

EPEE ***NEWS***

*A Newsletter from
The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment
(EPEE)*

Vol. 1 No. 3

31 July 2000

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**EPEE is a business partnership
committed to responsible global energy
and environmental policy**

The European Commission's Climate Change Programme Industry Working Group has divided into a number of sub-groups, one of which covers Fluorinated Gases. The Fluorinated Gases sub-group has divided further to specifically represent the air-conditioning and refrigeration sectors. The air-conditioning and refrigeration sub-group is composed of five people from HFC supporting industries, represented by the European Consortium for Responsible Application of Refrigerants (EUCRAR). An additional five people representing companies supporting alternative refrigerants are represented individually. The air-conditioning and refrigeration group met 25 July in Brussels to present data on HFC emissions and emissions reductions targets. Each organization or company was given the opportunity to present its perspective on the issue.

While meeting participation was diverse, the representatives agreed on a number of points, including the fact that hydrocarbons are safe to use in small applications; proper training of technicians is a key element in reducing emissions; energy efficiency is vital; and a distinction exists between alternatives for existing and new refrigeration systems. Meeting participants were not able to reach an agreement over the degree to which HFC alternatives can penetrate the mid-sized equipment market; the impact HFC's have on energy efficiency; and whether or not there should be an HFC end use ban.

The meeting did not result in a final conclusion. There was agreement that participants would submit their presentations to the chairman for inclusion in the group's interim report, to be finalised in October. However, because the HFC review process is still in the data collection stage, and no indication was made as to how the industry's disagreements over future HFC use will be resolved. The chairman will note the lack of industry consensus in the final report.

EPEE RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY STATEMENT PRODUCED

EPEE has produced a policy statement on *Responsible Use Principles for Hydrofluorocarbons*, which promotes HFC's as energy efficient, low in toxicity, cost-effective and safe. The policy statement also indicates that industry and some governments support the global use of HFC's in applications which meet important environmental and societal needs. Several scientific studies are cited in the policy statement, including the 1999 report from the Technical and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, that highlights the importance of HFC's to the safe and cost effective phaseout of CFC's in developing countries, and defines HFC's as essential substitutes for highly important uses of ozone depleting substances. A 1999 Joint Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change/TEAP meeting also reached the conclusion that alternatives to HFC's may not be technically and economically feasible for some current uses. A 1999 report by Arthur D. Little stated that in many cases, less safe, poorer performing materials or processes are sometimes used as alternatives to HFC's. EPEE's statement on *Responsible Use Principles for Hydrofluorocarbons* is available on the EPEE website at www.epeeglobal.org.

EPEE ENDORSED BY CANADIAN ASSOCIATION

During its recent meeting, the Manufacturers Division of the Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning Industry Association of Canada (HRAI) fully endorsed the creation and development of EPEE. The Canadian Association views EPEE as an important voice for the global industry on HFC use, and looks forward to working with EPEE in an appropriate and useful capacity. HRAI is a member of the International Council of Air-Conditioning and Refrigeration Manufacturers' Associations (ICARMA).

PARTNERSHIP CITED IN FINANCIAL TIMES ARTICLE

EPEE was cited in a 25 July Financial Times news article examining the HFC debate in Europe. The article acknowledges the disagreement between industry and environmental groups on the future of HFC use and suitable alternatives. The author noted that while the recent decision by Coca-Cola to discontinue using HFC cooled equipment was applauded by Greenpeace, it was simultaneously criticized by manufacturers as a misguided gesture in response to a single issue environmentalist campaign. While the article discusses available options to HFC use, it also covers industry's objection to alternative refrigerants based on the product's lack of energy efficiency. The article concludes by stating that the HFC debate is far from over, since the market for HFC products is still expanding. The Financial Times article can be viewed on the EPEE website at www.epeeglobal.org.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING SET FOR SEPTEMBER

At present, EPEE has Steering Committee commitments from more than 10 European CEO's. Steering Committee members will meet via conference call in late August to discuss EPEE's Campaign Coordinator candidates; review EPEE's *Responsible HFC Use* position paper, communications proposal and operations guide; and decide future meeting dates and locations. The first Steering Committee meeting will take place on Tuesday, 19 September, from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm, and on Wednesday, 20 September from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 pm at the Conrad Hotel in Brussels. During the meeting, the Committee will select a Campaign Coordinator from the final three candidates presented for review; define the roles and responsibilities for the Strategy Development Working Group; and assemble a list of Strategy Development Working Group members from a list of submitted candidates.

VENUE FOR OCTOBER MEETINGS CONFIRMED

The first Company Working Group meeting is scheduled to convene from 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm on Thursday, 19 October during the IKK Exhibition in Nürnberg, Germany. The Working Group will meet in the Nürnberg Messe Exhibition Hall. During the meeting, Working Group members will outline a strategy for effective intelligence gathering and communication within the EU and EU member states.

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The Strategy Development Working Group is also scheduled to meet in conjunction with the IKK Exhibition. The meeting will be held on 20 October from 1:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m, and on 21 October from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. in the Nürnberg Messe Exhibition Hall. During the October meeting, Strategy Development Working Group members will define the specific strategies and tactics necessary to launch a pro-HFC grassroots campaign on both a Pan-European and EU member state level. For further information on working group meetings, please contact secretariat@epeeglobal.org.

STAFF INTERVIEWS SCHEDULED FOR AUGUST

Candidates for EPEE Campaign Coordinator have been submitted and are currently being processed. Interviews will take place in Brussels the week of 21 August, with the three most qualified candidates presented to the Steering Committee in September for review.

UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR

EPEE Campaign Coordinator Interviews: (closed) 21 - 23 August; Brussels, Belgium

Kyoto Protocol/Climate Change Meeting: 4 - 15 September; Lyon, France

Comments Due – EC Green Paper on Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trading: 15 September

EPEE Steering Committee Meeting: (closed) 19 September, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm; 20 September, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm; Brussels, Belgium

EPEE Company Working Group Meeting: (closed) 19 October; 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm; Nürnberg, Germany

EPEE Strategy Development Working Group Meeting: (closed) 20 October, 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm; 21 October, 9:00 am – 1:00 pm; Nürnberg, Germany

Kyoto Protocol/Climate Change Meetings: 13 – 24 November; The Hague, Netherlands

TransAtlantic Business Dialogue CEO Conference: (closed) 16 – 18 November; Cincinnati, Ohio

Please submit items for EPEE NEWS and the UPCOMING EVENTS CALENDAR to:
secretariat@epeeglobal.org