



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

Astronauts Repairing Space Station Cooling System

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.—Two astronauts conducted a second spacewalk Wednesday to repair a broken part of the International Space Station's cooling system. They had tried a few days prior to remove and replace an ammonia pump that failed July 31, setting off warning alarms and shutting down part of the cooling system. NASA says that without controls, the temperature of the orbiting station's sun-facing side could reach as high as 250°F (121°C), while temperatures on the dark side could be as low as -250°F (-157°C).

China To Close 2,000 Energy-Intensive Factories

HONG KONG—The Chinese Ministry of Industry and Information Technology has published a list of 2,087 steel mills, cement works and other energy-intensive factories required to close by Sept. 30. This is in response to a statement earlier this summer by China's prime minister that he would use an "iron hand" to improve his country's energy efficiency. The country has a plan that calls for using 20% less energy this year for each unit of economic output than it did in 2005.

Three Waterborne Diseases Cost U.S. \$539 Million a Year

WASHINGTON—Three diseases spread by drinking or inhaling contaminated water cost the U.S. health-care system as much as \$539 million a year in hospital expenses, researchers said recently. For the study, Centers for Disease Control (CDC) researchers looked at data from 2004 to 2007 from a large insurance claims database. Singling out Legionnaires' disease, cryptosporidiosis and giardiasis, they calculated the costs to insurers, patients, and the total amount paid.

College To Become 'Grid Positive'

OROVILLE, Calif.—Butte College expects that by May 2011 it will become "grid positive," and produce more energy from on-site solar power than it uses. The college is adding approximately 15,000 solar photovoltaic panels, which will produce 2.7 MW, to its current 10,000 solar panels and 1.85 MW capacity. Reportedly, with 4.55 MW, the college will become the largest solar-producing college in the world. The new solar panels will be placed atop rooftops and covered parking areas and walkways in addition to being mounted on the ground.

Dangerous Refrigerant Being Used Illegally in Korea

SEOUL, Korea—Methyl chloride, a toxic and flammable chemical once used as a refrigerant until superseded by fluorocarbons in 1929, is now being used in car air-conditioning systems in Korea. Korean police believe the refrigerant, mixed with other flammable refrigerants and imported from China, is being used in about 60,000 cars in Korea. They have advised car owners to get their cars checked as soon as possible. The chemicals found in methyl chloride can lead to the corrosion of iron and aluminum. They can also weaken rubber materials, which can result in leaks.

U.S. HVAC&R Equipment Shipments Increasing

ARLINGTON, Va.—Most categories of HVAC&R equipment had higher numbers of shipments in June than in the same month in 2009, according to the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI). U.S. shipments of commercial water heaters were 17% greater in June 2010 than in June 2009. Shipments of central air conditioners and air-source heat pumps were 2% higher for the June time frame. For the year to date until June, the latest month for which data is available, most product categories have had more shipments this year than in 2009. Of the equipment categories tracked by AHRI, warm air furnaces have had the largest increase in shipments, around 16%, for the first half of 2010.

Glacier Four Times as Large as Manhattan Breaks Away From Greenland

NEWARK, Del.—An "ice island" four times the size of Manhattan has calved from Greenland's Petermann Glacier. The last time the Arctic lost such a large chunk of ice was in 1962. The breaking away of the 100 square mile (260 km²) sheet of ice is believed by some to be evidence of climate change.

ASHRAE News

ALI Offering Online Courses This Fall

ASHRAE Learning Institute (ALI) will offer 12 online professional development courses this fall. ALI courses provide professional development through in-depth information that is timely, practical and advanced beyond a fundamental level. The online courses allow attendees to participate from anywhere with an Internet connection. Course participants earn three professional development hours, 0.3 continuing education units, or three American Institute of Architects learning units for each seminar completed. Courses are led by instructors who are practitioners in the field.

Feature of the Week

Energy Audits in Large Commercial Office Buildings

By Ian Shapiro, P.E., Member ASHRAE

The largest buildings have higher energy use intensities (energy consumption per square foot) than smaller buildings. This scale creates many opportunities for energy savings. A good place to begin is with an energy audit of the building. The author states that a comprehensive approach using structured techniques can make the work easier and provide a framework for substantial and measurable energy savings.

Product News

Modular Heat Pump System From Multistack

SPARTA, Wis.—Multistack introduces the Virtual Moveable End Cap (VME) water-to-water heat pump for applications with simultaneous heating and cooling needs. The systems are modular and can be combined to create chiller-heater systems from 15 tons to 600 tons (53 kW to 2100 kW). The modules use dual independent compressors to provide redundancy while maintaining energy efficiency. The system is compatible with closed loop and ground loop water source heat pump applications.

Packaged Air-Conditioning/Dehumidification Unit From Innovent

MINNEAPOLIS—The LASER (Latent and Sensible Energy Reduction) packaged fresh air-conditioning unit from Innovent features a desiccant wheel option that provides additional dehumidification capacity. Designed for use in dedicated outdoor air applications, the unit includes single or dual air-to-air heat exchangers to dehumidify and reheat outside air before delivery. No new energy is required for reheat, which allows dehumidification of hot, humid air.

Solar Control Window Films From 3M

ST. PAUL, Minn.—3M introduces Scotchtint solar control window films, designed to reject up to 79% of solar heat. The company says this translates into a saving of one ton of air conditioning for every 100 ft² (9.3 m²) of sunlight-exposed glass. The films are also designed to filter out 98% of UV rays.

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