



## Challenging year ahead

If you didn't know it already, 2009 is going to be an important year for engineers. Two main reasons – F-Gas and R22 phase-out.

For a start, this will be the year when F-Gas assessments kick off in earnest. Hopefully as soon as January, training centres will be able to offer the assessments, which – in case you had forgotten – will be essential for all those handling refrigerants. Plan your F-Gas assessment well in advance – and remember, you are likely to require some sort of refresher training to pass the tougher tests – and you can avoid the stress. But it is going to be a roller-coaster ride.

Secondly, R22 phase-out is gathering momentum, with the virgin gas not allowed to be sold from December. That is going to spell trouble as everyone starts winding down their stocks. Needless to say you folks are going to be on the front line, so it will pay you to get the message out to customers: 'Plan your phase-out, you HAVE to act now.'

To meet the challenges ahead, this magazine is changing too. As well as bringing you more of the technical information, news, opinion and hands-on issues that you expect, we will be broadening the outlook to reflect the wide range of work that rac engineers do. We are also introducing a section especially for those of you run your own firms. We are calling it RAC Engineer and the first issues will be at the RAC09 show. Come and grab a copy.

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# CO<sub>2</sub>-based heat pump set to open up new markets

Richard Tyson, managing director of Oceanair Distribution believes the UK's first installation of Sanyo's ground-breaking new ECO carbon dioxide-based heat pump heating system signals unrivalled opportunities for service engineers.

The MD hailed the heat pump technology at Oceanair's facility in Bristol as an 'important innovation' not only for Sanyo but also for the industry as a whole as it has major efficiency and environmental advantages over the traditional gas-fired boiler.

"It opens up a major new market for refrigeration and air conditioning engineers, and we will be supporting them every step of the way in taking advan-

tage of the opportunity."

Technically, the refrigerant-based unit uses an advanced air-to-water heat pump to deliver hot water (up to 65 degrees) without the need for an electric booster for use in residential and small commercial premises.

It produces around 50 per cent less carbon emissions than comparable gas-fired boilers, according to Sanyo, and does not require an annual landlord's safety certificate.

At the heart of the system is a carbon dioxide-based compressor, claimed to be the world's first two-stage rotary compressor operating on R744 and able to operate at ambient temperatures a low as -25°C.

The inverter-controlled high performance direct current unit delivers CoPs of up to 3.75.

The system consists of an outdoor heat pump unit linked to an indoor unit containing a heat exchanger and hot water tank. It comes pre-charged with refrigerant, and requires only water and electrical connection and automatically adjusts the water temperature according to the outdoor temperature.

"I have no doubt it will have a major impact on the market and presents the industry with an exciting new sector to develop," Mr Tyson said of the technology's potential.

Sanyo is expected to bring out a bigger version next year.



**TROX T5 SUCCESS:** Trox UK has completed a significant air and water project at London Heathrow Airport's Terminal 5. The air distribution provider worked with Spie Matthew Hall's Southern Central and Airports Division to supply exposed and recessed multi-service chilled beams for British Airway's luxury galleries. In addition to supplying MSCBs Trox also supplied fan coils and grilles. Trox said it won the contract partly because it had previously supplied chilled beams to T5B.

## HygroMatik hotline

HygroMatik has announced the opening of a new technical hotline.

The UK's leading providers of commercial air humidification systems says the hotline enables its expert technicians to help contractors, facility managers and on-site technicians with any enquiry regarding their air humidification range, which includes steam humidifiers, steam generators, atomis-

ers and dehumidifiers.

The hotline, which is integrated into HygroMatik's existing online technical assistance service, is accessed by dialling 0870 4685463 (0870 HOTLINE).

HygroMatik designs and manufactures its humidification products and is the one of market leaders in air humidification in countries, including Germany, France and the USA.

## New Hitachi outlet

Former Walter Meier product manager Karl Richardson has set up an air conditioning dealership specialising in Hitachi products.

East Midlands-based Logicool Air Conditioning Distribution will have a strong emphasis on technical sales and, says its owner, 'promise an unrivalled customer service approach and commissioning assistance' to ensure that all

installers are familiar and competent with a purchased product.

Mr Richardson said the 'brave move' – given the current economic climate – was one he could not ignore.

He said: "Now is the time to be in control of my destiny. Much of my frustrations over the years have been due largely to poor customer service values."