

EVENT PREVIEW

THE ACR SHOW

The countdown to new national showcase for refrigeration and air conditioning technology in 2012 has begun

With four months to go before doors open, the organisers have reported unprecedented interest in the new Air Conditioning and Refrigeration (ACR) Show 2012.

It has been launched as a national showcase for innovation, networking and knowledge transfer for the industry and cooling equipment end users.

The event takes place in Hall 19 at the NEC on 13 to 15 March 2012. It will enable visitors to see the latest products and technology coming on-stream across the commercial and industrial refrigeration and air conditioning sector.

Three big-name sponsors are backing the show: LG is sponsoring one of the two seminar theatres; Panasonic is sponsoring the Heat Pump Arena, and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries is sponsoring the onsite visitor registration area.

With a few months until doors open, the show is already three quarters fully booked.

Visitors will also have free access to leading experts in three days of cutting edge seminars, which will run throughout the event in

the trade and equipment users

- how to respond to the imminent phase-out of R22 refrigerant – still one of the most common refrigerants in use

- the latest developments in alternative cooling systems that don't depend on high global warming HFCs.

Visitors will be able to see the latest offering from well-known companies such as: AHT Cooling Systems, Bitzer UK, Danfoss, Dorin, Emerson Climate Technologies, Frascold, Fujitsu General (UK), GEA Searle, Gram (UK), Hoshizaki, HRP, Hubbard, J&E Hall International, Javac, Mexichem Fluor, National Refrigerants, Oceanair, Sabroe, Teknic Refrigeration, Thermofrost Cryo and Toshiba.

SUPPORT

The show is being launched with the backing of leading industry organisations, including the Institute of Refrigeration (IOR), the Heating and Ventilating Contractors' Association (HVCA), the Federation of Environmental Trade Associations (FETA), British Refrigeration Association (BRA), Heat Pump

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twin auditoriums on the exhibition floor.

The show is the only national event of its kind and launched with the backing of key organisations and companies. It will have a dedicated arena for heat pump technology, where visitors can see the latest contenders in the race to harness low-cost renewable energy.

With energy costs rocketing, cutting running costs is a key issue for end users. Cooling equipment accounts for around 20 per cent of total UK energy consumption.

This will be reflected in the high profile seminar programme, with practical presentations showing how the trade can help users reduce running costs and cut carbon emissions.

CORE THEMES

Other core themes will be:

- the impact of F-Gas legislation on

Association (HPA) and HEVAC Association.

Miriam Rodway, secretary of the IOR, said:

"The Institute of Refrigeration is pleased to be supporting the new ACR Show in 2012. The exhibition is a great opportunity for networking, and will bring together members of the IOR, Service Engineers Section and our new Air Conditioning and Heat Pump Institute at a high focussed industry event."

Jan Thorpe, event director, said: "The response of the industry to the launch has been fantastic. It has confirmed our belief that the air conditioning and refrigeration industry deserves its own show and that people will support it.

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F-GAS REGULATION

Those who own or operate air conditioning or refrigeration equipment have been urged to get to grips with new mandatory duties, following the implementation of the F-Gas Regulation.

The new laws, which came into force this summer, require those who operate HFC-based refrigeration or air conditioning systems above a certain size to carry out regular checks to ensure equipment is not leaking refrigerant to atmosphere.

Any leaks found must be repaired, and further checks carried out to ensure equipment is completely leak-tight.

Failure to carry out the checks, or take action in the event of a leak being discovered, could result in prosecution and fines.

The legislation came into force on 4 July 2011, and is part of a European-wide push to reduce emissions of HFCs, potent Global Warming gases in widespread use as refrigerants in commercial refrigeration and air conditioning equipment.

"There are literally hundreds of thousands of refrigeration and air conditioning systems in use across the country that depend on so-called F-Gases. HFCs are by far the most common refrigerants in use in commercial cooling systems, and all are subject to the new requirements," says Iona Spencer of the Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Show.

"It is vital that everyone who uses this equipment gets rapidly up to speed with the new legislation. We understand the authorities are gearing up to take more concerted enforcement activity, and that prosecutions may follow."

The F-Gas Regulation also requires equipment owners to monitor and record all HFC refrigerant used to top-up their refrigeration and air conditioning systems. These records must be made available for onsite inspectors and regulatory authorities.

GETTING UP TO SPEED

Those who operate refrigeration and air conditioning equipment can get quickly up to speed with the new requirements, and what they must do to comply, by attending a series of practical and informative seminars being staged alongside the forthcoming Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Show.

The free presentations by industry experts will give visitors a clear overview of the new legislation, what it means for them and how to stay on the right side of the law.

"The aim is to give equipment users a clear summary of how it affects them, and provide an action plan they can take back to their business and implement. We expect high demand for the sessions, which will be available to pre-book on a first-come, first-served basis," says Iona Spencer. ▶

► In addition to seminars on the F-Gas Regulation, the programme will include presentations on how to reduce your cooling energy bill by simple no-cost or low-cost measures; the implications for end-users of the Energy Performance of Buildings Regulations (EPBD); and how to effectively manage your refrigeration and air conditioning contractor.

The dedicated heat pump arena will give visitors an opportunity to see the latest heat pump technology coming onstream.

With energy costs increasing, heat pumps are seen by many as one of the most promising technologies for harnessing renewable energy. They are able to harness free energy from the air, ground or water and use it to deliver low-cost heating for homeowners or commercial and public buildings.

Today's heat pumps can significantly cut energy costs by as much as 50 per cent, while ensuring high quality comfort conditions for building occupants.

The heat pump arena is being sponsored by Panasonic, and will play host to companies who specialise in heat pump technology and services. Exhibitors include Box Clever Engineering, Charles Austen Pumps Ltd, Hydra Technologies, KR Associates, Oceanair (UK) Ltd, Primalec, Panasonic, SIKA Systemtechnik GmbH, DCI Refrigeration & Electrical and Jumo.

SKILLS CENTRE

The show will feature a Skills Centre with training experts on hand to provide visitors with information on air conditioning and refrigeration courses and grants available.

Sponsored by wholesaler HRP and located on the show floor, the Skills Centre is being supported by the industry key training bodies SummitSkills, City & Guilds and BEST (Building Engineering Services Training), with senior representatives available during the show.

Chris Bailey from City & Guilds will be available throughout the show to give visitors advice on qualifications and details about the work of the organisation.

Michael Reeves, development manager and project manager for the SkillMandE Competitions, will be on hand on Wednesday 14 March and Thursday 15 March to discuss qualifications, apprenticeships and much more.

A training advisor from BEST will be available during the show to offer advice on the organisations ACR training courses.

Visitors can now register online to attend the forthcoming Air Conditioning and Refrigeration Show, which takes place at the NEC from 13 to 15 March 2012.

Among the end users who have already registered to attend are: Boots, Bolton Council, DHL, The Royal Navy, John Lewis Partnership, Gatwick Airport, Tesco, Kingfisher, Pepisco International, One Stop Stores. ■

FOR MORE INFORMATION

For more details on exhibiting, contact Iona Spencer on 020 8651 7113, or e-mail iona.spencer@fav-house.com



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