

Momentum in solar cooling growing: Large industrial corporations entering the field

5 July 2012. Major industrial corporations from Asia are increasing their stakes in solar cooling. A multi-country research project of the IEA Solar Heating and Cooling Programme is supporting the market and drawing strong interest from these players.

Large industrial corporations like Hitachi Plant Technologies and Mitsubishi Plastics have started to enter the solar cooling market. Already last year, Hitachi announced its aim of achieving a turnover of about 5 Billion Yen (63 Million USD, 50 Million EUR) by 2015 with their solar powered air-conditioning system based on parabolic trough collectors and absorption chillers. And this March, Mitsubishi put their sales target at 3 Billion Yen (38 Million USD, 30 Million EUR) for their new compact adsorption chiller series by 2015. Both companies are showing a large interest in the solar cooling business field, which will be supported by research of a multi-country project of the IEA Solar Heating and Cooling Programme titled "Quality Assurance and Support Measures for Solar Cooling (Task 48)".

"We are thrilled to see that solar cooling is gaining traction in the industry", says Dr. Uli Jakob, who leads the communications efforts in Task 48. "The announcements of major industrial corporations provide additional momentum in the already dynamic solar cooling market".

And interest comes not only from Japan. With China recently joining the IEA SHC, several Chinese companies have indicated their strong interest in participating in the project. Amongst them are Vicot Air Conditioning (solar cooling system supplier and absorption chiller manufacturer), Shuangliang (absorption chiller manufacturer), and Himin Solar (solar collector manufacturer). Even the Shanghai Jiao Tong University, a renowned solar cooling institute, has been recently approved by China to officially become an active expert joining the Task 48 group.

Important market players in other countries like Thermax from India have also expressed their keen interest in this project.

The next expert meeting of Task 48 will take place in Gleisdorf (Austria) on 10-11/09/2012 and is expected to confirm that solar cooling is a hot topic especially in Asia.

Solar cooling is also a major topic at the first *International Conference on Solar Heating and Cooling for Buildings and Industry*, which takes place 9-11 July 2012 in San Francisco, USA.

Several presentations and many more posters cover the various aspects of this application (components, systems, best practices) in buildings as well as for refrigeration. The conference is hosted by IEA SHC and takes place in conjunction with Intersolar North America.

PRESS RELEASE



Further information:

- IEA SHC website: www.iea-shc.org
- Project webpage: www.iea-shc.org/task48/index.html
- SHC 2012 conference: www.shc2012.org
- Intersolar North America: www.intersolar.us

About the International Energy Agency's Solar Heating and Cooling Programme (IEA SHC):

- The Programme was established in 1977.
- Its objectives are co-operative research, development, demonstration and exchange of information regarding solar heating and cooling systems.
- 20 countries and the European Union are IEA SHC members.
- The research topics of the current 9 projects range from more general topics, such as "Solar resource assessment and forecasting" , system research, such as "Large solar thermal systems" to material research, such as the use of "Polymeric materials for solar thermal applications."
- Additional information: www.iea-shc.org

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