



MillerClapperton Supports Virginia Tech Students In International Competition
Company Fabricates 72 Panels for FutureHAUS Dubai

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Austell, Georgia – October 4, 2018 – The Miller-Clapperton Partnership, Inc. (MillerClapperton), a national fabricator and regional installer of highly-engineered cladding systems, is pleased to announce that the company has fabricated nearly 2,000 square feet of metal composite material (MCM) panels for Virginia Tech's FutureHAUS Dubai. The fabricated panels are designed as a shade element and will be situated along the roof line of the cutting-edge solar home, which is competing in this year's Solar Decathlon Middle East in November.

Launched by the United States Department of Energy and the Arab Emirate's Dubai Electricity & Water Authority, students will compete among 21 universities for the distinction of designing and building the world's best net-positive-energy home. Teams are tasked with building a grid-connected solar home that performs optimally in Dubai's harsh desert climate. In a series of 10 contests, the students must prove their home exceeds stringent criteria – ranging from innovation and efficiency of its architectural design to how well it generates energy for everyday tasks such as cooling and operating appliances.

The innovative design for the 900-square-foot home features cartridges, which are then assembled to complete the homebuilding process. The interior rooms and walls are factory-built from the inside out as "plug-and-play cartridges". In real-life applications, this arrangement allows for better customization, cost, efficiency and safety compared to a traditionally built home. Cartridges could be delivered by truck to a job site, where the homebuilding process is completed in a fraction of the time, and remodeling would be as simple as swapping out older cartridges for new ones.

Equal parts form and function, the metal composite material panels will serve as the home's cornice, 1 of 18 signature cartridges being assembled for the house. Running along the roof edges, and surrounding the home's 50 solar panels, the fabricated MCM panels are strategically designed to provide complete wall shading at noon (the hottest time of day). The shade provided by the MCM panels reduces the overall solar gain of VT FutureHAUS by 51%, and when combined with an R41 roof and R27 walls, will have a huge impact on the home's overall performance during the two-week competition.

MillerClapperton coordinated with metal composite material manufacturer, Alucobond, who donated the material for the project, while MillerClapperton's project management team and engineers were involved in seeing the project through from creating detailed shop drawings to fabrication and site delivery, within a limited timeframe. After delivery to the assembly site at the Virginia Tech Research + Demonstration Facility, the panels were joined in a modular fashion for fast installation during the competition and crated for shipment overseas.

“Virginia Tech’s FutureHAUS will showcase new methods of construction, technology, and sustainability. We are excited to play a role in helping the students achieve their vision and to be able to glimpse the future of what is possible. The innovation in this house has the potential to revolutionize the homebuilding industry and the work the students have done is truly incredible. We wish them every success in the competition,” said Scott Stafford, senior estimator at MillerClapperton.

Of the 21 teams competing this year, Virginia Tech is the sole team from the U.S. Once the FutureHAUS has returned to Virginia, the public will have the opportunity to view it firsthand in several cities across the country including Chicago, New York and D.C.

ABOUT MILLERCLAPPERTON

MillerClapperton is a national fabricator and regional installer of highly-engineered cladding systems. Founded in 1979 by Ted S. Miller and Dave Clapperton, the company’s headquarters is based in the Atlanta metropolitan area with a second fabrication facility in Mesa, AZ to service the western United States. For more information visit www.millerclapperton.com.

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