



SunPods Creates Solar Arrays with Autodesk Software

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Modular Array Design Reduces Installation Time Up to 85 Percent, Increases Affordability of Solar Energy

SAN RAFAEL, Calif., Aug 31, 2011 (BUSINESS WIRE) --

Clean technology company SunPods Inc. is using software from [Autodesk, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: ADSK) to design and manufacture modular solar array units that help make solar power more accessible and affordable.

Unlike conventional customized ground-mounted solar arrays that require extensive onsite assembly and construction, SunPods (which stands for "Sun Power on Demand") are configured and built in a factory before being delivered to virtually any site -- a process that reduces installation time by up to 85 percent.

The combination of [Autodesk Inventor](#) and [AutoCAD](#) software has helped SunPods to design and model its arrays without the need for physical prototypes or on-site testing. During the product development process, the company was able to test and evaluate 23 different digital prototypes. Additionally, [Autodesk Showcase](#) software enabled SunPods to more effectively demonstrate the innovative concept to customers by creating realistic animations placing the ideas in context.

"At SunPods, we want to provide sun power on demand," said Michael Gumm, managing partner and cofounder of SunPods. "At every stage, Autodesk software has helped us turn that vision into a reality and speed up our progression from 'good idea' to great product."

Faster Time to Market with Digital Prototyping

As a member of the Autodesk [Clean Tech Partner Program](#) -- which provides software to emerging clean tech companies in North America, Europe and Japan -- SunPods gained access to a variety of [Digital Prototyping](#) tools to speed the development of its modular power unit. Autodesk reseller, KETIV Technologies, helped provide training and support to enable SunPods to more quickly implement Digital Prototyping into the design process.

Each of the pre-manufactured, self-contained units is capable of generating up to 3.82 kilowatts of power -- enough for a small residence. Thanks to its modular design, multiple units can be connected to one another to scale energy needs to power larger projects.

The marketplace has embraced the company's innovative ideas: SunPods have now been deployed for commercial, residential, educational and agricultural projects across the United States. A cluster of three SunPods generates 750 kilowatts per month for a private home in Hollister, Calif., for example, while a cluster of 25 SunPods generates 10,000 kilowatts per month for a high school in Presidio, Texas.

"Digital Prototyping makes it easier for young clean tech companies with limited resources to develop products that can have a profound impact on the world around us," said [Robert "Buzz" Kross](#), senior vice president, Manufacturing Industry Group at Autodesk. "The work SunPods is doing is incredibly important and we're glad Autodesk software can help play a role in making the transition to solar energy more financially accessible to more people."

About the Clean Tech Partner Program

The Autodesk Clean Tech Partner Program supports the efforts, innovations and environmental advancements of clean technology pioneers, providing world-class software to design, visualize and simulate their ideas through [Digital Prototyping](#). Clean tech companies in North America, Europe and Japan are invited to apply to receive up to \$150,000* worth of software for only \$50. Access to a collection of Autodesk industry-leading software includes up to five licenses of [Autodesk Product Design Suite Ultimate](#), [AutoCAD Revit Architecture Suite](#), [Autodesk Simulation Mechanical](#), [Autodesk Inventor Publisher](#) and [Autodesk Vault Professional](#) software. For additional information, visit www.autodesk.com/cleantech.

About SunPods Inc.

Headquartered in San Jose, California, SunPods designs and manufactures modular, factory-built solar arrays. SunPods' solar systems are delivered to the project site fully-assembled with all of the components required to generate solar energy. The SunPods unique pre-assembled design minimizes on-site construction or site preparation and reduces installation time by up to 85 percent. For additional information, visit www.sunpods.com.

About KETIV Technologies

KETIV is a business consulting firm helping engineers and designers achieve optimum creativity, efficiency, response times, and teamwork. Actively involved with a number of Clean Tech companies and a partner in the Autodesk Clean Tech Partner Program, KETIV is an Autodesk Gold Partner for Manufacturing and an Autodesk Consulting Services Partner serving clients from offices in the Pacific Northwest, California, and the Southwest. To learn more visit www.ketiv.com.

About Autodesk

Autodesk, Inc., is a leader in [3D design](#), engineering and entertainment software. Customers across the manufacturing, architecture, building, construction, and media and entertainment industries -- including the last 16 Academy Award winners for Best Visual Effects -- use Autodesk software to design, visualize and simulate their ideas. Since its introduction of AutoCAD software in 1982, Autodesk continues to develop the broadest portfolio of state-of-the-art software for global markets. For additional information about Autodesk, visit www.autodesk.com.

*Value is based on up to five commercial licenses of each application.

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