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## N.J. firms form strategic partnership on solar power

By **João-Pierre Ruth**

Energy services company **Pro-Tech Energy Solutions LLC**, in Branchburg, said Monday it formed a strategic partnership with **Whitman Co.**, in East Brunswick, an environmental and engineering management services firm.

The partnership announcement follows the February completion of the largest joint

project between the companies. Pro-Tech and Whitman designed and installed a 1.3-megawatt solar system across the roof of **NFI's** seven-acre Cherry Hill warehouse.

Vineland-based logistics company **NFI** now plans to install solar-panel systems at more of its properties, according to **John Drexinger**, chief operating officer with Pro-Tech.

Drexinger said his company has completed four projects with Whitman, calling the NFI installation its largest to date. The other projects: A 1-megawatt system at an Edison refrigerated distribution center; a 50-kilowatt system at long-term care facility Holy Name Friary, in Ringwood; and a 100-kilowatt system for a self-storage facility in Egg Harbor.



The Cherry Hill installation is the largest to date from Prot-Tech and Whitman. (Pro-Tech photo)

The Cherry Hill project presented a few challenges, Drexinger said. "The building had some structural snow-load issues," he said. "We had to enhance the structure of the building and build an exoskeleton above the building."

**Barry Skoultichi**, chief executive of Whitman, said such solar-panel systems benefit from state and federal [government incentives for renewable energy](#). Losing such incentives "would jeopardize the financial viability of a lot of these projects," he said.

Skoultichi said the companies are collaborating on projects in Virginia and Pennsylvania, as well as New Jersey.

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