

John Ellis gets Gold Award for work on F-Gas training

One of the industry's foremost training specialists, John Ellis, has been awarded the top accolade at RAC's Cooling Industry Awards on October 1.

Mr Ellis won the Gold Award, which recognises 'outstanding contributions to the cause of environmentally responsible cooling' for his Herculean efforts in writing the training standards for the new F-Gas qualification.

Mr Ellis wrote the original standards for the refrigerant handling qualifications 20 years ago and he again gave his time voluntarily to write the new standards to meet the demands of the F-Gas laws. His nominees were in no doubt that his contribution to environmental matters would be significant, as the industry's engineers acquire the competence required to obtain the F-Gas Qualification, creating a skilled workforce.

They said: "The training specification is arguably the requirement that will have the most impact on emissions. The



Ellis: 'Herculean efforts'

industry can be confident it will be well prepared, thanks largely to the voluntary efforts of John Ellis."

The Cooling Awards judges were unanimous in praise for John's efforts. They said: "The amount of man hours he has put in has been phenomenal. His work has taken the industry forward."

The awards judges praised the high standard of entry in

this year's competition, with a number of closely-fought tussles. One of the toughest was the new category for RAC Contractor of the Year, which saw the Lincolnshire firm JGR Building Services take the award ahead of bigger rivals. The judges said JGR had proven a "great role model for SMEs in the industry" by taking steps to underline its environmental commitment. The firm has sought high sustainability standards with a commitment to reducing packaging and encouraging recycling on its sites and has calculated its carbon footprint, which it aims to offset for the year.

At the same time it has implemented a comprehensive health and safety management system under a full-time health and safety officer.

Judges said they were impressed at the package: "JGR has gone the whole hog with environmental credibility – how many contractors of any size have calculated their own carbon footprint?"

Dean & Wood win exclusive leak detector distribution

Leading wholesaler Dean & Wood has become the exclusive distributor of Parasense's high end refrigerant leak detection system under a three-year rolling agreement.

The aspirated refrigerant leak detection system uses multi-channel sampling to detect individual refrigerants.

John Smith, Dean & Wood's technical director, said: "Loss of refrigerant has a detrimental effect on energy use and therefore the cost of owning the plant. Installing a Parasense system not only allows the owner of the plant to monitor containment of the expensive refrigerant, and therefore the efficiency of their system, but it also allows them to meet the legal requirements."

Steve McMahon of Parasense said: "Choosing Dean & Wood was easy for us. We were impressed with the ease of communication from all levels of the company and the obvious drive from the sales team."

Cowlard sells Oceanair to take up Sanyo role

Horsham and Bristol air conditioning distributor Oceanair Distribution has been sold by owner Bob Cowlard to an investment group for an undisclosed sum.

The deal clears the way for Mr Cowlard to take a leading strategic role at Sanyo UK.

Oceanair's remaining management team takes over the reins as it becomes part of Cripps Trust Corporation. Richard Tyson becomes managing director, Giles Pratt sales director and David Livingstone operations director.

The deal does not affect

Oceanair (UK) Ltd, the Nottingham-based distributor, which continues as a separate stand-alone company.

As Sanyo's UK Business Planning Manager, Mr Cowlard will have responsibility for business strategy and product development at Sanyo. Robert Morgan, general manager of Sanyo's UK air conditioning business, will continue in his existing role.

Mr Cowlard said: "I have long believed in the importance of the distributor in adding value for the customer. I take that commitment back

with me to support Sanyo's excellent network of distributors in developing their businesses to the benefit of all."

He added: "I have enjoyed building the Oceanair business tremendously over the past two years. My return to Sanyo in this new role, however, is a great opportunity and I am excited about the challenge."

Richard Tyson, managing director, said: "Oceanair is in good shape and the team excited about the challenge of developing the business."

■ Read Bob Cowlard's Cold Reason column on p22



Tyson: 'Oceanair in good shape'