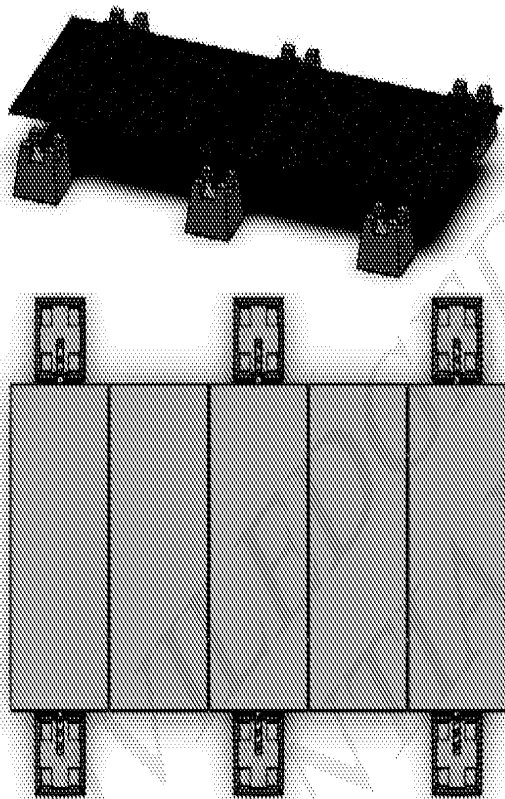


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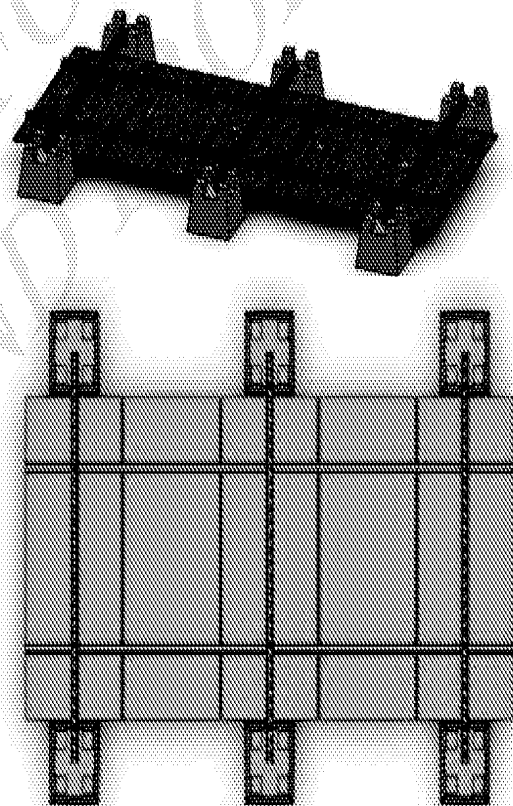
Mechanical Load Test Setup

To validate that a liquid adhesive bond is equal or stronger than traditional thin film module mounting methods, two proof-of-concept units will need to be subjected to a standard test protocol. A great starting point would be that of a Mechanical Load Test as defined in IEC 61646, Section 10.16 and a Module Breakage Test as defined in IEC 61730-2, Section 10.10.

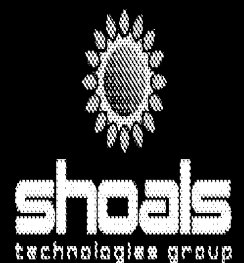
Positive Loading Configuration



Negative Loading Configuration

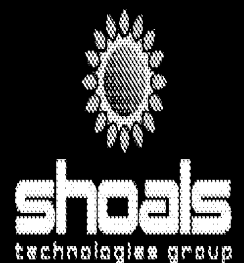
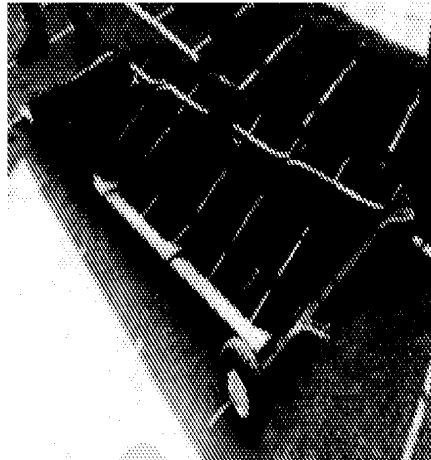


PROOF OF CONCEPT FIELD TEST

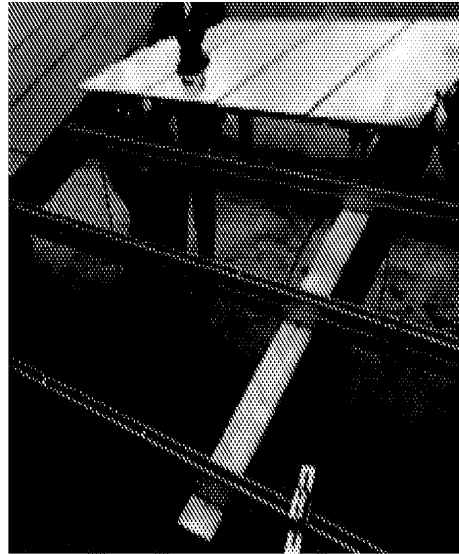
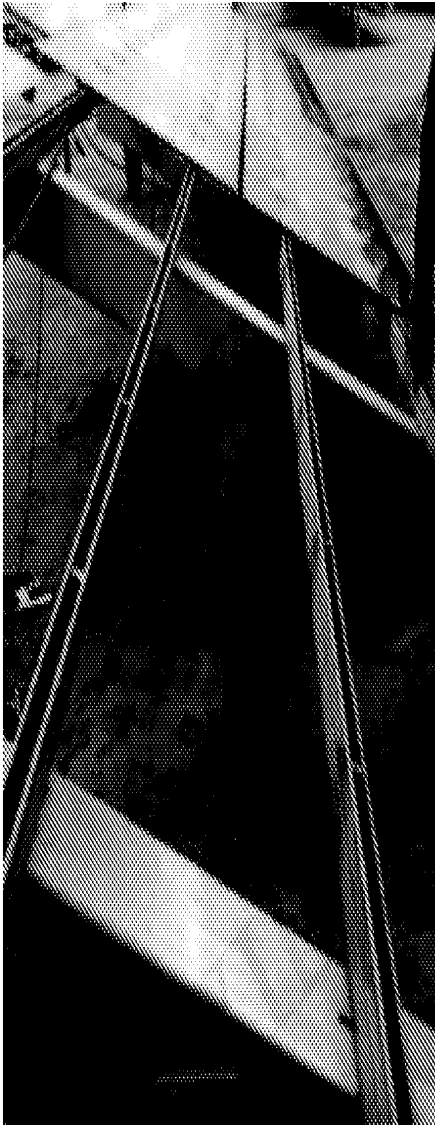


"Solar Dolly"

A proof of concept "solar dolly" or "super module dolly" was fabricated to explore alternate methods of transporting Super Modules from their staging location.

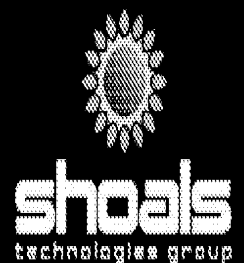


Super Module Handling & Manageability



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STG[®] Mobile Skidget[™]



STG[®] Mobile Skidget[™]



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STG[®] PowerHouse[™]

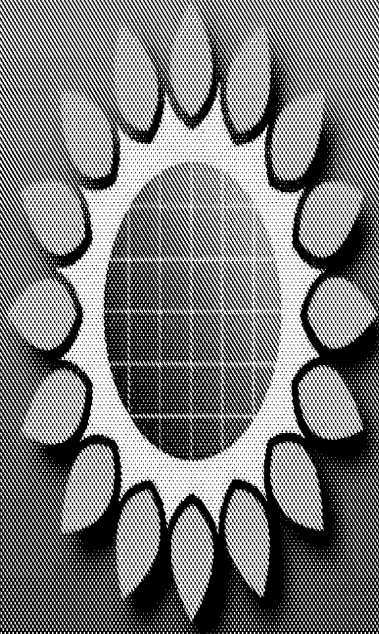


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STG® PowerHouse™



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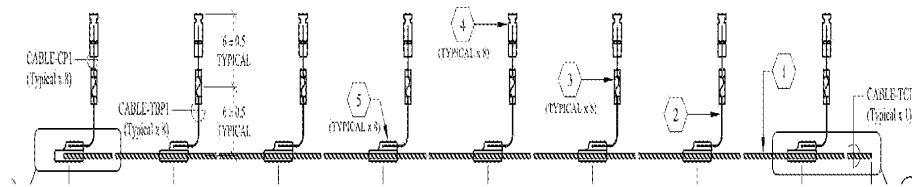
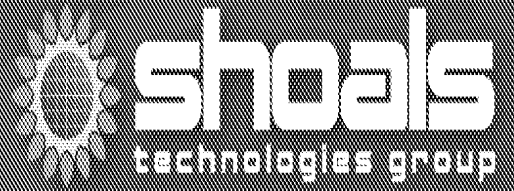
Harnessing Your Potential

SHOALS BLA TRUNK BUSS

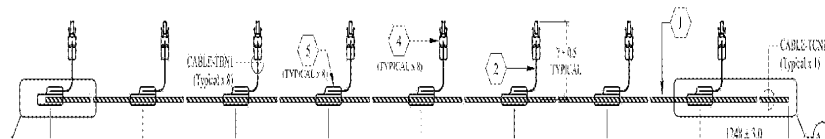
The Shoals BLA Trunk Buss negates the need for deploying combiner boxes into the solar field by incorporating a proprietary “T” into the existing DC feeder cables needed onsite. This pre-manufactured harness offers a significant cost savings both in initial product cost as well as in the realized labor savings due to its ease of implementation. This system utilizes the same under/overmold construction currently deployed in the field today, but on a much larger scale. Can be integrated onto any feeder cable size EX: 750MCM. It is designed for the harshest environment including direct burial applications. The same topology not only applies to the DC feeders, but can also be implemented into the feeders deployed in AC systems negating the need to AC Recombiners.

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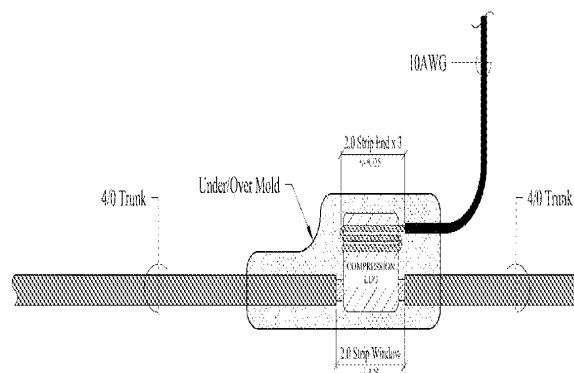
SHOALS BLA TRUNK BUSS



TYPICAL POSITIVE HARNESS



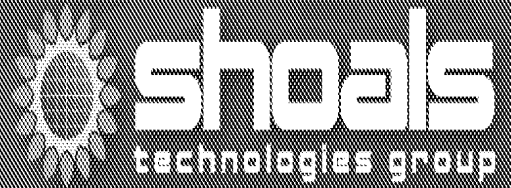
TYPICAL NEGATIVE HARNESS



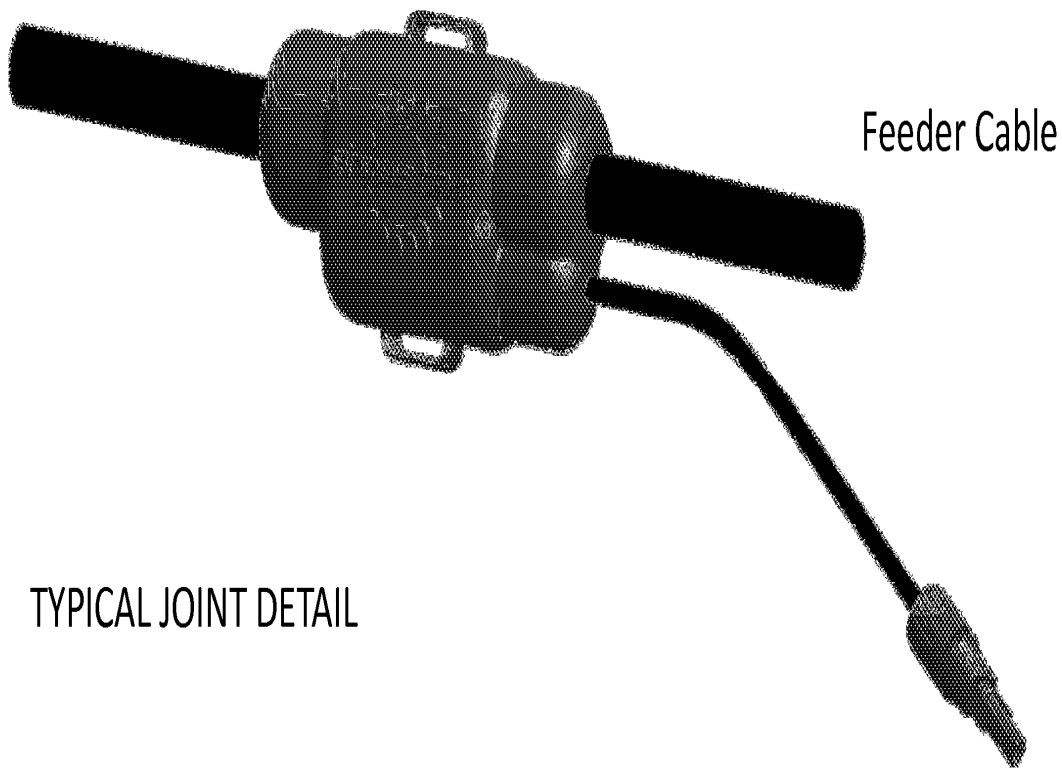
TYPICAL JOINT DETAIL

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SHOALS BLA TRUNK BUSS



DC feeder "T" joint



TYPICAL JOINT DETAIL

String harness or one leg of AC input.

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