



FastRack510-6dg™ Supported PV Installation Survives Hurricane Irma on the Westin Hotel of Sint Maarten

Key Project Facts:

Location & Year

Sint Maarten, 2011

System Size

610.7 kW-DC

Mounting System

Sollega™ FastRack 510-6dg at 5° tilt

Modules

Suntech 72 Cell

The Westin Hotel in Sint Maarten, renowned for its scenic beauty, sought a sustainable energy solution to minimize environmental impact while preserving the comfort of its guests. Sollega’s precursor to the FastRack (FR510-6dg), the FastRack (FR5) system was selected to mount the 610.7 kW photovoltaic system. Thanks to St. Maarten’s sunny climate, this system is projected to generate approximately 980,000 kWh of clean energy annually. Due to the ease of installation of the FR5 system, the PV build was able to be erected quickly and efficiently, ensuring minimal disruption to hotel guests.



Given the coastal location, Sollega's corrosion-resistant materials were essential in protecting the system from saltwater exposure and extreme conditions. Although significantly outside of its tested range, the installation survived Hurricane Irma's Category 5 (190 mph) winds with nearly 90% of the 610 kW array remaining secure and functional despite the roof itself being irreparably damaged (see image below). Due to its success, when the roof was replaced the team opted to repair the system with an all-new FR510-6dg system.

The FR510-6dg's design is engineered and tested to withstand sustained winds up to 165 mph. The material was updated to BASF Ultramid™, a polymer that will not rust or corrode in high salt spray environments making it perfect for coastal applications. The system's hybrid design utilizes heat-welded mechanical anchors and ballast blocks, providing stability on the fully adhered single-ply membrane roof. This build is a testament to the resilience and reliability of Sollega's patented system even in challenging marine environments.



Screenshot from helicopter footage of the roof of the Westin Maartin Hotel showing the damage and surviving PV system after Category 5 Hurricane Irma. The system was later reinstalled on updated FR510-6dgs after the roof underwent repairs.

Contact Sollega today for a quote on your upcoming Flat-roof or Ground-Mount PV installations.



Contact Information:



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