

The Face of PV Integration

- **Project**
Technology Center Solar Wall
Welsh Development Agency
- **Location**
St. Asaph, North Wales
- **Scale**
85 kilowatts
- **Installer**
Energy Equipment Testing
Service (EETS)
www.eets.co.uk
- **Completed**
January 2004



■ The Solar Wall forms a sweeping façade covering the entire south face of the Welsh Development Agency “Technium” in St. Asaph.



■ Hidden SolarMount® bottom-mounting clips secure modules from the rear, giving the array the smooth exterior face sought by its designers.

The Energy Equipment Testing Service (EETS) threw SolarMount® a curve when it tackled a PV-powered technology center in Wales. Plans called for an 11,000-square-foot curving façade across the south face of the building. With the base of the Solar Wall just above sidewalk level, pedestrians would be inspecting the array from arms’ length. Designers wanted a smooth, aesthetically clean face in addition to the usual call for efficient energy production.

SolarMount® on a Roll

SolarMount® satisfied both criteria. Standard mounting clips secured the installation’s 2,400 modules cleanly from the rear. At the same time, the system allowed ventilation behind the array, and the cooling air flow maximized electrical output. When curved to a 3-meter radius, hollow aluminium extrusion rails maintained structural integrity without distortion to footing or clip slots.

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After consultation with UniRac, EETS cold rolled SolarMount® standard rails around a 3-meter radius. SolarMount® maintained its structural integrity without distortion to its mounting slots.

Rainy day collector

The façade serves yet another purpose: collecting rain water for an ornamental pool and other uses at the building and its grounds. The technology center is one of several “Techniums” created by the former Welsh Development Agency (now incorporated into the Welsh Assembly Government). The centers promote innovative technologies through cooperation between businesses and universities.

It’s our only business

UniRac Inc. designs and manufactures a variety of mounting structures for PV modules and arrays of any size. It’s our only business. Major product lines include SolarMount®, SunFrame®, U-LA™, PV PoleTops®, PV PoleSides™, and SolarMount®/S-5!™. UniRac has distributors throughout the United States, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom.

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