



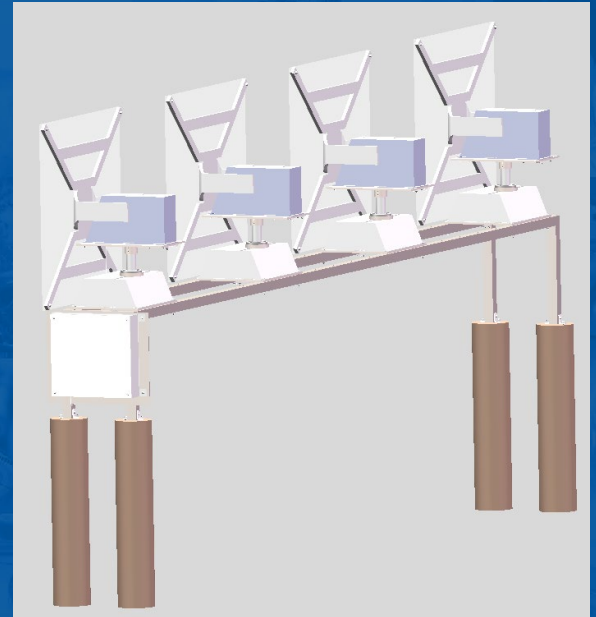
Herbert Wertheim  
College of Engineering  
UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

# SOLR

*Self Orienting Light Reflector*

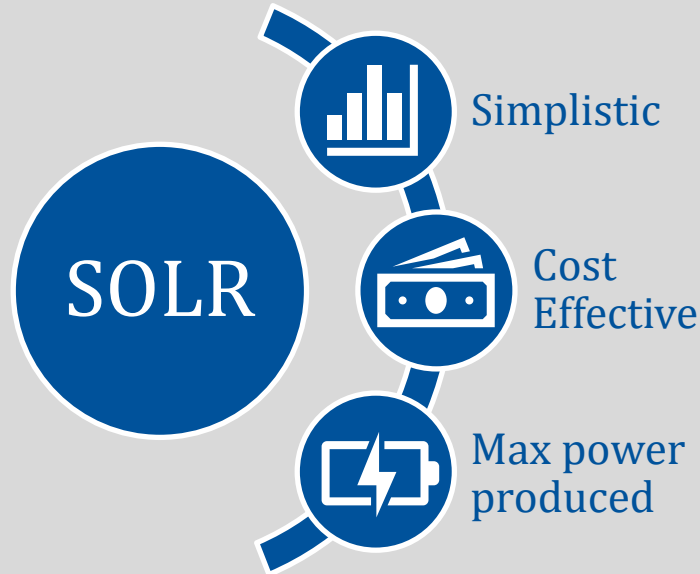
Section 27096, Group 11

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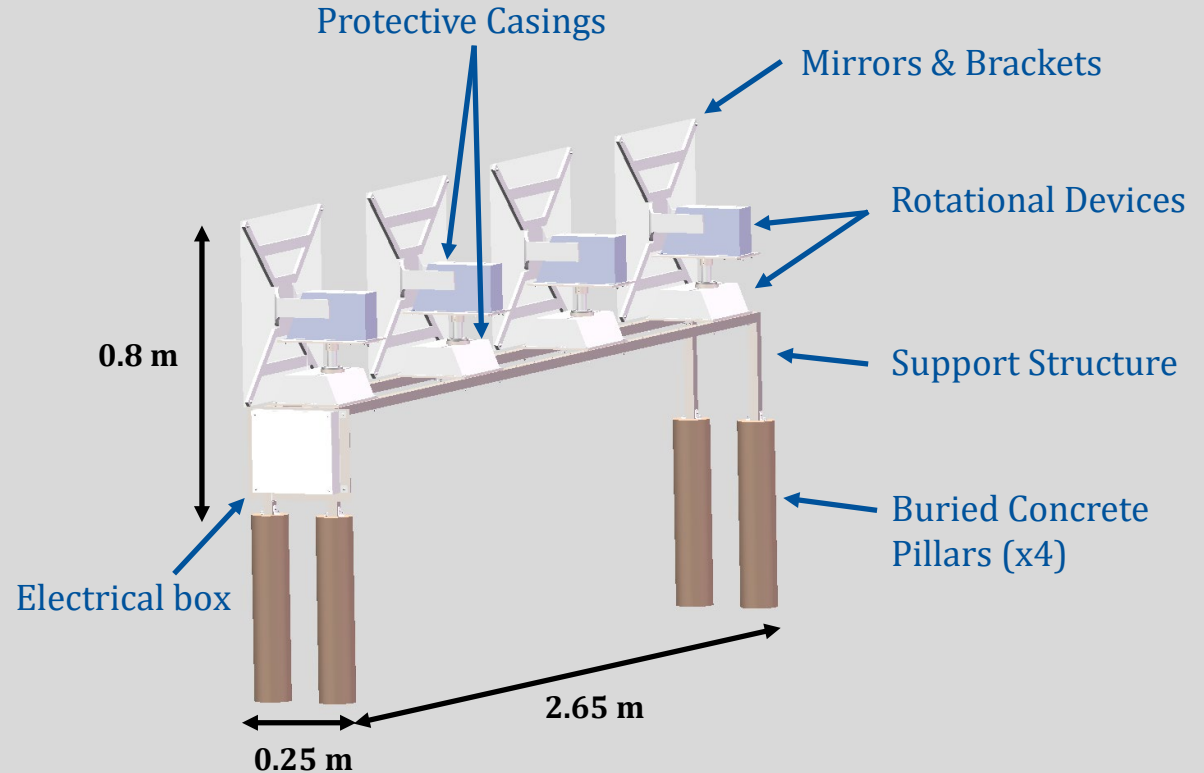
# Team Motivation

Our team's passion, greatest skills, and financial drive guided us towards a design:



# Overview of SOLR

- **Elevated, strong, secure, steel frame**
- **Four independent, identical heliostats**
- **Single, all-encompassing electrical box**
- **Precise elevation and azimuth tracking**
- **Ease of modularity (repairs/replacements)**



### Protective Casings (x8)

- Vacuum molded ABS plastic
- Seals off from environment for longer lifespan

### Mirrors and Brackets (x4)

- Square plexiglass
- Solar reflective foil
- Area =  $0.25 \text{ m}^2$

### Rotational Devices (x8)

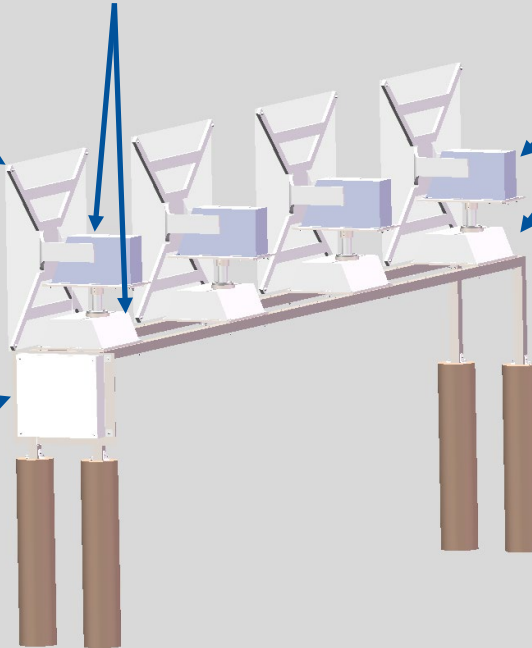
- Worm gear driven by stepper motor
- Lower = azimuth
- Upper = elevation

### Electrical Box

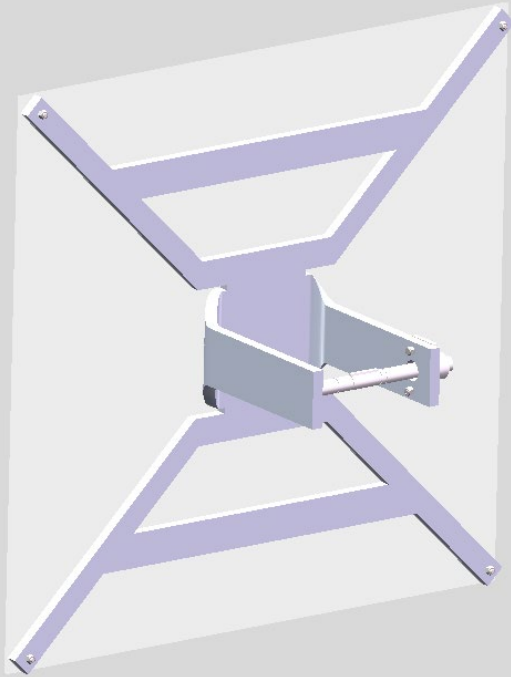
- One Raspberry Pi
- 8 motor controllers

### Support Structure

- Welded Steel frame
- Secured to ground via concrete anchors
- Heliostat baseplates bolted to frame



# Mirror



C1: Collection Area

A) Total collection of heliostat area is less than  $1 \text{ m}^2$

C7: Washable Surface

H) Withstand 500psi from 1 ft

I) Must not react with deionized water

C10: Heliostat Number

M) Includes 4-16 heliostats

C13: Thermal Power Sustained

P) Thermal irradiation for receiving tower is 1 MW

C14: Concentration Ratio

Q) Total solar collection area to receiver area ratio greater than 1000

## Solar Reflex Foil

- Irradiation: 1094.19 W
- 95% Reflective

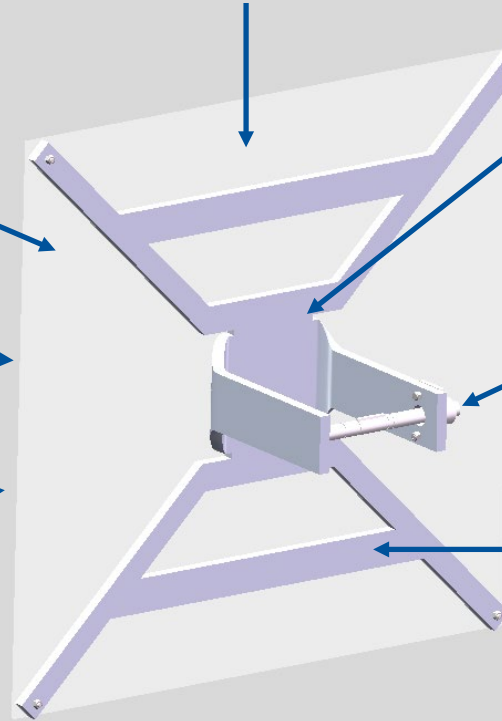
## E6000 Adhesive

Working Temp. -40 to 180°F

## Plexiglass

- Strength = 20.39 MPa
- Moh's Hardness:  $3.5 < H < 4$
- Heat expansion  $4.1 \times 10^{-5} \frac{\text{in}^\circ\text{F}}{\text{in}}$

Surface Area =  $0.25 \text{ m}^2$



## ABS Plastic

- Heat expansion  $4.1 \times 10^{-5} \frac{\text{in}^\circ\text{F}}{\text{in}}$
- Max working temp = 220°F

## Rotational Lock Shaft

- Easy insert shaft with lock by set screw and collar

## X Bracket Design

- Structural integrity
- 4 anchor points
- lightweight

Thermal Irradiance on the central tower from 1 module

$$P = \phi A \eta_f (\eta_p)^2 = \left( \frac{1360.8 \text{ W}}{\text{m}^2} \right) (1 \text{ m}^2) (0.95) (0.92)^2$$

$$P = 1094.19 \text{ W}$$

Strength using fracture toughness

$$\sigma = \frac{K_{IC}}{\beta \sqrt{\pi a}} = \frac{1.15 \text{ MPa}\sqrt{\text{m}}}{1.5 \sqrt{\pi} 450 \text{ nm}}$$

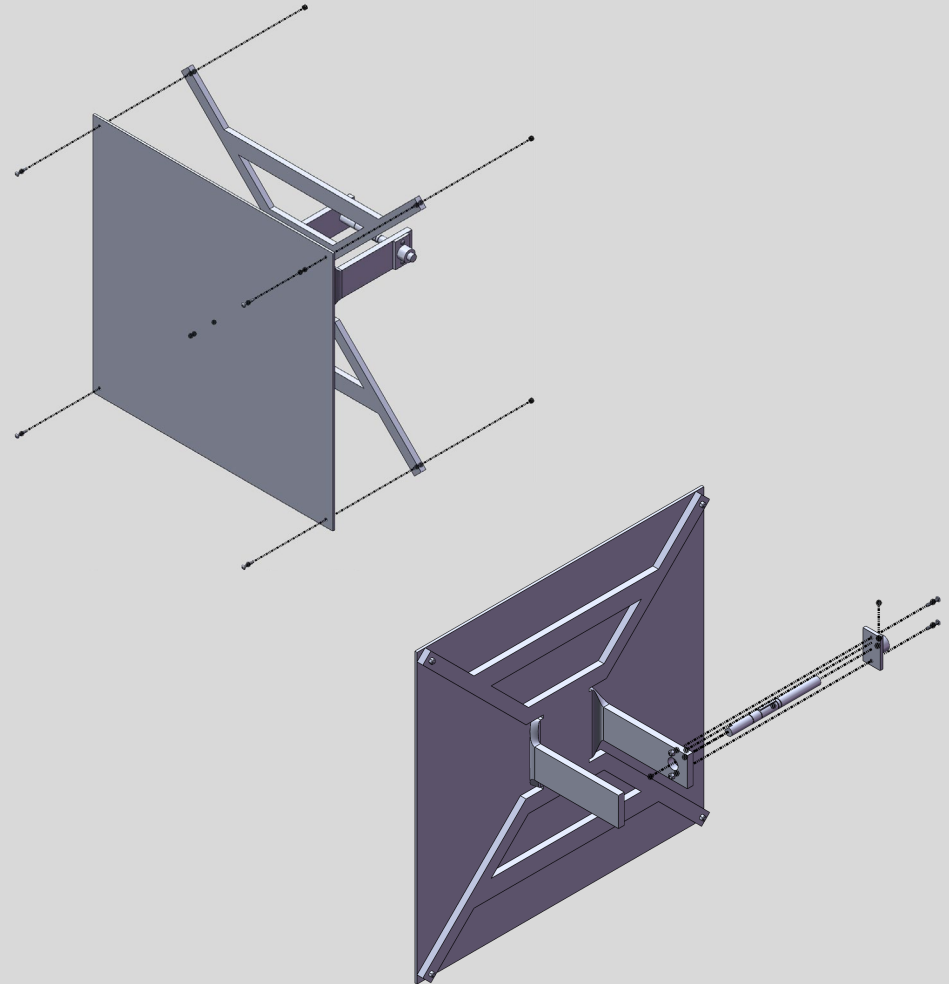
$$\sigma = 20.39 \text{ MPa}$$

Brinell Hardness of acrylic: Between 3.5 and 4

Weight of Acrylic

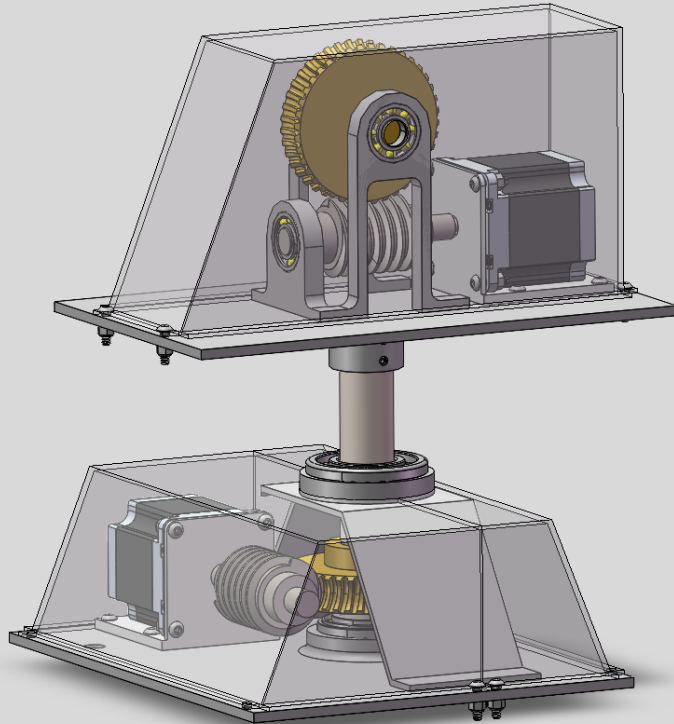
$$W = \rho V g = \left( 1180 \frac{\text{kg}}{\text{m}^3} \right) (0.25 \text{ m}^2 * 0.004 \text{ m}) \left( 9.81 \frac{\text{m}}{\text{s}^2} \right)$$

$$W = 11.58 \text{ N}$$





# Rotational Device



C2: Optical Loss Mitigation

B) Optical losses must not exceed 40% (0.5 deg.)

C3: Reflection Geometry

C) Must be able to redirect light to a 100m tall tower

C4: Cost

D) Cost below \$100/m<sup>2</sup>

C6: Solar Tracking

F) Azimuth tracking of greater than 150 degrees

G) Elevation tracking of greater than 90 degrees beginning at 10 degrees

C9: Deployment Location

K) Must withstand temperatures from 120 to -30 degrees Fahrenheit

- L) Must withstand 60mph wind

C12: Parts Cost

O) Custom parts cheaper or equal value to OTS parts

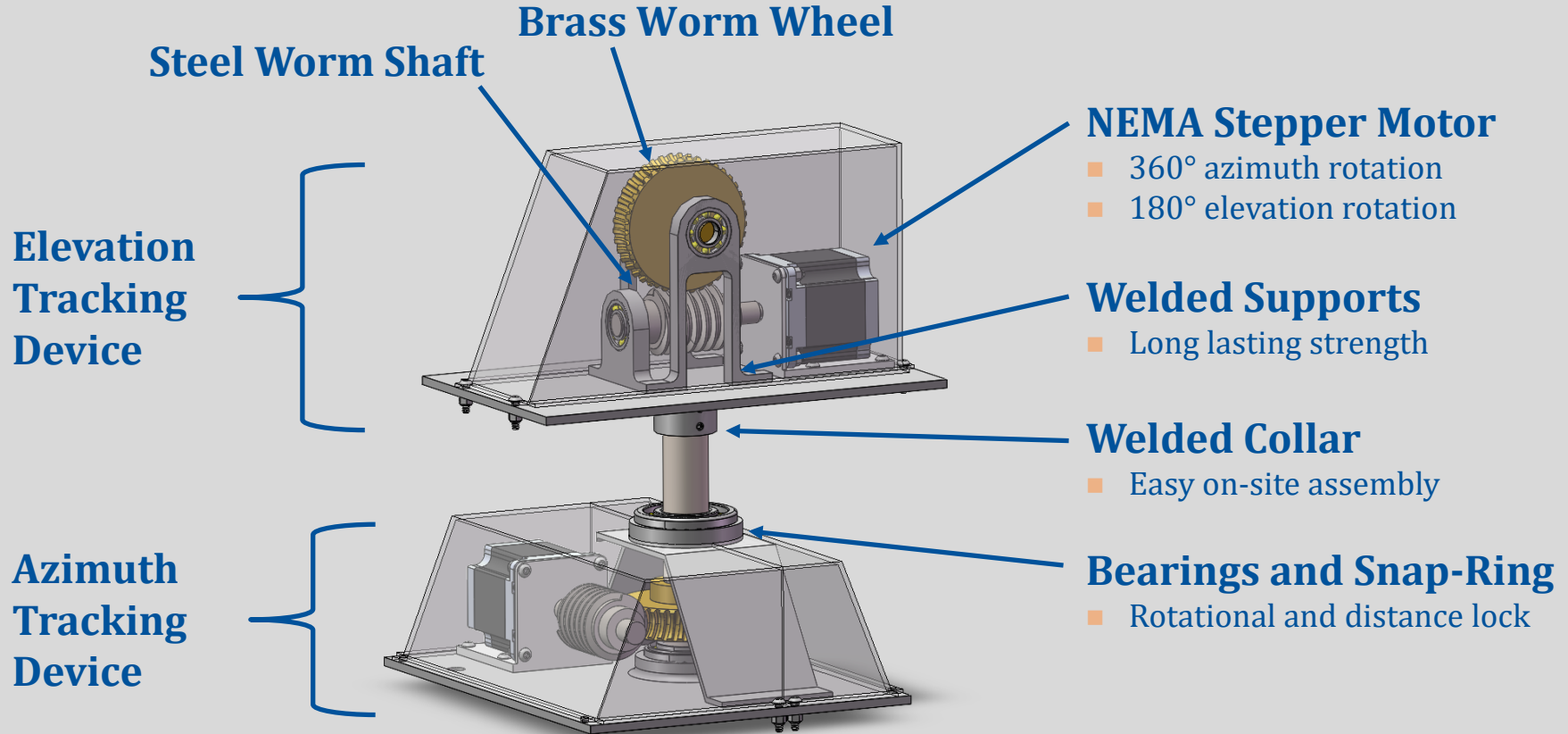
C15: Innovative Features

R) Driving mechanisms composed of cheap electrical gear motor

C19: Motor Use

V) Motors must connect to 110-120V grid





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Tracking Accuracy of Rotational Drive with 1/4<sup>th</sup> Micro-stepping

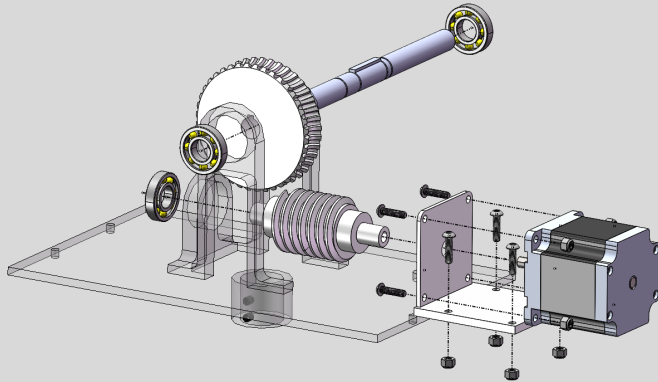
$$\text{Motor Resolution} = \frac{200 \frac{\text{steps}}{\text{rev}}}{\frac{1}{4} \frac{\text{microsteps}}{\text{step}}} = 800 \frac{\text{steps}}{\text{rev}}$$

Output Resolution = Motor Resolution \* Worm Drive Ratio

$$\text{Output Resolution} = 800 \frac{\text{steps}}{\text{rev}} * \left(\frac{40}{1}\right) = 32000 \frac{\text{steps}}{\text{rev}}$$

$$\text{Tracking Accuracy} = \frac{360 \frac{\text{degrees}}{\text{rev}}}{32000 \frac{\text{steps}}{\text{rev}}}$$

Tracking Accuracy = 0.0225° per step



Efficiency of Worm Gear Drive

$$\eta = \frac{W^t(\text{without friction})}{W^t(\text{with friction})}$$

$$\eta = \frac{\cos\phi\sin\lambda}{f\cos\lambda + \cos\phi\sin\lambda} * 100$$

$$\eta = \frac{\cos 14.5^\circ \sin 17.1^\circ}{0.1 \cos 17.1^\circ + \cos 14.5^\circ \sin 17.1^\circ} * 100$$

$$\eta = 75\%$$

Worm Gear Design Factor of Safety

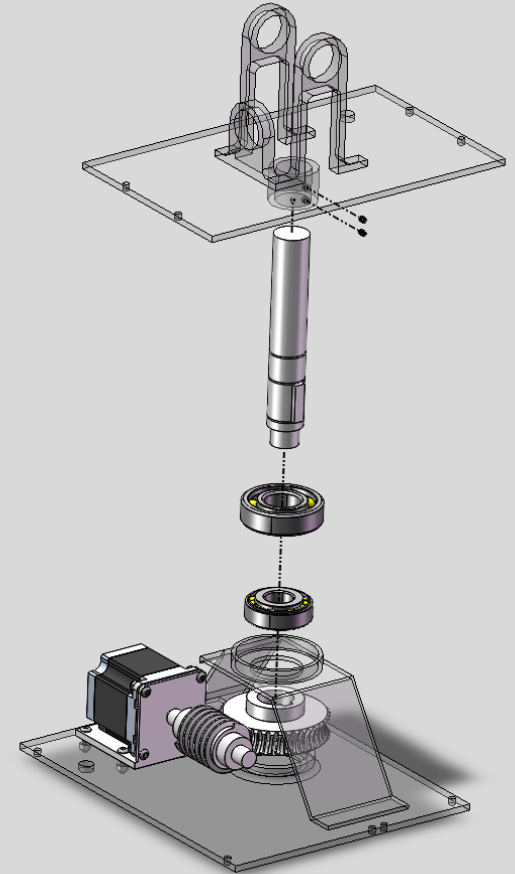
$$\sigma_{allow} = \frac{W^t}{F\left(\frac{d}{N}\right)Y}$$

$$\sigma_{allow} = \frac{0.2805}{(0.0018) \left(\frac{72.2}{40}\right) (0.336)}$$

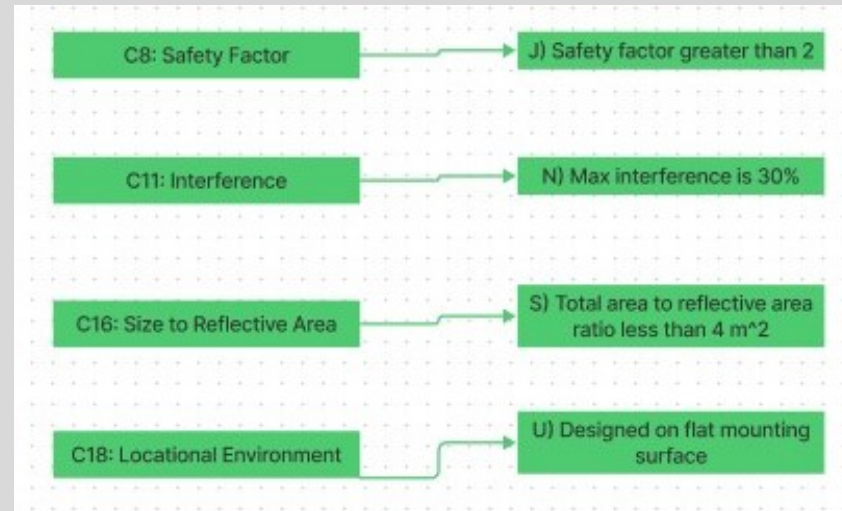
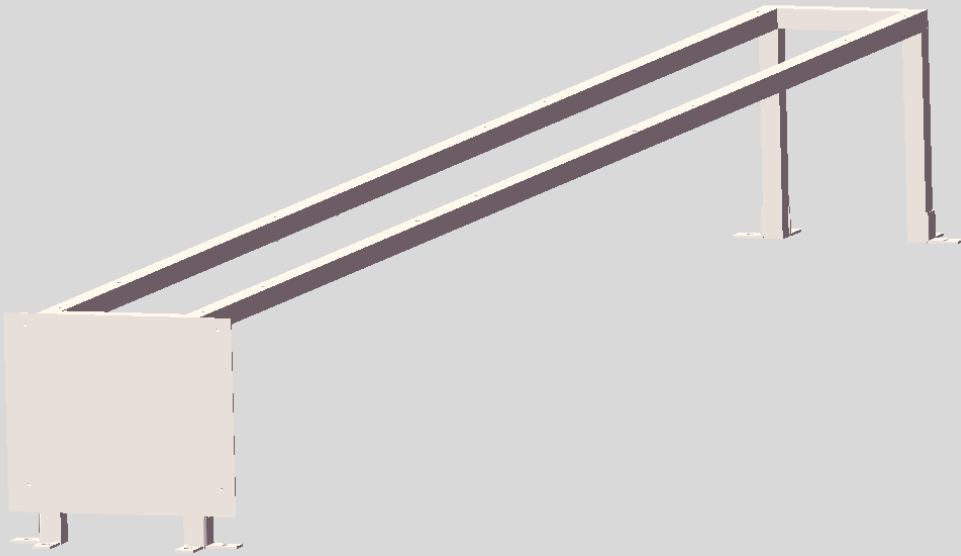
$$\sigma_{allow} = 256.94 \text{MPa}$$

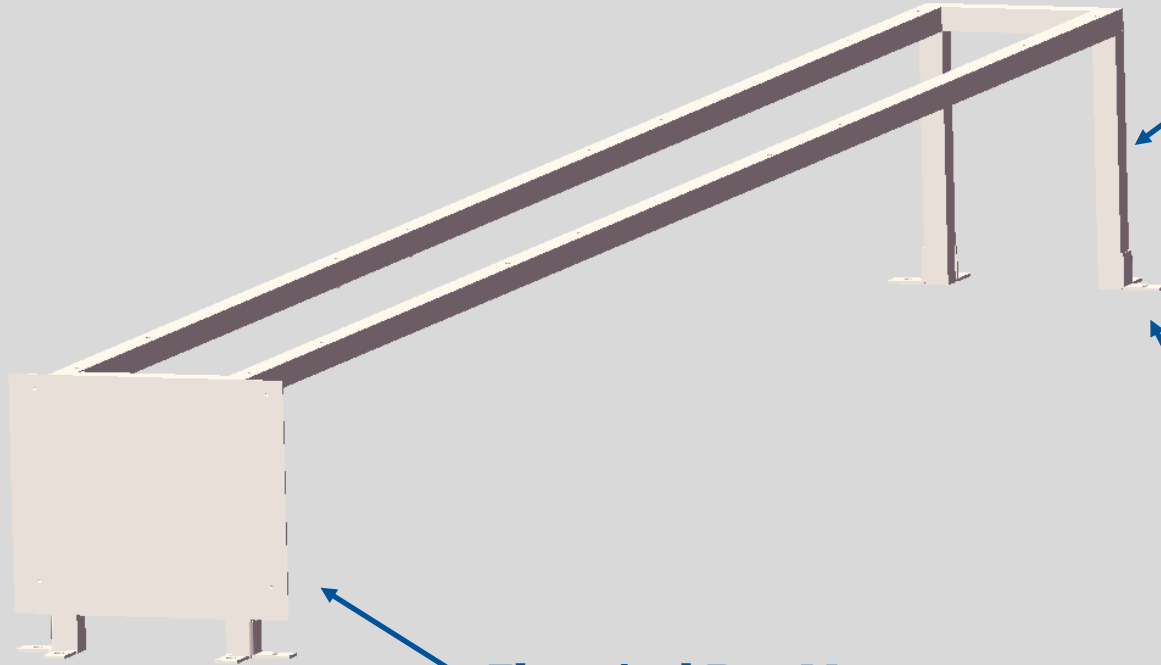
$$\eta_d = \frac{350 \text{MPa}}{256.94 \text{MPa}}$$

$$\eta_d = 1.36$$



# Modular Support Structure





## Welded Steel Frame

- Moderate cost
- High strength
- Ease of manufacture
- Ease of on-site assembly

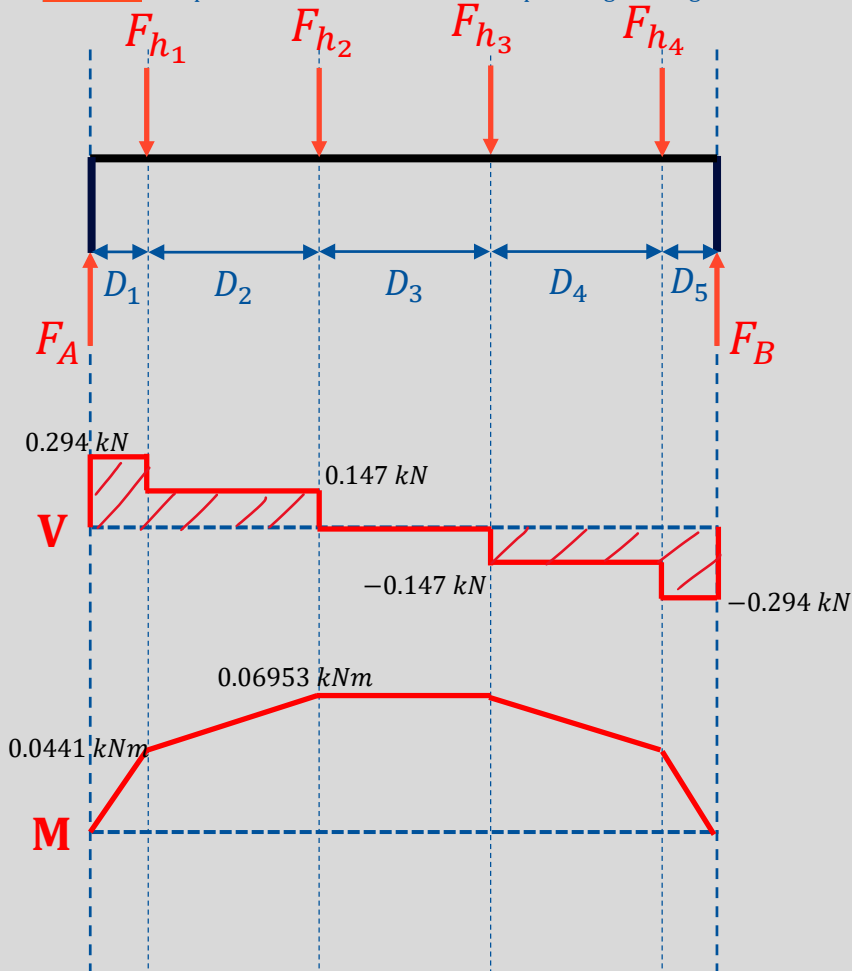
## Concrete Wedge Anchors

- Ease of on-site assembly
- Secure anchoring under loads

## Electrical Box Mount

- Easy access for maintenance
- Low cost
- Secures electrical box and components

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Each heliostat module is approximately 33 lbs.

$$F_{h_1} = F_{h_2} = F_{h_3} = F_{h_4} = 33 \text{ lbs} \sim .147 \text{ kN}$$

Summing the forces and solving for the reaction forces yields,

$$\Sigma F_y = 0 = F_A - F_{h_1} - F_{h_2} - F_{h_3} - F_{h_4} + F_B$$

$$F_A = F_B = 0.294 \text{ kN}$$

Therefore, the maximum shear force experienced is approximately  $0.3 \text{ kN}$ .

$$D_1 = D_5 = 0.15 \text{ m} \ \& \ D_2 = D_3 = D_4 = 0.79$$

Normal stress,  $\sigma_A = \frac{My}{I}$

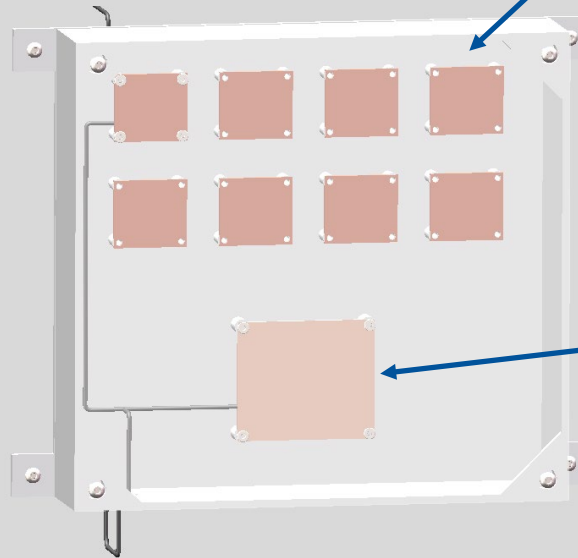
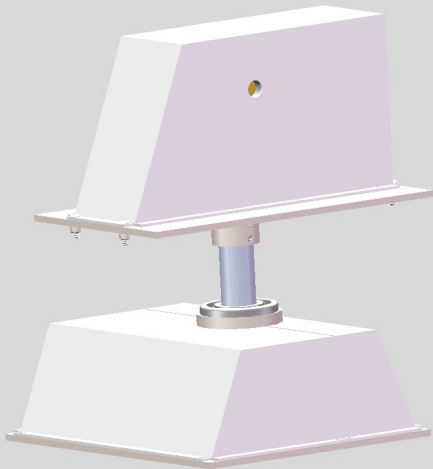
$$M = 0.07 \text{ kNm}$$

The resulting stress on the frame is 60 MPa.

$$60 \text{ MPa} \ll 80 \text{ GPa}$$

# Electronics

## Limit Switches for motor location



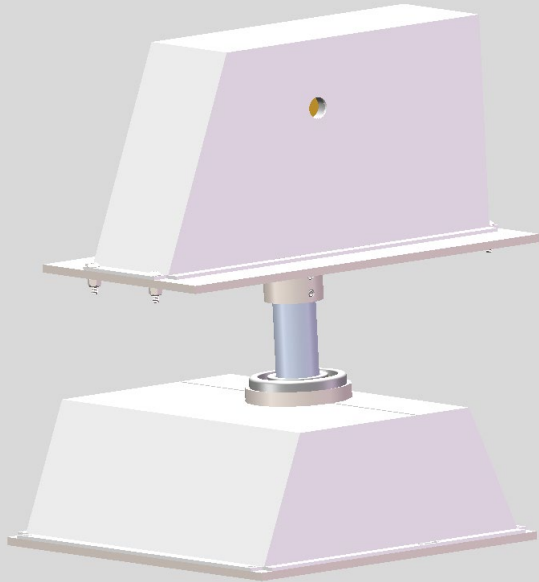
## Motor Drivers (x8)

- ULN2003 – stepper motor driver
- Built in controller
- Converts pulse signals to motor motion to achieve precise positioning

## Espressif ESP8266

- Cost effective
- 2.4 GHz WiFi
- Bluetooth 4.3
- 5V DC power

# Protective Casing



C5: Operational Lifetime

E) Must last 20 years

C17: Control/Automation

T) Computer systems fit into a  
3×3×2 (in) box

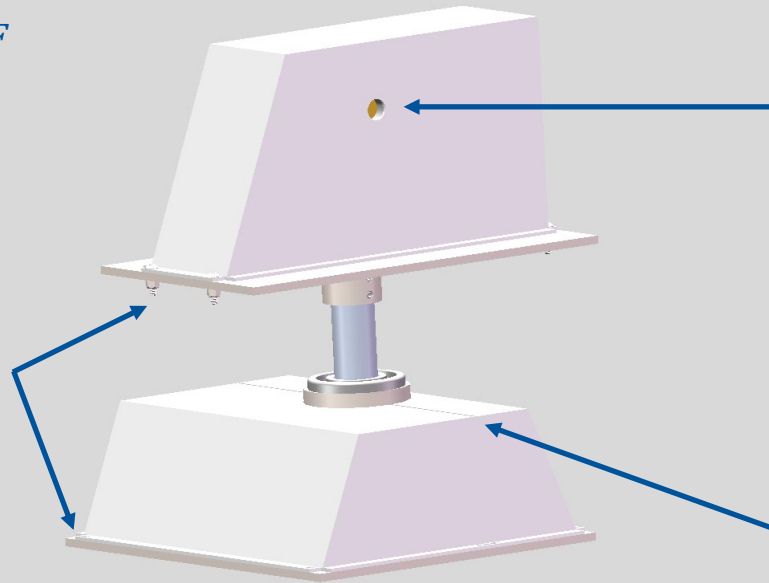


## Angled casings

- ABS plastic
- Max working temp =  $220^{\circ}\text{F}$
- UV resistant pigment
- 35+ year lifetime

## Standard bolt fastening

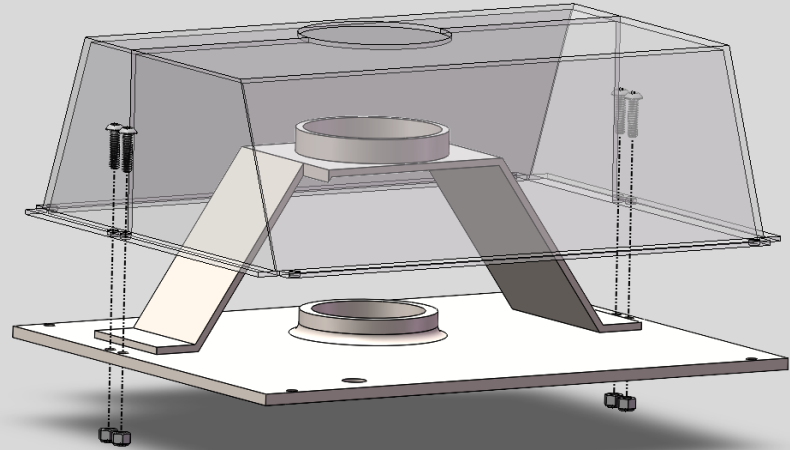
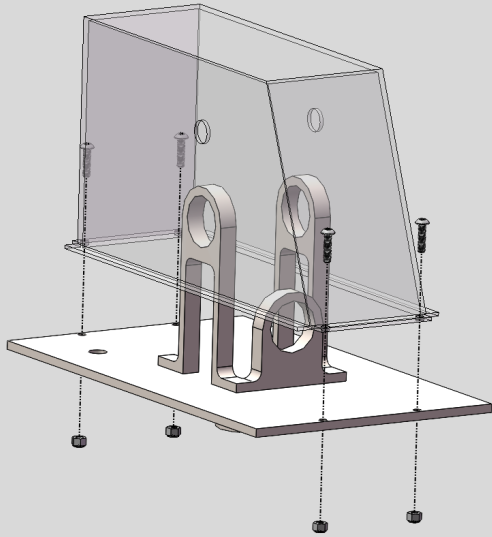
- M4 x 0.7 mm



Top casing slides over top and has holes for the mirror bracket to mount to

Bottom casing splits in half for easy access to the motor and gear systems

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# Heat Transfer Calculations for motors

- The maximum surrounding temperature to ensure the motor remains functional is 212°F
- The hottest recorded temperature ever in the United States was recorded to be 134°F

$$-q_s = h(T - T_0)$$

$$-q_s = 0.175(212^\circ\text{F} - 134^\circ\text{F})$$

$$-q_s = 13.65 \text{ W/m}^2$$

$$q_s = hA(\Delta T)$$

$$-13.65 \text{ W/m}^2 = (0.175)(0.0431 \text{ m}^2)(\Delta T)$$

$$\Delta T = 18.11^\circ\text{F}$$

- The change in temperature inside the protective structure would meet the motor standards

# High Wind Safety Mode

## ■ Holding Torque

- $H_T = \text{Motor}H_T * G_R = 1.26 \text{ Nm} * 40 = 50.4 \text{ Nm}$

## ■ Lift on flat plate @ 90 mph

- $C_L = 2\pi \sin \alpha = 2\pi \sin 12 = 1.31$

- $F_D = \frac{1}{2} \rho v^2 C_D A$

- $T = d * F_D = 0.125 \text{ m} * \frac{1}{2} * \frac{1.225 \text{ kg}}{\text{m}^3} * \left( \frac{40.23 \text{ m}}{\text{s}} \right)^2 * 1.31 * 0.25 \text{ m}^2 = 40.47 \text{ Nm}$

$$40.47 \text{ Nm} < 50.4 \text{ Nm}$$

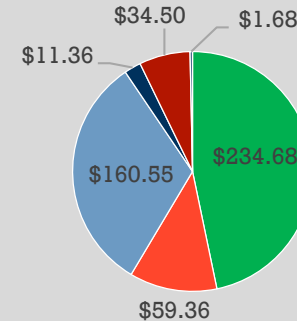
# Cost of SOLR

Manufacturing Labor				
Subsystem	Description	Cost	Quantity	Total
Mirror	Making Mirror	\$ 12.00	0.02	\$ 0.20
Mirror	Coating the Mirror	\$ 12.00	0.04	\$ 0.48
Mirror	Making Bracket	\$ 12.00	0.02	\$ 0.24
Rotational Device	Cutting Stock	\$ 12.00	0.1	\$ 1.20
Rotational Device	Modifying Gears	\$ 12.00	0.1	\$ 1.20
Rotational Device	Making Platforms	\$ 12.00	0.02	\$ 0.24
Rotational Device	Printing Motor Mount	\$ 12.00	0.07	\$ 0.80
Protective Structure	Vacume Cover	\$ 12.00	0.17	\$ 2.00
Module Support Structure	Welding Frame	\$ 20.00	0.25	\$ 5.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 11.36</b>

Assembly Labor				
Subsystem	Description	Cost	Quantity	Total
Mirror	Attach to Bracket	\$ 15.00	0.2	\$ 3.00
Rotational Device	Assemble	\$ 15.00	1	\$ 15.00
Protective Structure	Bolts	\$ 15.00	0.1	\$ 1.50
Module Support Structure	Attach Heilostats, set frame	\$ 15.00	1	\$ 15.00
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 34.50</b>

Energy Consumption				
Subsystem	Description	Cost	Quantity	Total
Fuel Charge		\$ 0.04	2.5	\$ 0.10
Non-Fuel Charge		\$ 0.02	5	\$ 0.08
Demand Charge		\$ 5.00	0.3	\$ 1.50
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 1.68</b>

## Cost Distribution



- OTS Parts
- Modified OTS Parts
- Raw Materials
- Manufacturing Labor
- Assembly Labor
- Energy Consumption

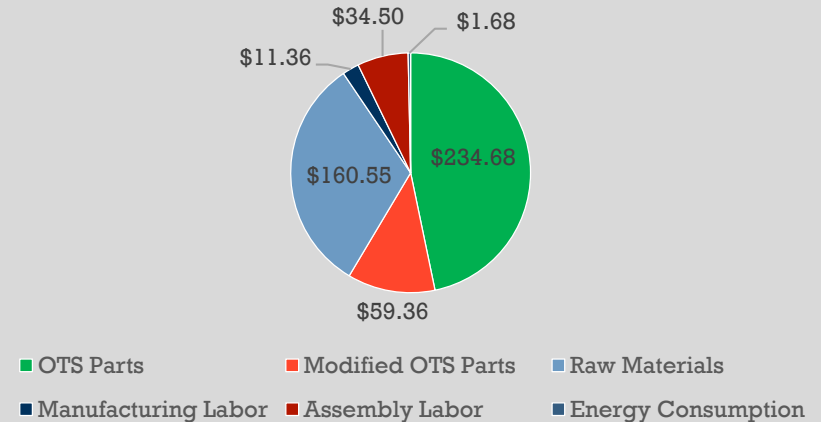
# Cost of SOLR (cont.)

OTS Parts				
Subsystem	Discription	Cost	Quantity	Total
Rotational Device	Motors	\$ 14.24	8	\$ 113.92
Rotational Device	Spur Gear	\$ 4.78	8	\$ 38.24
Rotational Device	Bearings	\$ 1.39	16	\$ 22.24
Rotational Device	Raspberry Pi	\$ 25.00	1	\$ 25.00
Rotational Device	Motor Driver	\$ 16.08	1	\$ 16.08
All	Nuts and Bolts	\$ 0.05	300	\$ 15.00
Rotational Device	Snap Rings	\$ 0.15	28	\$ 4.20
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 234.68</b>

Raw Materials				
Subsystem	Discription	Cost	Quantity	Total
Mirror	ABS Plastic	\$ 5.21	4	\$ 20.84
Mirror	Mirror Bracket	\$ 4.21	4	\$ 16.84
Rotational Device	Round Stock	\$ 3.30	4	\$ 13.20
Rotational Device	Motor Platforms (steel)	\$ 4.68	8	\$ 37.44
Rotational Device	3-D Filiment	\$ 31.49	0.2	\$ 6.30
Protective Structure	ABS Plastic	\$ 2.13	8	\$ 17.04
Protective Structure	PVC for Casing	\$ 2.40	1	\$ 2.40
Module Support Structure	Steel Stock	\$ 1.65	23	\$ 37.95
Module Support Structure	Weld Stick	\$ 0.002	52	\$ 0.10
Module Support Structure	Concrete	\$ 4.22	2	\$ 8.44
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 160.55</b>

Modified OTS Parts				
Subsystem	Discription	Cost	Quantity	Total
Rotational Device	Worm Gear	\$ 7.42	8	\$ 59.36
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$ 59.36</b>

### Cost Distribution



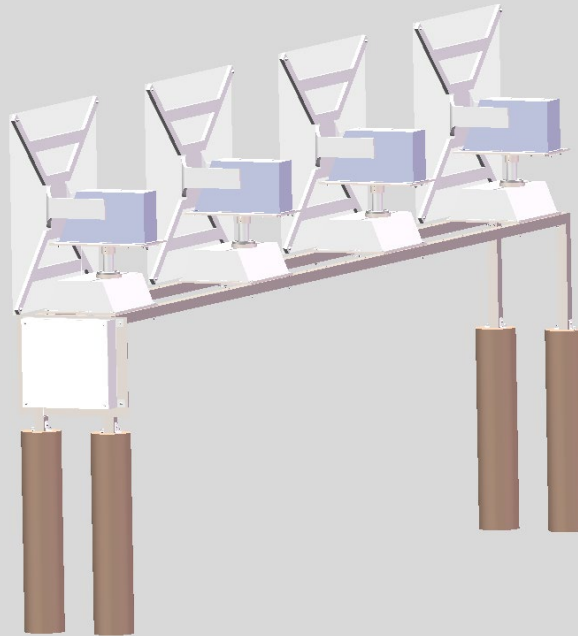
# Summary of design

## Modularity

- Ease of manufacture
- Ease of assembly
- Ease of access to parts for repair/replacement
- 4 identical heliostats on each module

## Zero interference

- Heliostats in line, with same rotation



## Lifetime (>20 years)

- Durable parts
- Safety modes
  - High wind
  - Electrical/mechanical failure

## Quick Assembly

- Same screw heads used throughout
- Screws are easily accessed
- Limited on-site equipment necessary



# Questions?