

## New 'Solar Cloth'

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A Solar Cloth array over a parking lot. CREDIT: SOLAR CLOTH COMPANY/SCREENSHOT

A British start-up has developed a way for parking lots and structures with roofs that can't take much weight to harness the power of the sun.

The Cambridge, England-based Solar Cloth Company is beginning to run trials of its solar cloth, which uses lightweight photovoltaic fabric that can be stretched across parking lots or on buildings that can't hold heavy loads, such as sports stadiums with lightweight, retractable roofs. Perry Carroll, Solar Cloth Company's founder, [told BusinessGreen](#) that the company is working to close deals to install solar cloth on 27,000 parking lots.

"We have built a growing sales pipeline worth £4.2m [about \$6.57 million] for 2015, including park and ride projects, airport parking operators and retail park owners," he said.

According to Solar Cloth Company, there are about 320 square miles of roof space and 135 square miles of parking space in the U.K. that could be covered by solar cloth, and if all of these spaces were covered, the solar power produced would be enough to power the U.K.'s grid three times.

The key to solar cloth's adaptability is its lightweight nature. An approximately ten square-meter piece of the cloth weighs about 7.3 pounds, far less than a traditional, silicone-based solar panel's weight of about 35 to 48 pounds. The material is also flexible, which allows it to be installed on most roofs, regardless of their shape.

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