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Pepper Construction Partners with Craftsmen Industries to Manufacture Net Zero Trailers

Alliance brings Net Zero Trailers into the mainstream

Chicago, IL – February 28, 2022 Pepper Construction today announced a strategic partnership with Craftsmen Industries, Inc. to manufacture Net Zero Trailers at scale. Pepper designed and built the original Net Zero trailer, which has won international acclaim, for use on construction jobsites. By partnering with Craftsmen, [the same high-performance trailers are now available for multiple uses across the nation.](#)

For Pepper, the Net Zero Trailer is part of a larger initiative to positively affect the communities Pepper serves. Efficient from every perspective, the trailer leverages technology to manage a construction project while providing a healthy and high performing environment for occupants. Completely powered by renewable energy, this trailer is the epitome of a healthy high performing sustainable environment. The idea originated with Susan Heinking, Pepper's Vice President of High Performance and Sustainable Construction and a LEED Fellow.

"Most people spend about 90% of their time indoors, and that environment has a significant impact on our health," says Heinking. "That philosophy also applies to the people working on our jobsites. From air quality to basic human comforts and energy consumption, we found that existing jobsite trailers did not match our commitment to the environment or our staff. We redesigned it to focus on human experience, productivity and quality from every aspect. Since its inception, the Net Zero Trailer has had a tremendous impact on quality of life for our team. With Craftsmen's partnership we can take this original idea and expand it beyond just trailers but for any mobile working or learning environment. [Click here to read more about the original trailer.](#)

Craftsmen plans to build each Net Zero Trailer with a steel frame for durability and long lifespan. The initial design includes a standard 50-foot length and 12-foot width and is conceptualized to fit the environmental and operational needs of majority of people working on a jobsite. Twenty-seven photovoltaic solar panels on the rooftop will take the place of a generator to produce 37.7 kWh per day providing enough power for a full workday. In addition to solar power, the design aims to provide a fully tech-powered space with no need for paper. The trailer is equipped to support 12 people including their computers and phones, large monitors, Wi-Fi, LED lighting, temperature control, a refrigerator, microwave, and a tankless water heater.

For a fully ergonomic space, the interior is designed to include a large conference area, a private office, workstations, a kitchenette, a restroom, and an IT closet. Ample doors and windows provide natural lighting to eliminate use of LED lighting during daylight hours. While this standardized model is designed to harmonize with construction crews across the globe, each Net Zero Trailer has the option to be fully customized. Interior footprints can be reorganized to match the flow of each jobsite. Finishes can utilize reclaimed, eco-friendly, and branded materials to create the optimum environment.

The average jobsite construction trailer emits 53,712 pounds of CO₂ emissions into the air each year through its energy use. That is equivalent to the energy used by four residential houses in a year. By using high-performance building strategies, drawdown solutions, virtual construction technology, high-performance and sustainable materials, products and construction techniques, the Net Zero Trailer uses 100% less energy than a traditional trailer. Throughout three years of service, one trailer has already reduced the combined carbon footprints of several jobsites by more than 150,000 pounds of CO₂ emissions.

“We were inspired when Pepper came to us with their Net Zero concept,” Mark Steele, Co-Owner and CEO of Craftsmen said. “The marriage of Pepper’s industry knowledge and Craftsmen’s experience in the creation of one-of-a-kind mobile solutions brings the Net Zero Trailer from concept to reality. To make a positive impact on the physical and mental wellbeing of thousands of people, and exponentially reduce environmental hazards throughout the world is a huge step in the right direction. The potential to build several of these sustainable trailers each year could lead to permanent changes within the construction and manufacturing industries.”

About Pepper

Now in their fourth generation of family leadership, Pepper Construction Group serves clients across the country with comprehensive teams in Illinois, Indiana, Ohio and Wisconsin. Ranked by ENR (Engineering News Report) magazine as one of the top builders of sustainable projects in the nation, Pepper serves clients in a variety of markets such as healthcare, education, manufacturing and light industrial, data centers, entertainment, hospitality and interiors, among others. Pepper’s High Performance and Sustainable Construction group is part of their Integrated Construction Services (ICS) team, which represents some of the most advanced thought leadership in our industry—investigating new technologies, evaluating new methodologies and integrating innovative solutions in the field. Some of the firm's current high performance work includes the LEED Gold Certified Chicago Children's Theatre; the LEED Platinum Certified Sunset Ridge High School in Northfield, IL; and the LEED Gold Certified MILA apartment tower in downtown Chicago, IL. For more information, please visit www.pepperconstruction.com.

About Craftsmen

Craftsmen Industries has been the market leader of design, engineering and fabrication of custom industrial mobile solutions, experiential marketing vehicles and large-format graphics for nearly 40 years. Its 127,000 square foot facility located in St. Charles, MO houses 180 skilled team members across many fields including engineering and design, welding, 3D fabrication, electrical, plumbing, paint, and G7 Master Printing. Craftsmen Industries follows ISO 9001:2015 certified processes to provide customers with best-in-class quality, service, and speed. To learn more, visit www.craftsmenind.com.

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