

Controlling Mother Nature

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
Friday, 16 September 2011 13:15 -



Monsanto rain-out shelter will have world-class automation.

Rising above a sea of corn stalks south of Gothenburg is a one-of-a-kind structure.

Chan Mazour, manager of the Gothenburg Water Utilization Learning Center, likened the rain-out shelter under construction to a greenhouse without the glass.

Once completed next spring, sensors in the 80 x 160-foot shelter can detect rain and move the structure over plots to create a controlled environment.

“It’s designed so we can monitor the exact amount of moisture the plants receive so we can design drought-tolerant products and systems to help farmers manage drought,” Mazour said.

Constructed on rails that move the shelter on and off corn, Mazour said the high level of automation is a first for Monsanto.

“It’s also a higher level of automation than anything else out there today,” he explained.

The shelter was designed within Monsanto, based on similar structures in use around the world.

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~~When the California High-Speed Rail Authority announced that it had selected the route from Redwood City to San Francisco, it was a major step in the process of building the world's first high-speed rail line. The project is expected to be completed by 2015 and will provide a direct link between the two cities, cutting travel time from over two hours to just one hour. The route will pass through some of the most scenic areas of the state, including the San Francisco Peninsula and the Central Valley. The project is a major investment in California's infrastructure and will help to create jobs and boost the state's economy. The California High-Speed Rail Authority is currently in the process of finalizing the route and is expected to begin construction in 2012. The project is a major step in the process of building the world's first high-speed rail line. The project is expected to be completed by 2015 and will provide a direct link between the two cities, cutting travel time from over two hours to just one hour. The route will pass through some of the most scenic areas of the state, including the San Francisco Peninsula and the Central Valley. The project is a major investment in California's infrastructure and will help to create jobs and boost the state's economy. The California High-Speed Rail Authority is currently in the process of finalizing the route and is expected to begin construction in 2012.~~