



The HVAC&R Industry, ASHRAE's free weekly eNewsletter for HVAC&R professionals, provides relevant, timely information about industry and technology for people who create healthy, comfortable indoor environments.

Industry News

Design Selected for 'International Energy Mansion'

SHENZHEN, China—The new headquarters for Shenzhen Energy in China will feature a façade that actively and passively reduces energy consumption. The design was selected in a recent competition to build what will be called the Shenzhen International Energy Mansion. The winner was a collaborative of the Danish firm, BIG, and UK firm, Arup. The building will be built in a tropical, inner-city environment. The façade is conceived as a folded skin that shades the office complex from direct sunlight and integrates solar thermal panels that will power the air-conditioning system and provide dehumidification.

Most Data Centers Are Being Overcooled

SAN FRANCISCO—Data centers waste energy and money by overcooling their servers, according to a study by several server-industry companies and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The study included results from a recent survey of data center users in which every respondent said they are cooling their data centers significantly more than needed. The temperature recommendation for inflow temperature, based on ASHRAE guidance, is 77°F (25°C) to 80.6°F (27°C). None of the survey respondents said they had a computer room air-handling inflow temperature higher than 74°F (23.3°C). Most chill their air to 70°F (21.1°C) or below.

Utility's Pilot Project Tests Smart Grid Technologies

BOULDER, Colo.—Xcel Energy has finished building the infrastructure and has launched the software needed to run its "SmartGridCity" pilot project in Boulder, Colo. The \$100 million venture is a test site for new technologies that could be used to upgrade the U.S. electric power grid. The multiphase project is expected to be completed in December.

UK Turns to Old Technology to Meet New Needs

LONDON—District heating is increasing in popularity in Great Britain as the government searches for ways to raise energy efficiency, increase renewable energy use and reduce GHG emissions. Great Britain recently passed a law mandating an 80% reduction in emissions by 2050. The 2,000-year-old technology could eventually meet about 14% of the country's heat demand, said a minister in the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

ASHRAE News

ASHRAE Offers Free BIM Guide

ASHRAE has released a new guide on building information modeling

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(BIM). According to Dave Conover, a member of the BIM Steering Committee, the guide "provides some broad level insight into how BIM will affect the building industry in general." The guide includes a list of software to help engineers choose which is best for them. *An Introduction to Building Information Modeling* is available as a free download.

Feature of the Week

Laboratory Performance: Metrics for Energy Efficiency

By **Paul Mathew, Ph.D.**, Member ASHRAE; **Steve Greenberg, P.E.**; **Dale Sartor, P.E.**; **Peter Rumsey, P.E.**, Member ASHRAE; and **John Weale, P.E.**

This article describes key energy-efficiency metrics and benchmarks for laboratories. It covers traditional whole building energy use metrics as well as HVAC system metrics, which can be used to identify the presence or absence of energy features and opportunities during design and operation.

Product News

Combustion Heaters From Reznor/Thomas & Betts

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—Thomas & Betts offers the Reznor CAUA Series gas-fired, upflow, blower-type, power-vented, separated combustion heaters in sizes from 150,000 Btu/h to 400,000 Btu/h (44 kW to 130 kW). Models use either natural or propane gas.

Heat Recapturing Ridge Vent From Energy Alternatives

THIELLS, N.Y.—Energy Alternatives introduces the Greenward ridge vent. The vent captures hot ambient air as it escapes through roof ridges. The air passes over flexible tubes contained in the ridge vent material. The tubes carry a water/corn-based glycol solution that gets heated by the escaping hot air. A circulator pump pushes the hot solution in a closed loop into a storage tank to be used for water heating.

Programmable Controller From Danfoss

BALTIMORE—Danfoss introduces the MCX programmable controller for applications including chillers, rooftop units and air-handling units. The controller features an open-standards programming language—similar to "C"—that makes it easy to program and tailor to specific installations. The unit's operating system includes hardware drives, services and a virtual machine.

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