



# The HVAC&R Industry

A weekly eNewsletter from ASHRAE



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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 Toxic Chemicals in Common Laundry Products, Air Fresheners](#)

SEATTLE—A University of Washington study of top-selling laundry products and air fresheners found the products emitted dozens of chemicals. All six products tested gave off at least one chemical regulated as "toxic" or "hazardous" under federal laws, but none of those chemicals was listed on the product labels. "Nearly 100 volatile organic compounds were emitted from these six products. Plus, five of the six products emitted one or more carcinogenic 'hazardous air pollutants,' which are considered by the Environmental Protection Agency to have no safe exposure level," said Anne Steinemann, who led the study. The study was published online by the journal *Environmental Impact Assessment Review*.

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### [Companies and Utilities To Launch Algae Farm in Hawaii](#)

HONOLULU—Two companies and two electric utilities are partnering to develop a commercial-scale microalgae facility on Maui to produce biodiesel and other products. The two utilities—both subsidiaries of Hawaiian Electric Industries—will help engineer piping to carry emissions from a neighboring power plant to the algae facility. The algae will grow in the carbon dioxide-rich atmosphere of the power plant's emissions. Lipid oil will then be extracted from the algae, combined with local vegetable oils, and converted into biodiesel fuel. If the project goes forward, the facility is expected to begin operation in 2011.

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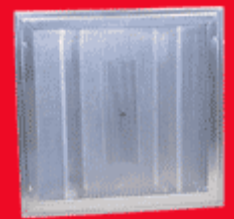
### [Texas Makes Largest Renewable Energy Investment in U.S.](#)

AUSTIN, Texas—Texas utility regulators recently approved a \$4.9 billion plan to build transmission lines to carry wind-generated electricity from remote western parts of the state to urban centers such as Dallas, Houston, Austin, and San Antonio. It is believed to be the largest renewable-energy investment in the U.S. After the expected completion of transmission lines in 2013, they are expected to transmit around 18,000 MW of electricity derived from wind energy. Texas produces about 26% of the wind-generated electricity in the U.S.

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[Long Island Towns Compete To Be Most Sustainable](#)

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SOUTHAMPTON, N.Y.—Long Island towns and villages have been competing for the mantle of "green champion." Last week, the town of Southampton moved past the others into first place, when its town board voted to adopt an imaginative amendment to the building construction code: As of Oct. 1, the bigger the house that is built (or substantially rebuilt), the more energy-efficient the town will require the house to be.

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### [DOE To Promote Energy Efficiency in Hospitals](#)

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) hopes to increase the use of energy-efficient technologies in U.S. hospitals. The EnergySmart Hospitals initiative will provide tools and resources such as design guides, technology assessments, and an interactive Web site. The initiative also will present a series of training sessions. According to the DOE, hospitals in 2007 had more than 2.5 times the energy intensity and carbon dioxide emissions of commercial office buildings.

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## [ASHRAE News](#)

### [Addendum To Add Standard Communications to BACnet®](#)

A new standard way of representing building data will give BACnet® new capabilities for standardized communications between a range of applications. A definition for an XML syntax that can be used to represent building data in a consistent, flexible and extensible manner, is defined by Addendum *t*, which was recommended for public review by the BACnet committee during the recent 2008 ASHRAE Annual Meeting. "XML can be used for exchanging files between systems, integrating buildings with energy utilities, and expanding enterprise integration with richer Web services," said Dave Robin, chair of the BACnet Committee.

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## [Feature of the Week](#)

### [Prescription for Chiller Plants](#)

**By Mark Baker; Dan Roe, P.E.,** Member ASHRAE; and **Mick Schwedler, P.E.,** Member ASHRAE

This article presents a case study of a Virginia hospital campus. The article traces the evolution of the chiller plant's complex design, from definition of requirements through initial startup. It also highlights the challenges of system integration and the value of an effective project team.

This article was originally published in June 2006. [Click here](#) to download the article. It will be available here through August 14.

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After August 14, access to the article from this eNewsletter will no longer be available. It will remain available for free download by Members [here](#) and for purchase by nonmembers in the [ashrae.org bookstore](#).

## [Product News](#)

### [Scroll Compressor Chillers From McQuay](#)

MINNEAPOLIS—McQuay offers a line of water-cooled scroll compressor chillers in a variety of capacities, using R-410A refrigerant. The chillers are designed for use with water-cooled, remote air-cooled and evaporative condensers in applications such as schools, health-care facilities and government buildings.

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### [Condensing Boilers From AERCO](#)

NORTHVALE, N.J.—AERCO International has enhanced its Modulex line of condensing boilers. The boilers can support projects with high working pressure—up to 92 psig (630 kPa). In addition, they are equipped with large water inlet/outlet connections, resulting in a lower pressure drop across the boiler.

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### [Software From GEOMATE](#)

SAN JOSE, Calif.—GEOMATE announces the release of ToleranceCalc 6.0 tolerance analysis software. The software enables CAD users to simulate the effects of manufacturing variations on parts and assemblies to develop optimal tolerance allocation strategies before committing to the final design. It concurrently delivers worst-case and statistical analysis results for 1D and 2D vector chains that are defined using model geometry as overlay.

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