



FREEDOM SOLAR POWER COMPLETES LARGEST SOLAR INSTALLATION IN CONROE, TX WITH STAINLESS STRUCTURALS

The installation will bring considerable cost savings to the steel supplier, while also supporting core sustainability goals.

Austin, TX (April 22, 2024)—<u>Freedom Solar Power</u>[®], a national leader in turnkey solar energy installations, today announced the largest commercial solar installation in the greater Houston, Texas area in partnership with Stainless Structurals, a premier supplier specializing in the design, production, and distribution of stainless steel solutions. The installation was completed in March 2024.

The Stainless Structurals rooftop installation encompasses over 4,000 solar panels across 118,000 square feet of roof (a half-mile) to power a more sustainable and self-sufficient future for Stainless Structurals by offsetting energy usage by 78% and saving the company \$4.8 million over the next 25 years. The initial motivator for this facility improvement project was to find a thermal barrier solution for their rooftop to reduce the temperatures on the floor of their manufacturing facility, which at times were reaching upwards of 100 degrees due to Texas summer heat gain.

When researching options, Stainless Structurals was surprised to learn that solar panels will reduce the internal temperature of the Stainless Structurals facility by an incredible 38%, which will significantly cut the air conditioning costs, while naturally improving indoor comfort and protecting building materials. Although other cooling methods are not covered by tax credits, installing solar allows organizations to utilize tax incentives and rebates such as the Investment Tax Credit (ITC), the 10% Energy Community incentive, the 10% Low Income Community incentive, and the Federal MACRS Bonus Depreciation, all of which will help cover over 50% of the costs of going solar. Plus, solar energy was a fit for their corporate sustainability goals.

"The ability to have 100% carbon free energy source was the most important and final step to close our cycle of sustainability for our products in the ability to produce a near-zero carbon footprint product," said Mattia Del Giacco, Chief Executive Officer to Stainless Structurals.

By installing solar panels, Stainless Structural emphasizes its commitment to clean energy in addition to its existing efforts including its The Green Business Bureau (GBB) Platinum Certification, which is awarded to businesses that demonstrate exceptional commitment to environmental sustainability and corporate responsibility. By choosing solar power instead of traditional electricity, the Stainless Structurals facility will avoid over 93 million pounds of carbon dioxide over the 25-year lifetime of the system, which has a similar environmental impact to:

- 10,040 vehicles taken off the road for 1 year
- 271 acres of U.S. forest being preserved
- 46,492,630 pounds of coal **NOT** burned
- 14,648 tons of waste recycled instead of landfilled

"Every solar panel installed has a significant positive impact to a business's bottom line as well as the environment, and we are excited to partner with companies like Stainless Structurals who share our mentality and give a damn about a cleaner tomorrow," said Freedom Solar's EVP C&I Sales, Kyle Frazier.

Less than a hundred miles away from the Stainless Structurals facility sits Spindletop, which is hailed as one of the most transformative oil fields marking the start of the Texas oil boom. Over one hundred years later, this solar installation, which will replace the equivalent of 3,900 barrels of oil per year with





electricity from clean renewable sources, ushers in a new revolutionary moment for energy. To learn more about Freedom Solar's installation, visit <u>www.FreedomSolarPower.com</u>.

About Stainless Structurals:

Stainless Structurals is a global producer and supplier of sharp cornered stainless steel and carbon steel structural shapes and special custom profiles. Its standard stainless steel sections replicate the dimensions of carbon steel profiles, and the company stocks most of these sizes in 304/304L and 316/316L. If a project requires something non-standard, Stainless Structurals manufacturing technology allows the company to produce custom sections in the shape, size and alloy that customers need. It works closely with engineers, architects, OEMs and end users to help them realize their designs suited for a diverse mix of projects in a wide range of industries. Stainless Structurals also services a vast network of local, regional and international distributors and fabricators. Its efforts are focused on customer service, quality and innovation. Through a multitude of production technologies and with a high importance placed upon R&D efforts, the company continues to be a world leader in stainless steel structural products and steel profiles. Stainless Structurals is a profile solutions company. No matter the size and scope of a project, it is committed to helping customers meet their exact needs. With its production technologies of laser-welding and extrusion and value-added capabilities like fabrication and polishing, Stainless Structurals can meet customers' projects' highest demands.

About Freedom Solar Power

Founded in 2007, Freedom Solar Power is an industry leader in turnkey solar installations, providing high-quality, cost-effective, reliable solar solutions for residential and commercial markets. Headquartered in Austin, Texas, Freedom Solar also has full-service offices in 11 markets across six states (Texas, Colorado, Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina and Virginia) and installs commercial projects in all 48 contiguous U.S. states. A Tesla Powerwall Certified Installer and the only SunPower® Master Dealer in Texas, Colorado, central Florida, and North Carolina, the firm has installed more than 228 megawatts of solar panels since 2007, ranking as a top ten solar installer in the US and number 1 solar installer in Texas as well as a 3x winner of Inc. 5000 Fastest Growing Companies. Freedom Solar has completed projects for numerous national and multinational corporate clients, including Whole Foods Market, Shake Shack, Office Depot, Holiday Inn Express, Home2 Suites by Hilton, The University of Texas at Austin and numerous automotive dealerships, such as Alfa Romeo, BMW, Chevrolet, Ford, Maserati, Subaru and Toyota. For more information, visit https://www.freedomsolarpower.com.

For Earth Day, Freedom Solar is celebrating the positive impact its customers have had on the environment. By choosing solar power instead of traditional electricity, our solar community has voided over 2 trillion pounds of CO2 from the atmosphere! That's like: 241,743 cars taken off the road; OR 17,962,697 trees planted; OR 1,164,574,637 pounds of coal NOT burned. Learn more: Instagram: <u>@freedom_solar_power</u> X: <u>@freedom_solar_power</u>

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