



Amanda Vasilikos
Press Contact

MechoSystems
Corporate Headquarters
42-03 35th Street
Long Island City, NY 11101
T : +1 (718) 729-2020, x1314
F : +1 (718) 371-1081
E : info@mechosystems.com
W : mechosystems.com



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MechoSystems Assists NASA in Becoming Almost Zero

LONG ISLAND CITY, N.Y. —MechoSystems worked with NASA and William McDonough + Partners on the development of the NASA Sustainability Base at the Ames Research Center in Moffett Field, Calif. The office building uses NASA innovations and technology blended with McDonough's Cradle to CradleSM framework, with an objective to meet LEED[®] Platinum status.

The Sustainability Base, a workspace facility, is one of the greenest federal buildings ever built. Designed and inspired by William McDonough, it aims to be not only "less bad," but actually valuable to the environment. Through a blend of original design and innovative technology, the building produces all the power it needs to operate.

Unlike traditional buildings which have internal columns that provide support, the Sustainability Base is braced by an "exoskeleton" with supports on the outside of the building. This allows daylight and fresh air to flow easily into the building, while creating an uninterrupted interior space with better seismic strength. Daylighting and shading strategies are made simpler by this structure, as well as by the narrow floor plates, glare control strategies, high ceilings, and the building orientation. Notably, no artificial lighting will be needed for all but 40 days of the year.

Access to daylight and outside views are crucial to Sustainability Base. MechoSystems aided in this effort with the application of the I-Con[®] Network system controlled by SolarTrac[®], the cutting-edge automated shading system. Its program is designed to anticipate and react to changes in sunlight, temperature, and usage—optimizing performance automatically.

"We are delighted to be participating on the Sustainability Base with NASA and our long-time associate Bill McDonough," says Jan Berman, president of MechoSystems, "It is a spectacular example of the potential of sustainable design."

MechoSystems' Internal Shades in the Sustainability Base:

- 132 motorized roller shades.
- 72 occupant override stations
- Automated with SolarTrac and I-Con motors.
- Approximately 143 ZigBee nodes proposed.
- Two ZigBee networks per floor.

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About the company: Founded in 1969, MechoSystems is the world's leading designer and manufacturer of innovative window-covering systems for the architectural and design communities. MechoSystems Inc., 42-03 35th Street, Long Island City, New York, 11101. T: +1 (718) 729-2020, F: +1 (718) 371-1081. E: info@mechosystems.com. W: mechosystems.com.