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Eco Cute heat pumps to enter EU market

Encouraged by their success in Japan, leading manufacturers intend to introduce CO₂ hot water heat pumps into the European market. In the meantime, the EU and other world regions have accelerated their research into CO₂ Technology.

2007-08-17

According to a trade magazine, the leading Japanese manufacturer Mitsubishi Electric Corporation (Melco) will start shipments of CO₂ Eco Cute heat pumps to the European market. Having already achieved a remarkable 40% share of the domestic market for home electric water heaters, Melco's heat pumps will be exported to Scandinavian customers combining the outdoor units with their own tanks.

For the domestic market alone, Melco has developed a series of CO₂ scroll compressors to be used in its 40 kW Eco Cute models. Based on the success of their home-use products, the company will now add units for commercial applications to the range.

Global legislation spurs trend for sustainable heating

Melco and other Japanese industry leaders, such as Sanyo and Daikin, decided to enter the European heat pump market as the demand for energy-efficient units is rising rapidly. The F-Gases regulation, ruling the containment, use, and recovery of hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) in heat pumps, has spurred the shift to natural refrigerants not subject to the law.

Outside the EU market, other world regions are moving to set strict limits for high global warming refrigerants and energy-using products. In Japan, the revised "Law concerning Recovery and Destruction of Fluorocarbons" will be effective as from October on, making the recovery of HFCs from used equipment mandatory. In the U.S., several initiatives at the federal and state level are currently targeting the energy efficiency of stationary cooling and heating equipment, including heat pumps.



R744 in the centre of radical industry changes

Facing upcoming legislation to tackle global warming, the heating, ventilation, air conditioning, and refrigeration (HVAC&R) industry is undergoing radical changes. Among the sustainable alternatives considered, CO₂ systems emerge as the most feasible option for various applications. According to JARN, a specialized magazine for the HVAC&R industry, "component manufacturers are currently outdoing each other with new products tailored to the high pressures of this refrigerant", which is now the "undisputed leader" of all tested alternatives to HFCs.

This trend is expected to continue, as numerous international events will be focusing on natural refrigerants for heat pumps, floor heating and air conditioning during the next months.

R744.com moves to heat pumps

In the next weeks, www.r744.com will expand its services to become also the reference source for CO₂ heat pump technology, with more papers and policies for this field of application being added. Please check for regular updates.

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