

## Epta Group sees CO<sub>2</sub> market growing

The Italian company sees CO<sub>2</sub> systems becoming more affordable in emerging market economies with hot climates.



Epta Group at Chillventa 2016

Italy-based Epta Group, a pioneering manufacturer of refrigeration technologies based on the natural refrigerant CO<sub>2</sub>, predicts strong market growth in emerging economies with warmer climates as the gap between delivering environmental sustainability and cost narrows.

With CO<sub>2</sub> systems already widespread in the European retail sector, Epta sees the strongest future growth coming in new regions. "In Europe, demand for CO<sub>2</sub> and natural refrigerant systems is already much consolidated: CO<sub>2</sub> is considered the baseline and the choice of all major retail chains," Francesco Mastrapasqua, the group's sales and marketing manager for refrigeration systems, told R744.com.

"We consider the gap between eco-sustainability and cost to be finally closed, as CO<sub>2</sub> systems are becoming more affordable even in emerging market economies with hot climates," Mastrapasqua said.

Epta sees small-scale systems as a future European growth area as CO<sub>2</sub> continues to make inroads into convenience stores too. At Chillventa 2016, it was exhibiting the new ECO2 small-scale transcritical CO<sub>2</sub> booster package. "The system allows full heat reclaim, thus exploiting the advantages of CO<sub>2</sub>. It represents a big step ahead in the transition towards Nearly Zero Energy Buildings," Mastrapasqua said.

With the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol setting a timeline for the phase-down of certain f-gases, natural refrigerants are well placed to gain ground at global level as well. According to Mastrapasqua, the Epta Group is on the right track with its commitment to design innovative technologies that focus on energy efficiency and use natural refrigerants.

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Customer demand in the HVAC&R sector is increasingly driven by the push to deliver energy savings fast. "CO<sub>2</sub> can ensure significant benefits, in particular where HVAC&R are integrated," 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".

The Epta Group has already achieved impressive results with its CO<sub>2</sub>-based technologies. In a Coop store in the British town of Horwich, a combined refrigeration and heating system has been in use for a year and has already exceeded expectations. The integrated CO<sub>2</sub> system – which reduced the store's energy usage by 21% compared to a traditional HFC system – has already been replicated elsewhere.



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