

ACCELERATE

ADVANCING HVAC&R NATURALLY EUROPE

► GROWING COMPETITION FOR SMALL-SCALE CO₂

With other companies like Sanden, Panasonic and Advansor also rolling out CO₂ condensing units in Europe, are Green & Cool ready to rise up to the challenge?

"We're not the only ones, but we think that we're the first ones who are ready to sell the product [...]. It is ready for the market," Hellman said.

Another European stalwart of the refrigeration scene, the Epta Group, is also seeking to tap into growing demand for smaller scale CO₂ systems as competition with hydrocarbons in the convenience store market intensifies.

Epta was at Chillventa to show off its ECO₂ small-scale transcritical CO₂ booster package. "The system allows full heat reclaim, thus exploiting the advantages of CO₂. It represents a big step ahead in the transition towards Nearly Zero Energy Buildings," Francesco Mastrapasqua, the group's sales and marketing manager for refrigeration systems, told *Accelerate Europe*.

The Epta Group is optimistic that CO₂ technology will continue to flourish, particularly in Europe.

"In Europe, demand for CO₂ and other natural [refrigerant] systems is already much consolidated. CO₂ is considered the baseline and the choice of all major retail chains," Mastrapasqua argued.

With the drive to deliver energy savings fast becoming the primary focus of innovation in the HVAC&R sector everywhere, he believes that manufacturers of CO₂ systems and components are well placed to capitalise – worldwide.

"CO₂ can ensure significant benefits, in particular where HVAC&R are integrated. We consider the gap between eco-sustainability and cost to be finally closed, as CO₂ systems are becoming more affordable even in emerging market economies with hot climates," Mastrapasqua said.

Describing the ECO₂ as "ideal for convenience stores and hard discounters," Mastrapasqua said, "this all-in-one, complete system has an integrated electrical board, liquid receiver and seasonal optimised circuit".

As Chillventa 2016 drew to a close, participants were left in no doubt as to the natural refrigerant industry's position at the forefront of developing innovative HVAC&R solutions, pushing the boundaries of what CO₂, ammonia and hydrocarbons can achieve.

■ AW, CM, MG & CN

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