



Commercial

MDS Nordion



Left, the completed SolarWall® solar air heating system at MDS Nordion's Ottawa location on the southwest facing wall

Background

MDS Nordion is part of MDS Inc, one of the world's foremost global life sciences companies. MDS Nordion is a leader in the biotech industry that specializes in the export of medical isotopes, radiotherapeutics, and related technologies throughout the world. MDS Nordion not only strives to be the world's leading innovator in molecular medicine, but also in protecting the environment.

This is best exemplified by MDS Nordion's Ottawa office gaining ISO 14001:2004 certification. This certification is an internationally recognized standard which specifies the actual requirements for an environmental management system (EMS) and for controlling and improving a company's environmental performance. MDS Nordion was the recipient of a 2007 ENERGY STAR® Market Transformation Award from the Government of Canada. This award is presented to around a dozen businesses and utilities from across Canada in recognition of their exceptional work in promoting energy-efficiency.

As part of MDS Nordion's award winning green environmental policy, they sought out the finest technologies with proven results in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse emissions. The ROI timeframe was also an important consideration. They contacted Conservall Engi-

neering for more information on the SolarWall® solar air heating system. After analysis, the technology was deemed to be ideally suited for their building, and as it met all their criteria, it was approved in late 2007.

Solution

Conservall Engineering custom designed a SolarWall® system for MDS Nordion's Ottawa location. The 3,150ft² (293m²) SolarWall® system was installed on a large southwest facing wall. The solar heated air that is generated by the SolarWall is ducted into the building's pre-existing ventilation system, which substantially reduces the standard heating load.

Results

The SolarWall® system is projected to displace approximately 735 GJ of energy a year, and reduce 55 tons of CO₂ emissions annually. Displaced heating cost savings were estimated at over \$9,500 per year, using 2007 energy prices. MDS Nordion qualified for the 25% ecoENERGY grant from the federal government and the 25% Ontario Solar Thermal Heating Incentive (OSTHI), a Provincial program, from the Ontario Government. After these incentives were applied the already attractive pay-back period shrunk to under four years.

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