



The HVAC&R Industry

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Advancing HVAC&R to Serve Humanity
And Promote a Sustainable World

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

Study Finds Link Between Humidity Levels, Flu Transmission

CORVALLIS, Ore.—Flu viruses survive longer and are more easily transmitted when humidity levels are low, such as in the peak flu months of January and February, Oregon State University researchers found in a new study. In the study, the OSU team reanalyzed data from a 2007 Mount Sinai School of Medicine study that identified a weak relationship between flu transmission and relative humidity. The reanalysis revealed a strong link between absolute humidity and flu virus survival and transmission. "The correlations were surprisingly strong. When absolute humidity is low, influenza virus survival is prolonged, and transmission rates go up," said study author Jeffrey Shaman. The report is published in this week's issue of the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

Northern Ireland Official Bans Climate Change Ads

DUBLIN, Ireland—Northern Ireland's environment minister announced Monday he has banned British government TV ads on climate change and denounced their energy-saving message as "insidious propaganda." His act is in opposition to the United Kingdom's central government in London, which funds an "Act on CO₂" campaign encouraging citizens to reduce use of electricity and fossil fuels. Sammy Wilson said the television ads, which have run throughout the UK for the past year, are "giving people the impression that by turning off the standby light on their TV, they could save the world from melting glaciers and being submerged in 40 ft of water."

Students Not Considering Engineering, and Parents Not Pushing Them

MILWAUKEE—More than 85% of students under 18 are not considering careers in engineering, a new survey found. The online survey, commissioned by the American Society for Quality, also found that only 20% of parents have encouraged or will encourage their children to consider an engineering career. Nearly half of responding students said they "don't know much about engineering."

Emerson to Cut Jobs, Accelerate Investments

ST. LOUIS—Emerson Electric Co. said it may cut its work force by 10% this year as the company reduces costs and realigns its business lines. David Farr, chairman and chief executive of the diversified manufacturer, said total employment will likely drop to 120,000 people by the fall. A year ago, Emerson employed 141,000 people. Farr said the company will continue to reduce its presence in making components for household appliances, but will accelerate investment in production of equipment for computer data centers and electric power transfer equipment.

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can claim
to be
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Economy Slowing Growth of Wind, Solar Power

NEW YORK—Wind and solar power have been growing at a fast pace in recent years, and that growth was expected to accelerate due to the 'green-mindedness' of the Obama administration. However, because of the U.S. economic downturn, the opposite is happening: installation of wind and solar power is declining. Factories building parts for these industries have announced a wave of layoffs in recent weeks, and trade groups are projecting 30% to 50% declines this year in installation of new equipment, barring more help from the government.

ASHRAE News

ASHRAE Publishes Load Calculations Manual

A new book from ASHRAE contains guidance on use of load calculations to help designers improve the performance and efficiency of their designs. *Load Calculation Applications Manual* focuses on two methods for calculating cooling loads in nonresidential buildings—the heat balance method and the radiant time series method. The book has an accompanying CD that contains spreadsheets to compute factors and cooling loads.

Feature of the Week

Extending the Boundaries of Ammonia Absorption Chillers

By **Donald C. Erickson**, Member ASHRAE

According to the author, ammonia absorption refrigeration's ability to be powered by waste heat means ammonia has an important role to play in reducing energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions. This article covers common applications and misperceptions about the technology.

Product News

Solar Water Heater From Bock Water Heaters

MADISON, Wis.—Bock Water Heaters announces the Envirostor™ solar water heater. The water heater uses indirect water-water transfer by circulating solar heated water through the coil inside the water tank. It is available with single or dual coils and features an optional backup heating element.

Software From Penta Technologies

MILWAUKEE—Penta Technologies announces PENTA Mobile Field Service, a mobile service software for mechanical and electrical applications. The software communicates via wireline and wireless connectivity using devices including smartphones, Java-enabled phones, PDAs and laptops. It performs functions including labor and materials capture and billing.

Modulating Gas Furnaces From Johnson Controls

MILWAUKEE—Johnson Controls offers the York® Affinity™ series of variable-speed modulating gas furnaces. The furnaces continuously adjust their heating level in 1% increments to maintain indoor temperatures as close as possible to thermostat's setpoints. Models feature an electronically commutated motor (ECM) and provide up to 98% AFUE.

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