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## **Fort Miller Precast and SolaBlock, Inc. Announce Solar-Embedded Highway Sound Barrier Wall as First Joint Product Under Development**

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Greenwich, New York, and Pittsfield, Mass Fort Miller Precast, a 77-year-old New York State maker of precast concrete infrastructure products, and SolaBlock, a Massachusetts and New York based maker of solar-embedded concrete wall systems, are developing their first joint product, a solar-embedded highway sound barrier wall ("SHSBW"). This is the first joint product in development under the parties' collaboration agreement announced in September 2024.

Dually designed with Fort Miller's decades of experience in construction of world-class sound barrier wall systems, and SolaBlock's institutional expertise in embedding vertical solar into the protective properties of concrete, this product was created with ease of construction and maintenance in mind. The product joins the intellectual property that both firms bring to the design and product development process.

Josh French, Vice-President at Fort Miller and project lead for the SolaBlock collaboration, believes the timing is perfect for this product launch: "With funding uncertainties on the horizon for state and regional Departments of Transportation (DOTs), our joint SHSWB product with SolaBlock can create an additional source of revenue for the DOTs, utilizing adjacent highway land that sits mostly dormant. We are also excited to be working with SolaBlock in furthering clean energy generation in a way that is new for the U.S. market."

Eric Planey, CEO of SolaBlock, echoes this excitement: "Our collaboration with Fort Miller has been seamless. Solar sound barrier walls have been tested and deployed on a limited basis in Europe and Asia, but ours is the first product that brings the efficiency of utilizing existing sound barrier wall construction practices. With the expected power demand forecasted to increase significantly, creating these vertical solar farms is a win-win for all involved."

Both French and Planey also see the ability for states' DOTs to use the energy produced to assist on the buildout of EV charging stations along highways, and to possibly add overhead lighting to dark stretches of highways, thus increasing driver safety.

SolaBlock and Fort Miller are in initial conversations with three states to measure interest in and demand for this product line and have received positive initial reaction. The first prototype wall panel is expected early in 2025, with pilot projects anticipated in the second half of 2025. The collaboration intends to work with other designated regional precast manufacturing partners throughout the US, which will contribute to job creation throughout the country.

**About Fort Miller Precast:** Fort Miller Precast excels in manufacturing essential precast concrete infrastructure designed for highways, bridges, and utilities. Renowned for their expertise in precast customization and cutting-edge infrastructure, Fort Miller's diverse product line spans from manholes to complete bridge systems. Notable achievements include the construction of bridge decks for the main span of the iconic Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge (formerly known as the Tappan Zee Bridge), the fabrication of support structures for New York City Mass Transit Authority's (MTA) esteemed East-Side Access Grand Central Terminal, and the precast support structure for Little Island at Pier-55 along the Hudson River on Manhattan's west side.

**To learn more about Fort Miller Precast, click [here](#).**

**About SolaBlock:** SolaBlock provides Vertical Solar Solutions (VSS) for our customers utilizing our soon to be developed Photovoltaic Precast Panels (PVPs). SolaBlock's portfolio of products combines premium solar technology with a variety of concrete based products. Founded in Massachusetts, SolaBlock is proud to be assembled in the USA.

**To learn more about SolaBlock, click [here](#).**

