



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

China Surpasses U.S. As World's Largest Energy Consumer

PARIS—China has overtaken the United States as the world's largest energy consumer, according to the International Energy Agency (IEA). The Paris-based agency said China's 2009 consumption of energy sources such as oil, coal, wind and solar was equal to 2.265 billion tons of oil, compared to 2.169 billion tons used last year by the United States. According to IEA, China's energy consumption has more than doubled in less than 10 years due to its population and economic growth. IEA says per capita, the United States still consumes five times more energy than China.

AC Back On in A.C.

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J.—An AC malfunction caused two major boardwalk hotel/casinos to spend last weekend without air conditioning—and most of their customers. Trump Plaza had to shut down completely, causing it to lose an estimated \$3 million to \$4 million. Caesars Atlantic City stayed open, but business was slow. Most of the combined 2,000 rooms in the two buildings were too hot to rent over the weekend. The problem was due to a break in an underground pipe that provides cold water for the casinos' air-conditioning systems. Outdoor temperatures reached above 90°F (32°C) over the weekend. The cooling problem was fixed Monday.

First ENERGY STAR Label for Data Centers Awarded

RESEARCH TRIANGLE PARK, N.C.—The first facility to earn the new ENERGY STAR for Data Centers label almost achieved the highest possible score. The NetApp RTP data center earned 99 out of a possible 100 points for the program that began in June. A score of 75 is required to receive the ENERGY STAR label. The facility, which is used primarily for research into storage efficiency and cloud computing services, incorporates a number of "green" solutions. The data center runs at an average temperature of 74°F (23°C) and it uses outside air cooling for two-thirds of the year. Rather than using raised-floor systems to fan cool air up into servers, the data center uses overhead air distribution to let the cooling system drop cold air into racks.

First Half of 2010 Warmest Ever Recorded Worldwide

WASHINGTON—The first six months of 2010 were the warmest on record for the world, according to a new analysis by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The agency's National Climatic Data Center found that the combined global land and ocean surface temperatures averaged 57.5°F for January through June, which is 1.22°F (0.68°C) above the 20th-century average.

New Senate Bill Provides Tax Credits for Energy Storage

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senators Jeff Bingaman (D-N.M.), Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) and Jeanne Shaheen (D.-N.H.) have introduced legislation to provide tax credits for energy storage. The Storage Technology of Renewable and Green Energy Act of 2010 would offer tax credits of up to \$30 million to storage projects that are connected to the U.S. electric grid. The bill would pay for smart-grid devices to manage the charging and storage of the electricity of plug-in electric vehicles. Building owners would also be able to use the tax credit to help finance thermal cooling systems.

Company Turns Parking Lots Into Solar Farms

LA JOLLA, Calif.—A company is implementing an idea to turn parking lots into urban solar farms. Envision Solar has installed "solar trees" in the parking lot of Dell Computer headquarters in Round Rock, Texas. The "trees" are small stations topped with a total of 512 solar panels that provide a location to plug in electric vehicles as well as shelter for 56 cars.

The lot also functions as a traditional solar energy array. The Dell solar parking lot produces 131,000 kWh of energy per year that is primarily used by the building, with some fed into the grid. Another prototype demonstration is installed at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory in Colorado.

Feature of the Week

Cooling Concrete: Containerized Water Chilling Plant

By Amrish Bajpai

Removing the heat of hydration from concrete before supplying it for construction is one of the most important aspects of concrete cooling, particularly for large buildings. Therefore, an optimal chilled water plant is needed at the project's site. This article explores whether a containerized water chilling plant for concrete cooling is a better option compared to a conventional water chilling plant for concrete cooling.

Product News

Condensing Hybrid Water Heater From Grand Hall/Eternal

GARLAND, TEXAS—The Eternal brand of Grand Hall introduces the GU195M condensing hybrid water heater with 98% efficiency for heavy commercial applications that require redundancy. Up to eight units can be linked and share venting. The unit's control system enables a single unit to automatically shut down in case of a failure while the others continue to operate with no cold water bleed-through.

Wireless Humidification System From Honeywell

MORRISTOWN, N.J.—The wireless TrueSTEAM humidification system from Honeywell International operates independently of the warm air furnace to provide higher levels of humidification, while using up to 70% less water than traditional flow-through humidifiers. The device can be mounted directly to ductwork or up to 20 ft (6 m) away via a remote-mount hose kit that uses no wiring.

Server Rack Cooling System From Motivair

AMHERST, N.Y.—Motivair Corporation announces the Chilled Door high-density rack cooling system. The product is an active cooling system with a chilled water coil, variable speed fans and microprocessor controls that replaces the rear panel of server racks via an adapter frame. The system can monitor and adjust cooling performance by varying fan speed, chilled water flow and chilled water temperature to eliminate "hot spots" at the source.

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