



DEVELOPMENTS

Oberlin fire station powered by clean energy



Oberlin's new solar roof.

PHOTO COURTESY OF MARINER ENERGY

OBERLIN—A newly renovated 20,000-sf fire station in Oberlin is now partly powered by solar energy, the first LEED certified city building, thanks to Lake Erie electric's renewable Energy Solutions, Mariner Energy and Firelands Electric. The roof top solar array is a 10.8 kW system and may be doubled in size soon, thanks to ARRA funds. Ohio has attracted more than \$74 million in clean energy venture capital in the last three years and ranks fourth in the US in the number of clean energy jobs and seventh in clean energy patents. **BXM**

AGC sees new jobs added for construction

SPECIAL REPORT—Construction firms added 14,000 new jobs in April, the second consecutive month of employment gains for the industry, according to an analysis of new federal figures released today by the Associated General Contractors of America. After more than two years of dramatic job losses, the construction industry is once again adding jobs, thanks primarily to the increasing number of stimulus-funded projects now underway, the association said.

Ken Simonson, the association's chief economist, said "The good news is the stimulus is for now turning the tide on construction employment; the bad news is the stimulus is temporary while the construction downturn will be protracted." He added that the non-

residential construction sector, where most stimulus construction funds were targeted, added 24,600 jobs in April and 36,500 jobs in March. Heavy and civil engineering construction, which includes highway and many public works projects that benefitted from the stimulus, alone added 9,000 new jobs last month, the fourth pickup in the past six months.

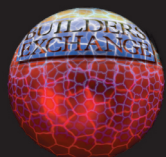
He said enacting the long-delayed highway and aviation bills, passing the Water Resources Development Act and the Building Star legislation, establishing a Clean Water Trust Fund and National Infrastructure Bank and keeping tax rates unchanged were the best way to avoid post-stimulus job losses in the construction industry. **BXM**

MMPI launched Buildex along with NEOCON

CHICAGO—The Merchandise Mart from June 14-16 will now hold Buildex Chicago, with the latest new products and cutting-edge seminars, to assist those involved in the building and property management industry with strategic solutions and strategies to help manage and operate buildings more efficiently and effectively.

Thousands of building owners, developers,

facility managers, property managers, building engineers, and other personnel responsible for the operations, renovation, retrofit, and management of all types of buildings, will take part in this major exposition. Over 150 exhibitors and 80 seminars focus on how to enhance asset value, optimize building performance, energy efficient options, and legal and regulatory issues. **BXM**



Coming next month:

June

- **Stats that matter: Industry insiders on the economy and green building**
- **Workforce development: What some schools are doing**

- **Profiles on the new Kohl Building, Oberlin's jazz education center, and on Developers Diversified realty's HQ**
- **Spotlight on heavy equipment**

GREEN BRIEFS

The US Green Building

Council, Natural Resources Defense Council and Congress for the New Urbanism launched the LEED for Neighborhood Development rating system integrating smart growth, new urbanism and green building.

Makers of **construction equipment** are inventing and developing electric and hybrid drives to conventional hydraulic systems **BXM**

BOMA plans golf outing

CLEVELAND—Join the Building Owners and Managers Assn. for a spectacular day of golf at Red Tail Golf Club and Avon Oaks Country Club on Monday, July 12. The Scramble Format ensures that all level of golfers can play and enjoy the beauty and challenges these courses have to offer. **BXM**

Congress looks at Building Star funds for retrofits

WASHINGTON—According to BuildingGreen, the U.S. Congress is considering legislation to create a Building Star program offering rebates and incentives for energy efficient improvements for commercial buildings. It is expected to create 150,000 jobs with \$6 billion from the feds, which will in turn leverage private funding of two to three times that.

It was developed by a coalition of industry groups including contractors, suppliers, financial service companies and advocates for better energy efficiency and is based on the stimulus program, but with longer reaching benefits toward improving our use of resources. **BXM**