Cold Climate Housing Research Center Wins Runner-up in Smartest Building in America Challenge

FAIRBANKS, AK – Cold Climate Housing Research Center (CCHRC) has won Runner-up in the Smartest Building in America Challenge. Administered by Siemens Industry Inc., the contest recognizes the use of Siemens APOGEE or TALON systems to reduce building costs and energy usage. CCHRC uses the APOGEE system to monitor and adjust building conditions in its Research and Testing Facility, which is in one of the coldest and harshest climates in the world.

CCHRC staff, with help from local artist Craig Buchanan produced a three-minute video featuring the organization’s use of Siemens technology. As Runner-up, CCHRC receives $15,000 in Siemens’ products and services or $15,000 donated to the charity of their choice. Entries for the Smartest Building in America Challenge can be viewed at www.smartestbuildinginamerica.com.

“Receiving this award is an honor and a compliment to how well we are accomplishing our mission,” says CCHRC President and CEO Jack Hébert. “Siemens’ systems are an integral part of our research center and important to our work in research and testing of energy efficient, comfortable, durable and sustainable dwellings, and we were up against some very large institutions.”

The CCHRC Research and Testing Facility CCHRC uses APOGEE to monitor CO₂ and humidity levels and then trigger heat recover ventilators to improve air quality. The system also controls the thermostat, adjusts boilers based on outdoor temperatures and records fuel usage. APOGEE monitors power from CCHRC’s four solar arrays as it flows through inverters to the battery bank. The system also monitors the amount of hot water produced from two solar hot water heaters and shuts off the boilers accordingly. Nearly all of the facility’s systems are controllable electronically through a “Graphical User Interface.”

The Cold Climate Housing Research Center is a non-profit institution dedicated to research that improves the durability, health, and affordability of shelter for people living in circumpolar regions around the globe.

Siemens Industry Inc. is the US affiliate of Siemens’ global Industry Sector business. The company’s hardware and software technologies help industrial and infrastructure providers increase productivity, sustainability and profitability.

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