

North America HVAC News

July 2011



International Market Strategy

Topics

World	BRG Final Reports Due To Be Published In 4 Weeks
USA	US Sets First Regional Standards (ACs/Furnaces)
USA	DOE Offers \$27 M To Reduce Solar Energy Costs
USA	BOSCH Launches Greenstar Series Combi Boilers
USA	US Bill To Cut Energy Efficiency Programs By 40%
USA	2012 AHR On Pace To Be Among Largest
USA	Momentum Suffers Mild Loss – Except In US
Canada	Home Retrofit Support Positive, But Too Short
USA	VISSMANN Ups Stake In CHP Engine Maker
USA	HAIER AMERICA Reorganizes

1 BRG Final Reports Due to Be Published in 4 Weeks

1 July 2011--In four weeks, BRG will publish its final reports on the 2010 heating and cooling markets in many countries of the world. To order these reports please contact our building products division at bpstaff@brggroup.com. The following reports are being updated:

2011 North American Commercial Boiler Market Report

Countries covered: USA & Canada. Boiler sales analyzed in the report include:

- Condensing Boilers sold in the USA (300,000 BTU to 12,600,000 BTU)
- Condensing Boilers sold in Canada (300,000 BTU to 12,600,000 BTU)
- Non-Condensing Boilers sold in the USA (300,000 BTU to 12,600,000 BTU)
- Non-Condensing Boilers sold in Canada (300,000 BTU to 12,600,000 BTU)

Each of these 4 market share tables is split by:

- Heat exchanger material: stainless steel, aluminum, primary copper (coated or with secondary HX), cast iron, steel watertube, steel firetube, copper
- Split by BTU: 300,000-499,999 BTU, 500,000-999,999 BTU, 1,000,000-2,499,999 BTU, 2,500,999-3,999,999 BTU, 4,000,000 to 7,999,999 BTU, 8,000,000 to 12,600,000 BTU
- Heating medium: hot water vs. low pressure steam vs. high pressure steam
- Type: premix vs. atmospheric vs. forced draft vs. other
- Fuel: gas vs. gas/oil (combination) vs. LPG/natural (combination) vs. oil
- Water vs. Space heating

Other elements found in the commercial boiler report:

- Trends and forecasts (to 2015) in the commercial boiler market
- Market values and prices by BTU threshold
- Distribution flows for US and Canada (current year and 2015) including end use segmentation
- Commercial boiler manufacturers profiles

- Overview of boiler inputs/outputs by manufacturer
- Info on the commercial buildings and boiler stock in each country

Specific commercial boiler text (historical trends, 2010/2011 dvpts, forecasts, segmentation: heat exchanger material, output/input, burner type, fuel type etc., values, end use, market shares, distribution) is also included in the report.

2011 Boiler Market Reports

Countries covered: USA, Canada, China, France, Germany, the UK, Italy, Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Czech Republic, Turkey. Boiler types covered in the reports include: Wall-Hung Gas Condensing, Wall-Hung Gas Non-Condensing, Floor-Standing Gas Condensing, Floor-Standing Gas Non-Condensing, Oil Condensing, Oil Non-Condensing, Electric, Solid Fuel.

2011 Water Heater Market Reports

Countries covered: USA, Canada, China, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Czech Republic, Turkey. Water heaters covered in North America include: Tankless Gas Condensing, Tankless Gas Non-Condensing, Tank/Storage Residential Gas Condensing, Tank/Storage Residential Gas Non-Condensing, Tank/Storage Commercial Gas Condensing, Tank/Storage Commercial Gas Non-Condensing, Tankless Electric, Tank/Storage Residential Electric, Tank/Storage Commercial Electric, Oil, Indirect Cylinders Separate, Solar Storage Tanks, Hybrid Water Heaters, Heat Pump Water Heaters.

2011 Solar Thermal Market Reports

Countries covered: USA, France, Germany, the UK, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Czech Republic, Turkey. Products covered in the reports include: Flat Plate Collectors, Vacuum Collectors, Unglazed Collectors, Solar Storage Tanks.

2011 Heat Pump Market Reports

Countries covered: USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Czech Republic, Turkey. Products covered in the reports include: Ground Source, Exhaust Air-Water, Outside Air-Water, Heat Pump Water Heaters, Air-to-Air Heat Pumps (where relevant).

2011 Furnace Market Reports

Countries covered: USA, Canada. Products covered in the reports include: Gas Condensing Furnaces, Gas Non Condensing Furnaces, Electric Furnaces, Oil Furnaces.

2011 Air Conditioner Market Reports

Countries covered: USA, Canada. Air conditioner types covered in the reports include: Condensing Units, Air Handlers, Air-Air Heat Pumps, Residential Package Units, PTACs, Mini-Splits, Window/Wall Units, Portable Air Conditioners, VRFs.

2011 Radiator Market Reports

Countries covered: China, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Czech Republic, Turkey. Radiator types covered in the reports include: Steel Panel, Towel Warmers, Aluminium, Cast Iron, Decorative, Other Steel, Fixed Electric Heat Emitters.

2011 Biomass Boiler Market Reports

Countries covered: USA, Canada, France, Germany, UK, Italy, Spain, Belgium, Netherlands, Austria, Sweden, Poland, Russia, Czech Republic, Turkey. Boilers covered in the reports include: Fossil Fuel/Universal, Logwood/Bifuel, Pellet, Woodchip, Other.

To obtain these product summaries and forecasts, a table of contents, or for more details about the report contents or our new database, please contact us at bpstaff@brggroup.com

We are currently also researching the boiler, water heater and solar thermal markets in the following regions/countries:

The Middle East:

- Saudi Arabia, UAE, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar, Kuwait

Other Countries in the Americas

- Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Colombia.

To receive more information about the products covered in the Middle Eastern and South American (or other country) reports, the publication dates on these, or for further questions, please contact us at bpstaff@brggroup.com.

Source: BRG INC.

2 US Sets First Regional Standards (ACs/Furnaces)

10 June 2011: Washington— A diverse coalition of consumer, manufacturing and environmental groups praised new energy efficiency standards released by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) establishing the first-ever regional standards for

central air conditioners and furnaces, as well as strengthened national standards for heat pumps. The new rules are based on a joint recommendation filed with DOE by the groups in 2009.

“These standards are a triple win: a win for consumers, a win for public health and a win for the environment,” said David Goldstein, energy program co-director of the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC). “Under the new standards, air conditioners will still keep homes cool on hot summer days but will use less electricity, particularly during high demand days. This will lower electricity bills and the potential for brownouts and blackouts and will also reduce the amount of deadly air pollution that causes ‘ozone alert’ or ‘red alert’ days that can lead to serious health problems and even premature death. Furnaces and heat pumps that meet the new standards will heat homes using less energy, while lowering energy prices for all consumers due to decreased demand.”

Once the latest updated standards take effect, a typical new air conditioner in the South will use about 40% less energy, and a typical new furnace in the North will use about 20% less than before national standards were established in the late 1980s.

Bipartisan legislation passed by the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee earlier this year also included standards based on the groups’ 2009 agreement. However, even with this DOE announcement, a bill will still be needed, since an additional key provision of the agreement can only be done via legislation. It would allow states to include even higher minimum efficiency levels for heating and cooling systems in their building codes for new homes. The Senate bill also includes standards for several other products, based on similar consensus agreements.

“Now that DOE has rolled out the first regional standards for heating and cooling equipment, we urge Congress to complete the picture by acting on the consensus agreement regarding new home building codes, as well as the other standards,” said Alliance to Save Energy President Kateri Callahan. “We all know that constructing buildings efficiently ‘from the ground up’ is the easiest, most cost-effective way to ensure that owners of new homes reap the benefits of energy efficiency while reducing their carbon footprints.”

According to DOE’s analysis, the improvements to the air conditioner and heat pump standards announced today will save 156 billion kilowatt hours of electricity over 30 years, or about enough to meet the total electricity needs of all the households in Indiana for three years, while delivering net savings of more than \$4.2 billion to U.S. consumers.

The new furnace standards will save 31 billion therms of natural gas, or about enough natural gas over 32 years to heat all the homes in New York State for more than 11 years and save consumers \$14.5 billion.

“The agreement on which the new DOE rule is based is another great example of industry and advocacy groups collaborating to save energy and improve the environment,” said Stephen Yurek, President and CEO of the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI), one of the organizations that negotiated the agreement. “It represents a major step forward in the nation’s drive to increase energy efficiency. It will save energy and will provide industry with greater certainty in the marketplace, which enables more investment, enhances global competitiveness and preserves jobs,” he said.

The energy savings from the new DOE standards also will deliver big benefits for the electric system, the environment and public health. Improved air conditioner efficiency will reduce hot-summer-day electric demand by about 4,000 megawatts, or roughly the output of 13 large, gas-fired power plants. Global warming carbon dioxide emissions will be cut by up to 143 million metric tons over 30 years, an amount about equal to the annual emissions of 25 million passenger vehicles. Power plant emission of mercury and smog-forming nitrogen oxides will also be cut.

“Climates as different as those of Minneapolis and Miami need different furnace and AC standards,” said Andrew deLaski, executive director of the Appliance Standards Awareness Project (ASAP). “Until now, we’ve had one-size-fits-all national standards. These new, regional standards are a major breakthrough that will benefit consumers and the environment.”

These standards will also protect low-income households, most of which are comprised of renters dependent on their landlords to provide the heating system. “These new regional furnace standards will ensure that landlords install efficient systems, which will make tenants’ heating bills much more affordable,” said Charlie Harak, managing attorney of the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC).

The signatories to the joint agreement on which the standards are based are the Alliance to Save Energy, American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE), ASAP, AHRI, California Energy Commission, NRDC, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships, Northwest Power and Conservation Council and more than a dozen individual furnace and air conditioner manufacturers.

Others on record in support of the new standards include consumer groups such as the NCLC and Consumer Federation of America; gas and electric utilities such as National Grid and Avista Corporation; and the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance.

The new furnace standards will apply beginning in May 2013 and the new air conditioner and heat pumps standards in January 2015. The original national furnace standards took effect in 1992, and today’s rule is the first update. Initial national standards for air conditioners and heat pumps took effect in 1992, and a previous DOE update became effective in 2006.

“With summer approaching, the high cost of energy is once again on consumers’ minds as their air conditioning needs increase,” said Steven Nadel, executive director of ACEEE. “These new standards continue a long-term trend that has dramatically raised the efficiency of these essential products, delivering huge benefits for consumers.”.

Source:www.nrdc.org

3 DOE Offers \$27M to Reduce Solar Energy Costs

20 June 2011- WASHINGTON —The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced the availability of more than \$27 million in new funding to help reduce the non-hardware costs of solar energy projects as part of its SunShot Initiative. The funding will support a \$12.5 million Rooftop Solar challenge to encourage cities and counties to compete to streamline and digitize permitting processes. Application deadline is August 31 for this program. New funding will also include \$15 million for advancing innovations in information technology systems, local zoning and building codes and regulations, and more. Described as removing market barriers, these process improvements are being pursued to help increase U.S. competitiveness in the global solar industry. Application deadline is June 23 for this program.

Both funding opportunities focus on reducing “non-hardware balance-of-system” costs, which generally refer to the costs of installing solar systems that are not associated with the solar panels, mounting hardware, electronics, and other hardware. These “soft costs,” including the capital required to pay for siting, permitting, and installing a solar energy system, as well as the cost of connecting it to the grid, can represent up to 40 percent of the total cost of the system. Navigating the differing and expensive administrative processes of various towns, cities, and counties across the nation, and securing financing for projects, can be obstacles for homeowners and developers looking to invest in solar energy. Funded projects will help standardize some processes, cut upfront fees and paperwork, and reduce the overall costs associated with permitting and installation, making it easier and less expensive for homeowners, businesses, and their local communities to deploy solar energy.

Source:www.achrnews.com

4 BOSCH Launches Greenstar Series Combi Boilers

1 June 2011: Bosch Thermotechnology North America, a leading provider of energy efficient heating and air conditioning comfort systems as well as high quality solar thermal systems and water heaters for homes and businesses, announced today the addition of six new ultra efficient wall mounted condensing boilers to its Thermotechnology line of products.

The BOSCH GREENSTAR series, available in configurations ranging from 57.2 to 151.6 MBH, utilize condensing technology –an invention where the latent heat in the unit’s exhaust gases is extracted and re-used –a highly efficient use of energy which also significantly reduces carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere.

BOSCH GREENSTAR condensing boilers can offer efficiency levels of up to 98.7 percent, turning 98.7 percent of the fuel used into heat –a significant upgrade compared to traditional or non-condensing boilers.

As a wall-hanging unit with multiple size configurations based on need, the GREENSTAR series can free up valuable floor space inside the home.

Superior Design and Components

The BOSCH GREENSTAR series features industry-leading design and technology components built for years of reliable operation and optimal energy efficiency.

A full modulating fan automatically increases or decreases its speed, according to the gas amount coming into the combi boiler depending on the heat demand. This process, called modulation, prevents the combi

boiler from either having too little or too much air in the unit for optimal combustion –assuring high efficiency.

The unit’s durable heating blocks are corrosion resistant and designed to optimize clean burning combustion over an extra large surface area, which requires minimal servicing and reliance on spare parts during the boiler’s lifetime.

Control and ease of use

BOSCH GREENSTAR boilers offer homeowners and service professional’s easy access while providing a layer of security for peace-of-mind. BoschHeatronic III, a device integrated into the base of the boiler, provides instant access to the hot water and heating controls, and a removable front panel provides direct access to the boiler’s heat cell. A plug-in diagnostics module streamlines the unit’s serviceability. An important keypad safety lock button feature prevents unwanted tampering, triggering a disable feature and audible alarm and error code for increased reassurance to homeowners with children.

The included FW200 digital thermostat and outdoor reset boiler control act as the nerve center of a home’s heating system. Programmable up to six switching times throughout the day, this interface can be installed within the appliance or be wall mounted in any location throughout the home. Control of up to four devices in cascade is possible. Additional Bosch products, including solar applications, can be programmed using supplemental module control options from the unit. All BOSCH GREENSTAR boilers come with a limited five-year parts and labor warranty and a lifetime heat exchanger warranty.

Source:www.bosch-climate.us

5 US Bill To Cut Energy Efficiency Programs by 40%

21 June 2011: House Bill Would Cut Clean Energy and Efficiency Programs by 40 Percent. Appropriations bill puts renewable energy and efficiency funding about \$1 billion below current levels, roughly equaling dollars doled out in 2005.

WASHINGTON—Even though Republicans have vowed an "all-of-the-above" approach to America's energy future, Democrats are accusing them of clinging to a narrow, antiquated, hydrocarbon-heavy past.

Members of the House Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition are furious about a 2012 energy and water appropriations bill that they claim shortchanges President Obama's efforts at innovation and competition in favor of an addiction to oil, coal and natural gas.

"Now is the worst possible moment to slash funding for the research and development of sustainable energy technologies," coalition member Rep. Rush Holt (D-N.J.) said about the \$30.6 billion bill that advanced out of the House Appropriations Committee last Wednesday.

"At a time when our economy is already fragile, abandoning scientific research would cause the United States to lose even more high-tech jobs to our foreign competitors."

Rep. Jeff Flake of Arizona was the sole Republican who joined 19 Democrats in opposing the bill that passed on a 26-20 vote. The full House will be considering the measure, one of a dozen sweeping federal spending bills, after Independence Day.

On the energy front, this version of the bill snips \$1.9 billion from the White House request for investments in energy efficiency research, renewables such as solar, wind and geothermal, fuel-conserving vehicles, weatherization, biomass and other programs. That's more than 40 percent below current funding levels.

Energy insiders, however, doubt the Senate will approve such draconian paring of clean energy enterprise.

Overall, the sprawling bill slices a total of \$5.9 billion from President Obama's request for the budget year beginning in October. Those cuts put funding about \$1 billion below current levels, roughly equaling dollars doled out in 2005.

"The ... funding bill is another glaring example of the widening gap between Republican rhetoric and reality," said Colorado Rep. Jared Polis, one of 48 members of the coalition. "We need a new American energy policy that will lower

prices for families, reduce our reliance on dirty, foreign energy and increase our energy independence."

Nitty-Gritty of House Bill

Overall, this appropriations legislation is designed to provide annual funding for the various agencies and programs under the Department of Energy, including the National Nuclear Security Administration, as well as the Army Corps of Engineers, the Bureau of Reclamation, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, and various regional water and power authorities.

Coalition members are most alarmed that the GOP engineered a bill that slashes close to \$500 million from DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE). That leaves the office with just 40 percent of the amount Obama asked for when he presented his budget back in February.

Briefly, the White House 2012 budget request for EERE programs is the largest ever. It rings in at a total of \$3.2 billion, which is bordering on 11 percent of the total DOE budget. That's significant because it's a jump of \$983 million —or 44 percent —above 2010 appropriations.

In addition, the legislation increases funding for DOE's Fossil Energy Office by \$32 million while decreasing designated dollars for Advanced Research Projects Agency-Energy (ARPA-E) by \$80 million. Energy Department Secretary Steven Chu modeled ARPA-E after a similar program at the Department of Defense to support breakthroughs by clean energy entrepreneurs.

Obama had asked that the chronically underfunded ARPA-E receive about \$650 million next year. The GOP House bill would jeopardize the relatively new initiative designed to fund early-stage innovation projects that are deemed riskiest and most transformative.

As well, the president had called for lopping the fossil office by \$417 million, 44 percent below 2010 appropriations. Savings for the president's budget figure of \$520 million would have come from peeling away money for fossil energy research and development, as well as the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Slashing ARPA-E Illogical

Lew Milford, founder and president of the Montpelier, Vt.-based nonprofit Clean Energy Group complimented Chu for recognizing ARPA-E as an avenue for expanding a nascent industry.

"We're cutting off our nose to spite our face," Milford told SolveClimate News in an interview about ARPA-E's rocky funding record. "ARPA-E is one of the few public programs that focuses on energy innovation. Without it, we won't get the big bang of technology benefits to produce jobs and economic benefits in the long run."

The last actual appropriation for ARPA-E was \$389 million for fiscal year 2009.

DARPA, the military program Chu is mimicking, is unusual because it serves a customer that will buy at any cost, Milford said. But that freedom within the Department of Defense supports a unique model that allows an idea to morph into a prototype that is deployed throughout branches of the military before spilling over into the civilian marketplace.

"That's what you need for energy technologies to be working and seamlessly connected," Milford said, adding that DOE has wisely signed a memorandum of understanding agreement with the Defense Department to give ARPA-E room to grow. "To deal with issues such as market demand, DOE has to expand its portfolio of options and essentially create customers."

He emphasized that eventually DOE should form ARPA-E partnerships with states because development agencies at that level are looking for niche strategies to boost the clean energy policies they have in place.

"It's not ARPA-E's fault or anybody else's that we're not there yet," Milford said. "The clean energy industry is young at 10 to 20 years old when compared to a fossil fuels industry that's more than 100 years old."

GAO: National Strategy Necessary

In the midst of this season's budget travails, the Government Accountability Office has issued a new report recommending what likely seems obvious to even casual observers of congressional politics —the need to replace a piecemeal approach to climate and energy with a national plan.

Rep. Ed Markey (D-Mass.) released the 90-page report by the investigative arm of Congress on Monday. The somewhat clunky title is "Climate Change: Improvements Needed to Clarify National Priorities and Better Align Them with Federal Funding Decisions."

To get there, the GAO spells out a two-step solution that is probably easier written on paper than actually accomplished.

First, federal authorities need to set clear strategic climate change priorities that identify specific roles and responsibilities of key federal entities involved in the enterprise.

Second, those same authorities have to assess how effective they are now at not only defining and reporting federal climate change funding but also lining up that funding with agreed-upon priorities. Those practices will have to be polished so Congress and the public can fully grasp how the government spends money designated for climate change.

The trick is that before embarking on step one, entities that fall under the executive branch such as the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Energy and Climate Change Policy, the Office of Management and Budget, and Office of Science and Technology Policy have to consult with Congress and collaborate with relevant federal agencies and interagency coordinating bodies.

And that looks to be a daunting challenge if those tasked with GAO's recommendations refer to the baffling maze of a chart on page 13 of the report. Authors of the GAO report refer to federal climate change program as complex and crosscutting.

"This report shows the significant work the United States government is already taking to understand and address climate change while creating new jobs and industries in America," said Markey, the ranking member of the House Natural Resources Committee.

"So far this has been accomplished with little national leadership. In these challenging budgetary times, we need to make sure funding matches national priorities. This GAO report shows us we still have work to do."

Assessment Follows Party Line

Republican leaders had nothing but high praise for the way they reshaped President Obama's original budget request. Such "smart and significant" spending reductions were necessary to programs with "massive and unnecessary increases," Appropriations Committee Chairman Hal Rogers of Kentucky said.

Energy and Water Development Subcommittee Chairman Rodney Frelinghuysen of New Jersey agreed that their handiwork "clearly shows that strong fiscal discipline, a strong national defense and a strong economy, can be achieved together."

But neither of those assessments lined up with perspectives from the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition. Co-chair Reps. Jay Inslee of Washington and Steve Israel of New York, organized the caucus in January 2009 to advance policies government-wide that address clean energy innovation, environmental protection and climate change.

Coalition member Rep. Paul Tonka, who has introduced legislation to redirect subsidies now designated for oil companies into clean energy innovation and manufacturing, frowned upon the GOP approach.

"We cannot cut our way to number one," the New York Democrat said about falling behind China and Germany. "If we are to stay competitive as a nation in the long term, we must invest in new technologies, clean energy and job creation. This bill fails all three tests."

Source: www.reuters.com

6 2012 AHR Expo on Pace to be Among Largest

23 June 2011-- WESTPORT, Connecticut, June 22, 2011 —The Frank Sinatra song 'My Kind Of Town' is proving to be true for nearly 1,500 HVACR manufacturers who have already been assigned more than 371,000 square feet of exhibit space for the 2012 AHR Expo at Chicago's McCormick Place Convention Center, January 23-25.

With several months remaining before the world's largest HVACR-exclusive exposition takes place, the 2012 Chicago Show is well on its way to establishing some very impressive numbers. Eighty five percent of exhibit space has already been sold. This is well ahead of the numbers reported seven months before the last Chicago Show (2009).

"These early numbers are very encouraging, as Chicago is traditionally the site of our largest and most successful shows," said Clay Stevens, President of International Exposition Company, which produces and manages the AHR Expo. "History has shown that a larger exhibit area also translates into greater attendance."

Stevens points out that Chicago holds five all-time AHR Expo records, including;

- Largest Square Footage of Exhibit Space –410,415
- Total Number of Exhibiting Companies –1,989
- Total Number of Registered Attendees (visitors & exhibitors) –59,079
- Total Number of Registered Exhibitor Personnel –24,865
- Total Number of International Exhibitors –400

Stevens believes the combination of a steadily improving economy, pent-up demand for new equipment, and returning to Chicago for the first time in three years could lead to one of the biggest events in the Show's illustrious 80-year history. He emphasizes that the 2012 AHR Expo is already nearly as large as the very successful 2011 Las Vegas Show, which at 379,000 square feet shattered an all-time record for West Coast HVACR events.

"Several companies have increased the size of their booth space from previous Shows and more than three-dozen first-time exhibitors have reserved thousands of square feet of space," Stevens added. "These are good indicators that the industry is preparing for an improving economy and a strong Show."

The 65th AHR Expo will offer several Show features including:

- More Than 100 conference sessions, seminars and workshops on a variety of critical industry topics, including nearly three dozen complimentary (no charge) sessions from several endorsing associations and organizations
- More than a dozen Short Courses (with tuition) presented by ASHRAE.
- Dozens of Complimentary New Product Technology Theater presentations where companies can unveil their latest products and technologies
- Emerging Technologies Sessions from exhibiting companies presenting new solutions
- Building Automation & Control Showcase featuring over 100 companies displaying state-of-the-art solutions
- The Software Center with over 50 companies showcasing their latest advancements

For more information on the Show go to www.ahrexpo.com

Source: www.ashrae.org

7 Momentum Suffers Mild Loss — Except in U.S.

26 June 2011-- OECD's composite leading indicators (CLIs) signal a mild loss in growth momentum in most major economies in April 2011, except in the United States. The United States continues expanding relative to trend, albeit more moderately than in the March assessment. The OECD said the CLIs point to:

- a stable pace of expansion in Germany and the United Kingdom
- clear signs of slowdown in the pace of activity in France and Italy
- a likely moderation of growth towards its long-term trend in Canada

The CLI for China points to a possible moderation in economic activity, OECD said.

Other CLIs indicate a slowdown in Brazil and India and the first sign of a loss of growth momentum in Russia.

Japan's exceptional circumstances make it impossible to provide reliable estimates of the CLI for Japan at this stage, OECD said.

OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development) composite leading indicators (CLIs) are designed to anticipate turning points in economic

activity.

OECD current has 34 member countries:

• Australia •Austria •Belgium •Canada •Chile •Czech Republic •Denmark •Estonia
•Finland •France •Germany •Greece •Hungary •Iceland •Ireland •Israel •Italy •Japan
•Korea •Luxembourg •Mexico •Netherlands •New Zealand •Norway •Poland
•Portugal •Slovak Republic •Slovenia •Spain •Sweden •Switzerland •Turkey •United
Kingdom •United States.

Source:www.appliancemagazine.com

8 Can. Home Retrofit Support Positive, But Too Short

11 June 2011-- A federal budget decision to extend the popular \$400-million ecoEnergy Retrofit-Homes program doesn't go far enough, say some program supporters.

The Save ecoEnergy Coalition applauds the Harper government's \$400-million extension of the program -but it says the one-year timeline is not enough to help the energy savings industry transition to self-sufficiency.

However, the Canadian Home Builders' Association is "extremely pleased" with the decision announced in the recent budget by the new majority Conservative government, says president Vince Laberge.

The federal ecoEnergy program provides financial assistance to help owners of existing homes make smart energy retrofit decisions, resulting in significant energy savings, more comfortable living spaces and a cleaner environment.

Home retrofit programs "are great for the economy because they help families, businesses and tradespeople across the country," says Jeff Murdock, vice-president of Building Insight Technologies, a coalition supporter. "But the on-again, off-again nature of these programs creates unpredictable conditions that make it difficult for businesses to develop a long-term approach," he says.

The Save ecoEnergy Coalition, a national group of energy-saving organizations, has developed a three-step plan to help the energy savings industry achieve long-term self-sufficiency.

The coalition's plan calls for a four-year commitment to the ecoEnergy program to create enough stability for the industry to achieve self-sufficiency.

"It should be easy for governments to make a four-year commitment to this program," says Murdock.

"The numbers show that ecoEnergy creates jobs, reduces the deficit and helps the environment, all at the same time. With ecoEnergy, families spend \$10 for every \$1 they receive in government incentives. This generates \$2 in tax revenue for every \$1 paid in homeowner grants."

A longer-term commitment to ecoEnergy would assure both economic and environmental sustainability for Canada and the energy savings industry, says Murdock. "We are optimistic that the Harper government will see the benefits of extending ecoEnergy for a full four years," he says.

Meanwhile, CHBA national president Vince Laberge says his association "is pleased to see the Harper government is moving to fulfil commitments made during the election and that the budget has a focus on responsible fiscal management and job creation."

Laberge also applauds the government's decision to renew the ecoEnergy program.

"We are extremely pleased that Finance Minister Jim Flaherty has chosen to maintain momentum among homeowners for improving the energy performance of their homes," says Laberge. "This is an important and practical initiative that can rejuvenate our existing housing stock, reduce energy bills and reduce greenhouse gas emissions."

The program is complemented by the government's ongoing support for the R-2000 initiative, the EnerGuide Rating System, and Energy Star for New Homes, all of which contribute significantly to the overall environmental performance of Canadian homes.

Pointing out that the government can ill afford to ignore the underground cash economy, Laberge says that "the ecoEnergy retrofit program has the added benefit of encouraging people to work with legitimate renovators. It will bolster the government's efforts to combat the underground cash economy in home renovation services."

Source:www.calgaryherald.com

9 VIESSMANN Ups Stake in CHP Engine Maker

3 June 2011-- German heating appliances OEM VIESSMANN GROUP increased its shares in MICROGEN ENGINE CORP., manufacturer of gas-fired Stirling engines for micro-CHP (Combined Heat and Power) systems. VIESSMANN now owns 42.19% of MEC; an equal share in MEC is now also being held by heating appliance maker BDR THERMEA GROUP.

MEC will sell its Stirling engines to VIESSMANN and BDR THERMEA as well as to other heating industry OEMs.

"The trend towards CHP-technology and towards decentralized electricity generation will continue," said Managing Director Dr. Martin Viessmann. He noted that the company unveiled its Stirling engine-based micro-CHP Vitotwin 300-W system at the 2011 ISH trade show. The system will be on the market later in 2011.

In CHP systems the waste heat that comes from electricity generation is used for water and environmental heating. VISSMANN said that, compared to conventional methods of generating heat and electricity, CHP systems reduce the primary energy consumption by 25% and emit about one-third less carbon dioxide.

Source:www.appliancemagazine.com

10 HAIER AMERICA Reorganizes

2 June 2011: HAIER AMERICA, a business of China's HAIER GROUP, will reorganize into three product business divisions: an Air Conditioning Group (ACG), a White Goods Group (WGG), and a Digital Products Group (DPG).

The White Goods Group will be led by Executive Vice President Bob Cunningham, who has been with the company since 2008 and previously served as senior vice president, Major Appliances - Product Innovations and Engineering. Cunningham has over 30 years experience in the white goods appliance industry.

The Air Conditioning Group will be led by Executive Vice President Lintao Lu who has been with the company since 2003 and previously served as senior vice president of Compact Appliances and Home Comfort - Product Innovations and Engineering. Mr. Lu has over 25 years of experience in the air-conditioning industry.

The Digital Products Group will continue to be led by President Douglas Lane, who joined the company in July of 2010 with over 20 years of experience in the consumer electronics industry.

Each division will be responsible for P&L, product development, sales and marketing, quality, service, compliance, planning, and purchasing. Shared services –such as finance, administration, logistics, information technology, legal, and branding & creative - will support the three divisions.

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