NEWS From GEORGIA TECH'S
ENGINEERING EXPERIMENT STATION
Atlanta, Georgia 30332

Contact: Mark Hodges/Ray Moore
(404) 894-3444

GEORGIA TECH RESEARCHERS DESIGN
SOLAR FEATURES FOR CLASSROOM

March 17, 1980
For Immediate Release

ATLANTA, GA....Georgia Tech engineers will design a solar energy system for heating a modular classroom under development.

Tech's Engineering Experiment Station will complete the system for Madison Industries of Georgia, a Conyers-based firm specializing in construction of prefabricated modular buildings.

Madison Industries has a contract from the Department of Energy to prepare the finished engineering design for a modular building with passive solar energy features. The company has subcontracted the solar phase of the work to Tech.

The classroom will be a prefabricated unit which can be disassembled and re-erected at different school sites, as population shifts occur in school districts. The passive solar system will be a standard part of the design.

Passive solar devices capture energy from the sun though non-mechanical means, such as natural air flows, shading and moveable insulation. Active solar systems use machines like motors, pumps and blowers to collect the sun's energy.

"Our design will emphasize passive systems," said Jim Clark, Tech's program manager. "But we can incorporate some elements of an active system, so long as it remains only a small part of the overall design."

Solar energy will provide heat and may be used also to ventilate, light and cool the classroom, Clark said.

(more)

"We think solar energy can substantially reduce the structure's fuel costs," he added. "Anything we develop will be applicable to other modular buildings."

Tech will use engineers from its Technology Applications and Energy Research laboratories for the project, with additional help coming from an advisory committee of other solar researchers on the Tech campus.

The engineering team will submit three proposals to Madison Industries for review. One will be used as the basis for the final design. If DOE approves the completed plans, the agency probably will offer Madison the opportunity to build and test market the structure.

Madison Industries deals primarily in commercial modular buildings such as service stations, mini-warehouses and fast food restaurants.

"We're pleased to be contractor for this project," said Joe Van Dover, marketing director for Madison Industries of Georgia. "Solar Energy will become increasingly accepted commercially in coming years and we're happy to play a role in furthering market awareness of the available energy options."

# # #