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### HOST Milano 2015: How natural refrigerants secured their place in food service - Part 1

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*Hydrocarbons and CO<sub>2</sub> are moving to become the European standard for commercial refrigeration equipment, ice makers, and refrigerated display cases. SandenVendo, Epta, Liebherr and AHT Cooling Systems were among those showcasing this accelerating trend at HOST Milano 2015. +PHOTOS*

HOST 2015, the professional hospitality show, held 23-27 October at Fiera Milano Rho, the same colossal location as the international EXPO 2015, made for a bustling event of some 150,000 visitors (and an interminably packed metro ride) including a record-breaking 2,004 exhibitors from 47 countries. While traditionally dominated by Italian manufacturers, this year HOST showcased 714 international companies, a 26% increase compared to 2013.

The introduction of natural refrigerants in Ho.Re.Ca. (hotel, restaurant and café) equipment, thanks to some smart thinking and seriously bright ideas, has turned a previously stagnant industry into a hot-bed of activity. Special signage, ECO branding, and energy labeling were at the forefront of equipment manufacturers' exhibition booths.

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For example, the hydrocarbon MaxiGlass bottle cooler by Gamko provides a 55% reduction in energy from the previous model using R134a, thanks to hydrocarbon refrigerant, and improved glass and fans.

#### Display Units: Epta, Iarp, AHT & Oscartielle

The EPTA Group dedicated their presence at HOST to a Foodcity exhibition booth, featuring state-of-the-art commercial refrigeration solutions and display cabinets produced by brands Eurocryor, Misa and Iarp.

Iarp, the brand most recognised as a major supplier of in plug-in units for packaged ice cream, displayed examples of their customised products for RedBull, Nestle and Unilever. But front and centre was the REALOOK 45, an upright, plug-in, glass door cooler using R290, equipped with an integrated audio system and a 47" full HD video screen to play promotional videos.

AHT presented the new Kinley R290 overhanging freezer cabinet for supermarkets, which makes for an easily accessible and eye-level frozen food presentation. For wall or island display, the Paris chiller/ deep-freezing cabinet is a plug-in model offering a 25% energy savings through an electric speed-controlled compressor.

Oscartielle, a part of Arneg World, showcased a comprehensive line of energy efficient plug-in refrigeration islands, serving units, cabinets and vertical glass door refrigerators for the food and beverage industry- all using hydrocarbon refrigerant.



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