

4-1-2006

BS News

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Recommended Citation

(2006) "BS News," *Building Services Engineering*: Vol. 45: Iss. 4, Article 1.

Available at: <https://arrow.tudublin.ie/bsn/vol45/iss4/1>

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bs news

building services news

bathrooms

pipework &
drainage

Add new facilities anywhere you want



An elegant, low-cost way to improve your home

The new Sololift+ lifting stations let you install a cloakroom under the stairs, a kitchen in the basement – even a bathroom in the attic. Minimum pipe work is required, so real home improvements can be made at very low cost. And the elegant design of the Sololift+ means that you won't have to compromise on style. With Grundfos Sololift+ you can add value to your house.

ISSN 0791-0878

Published by:

Pressline Ltd,
Carraig Court,
George's Avenue,
Blackrock, Co Dublin.
Tel: 01 - 288 5001/2/3 Fax: 01 - 288 6966
ISDN: 01 - 211 2338/9
email: bsnews@pressline.ie
web: www.buildingservicesnews.com
www.bsnewsbuyerguide.com
www.pressline.ie

Editor: Pat Lehane

Advertisement Director: Joe Warren

General Manager: Louise Byrne

Origination and Design:

Pressline Ltd. Tel: 01 - 288 5001

Subscription: One Year — €70

Printed by: Ebrook.

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advertisements prepared by the publishers,
Pressline Ltd.

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opinion

Grants Before Register — A Case of Cart Before the Horse?

Legislation currently going through the Dail will provide for “a system for the regulation, certification, ongoing inspection of the work and assessment of the competence of individual trained natural gas installers”.

That there is not already such a system in place seems incredible. However, it would be churlish at this stage to labour that point. Now that this long-overdue legislation is finally being enacted the industry should embrace it with open arms.

Most people within building services are familiar with RECI, the supervisory body which oversees the registration and certification of electrical contractors. The proposal for domestic installers will operate along very similar lines. There will be ongoing inspections, Completion Certificates, training reviews, etc.

While specifically aimed at gas installers, the initiative — if fully implemented — will inevitably raise the competency levels, and professionalism, of the entire domestic installation sector (see page 17).

A Word of Caution ...

However, in accepting that the competency levels of many operatives within the sector need improving, it seems a strange time for the Government to roll out another initiative — the €27 million grant aid scheme for domestic renewable heat technologies (page 39).

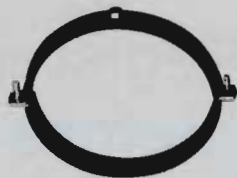
In principle this is an excellent initiative but, given that it applies to the installation of renewable technologies such as wood pellet stoves and boilers, solar panels and geothermal heat pumps, is it a case of too much too soon? Are there sufficient competent and knowledgeable installers in the country to handle these new technologies? Time will tell.

It might have been better to raise the competency levels of the industry *before* providing grants for the installation of more sophisticated systems.

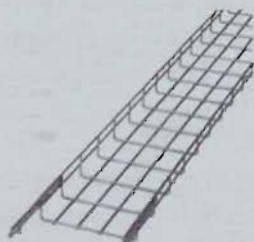
trade news + product information



The Kwikstrut channel nut



The Unistrut ventilation duct clamp



The Unistrut cable basket

unistrut make installation easy

Unistrut Ireland has recently added three new products — a cable bracket, ventilation duct clamps and channel nuts — to its expansive product portfolio. Brief details of each are as follows:—

Unistrut cable basket — Lightweight yet very strong due to the wire configuration. This new bracket is extremely flexible for ease of installation. Suitable for both power and data cables, it is available in 3m lengths with a 54mm side wall and in widths from 100-600mm;

Unistrut ventilation duct clamps — This new range of air duct clamps is available with or without sound insulation in sizes from 100mm up 600mm. Larger sizes are available on request;

Kwikstrut channel nuts — A very clever time-saving product from sister company Wopf in Germany, this unit replaces the need for a separate square washer and spring nut when hanging from overhead channels. Installation is simple ... just plug in and twist. Available in sizes 6, 8 and 10mm.

Contact: Stephen Kenny (external sales) or James Whelan (internal sales), Unistrut Ireland. Tel: 01 - 460 7060; web: www.tycobuilding.com.

btu officers, committee & outings for 2006

The BTU officers and committee for 2006 are as follows:—

Captain — Michael Morrissey; Vice Captain & Hon Treasurer: Jim Bollard; Hon Sec — David Harris.

Committee — Michael Matthews; Michael Kearney; Ger Hutchinson; Steve Jones; Graham Fay; Frank Lynch and John White (ex-officio).

Forthcoming outings include — Portmarnock Golf Club (5/5/06); Druids Glen; BTU Nationals (9/6/06); Forest Little (22/6/06); Dun Laoghaire, Captain's Day (18/7/06); Mount Wolsey, Weekend (25/8/06); Newlands, President's Day (8/9/06); The Grange (20/10/06); Hermitage, Christmas outing (1/12/06).

total instrument solutions

Copies of the Dwyer Instruments' new 440-page full-colour catalogue are now available from Manotherm Ltd.

Dwyer is the recognised industry leader when it comes to advanced instruments, whether it be for pressure, flow, air velocity, level, temperature, valves, combustion testing, humidity, or data acquisition.

Many of the instruments are widely known by their individual brand names such as Magnehelic, Spirahelic, Photohelic, Mini-Master and Visi-Float. All are comprehensively covered in the new catalogue.

Contact: Bob Gilbert, Noel Walsh or Robert Gilbert, Manotherm. Tel 01 - 452 2355; email: info@manotherm.ie



SANYO Air Conditioners, proud to be the official sponsor of the PGA in 2006



A world leading commercial air conditioning manufacturer

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AIR CONDITIONERS

PGA



trade news + product information

dab automatic wastewater solutions



The DAB automatic booster set for collecting and lifting wastewater.

Consolidated Pumps has just unveiled DAB's latest range of automatic booster sets for collecting and lifting domestic, civil and industrial wastewater. There are six models in the range — Novabox 30/300; Fekabox 280; Fekalift 100; Fekalift 200; Fekafos 280; and Fekafos 550. They all consist of a high-density polypropylene container (capacities from 30lt to 550lt) with integral motor-driven pumps and accessories for fully-automatic operation.

Operating range is from one to 35m³/h for a single pump, and from one to 70m³/h for the installation of a pair of pumps, with heads up to 26m.

Liquid temperature range goes from 0°C to 50°C, depending on the model.

Full information on technical details, performance characteristics and scope of applications are available directly from Consolidated Pumps.

Contact: Consolidated Pumps Ltd. Tel: 01 - 459 3471;
email: info@consolidatedpumps.com

gas badge

Industrial Scientific's "GasBadge® Plus" is a low-cost, maintenance-free, single-gas monitor for personal protection. Features include CO, H₂S, O₂, NO₂ or SO₂ monitoring; PPM or % by volume readout; audible alarm complemented by vibrating and visual alarms; "Go/No Go" display mode; adjustable alarm and calibration gas setpoints; 2-year warranty; and event-logging (last 15 gas alarm events).

The Gas Badge unit weighs 72 grams and measures 81.3mm by 48.3mm by 27.9mm.

Contact: Stephen Fox, Reg Farrell Engineering.
Tel: 01 - 465 9010; www.rfe.ie.



The Gas Badge Plus single-gas monitor for personal protection available from Reg Farrell Engineering

the energy show 2006

The Energy Show 2006 will take place in the RDS Industries Hall in Dublin on the 10/11 May. The show's format will include a 2-day trade exhibition coupled with a comprehensive and varied seminar programme covering all aspects of energy efficiency and renewable energy. The biannual event, which is organised by Sustainable Energy Ireland (SEI), is a major national showcase for energy in Ireland and is specifically designed for those with responsibility for, or an interest in, energy use in business.

As part of this year's event SEI will host eight half-day seminars over the two days on topical energy-related issues such as energy management; liquid biofuels; energy audits and surveys; wood heating; wind energy; energy-efficient buildings; renewable heating; and building for the future. These seminars will highlight the benefits of the various technologies and energy-efficient approaches through the use of practical case study examples.

Approximately 100 individual exhibitor's from across the sustainable energy sector will present a wide range of products and services including energy management systems, variable speed drives, maintenance and service, renewable energy, combined heat and power, state utilities, HVAC products, lighting, instrumentation controls and data collection, biomass equipment, heat pumps, and wind and solar energy technologies.

Contact: www.sei.ie/energyshow





Help us deliver in Ireland

Vaillant Applied Systems Division is seeking distributors in Ireland



The newly formed Vaillant Applied Systems Division is seeking distributors/agents in Ireland.

Vaillant Applied Systems Division combines commercial, industrial heating and air conditioning with the quality, performance, after sales support and reliability you'd expect from Vaillant.

The **ecoMAX** range of commercial & industrial condensing boilers are available with 35, 46 and 65 kW outputs, all delivering outstanding SEDBUK A fuel efficiency and featuring a stainless steel heat exchanger as well as a low NOx fully-modulating pre-mix gas burner. The **ecoMAX** boilers can be used in modular application to meet the demands of most commercial applications.

The new **climaVAIR** range of performance air conditioning products is both user friendly and offers exceptional value-for-money. With a comprehensive range of 19 new models, including mono on-off, mono inverter and multi inverter cassette and high wall split systems, it provides exceptional 'A' rated energy efficiency backed up by a comprehensive guarantee.

For further information please contact the Applied Systems director on **0044 1422 376070** or write to **Unit D1, Lowfields Business Park, Elland, West Yorkshire HX5 9DG.**

Vaillant - Leading the way in high efficiency

trade news + product information

eca belfast dinner

The annual ECA Belfast dinner held in what one could say is its natural home. The Culloden Hotel in Holywood, proved extremely successful. The hotel was originally built for a bishop and overlooks the Southern shore of Belfast Loch, providing the perfect backdrop to a truly special occasion.

ECA members from both North and South of the Border attended, along with fellow-member guests from the UK. Opinions and views on all contracting matters were expressed and shared but, for the most part, it was very much a social event.

A highlight of the evening were the presentations made to recently-retired ECA Dublin Branch members Frank McCaffrey and Ivan Hammond, and Terry McEvoy, retired General Secretary.

The next meeting of the Southern and Northern branches of the ECA will take place in May with the annual ECA Conference being held from 14 to 17 September in the Don Pepe Hotel, Marbella, Spain.

Contact: Paul Sheridan, ECA Dublin Branch General Secretary.
Tel: 01 - 406 6000; email: psheridan@cif.ie



Front: Paul Sheridan, ECA Dublin Branch General Secretary with Lewis Darragh, Belfast Branch Chairman; Frank McCaffrey; Ivan Hammond; and Terry McEvoy; Back: Michael Stone, ECA Chairman and MD of Designer Group Engineering Contractors.

pulsar direct moves

Pulsar Direct — originally set up in 1993 and now part of the Grafton group plc — has moved to a new, 40,000 sq ft, purpose-built facility located at Unit 1, Westgate Business Park, Lehanaghmore, Togher, Cork.

Pulsar Direct supplies plumbing materials solely to the plumbing trade and has 14 sales representatives on the road covering all parts of the country. Over 5000 line items such as fittings, pipe, underfloor heating, pumps, tools etc are carried ex-stock. Boilers and bathroom suites are not stocked.

Service includes next day delivery free of charge with no minimum order required. All orders are packed and distributed from the new warehouse in Cork by Securicor. Pulsar Direct also produces a monthly newsletter which is distributed to over 3000 plumbers throughout Ireland.

Contact: Eamon Bradshaw, Sales Manager, Pulsar Direct. Tel: 021 - 492 5



Eamon Bradshaw, Pulsar Direct

smart-t thermoelectric valve actuators

Smart-T is a new range of snap-on thermoelectric valve actuators from Honeywell that provide precise on/off valve operation for small linear valves used in room and zone applications, including underfloor heating.

They can be used in fan-coil units, induction units, small re-heaters and re-coolers using hot and/or cold water as the controlled medium in an electronic temperature control system. They are also fully compatible with all controllers providing an on/off output signal.

Smart-T is available in both normally-open and closed versions and a 4mm or 8mm stroke for 24V and 240V on/off, as well as PWM (pulse width modulated) control, auxiliary switch versions and low current models. Valve adaptors are available from Honeywell for use with third-party valves

Contact: Honeywell Building Control Products.
Tel: 0044 1344 656443; email: HVACProductsUK@honeywell.com





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Fax: 01 - 409 8916

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web: www.coreac.com

trade news + product information

sanyo air conditioners sponsor pga

As we went to press the PGA announced that Sanyo Air Conditioners had become its official sponsor. "This is a particularly exciting sponsorship for us as many of our customers and business clients play golf and follow the sport", explained Barry Hennessy, General Manager, Sanyo Air Conditioners Ireland. "The Professional Golfers' Association is an established worldwide organisation and this new association will allow us increase brand awareness and extend access to the more significant golf events for our customers.

"Also, as the fastest-growing air conditioning brand in Ireland, we are delighted to support the PGA Irish Region which is also growing rapidly, almost as fast as Tiger's swing!" quipped Hennessy.



The new agreement will see the Sanyo logo prominently displayed at most PGA events, functions and in PGA publications, and on the PGA Mobile Office which will tour Ireland at the end of April. It will also allow Sanyo's clients premier access to most of the major golfing events across the UK and Ireland, including the British Open, Smurfit European Open and Ryder Cup 2006.

Contact: Barry Hennessy or Sinead Duffy, Sanyo Air Conditioners. Tel: 01 - 403 900;
email: barryhennessy@sanyoaircon.com; sineadduffy@sanyoaircon.com

refrigeration skillnet training courses

There are still a limited number of places available on the Refrigeration Skillnet courses taking place between now and June 2006. Among the topics to be covered are the safe handling of ammonia and refrigerants, and the importance of PED compliance.

Can you explain the importance of PED compliance to your customers? Do you know what ESR, SEP, PQR, CatI, Notified Body means? Do you know how to prepare a design file to comply with the PED? Do you know the requirements for brazing procedure specifications and brazer approval? Attendance at the PED workshop nearest you will help answer these questions.

Contact: Enda Hogan, Network Manager, Refrigeration Skillnet.
Tel: 056 - 44211; www.refrigerationskillnet.ie

kedington installs three million points!

Kedington, Ireland's leading provider of structured cabling and networking solutions, has completed its three millionth point installed on customer sites across the country. This is combined with more than 300 million metres of cable and four million metres of fibre installed in offices across the country.

The three millionth point was installed on a 10G bit augmented CAT6 installation for one of Ireland's leading law firms, Mason Hayes+Curran, at its new headquarters in Barrow Street, Dublin.

Kedington's customers include 70% of Ireland's blue chip companies, including eBay, Merrill Lynch, Intel and Microsoft. Kedington also secured the largest network tender of the past two years, for the implementation of the data network for the new Cork Airport terminal.

Contact: Willie O'Connell, Kedington. Tel: 087 - 266 9697; www.kedington.ie



Matt Porter, Managing Director, Kedington with Declan Moyahan, Managing Partner, Mason Hayes+Curran.

AUTOMATIC STATIONS FOR COLLECTING, LIFTING AND PUMPING SEWAGE & WASTE WATER

Whether it is collecting and lifting domestic waste water; collecting and pumping civil and industrial waste water; or collecting and pumping domestic sewage, DAB has the perfect answer. Its specially-designed range of Novabox, Fekabox and Fekalift automatic collection, lifting and pumping stations are designed to provide tailor-made solutions for given applications. They are highly-engineered products, available at competitive prices and with the excellent design and technical support provided by Consolidated Pumps Ltd.

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DAB



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Tel: 01 - 459 3471 Fax: 01 - 459 1093

email: info@consolidatedpumps.com

www.consolidatedpumps.com



trade news + product information

mark condensing unit air heater

The Mark GS+ and G+ series is a range of CE-approved gas/oil-fired heating systems which deliver high efficiencies — between 95% and 106% — yet are low on energy consumption.

Standard equipment includes combustion chamber and heat exchanger made from stainless steel; advanced room-sealed combustion technology; electronic ignition; low gas consumption; low NOx; powerful axial fan(s); open-therm thermostat or, 0-10 volt signal or high/low burner; corrosion-resistant cover; low air pressure drop; and condensation frost protection sensor.

Accessories include an isolator switch; air grill with vertical louvres; 45° downflow hood; casing can be in RAL colours; wall mounting brackets; and shock absorbers for wall mounting brackets.

Contact: Michael Keane, Mark Eire Bv. Tel: 026 - 45334;
email: sales@markeire.com



The GS+ range of unit air heaters

eavemaster supreme rainwater system

The Eavemaster Supreme rainwater system from MFP was designed following extensive market research among architects and installers. It is a high-capacity, symmetrical, ogee gutter system which simplifies installation, thereby reducing costs. It offers a number of key features:—



The new Eavemaster Supreme rainwater system from MFP

- Symmetrical ogee profile;
- High capacity;
- High-performance moulded seals;
- Robust user-friendly jointing clips;
- Choice of internal or external fascia brackets;
- Outlets and unions with centre and side fixing points;
- Indicator marks on fittings for fast, accurate alignment;
- No sharp edges or fittings;
- Multi-positional outlet;
- Colour-matched to the Eavemaster fascia system.

Eavemaster Supreme is available in white, black and brown and, when combined with the Eavemaster fascia system, offers a complete roofline solution.

Contact: Mel Trautt, MFP Sales. Tel: 01 - 630 2500; email: sales@mfp.ie

white young green appointments

White Young Green, the multi-disciplinary engineering, environmental and surveying and project management consultancy with offices in Belfast, Cork, Derry, Dublin and Limerick, has appointed Donnachadh O'Brien C&S Director and Colman Reynolds M&E Director. Both are based at the company's Dublin Office.



Denis Rooney, Chief Executive of WYG Ireland with Donnachadh O'Brien, Director Civil & Structural Engineering; Colman Reynolds, Director Mechanical & Electrical Engineering; Ray Moore, Managing Director, Engineering Ireland; and Richard McCaffrey, Chief Operating Officer, WYG.

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FläktWoods

trade news + product information

oventrop at monart destination spa

Oventrop valves — including isolation, double regulating, commissioning sets, lockshield valves and strainers — were chosen for the heating and cooling systems for Ireland's first purpose-built Destination Spa which is located in over 100 acres of private woodland just outside Enniscorthy in County Wexford.



Monart Destination Spa which is located just outside Enniscorthy in Co Wexford

Monart Destination Spa is a 70-bed state-of-the-art spa complex centred around Monart House, a three-storey listed country home with links to the Jameson distillery family. The heating/cooling systems were designed by Ronan Meeley, consulting engineers, Kilkenny and installed by Air-Con Engineering.

Contact: Donny Bourke, Oventrop. Tel: 046 - 973 1376;
email: donnybourke@oventrop.ie

moy isover technical help desk

Moy Isover is to host a new Technical Help Desk to facilitate queries from customers, builders, specifiers and members of the public.

Located at the Ardfinnan plant, Clonmel, County Tipperary, it will be fronted by Barry Hennessy, BSc, who studied engineering at Galway University and WIT Waterford.

His experience will ensure that callers to the help desk receive expert advice in relation to calculations on new thermal and acoustic regulations, as well as installation guidance.

Contact: Barry Hennessy, Moy Isover. Tel: 052 - 66100;
email: barry.hennessy@moyisover.ie



Technical Help — Barry Hennessy, Moy Isover

magnesense differential pressure transmitter

The Dwyer Series MS Magnesense differential pressure transmitters from Manotherm are extremely versatile and suitable for monitoring pressure and air velocity across a wide number of applications.

The compact range has many features such as field-selectable air velocity for fan and blower applications; adjustable digital dampening to smooth out unstable pressure fluctuations; field-selectable ranges in metric or british; ability to select a square output for use with pitot tubes and other similar flow sensors; and field upgradeable LCD.

Magnesense's patented magnetic sensing technology provides exceptional long-term performance and enables to unit to serve as the single solution for pressure and flow applications.

Contact: Bob Gilbert, Noel Walsh or Robert Gilbert, Manotherm. Tel 01 - 452 2355; email: info@manotherm.ie



Magnesense — the common sense solution to low pressure control from Manotherm

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There is nothing else on the market that looks quite like Art Cool.

And to further add to its appeal, the Art Cool range has been extended to offer a choice of new finishes, while some of the fascia panels have been revised.

Better yet, that high level of attraction has been increased still further by the fact that Art Cool is fully compatible with our entry into the VRF area: the newly arrived Multi V system.

One that, we believe, will establish a new benchmark in the sector for technical superiority and energy efficiency.



It is initially available in two variants:

- **Multi V Plus A** 2 pipe system which runs from 5hp to 40hp
- **Multi V Sync A** 3 pipe system which runs from 10hp to 40hp, and features a highly efficient energy recovery system

And both can run up to 40 indoor units, which can be a mix of Art Cool, cassettes, wall mounted and ducted.

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trade news + product information

vaillant unveils ac range — seeks distributor(s)

Vaillant, one of the market leaders in domestic heating with its renowned combination boilers, has now entered the residential and light commercial cooling sector and is looking to appoint a distributor(s) for Ireland.

Vaillant has sold air conditioning products in Europe for some years and now brings a new range of split air conditioning systems to the UK and Irish markets. It will initially concentrate on the domestic and light commercial markets before moving into the large commercial and heavy industrial sectors.



The new ranges — called climaVAIR and climaVAIR plus — are competitively priced and offer high performance with a comprehensive warranty package. They are manufactured in China according to specifications devised by Vaillant's technical team and include high-wall units with cooling capacities of 2.2 to 6kW, using R410A, and six models of ceiling cassettes on R407C with cooling capacities from 3.5 to 13.0kW.

The climaVAIR high-wall range is a high-specification range using R410A refrigerant and has all the features that would be expected from a premium product, including Class A rating energy efficiency; hot start; dehumidifier; de-ioniser and sleep function. The climaVAIR plus range has all these features but also includes movement detectors on the indoor units, enabling them to be motion-activated if required for further energy efficiency gains.

Contact: Darren Finley, Vaillant Applied Systems Director
Tel: 0044 1422 376 070; www.vaillant.co.uk.

high-efficiency nce series from calpeda

The new NCE series of high-efficiency, energy-saving variable speed circulating pumps from Calpeda Pumps (Ireland) are ideal for small domestic heating systems. Powered by a permanent magnet synchronous motor (pm) controlled by one on-board inverter, key benefits are: —

- Class A energy efficiency rating;
- High savings;
- Low energy consumption;
- n flat curves in a wide working area;
- Low noise;
- Compact dimensions;
- Self cleaning.

Being a permanent ceramic magnet, the rotor is less subject to limestone deposit than traditional metal rotors, while the "intelligent" electronics can sense any rotation difficulties — in such circumstances the motor is turned over several times at a higher torque than in traditional motors.

Reliable electronics guarantee the perfect operation of the electropump with double electrical insulation Class II motor for greater safety for users. The reduced temperatures of the motor provide for the use of materials which allow for an electropump with high electrical insulation by eliminating the risk of dangerous electrical losses when compared to traditional pumps.

Interchangeability is an added advantage, the Calpeda NCE range having the same axis base of other traditional pumps.

Contact: Graham Fay or Stephen McDowell, Calpeda Pumps (Ireland). Tel: 01 - 825 8212;
email: info@calpedaireland.com

Cheque mate



Keep ahead with Honeywell.

It's reassuring to know you can keep ahead of the game with Honeywell. We have been making energy saving controls for over 100 years. So people trust us to provide quality, reliability and good value.

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trade news + product information

lg multi v roadshow

LG distributors Core Air Conditioning recently hosted a series of receptions in Cork and Dublin to introduce LG's new VRF Multi V. Initially available in two sizes — 4.5 and 40hp — Multi V can power up to 40 indoor units and can be controlled via the internet, a PC, a deluxe or simple controller.

The outdoor unit features one inverter-driven and one high-efficiency compressor; uniform and effective distribution of refrigerant; low noise/high static pressure outdoor fan; high-efficiency inverter control; two-comp cycle for uniformity in oil and pressure; LEV and sub-cooling system and R410a refrigerant gas. There is also non-polar communication between the outdoor and indoor units, along with an auto restart facility.

The indoor units can be any mixture of up to 40 cassettes, wall mounts, ducted or Art Cools — all from the 40hp outdoor unit.

The outdoor unit also uses "auto addressing" — there is automatic confirmation of each indoor unit, a facility which greatly reduces installation time. Another time saver is the use of non-polarised wire. The Multi V houses an algorithm which automatically finds the correct polarity and enables quick, simple and easy communication.

Multi V has great flexibility in that the longest pipe run can be up to 170 metres and a maximum vertical height of 50 metres.

Contact: Austin McDermot, Core Air Conditioning. Tel: 01 - 409 8912; email: info@coreac.com



Austin McDermot, Core Air Conditioning with John Agnew, Murphy Refrigeration, Dundalk (winner of the LG wide-screen TV in the draw for attendees) and Tony Gittings, LG General Manager, Air Conditioning.

systemlink and taney join forces

Systemlink Ltd and Taney Distributors have joined forces to promote energy saving solutions to the Irish market under the name Systemlink-Taney. With energy considerations so much to the fore in respect of all building services applications — and especially given the newly-announced SEI grant programme — the timing for the new venture could not be better.

Systemlink's strength lies in the design, manufacture and specification of energy renewable solutions while Taney Distributors are long-established agents for leading brand product lines such as Vaillant condensing gas boilers, Saunier Duval Boilers and Rinnai instantaneous water heaters.

The new combined entity supplies almost 100 distribution outlets throughout the country and now has a sales team made up of Traolach Ledwidge, Sales Manager; Andy Kavanagh, Territory Manager; John McCoy, Merchant Sales Representative. Internal sales is led by Karen Murphy, who was already working with Taney. She is responsible for monitoring and administering all sales calls for merchants, contractors and end users.

Neil Gaffney has assumed the role of Operations Director while Shay Moran is Executive Chairman with responsibility for strategic growth.

Contact: Neil Gaffney, Systemlink-Taney. Tel: 01 - 466 4664.



Neil Gaffney, Operations Director with Shay Moran, Executive Chairman

Government Finally Acts on Register of Gas Installers



Coming at you soon — completion certificates, such as the above REC1 example for electrical installations, could shortly be the norm for domestic gas installations.

Following a great deal of lobbying and presentations to Government Ministers, regulatory bodies and regional trade associations, the efforts of *bona fide* gas installers to have the industry regulated by law are about to be realised.

While quite a number of people have been involved in the process, it is fair to say that Kevin Farrelly in Dublin, Pat O'Shaughnessy in Dundalk and Pat Kelliher in Cork have been to the forefront of the process.

The section covering natural gas safety contained in the Energy Miscellaneous Bill which will shortly become law specifically states that it is designed to regulate the activities of natural gas undertakings and natural gas installers.

Lest there be any doubt in the Government's resolve to finally tackle this thorny issue, the various sub-sections contained within the new Bill directly relate to installer registration and inspection. One such sub-section reads that the new regulatory framework will include "a system for the regulation, certification, ongoing inspection of the work and assessment of the competence of individual trained natural gas installers".

There is also specific provision for procedures for the investigation of

complaints regarding the competence of any particular natural gas installer.

Encouragingly, the Bill is not just about reactive policing of the industry. It also contains pro-active measures aimed at devising and coordinating education and training programmes which will apply to all installers. This will be overseen by a Gas Safety Supervisory Body which in turn will be overseen by the Commission for Energy Regulation (CER).

Among the specific clauses dealing with this aspect are the following:—

- The Commission shall publish criteria relating to gas safety supervision and the standards to be achieved and maintained by gas installers;
- Inspect any work carried out by a registered gas installer;
- Monitor the training and standards of a person who is a registered gas installer;
- Review training undertaken by a person engaged either as an employee or as an independent contractor of a registered gas installer;
- Issue directions to a registered gas installer regarding the training to be given to, or undertaken by, a class or classes of persons engaged either as employees or as independent contractors;

- Suspend or revoke the membership of a registered gas installer in the designated body under certain circumstances.

There is also provision for the issuing of Completion Certificates similar to the system governing electrical installations when a job is completed and signed off. The CER will specify a form of completion certificate to be used for the purposes of this section and may specify different forms for different circumstances or different classes of work.

Obviously there are costs involved in establishing and administering such an initiative and there is no denying that installers will be faced with certain charges. However, the benefits of this development far outweigh the likely cost considerations. Indeed, with a more orderly and regulated industry *bona fide* installers should see margins increase sufficiently to more than offset any cost increases.

This development is long overdue and is the perfect first stepping stone in a process which — if embraced and supported by installers — will finally lead to a healthy, professional and profitable market segment for installers and product suppliers alike.

Fläkt Woods Brings Air to Life

Fläkt Woods provides a full range of products and solutions for building ventilation, air treatment and industrial air movement. As a leading specialist in indoor air quality the company constantly brings innovative products and systems to the marketplace which invariably establish new frontiers. Flexicool, its new range of chilled beams and accessories, is a typical case in point.

Flexicool is a complete chilled beam system offering various solutions for cooling/heating combined with highly-efficient ventilation. Lighting and control equipment are available as additional accessories.

Clients can choose between induction supply air beams or passive convection beams in various shapes and sizes suitable for integration in false ceilings or for exposed installation. In systems with chilled beams the air is cooled by means of cold water and the supply airflow rate is dimensioned in a way that meets the requirements of good air quality.

Flexicool chilled beams are a comprehensive range of air conditioning beams suitable for most applications where functions that ensure optimum comfort in the room are considered of great importance. They are designed to ensure a draught-free and quiet indoor climate, even with greater cooling effects.

Flexicool induction beams (IQIC and IQFC) are integrated systems for ventilation, cooling and heating, fulfilling most needs for indoor climates. The induction beams are designed to manage high cooling effects. The

beams have a patented system for the adjustment of flow, cooling effect and flow pattern. The system can be adapted to suit the changing conditions in the room.

Flexicool supply air beam (QTSB) combine ventilation, cooling and, if necessary, heating. The supply air beams are suitable for integration in false ceilings or for exposed installation.

Flexicool passive chilled beams cool a room by means of convection. The air is supplied to the room via a separate supply air system.

Common features and benefits across the entire Flexicool are:—

- Extreme flexibility;
- Simple adjustment — no need for replacement when the conditions in a room change;
- Easy to dimension correctly;
- High quality components;
- Low water pressure drop, which means low operation costs.

All components and products required for an entire ventilation system are tested in testing rooms designed to simulate "real life" environments. For example, sound levels, airflow/balancing, exhaust risks, comfort and control strategies can all be assessed within the laboratory. It is also possible to simulate how the products perform in real life situations.

In one of the laboratories there is even a measurement robot that measures temperatures and airflow speeds. This enables throw lengths and comfort zones to be determined, and cooling effects to be measured. Full scale tests

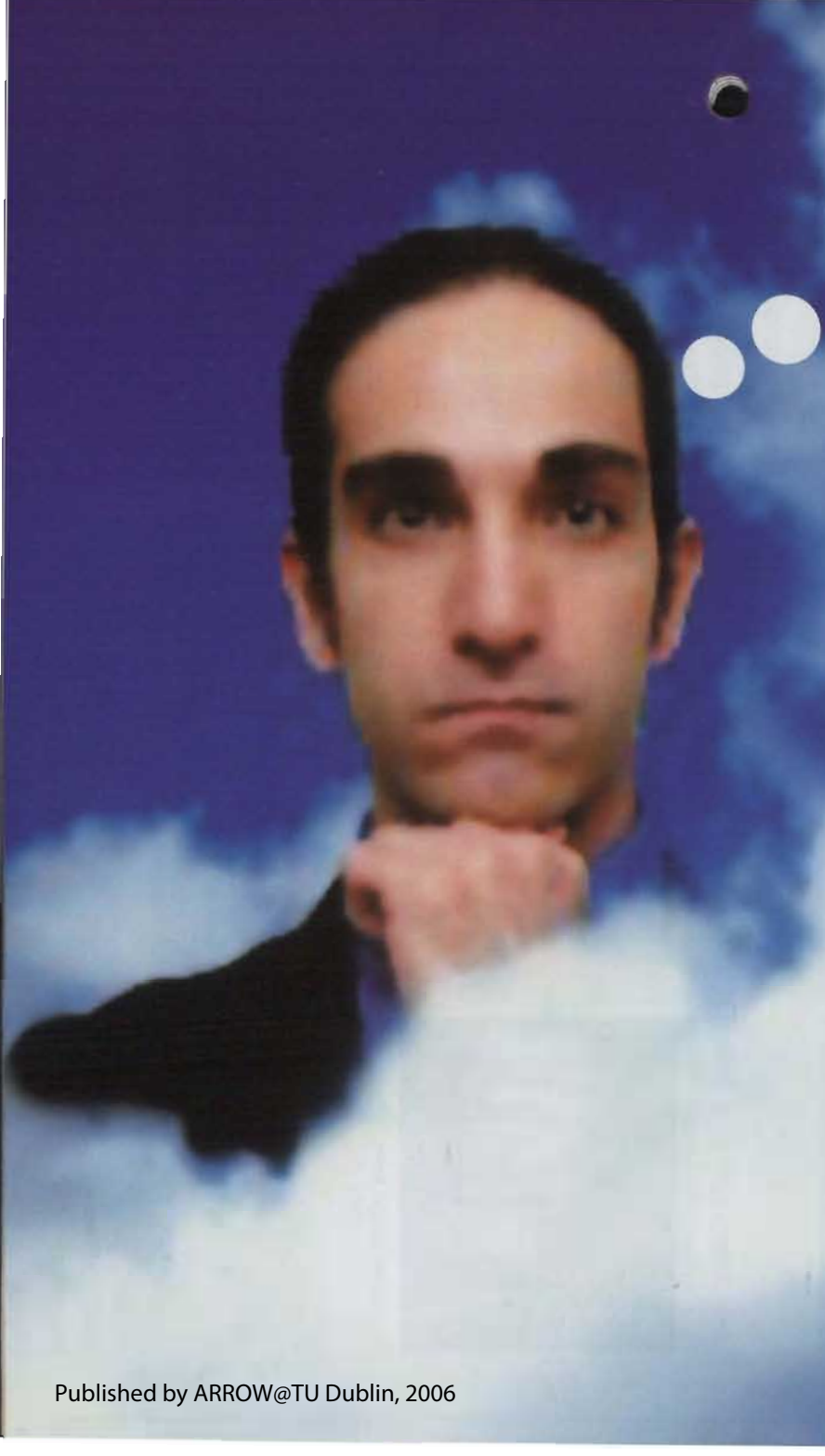
with adjustments of room dimensions and loads can also be carried out.

To assist system designers devise the most appropriate Flexicool solution for each project, Fläkt Woods has developed WinDon, a customised product selection program that offers effective support for fast selection. In WinDon, the low pattern in a room can be simulated for mixing as well as displacement ventilation and for active and passive chilled beams. Each relevant operation can be displayed on screen, for both a vertical section and horizontally.

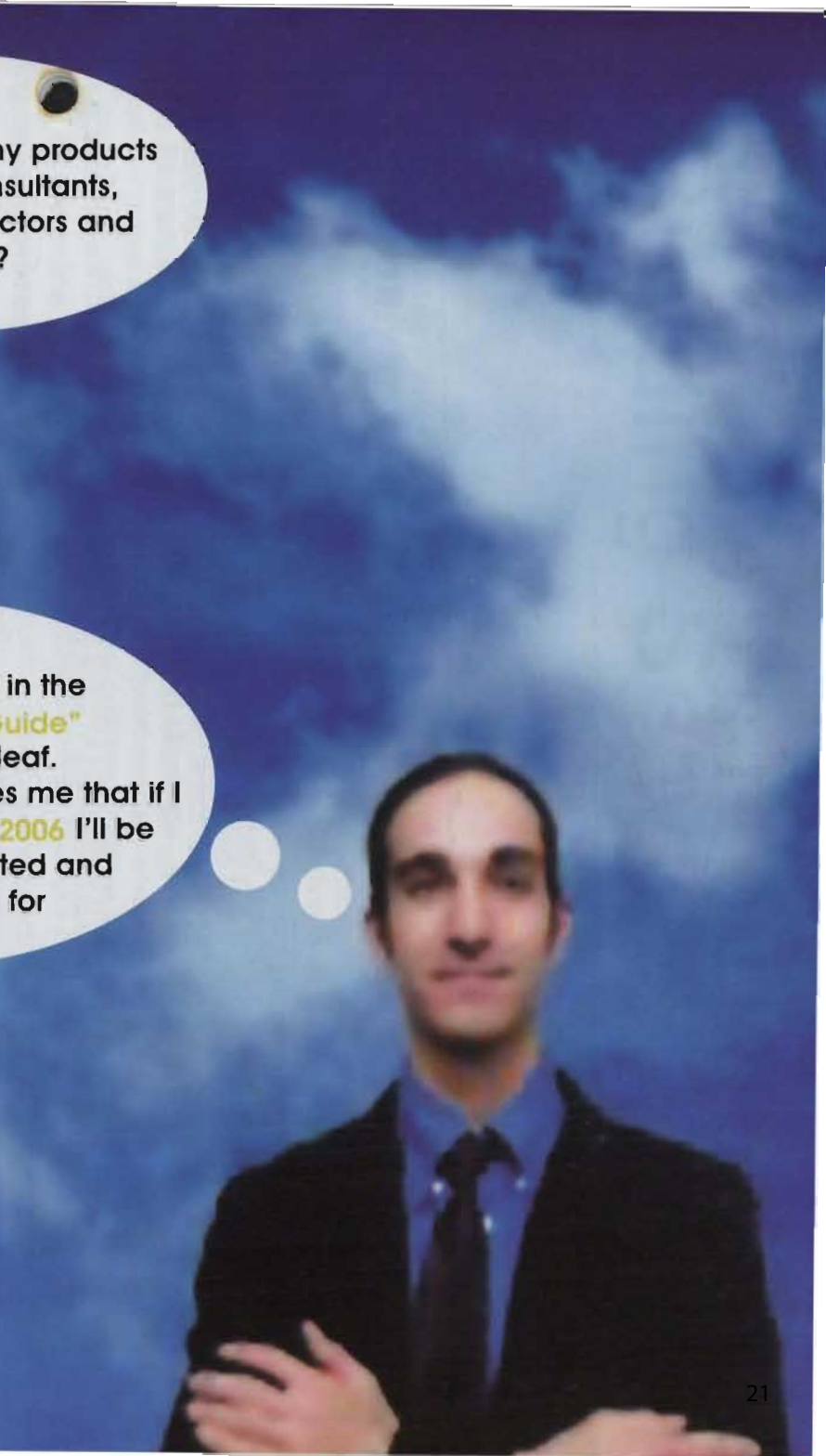
Cooling requirement calculations can also be made in the program. The possibility of carrying out full scale test simulations and making fast calculations and projections in WinDon means that Fläkt Woods can guarantee comprehensive products and projections of the highest quality. The program also provides all the technical information required.

Contact: Robert Kenny,
Fläkt Woods (Ireland).
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email: mark@flaktwoods.com;
www.flaktwoods.com





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face to face

JOHN BURGESS

Sustainable design in building services is still widely regarded as an aspirational objective, something which will only be realised when the entire design and construction process is totally overhauled. While this is fundamentally true, there is evidence that this process of change has already begun.



While the bad news is that there are very few examples to date, the good news is that these examples are near perfect models for others to emulate. The most obvious is that of the Lewis Glucksman Art Gallery in UCC in Cork. Such has been the hype — and justifiably so — surrounding its success that it has somehow overshadowed the real success story which is the manner in which the architect, consulting engineer and builder worked together to realise the project, on time and within budget.

John Burgess of Arup Consulting in Cork was the principal building services consultant on the project. "There is no denying it was a daunting challenge", says John, "not least because of the practical constraints of the site, let alone the pioneering conceptual approach. The site footprint comprised two existing tennis courts located in the college's lower grounds but called for a 2300 sq m floor area to accommodate offices, art display gallery and a fully-serviced kitchen for restaurant and private dining.



"The services brief was equally demanding with the very high spec incorporating a closely-controlled temperature environment with specific security, light, fire, acoustic and energy-performance requirements."

That the design brief was comprehensively realised is evidenced by the prestigious awards the project has already won. These include a CIBSE Best Project Award; an Irish Energy Award; and a listing in the final six of the RIBA Sterling Architecture wards.

Perhaps even more telling is that the day-to-day operation of the building lives up to the strict criteria set down by a very demanding client. The Director of the Gallery, Fiona Carney, has observed that "the project has been delivered within the budget of €12 million but another zero could be added to that number and it would not look out of place".



Glucksman design team

What this project proves is that the construction team — architect, services engineer, structural engineer, building contractor and services contractor — can work together to bring aspirational ideals in respect of truly sustainable building to fruition.

"Obviously I'm encouraged by what we achieved", says John, "but let no one be in any doubt that it was a hard-won result. It required a massive commitment on everyone's part, along with a willingness to be flexible and open to change. That said, it did come to fruition and I'm encouraged by that.


"On the broader front I also see positive indicators. More stringent legislation, coupled with a genuine sense of responsibility towards the environment in general is slowly permeating the mindset of the construction sector as a whole. It will undoubtedly take some time and a great deal of hard work to establish this new way of thinking as the norm but, what the Glucksman experience has demonstrated is that it can be done."

Building Services

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"A"	AIR CONDITIONING AND VENTILATING	e5	Plumbing Accessories
a1	Air Curtains	e6	Plumbing Fittings
a2	Air Handling Units	e7	Protection/Maintenance Treatments
a3	Air Purifiers	e8	Taps & Mixers
a4	Chilled Ceilings		
a5	Chillers	"F"	SHOWER SYSTEMS
a6	Clean Rooms	f1	Electric Showers
a7	Close Control Units/Computer Room	f2	Shower Accessories
a8	Displacement Ventilation	f3	Shower Enclosures
a9	Dry Air Coolers	f4	Shower Trays
a10	Ducting	f5	Showers
a11	Dust Extraction		
a12	Fan Coil Units	"G"	BATHROOM EQUIPMENT
a13	Fans	g1	Basins and Sinks
a14	Filters	g2	Bathroom Accessories
a15	Gas Engine Heat Pump Systems (GHP VRF)	g3	Baths
a16	Grilles and Louvers	g4	Bidets
a17	Heat Pumps and Heat Recovery	g5	Towel Rails
a18	Heating and Cooling Coils	g6	WC's and Urinals
a19	Hoods and Canopies		
a20	Humidifiers and Dehumidifiers	"H"	PIPEWORK AND DRAINAGE
a21	Packaged Air Conditioning Units	h1	Above Ground Metal
a22	Portable Air Conditioning Units	h2	Above Ground Plastic
a23	Raised Access Flooring	h3	Below Ground Metal
a24	Roof Units	h4	Below Ground Plastic
a25	Split Systems	h5	Piping Accessories
a26	Terminals	h6	Pipe Supports and Pipe Brackets
a27	Ventilators	h7	Rainwater Systems
a28	Underfloor Air Conditioning	h8	Soil and Waste Pipes
a29	VRF		
"B"	REFRIGERATION	"J"	INSULATION
b1	Ball Valves	j1	Acoustic Insulation
b2	Cellar Coolers	j2	Insulation Jackets
b3	Convactor Heaters	j3	Intumescent Pipe Sleeves
b4	Compressors - Hermetic	j4	Metal Pipe Insulation
b5	Compressors - Open	j5	Plastic Pipe Insulation
b6	Compressors - Semi-Hermetic	j6	Refrigerant Pipe Insulation
b7	Compressors - Scroll	j7	Thermal Insulation
b8	Compressors - Screw		
b9	Condensate Pumps	"K"	BUILDING MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS
b10	Condensers - Evaporative	k1	Commissioning
b11	Condensers - Air-cooled	k2	Installation
b12	Condensers - Water-cooled	k3	Integrated Building Systems
b13	Condensing Units - Hermetic	k4	Systems Design and Supply
b14	Condensing Units - Semi-Hermetic		
b15	Condensing Units - Scroll	"M"	DESIGN PACKAGES
b16	Controls - Electronic	m1	Estimating Packages
b17	Controls - Mechanical		
b18	Cooling Towers	"N"	ENERGY MANAGEMENT
b19	Copper Fittings	n1	Design Services
b20	Copper Tube	n2	Energy Management Products
b21	Driers		
b22	Evaporators	"O"	CONTROLS
b23	Expansion Valves - Thermal	o1	Damper Motors
b24	Expansion Valves - Electronic	o2	Expansion Bellows
b25	Fan Motors	o3	Flow Switches
b26	Ice Storage Systems	o4	Gas Analysers
b27	Pipe Insulation	o5	Humidity Controls
b28	Reclaim Systems	o6	Level Controls
b29	Refrigerant Gases	o7	Oil and Gas Controls
b30	Refrigerant Lubricants	o8	Pressure Switches
b31	Sight Glasses	o9	Pressure Gauges
b32	Solenoid Valves	o10	Thermostats
b33	Tools and Equipment	o11	Time Switches
		o12	Time Clocks
"C"	HEATING	o13	Valves - Domestic
c1	Air Heaters (Free-standing Oil, Gas and Electric)	o14	Valves - Industrial
c2	Air Vents	o15	Valves - Commercial
c3	Boilers (Domestic)	o16	Valves - Thermostatic
c4	Boilers (Industrial and Commercial)	o17	Variable Speed Drives
c5	Boilers (Solid Fuel)	o18	Other Controls
c6	Boiler Management Systems		
c7	Burners (Gas)	"P"	INSTRUMENTS
c8	Burners (Oil)	p1	Analysers
c9	Calorifiers and Heat Exchangers	p2	Flow Meters
c10	Chimneys, Flues and Refractories	p3	Gas Detection Meters
c11	Convectors	p4	Meters
c12	Deaerator	p5	Monitoring Equipment
c13	Dirt Separator	p6	Oil and Gas Meters
c14	Expansion Joints	p7	Pollution Leak Detection
c15	Expansion Vessels	p8	Recorders
c16	Flexible Connections	p9	Testing Equipment
c17	Fuel Storage Tanks	p10	Other Instruments
c18	Gas Fires		
c19	Geothermal Heat Pumps	"Q"	FIRE
c20	Heating Controls	q1	Fire Cavity Barriers
c21	Hot Water Storage Cylinders	q2	Fire Dampers
c22	Incinerators	q3	Fire Suppression Systems
c23	Oil, Gas and Electric Heaters - Portable	q4	Pipe Supports and Clamps
c24	Pressure Booster Sets	q5	Sprinkler Pipe Couplings
c25	Pressurisation Units	q6	Sprinkler Pipe Supports
c26	Radiant Heating	q7	Sprinkler Systems
c27	Radiators	q8	Sprinkler Tanks
c28	Skirting Heating	q9	Steam Traps
c29	Solar Heating	q10	Threaded Rod & Studding
c30	Solid Fuel Cookers		
c31	Storage Heaters (Electric)	"R"	PROTECTIVE SERVICES
c32	Trench Heating	r1	Access Control Systems
c33	Underfloor Heating	r2	CCTV Systems
c34	Unit Heaters	r3	Fire Alarm Systems
c35	Water Heaters		
"D"	PUMPS	"S"	NOISE CONTROL
d1	Commercial Pumps		
d2	Domestic Circulators		
d3	Industrial Pumps		
d4	Sewage/Effluent Pumps		
d5	Submersible Pumps		
"E"	PLUMBING		
e1	Cold Water Storage Tanks		
e2	Copper Pipe		
e3	Metal Pipe		
e4	Plastic Pipe		

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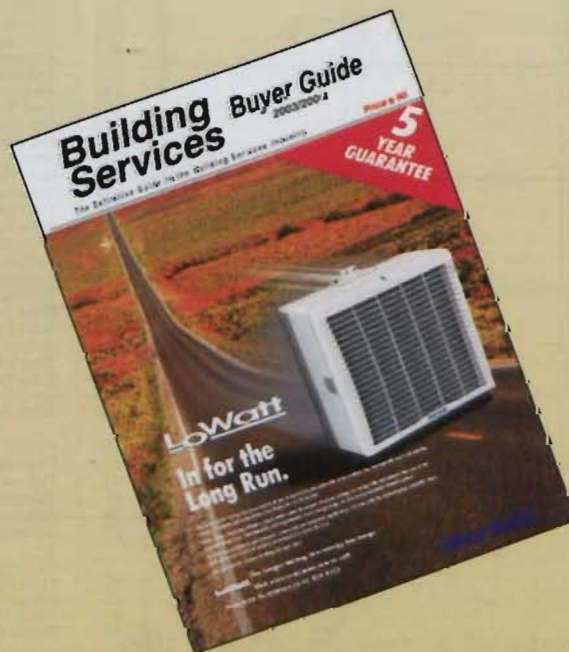
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Carrier's Aquaforce Liquid Chiller



Carrier's Aquaforce range is the result of several years of extensive laboratory research and subsequent field testing aimed at producing an advanced air-cooled liquid chiller to meet current and future market requirements in respect of environmental issues and performance efficiencies.

Aquaforce is available in two versions — one offering superior energy efficiency coupled with extremely low noise levels, and the other catering for situations where stringent energy efficiency and reduced operating costs are the prime consideration. In all there are a total of 20 models to choose from, with outputs from 270kW through to 1700kW.



Aquaforce has a number of innovative features, such as the MCHX heat exchanger. Unlike conventional coils, this is made entirely of aluminium, the one-metal concept eliminating the galvanic currents that are generated when different metals touch in conventional coils. Exhaustive comparative tests, including the salt mist and ammonium sulphate test, demonstrate that MCHX heat exchangers offer three and a half times higher corrosion-resistance than copper/aluminium coils. Also, because of its micro-channels, the MCHX heat exchanger ensures

improved refrigerant circulation. It permits a 30% reduction in the refrigerant charge for the chiller, and increased performance.

Carrier has also developed the DX Free Cooling system for buildings that require year-'round cooling, even in the coldest of regions. When the outside temperature falls below a threshold value the DX Free Cooling system kicks in to provide significant energy savings. The system uses the principle of natural migration of a gas from the evaporator to the condenser. A cooling-mode pump micro-pump ensures the continuity of the cycle and allows the compressors to switch off. Only the fans and the micro-pump operate.

With an average energy efficiency rating (EER) of 3.15, Aquaforce is at the top of the Eurovent energy efficiency classification — Class A. Full load operation is only required one percent of the machine operating time.

Extremely low noise levels of 94 dB(A) is another benefit. To achieve these results Aquaforce has reduced the noise levels of all components — fan, compressor and condenser. The fan is of the 4th generation Flying Bird type which is made of composite materials. Its aerodynamic shroud displaces the air without turbulence and generates a sound spectrum without irritating low-frequency peaks.

The screw compressor includes a discharge damper located inside the oil separator to absorb refrigerant

pulsations. It is also equipped with flexible connections on the suction piping to prevent noise transmission. The compressors are enclosed by noise-absorbing casings to limit sound transmission further.

Installation and maintenance is also very user-friendly. Aquaforce can be installed simply and quickly, thanks to it being an integrated, hydronic, module. The complete system is pre-tested at the factory and arrives on site immediately operational. For maintenance the MCHX coils can be cleaned with a high-pressure water jet while the compressors are mounted on slide rails to facilitate easy on-site technical intervention.



The same user-friendly features apply to operator interface with Aquaforce. A large-format touch-screen gives easy access to all information and controls with clear texts presented on screen to access all operating parameters. Up to eight screens can be personalised.

Contact: Austin McDermott, Core Air Conditioning.
Tel: 01 - 409 8912;
email: info@coreac.com

Free-Flowing, Free-Form Bathroom Opportunities

The evolution of the bathroom has been characterised by changing usages and customs through the centuries. Today, more than ever, the bathroom is not merely about bodily functions but about caring for your body and mind. It has become a place for relaxation, for unwinding.

Bathroom manufacturers and designers recognise this development and now produce a vast array of ground-breaking designs combining functionality, technological innovation, comfort, aesthetics, design and project experimentation. This was especially evident at Expobagno, the international exhibition held recently in Milan which was entirely devoted to the bathroom. Here high-end product ranges and projects were successfully combined with refinement, modernity, comfort and design to demonstrate a whole new concept in bathroom thinking.

A unique feature of the show was Bathness, a dedicated area given over to seven internationally-acclaimed architects and designers who each presented their own take on the bathroom of the future. Tiles, sanitary fixtures, taps, lighting, furniture and accessories were all used to create bathroom concepts representing a free and fluid room that simultaneously incorporated a high technological and aesthetic impact.

This specially-dedicated area was in addition to the mainstream exhibits from all the leading international manufacturers. The overall impact was awe-inspiring and, while some concepts and products were pioneering to the

point of being impractical, the fundamental message for all involved in building services is that bathrooms represent a massive opportunity, be it in new-build or refurbishment applications.





versatile
agencies



design-led

technology-driven

heating solutions



Elegant shapes and seductive colours are the hallmarks of ACOVA, the inventor of the towel-drying radiator concept. Innovative designs create atmosphere as well as warmth, the original styling combining modern aesthetics with practicality and functionality ... naturally. Key features are simplicity in installation, easy maintenance and energy-efficiency.



ZEHNDER Universal and Toga are contemporary radiator ranges offering a wide choice of design styles to cater for all manner of applications. In addition to their aesthetic appeal, performance and functional requirements are critical. Models can be floor or wall-mounted, come in a vast range of heights and widths, and an infinite choice of colours and finishes, including chrome and metallic.



And Warmth Was Given Form ... this, in short, is the core philosophy of JAGA who has pioneered a new way in thinking in respect of heating, both technically and aesthetically. For instance, the Taboe is the first towel radiator with its collectors in the centre; the Geo is the first water-heated natural stone; the Iguana offers unlimited shapes. Essentially, JAGA is creative, functional and exciting.



Beechmount, Navan, Co Meath

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Email: sales@versatile.ie

Web: www.versatile.ie

Bathrooms & Accessories

High-Specification, Versatile Heating Concepts

Versatile Heating Solutions is synonymous with high-specification, design-led, technology-driven product ranges. Its portfolio is made up of market-leading brands such as Jaga, Acova and Zehnder Runtal, all of whom are renowned as inventive pioneers in their respective fields of expertise.

As specialist providers of heating solutions Versatile is unique in that it is part of the broader Versatile Group whose activities include a division dedicated to bathrooms of distinction. It is against this background that Versatile Heating Solutions has compiled its specialist bathroom radiator and towel rail range.



The Zehnder Toga towel rail

For instance, Zehnder's Universal and Toga ranges are contemporary towel-drying radiators designed to suit a broad spectrum of applications. They are supplied in a vast choice of sizes, colours and finishes, are easy to install and maintain, and deliver excellent performance efficiencies.

Optional electric immersion heaters allow the radiators to be operated independently from the heating system when required. The towel rails can also be supplied for electric-only heating.

Turning to Jaga, this brand is in a class of its own when it comes to radiator design and performance outputs. Over the years it has established its reputation as a genuine pioneer, constantly breaking the traditional mould in respect of heating solutions. Even more important still is that these new concepts and products cover both aesthetic and technical developments.

A typical example is the Geo Mosis all-in-one stone solution which combines the heating system and sanitary fittings on one breath-taking unit. Both the Geo and washbasin are made from natural stone granulate with all the fittings and accessories (save the mirror) being made from stainless steel. All connections come together underneath the radiator and are covered with a guard in stainless steel.

Then there is the Aristocrat, Wave and Nautica ranges which, as the name suggests, are designed to suit classic and modern interiors with circular collectors positioned behind slim, attractive, rails. Aristocrat is available in gloss polished or brushed satin stainless steel while Nautica and Wave come in the standard Jaga colours. They can also be used on a domestic hot water system,

therefore you can have warm towels when your heating system is off.



The Jaga Geo Mosis radiator

Iguana, on the other hand, is a visually-attractive radiator with compact and refined appearance. There are no collectors, no technical features, just simple aesthetics. Iguana is available in many shapes and sizes and can be installed virtually anywhere, be it against the wall, in a corner, free-standing in a room, or even encased around a pillar.

Completing the unique radiator collection from Versatile Heating Solutions is Acova. Distinguished by their elegance and renowned French styling, Acova offers heating solutions for both new-build and renovation projects in both symmetrical and asymmetrical designs. Key benefits are simple installation, easy maintenance and high-output, energy-saving and performance.

With an eye to the environment all Acova and Jaga radiators are low water

content and so use less energy. Acova radiators are manufactured from recyclable materials while the controls on the electric models are fitted with "economical" as well as "comfort" levels for accurate heat regulation.

A vast choice of colours is offered, from the traditional right through to the trendy such as chrome and metallic.

All in all the Versatile Agencies' portfolio of bathroom radiators and towel rails offers a stunning choice of design-led heating solutions which also double up as aesthetic design features in any setting.

Designers and contractors are welcome to visit the award-winning showroom in Navan where all the products are on display. Please phone for an appointment.

Contact: Andrew Treacy,
Versatile Heating Solutions.
Tel: 046 - 902 9444;
email: sales@versatile.ie
www.versatile.ie



The Acova Yucca Asymmetrical towel rail

Matki Showering

et al.: BS News

Matki 1700 Walk-In Corner & Recess



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Bathrooms & Accessories

Matki Classic, Timeless, Walk-In Simplicity

The Showering Collection from Matki, distributed throughout Ireland by BJ Caraher (Distributors), is renowned for innovation and style. It incorporates various ranges of shower doors, surrounds, shower mixers, bath screens and shower trays, all of which carry the distinctive Matki hallmarks of leading-edge design with effortless elegance.

Always to the forefront with pioneering new concepts, Matki was the first to introduce the idea of a 1700 walk-in shower which is designed to fit exactly into the space where a bath is being replaced. A feature of this unit is the four highly-efficient Elixir thermostatic shower

mixer options.

This unit is just one of many choices in the elegantly-simple Walk-In Collection which is the ultimate in doorless showering solutions. Designed as corner or recess configurations, the sweeping curved or architectural square profile surrounds locate perfectly into their specially-designed shower trays, creating a stylishly-minimal look, almost free from fixings and framing. Ultimately, the doorless design of the Walk-In format recreates the spaciousness of a wetroom feel.

Contact: Aidan Vance, BJ Caraher (Distributors).
Tel: 048 - 9751 1071;
www.bjcaraher.co.uk



The Matki Walk-In is a simple, efficient, stylish doorless shower with an integrated shower tray for luxurious showering freedom

Sololift+ — New Facilities Wherever Needed

The Grundfos Sololift+ is a range of ready-to-install domestic wastewater pump systems for domestic sewage and wastewater removal, and grey water applications. The



Sololift+ lifting stations which make it easier than ever to add a new bathroom, kitchen, or utility room anywhere in the house without the need for the costly pipe work often associated with such facilities.

products are ideal for many refurbishment situations — from attics to basements — where toilet, bathroom, kitchen and laundry facilities are located remotely from, or below, the sewer level, without needing the extensive pipe work often associated with such projects.

Grundfos Sololift+ is available in several sizes with a number of additional outlets to suit various requirements. Each of the six individual Sololift+ models are designed with a specific task in mind, such as handling toilet waste and/or one or several other sources

of domestic wastewater, e.g. hand basins, bidets, baths, showers, dishwashers and washing machines.

The models that are designed to be connected to a toilet are equipped with a highly-efficient grinder system that macerates the toilet waste so that it is easily pumped away. They come complete with a powerful pump, stainless steel grinder and non-return valve, and are supplied with all the fittings required for installation. The outlet is located on the side, not in the lid, also enabling ease of installation and maintenance.

Compact and stylish, the discreet design of the Grundfos Sololift+ lifting stations suits every sanitary application with the units blending seamlessly into any interior.

The Sololift+ is extremely reliable and has low noise level. Moreover, it is specially designed for easy service — all vital parts of the pump can be accessed by simply lifting the lid.

Contact: Gemma Horan,
Grundfos (Ire).
Tel: 01 - 408 9800,
email: info@grundfos.com



Quality Plastics Ltd

**Ireland's leading polythene pipe manufacturer
and number one underfloor heating company**

**Qual-PEX and Qual-PLAST brands and
accessory products**



Qual-FIT Push-Fit Fittings



*"Cosy Home"
Underfloor Heating*



Qual-OIL



Qual-GAS



ESB Cable Duct



MDPE



Quality Plastics Ltd

Published by ARROW@TU Dublin, 2006

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Tel: 021 - 488 4700 Fax: 021 - 488 4701

email: qpl@qpl.ie

www.qpl.ie

IMI For Kitemarked, Cost-Effective Solutions

Irish Metal Industries has extended its range of plumbing tube to deliver significant cost benefits to customers. In direct response to the rising cost of pipework materials, the range now includes a reduced wall thickness option for sizes 35, 42 and 54mm. As it is manufactured in hard temper, it has a maximum working pressure equal to that of standard tube.

Conor Lennon, General Manager, IMI in Dublin, said that recent increases in the price of pipework materials had left some contractors exposed and unable to recover these increases in their contract price. "By reducing the wall thickness and by manufacturing the tube in hard temper, we are able to offer a product with similar performance characteristics at a reduced cost", he said.

"The only consideration is that the new sizes are not suitable for bending but our research shows that the incidence of cold bending of these sizes is low. Half-hard temper product is available for times when tube manipulation is required. When assembled using modern, quick, heat-free jointing techniques, a copper system can be a lower cost option than other materials", he concluded.

The new range fully complies with the requirements of BS EN 1057 and carries the coveted Kitemark of the BSI. It is also covered by the company's standard 25-year guarantee.

As we went to press IMI's range of medical gas tubes was also awarded the Kitemark. Copper tubes specifically destined for medical gas, oxygen and vacuum lines must meet stringent cleanliness standards to prevent contamination to the contents of the tube. The recent Kitemark certification recognises the high standards of production being achieved by the company.

Apart from actual products, IMI is also setting new industry standards for technical support with the launch of a unique guide to its products. As the first of its kind for the industry, *The Copper File* signals a new era in customer support, providing consultants, specifiers, installers and stockists with extensive information on the company's product ranges and a comprehensive technical guide on the use of copper plumbing tube. It includes:—

- Individual new brochures dedicated to specific products, including the recently extended Yorkex range;
- Technical information

and guidance on the application of the products with an option to receive information updates.

Commenting on *The Copper File* Conor Lennon said IMI had identified a clear need for a comprehensive guide to their large range of products from all sectors of the industry. He told *bs news*: "We are committed to being the copper tube supplier of choice and the introduction of *The Copper File* is testament to our commitment to quality customer support. No other manufacturer of copper plumbing tube provides such comprehensive literature.

"Products, regulations, standards and installation practices are constantly changing and our update service provides a mechanism to ensure that subscribers are always aware of the latest developments. *The Copper File* provides a reference document for all matters relating to the specification and application of our products."

To receive a free copy of *The Copper File* and to register for updates apply online at www.yct.com.

Contact: Conor Lennon, Irish Metal Industries.
Tel: 01 - 295 2344;
email: conor.lennon@irish-metalindustries.com



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*Guys, think of
the time, hassle &
money you'll save.
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- UNBEATABLE 100mm HEIGHT ADJUSTMENT (No riser required for most jobs)
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- WIDEST RANGE
- FULLY CONFORMS WITH ALL TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS OF BUILDING REGULATIONS

Despite all these extra benefits, the MFP AJ still costs less than its nearest competitor – so next time you're looking for the widest, most advanced range of AJs in the country, just ask for...

MFP

ACCESS JUNCTION

MFP SALES LTD.

Pipework & Drainage

MFP Underground Drainage & Sewerage Systems

With a history dating back to 1967 and a reputation as a pioneering technical innovator, it's hardly surprising that today MFP is one of Ireland's leading manufacturers of PVCu drainage systems. The current range is the most comprehensive to date and is the result of many years of research and development.

Right from the outset the emphasis has been on innovation and quality with the entire range designed and manufactured to conform with all appropriate Irish, British and European standards. MFP now holds registered designs and patents for a vast number of products and is also licensed by BSI to apply the BS kitemark to products manufactured to IS EN 1401-1:1998 (BS 4660: 1989) for PVCu sewer pipe and fittings.

Over the years MFP has pioneered many technical and design system breakthroughs which others in the industry have emulated. Typical examples of this are MFP's universal gully traps,

inspection chambers, and adjustable access junctions (AJs).

MFP's universal access junctions are tough and durable, with advanced flow outlets which conform with all technical requirements of the Building Regulations. Inlets are designed to minimise the risk of drainage system blockage.

Just recently MFP unveiled its latest generation AJs which now have an impressive height adjustment of 100mm. This improved two-piece telescopic AJ now covers almost any situation so it minimises the time spent on cutting risers to reach the required height.

The tilt-and-rotate feature of the new unit has also been improved — the top can now tilt to a gradient of 1:16 — which means it can be aligned with uneven paving, as well as rotated to fit the angles of the buildings or footpaths. The rubber seal ensures complete water-tightness.

Where additional height is required the 135mm MFP AJ riser and coupling are designed to fit into any MFP AJ base. For jobs where even greater height is needed, a riser of the required size can be cut from a length of 286mm riser pipe.

Side inlet channels are swept in to join the main drain at half-pipe level, satisfying the



requirements of both BS 7158: 2001 and the current Building Regulations. This feature eliminates the likelihood of blockages occurring in these zones.

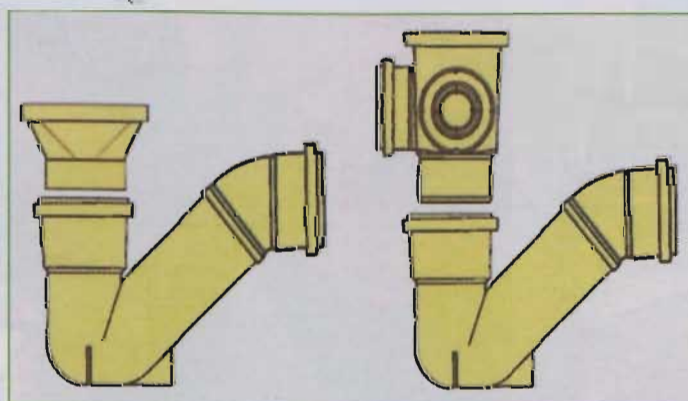
Where a side inlet is not included in the unit, the channel inside is replaced by a shelf which is level with the soffit of the main drain, thus further reducing the risk of blockage.

Despite these added features and benefits, the MFP AJ is still very competitively-priced, as are all the products in its comprehensive underground drainage and sewerage system ranges, details of which are available directly from MFP.

Contact: MFP Sales.
Tel: 01 - 630 2500;
email: sales@mfp.ie



MFP's latest innovative AJ



MFP's 2-piece gully trap range retains all the versatility of the 1-piece but dramatically speeds up installation

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NIBE

Do it once.... Do it right!

Unipe — One Plumbing System For All

The Unipe range of plumbing products is designed to cater for the complete installation, from the house connection right through to the final fixture. There is a choice of single connections via manifold, tee or distribution system with the emphasis on quick and easy installation and maximum convenience. The entire range is manufactured, quality tested and certified to all relevant performance and safety standards with distributors Unipe (Irl) Ltd also providing comprehensive technical



The Unipe range of plumbing products is designed for the complete installation, from the house connection right through to the final fixture.

and applications compliance support.

The Unipe range of plumbing products and systems can be used for drinking water installations of all sizes with a range of special products available for specific situations, be it new-build or refurbishment. The extensive range of connectors enables the system to be connected to all standard on-wall installation systems and fixtures.

When it comes to drinking water the German Directives are perhaps the most stringent regulations. Consequently, Unipe has been fully certified to the latest exacting standards which cover the checking and evaluation of micro-organisms, in addition to the numerous specifications regarding mechanical characteristics. At the core of the Unipe plumbing system is the unique Unipe multi-layer composite pipe which consists of an overlapped,

longitudinally-welded aluminium pipe with an inner and outer layer of high-temperature-resistant polyethylene. All layers are permanently bonded together by intermediate adhesive layers by a special welding technique which ensures high reliability. The aluminium thickness of the pipe was specially selected to meet compressive and flexural strength requirements.

The aluminium core is diffusion tight which means that it totally prevents the ingress of oxygen. It also compensates and reduces snap-back forces and heat expansion caused by changes in temperature.

A key strength of the Unipe range is the comprehensive nature of the system — it caters for the entire installation, from the riser to the fixture. All components are designed to fit perfectly, making installation easy and cost-effective. There is no welding, thread-cutting,

soldering or gluing. Efficient installation is further enhanced by the dimensional stability and low heat expansion of the pipe which is simple to bend, cut, bevel, joint and press, thanks to a range of specially-designed tools.

Contact: Paul O'Donnell, Unipe (Irl).

Tel: 01 - 286 4888;

email: info@unipe.ie;

www.unipe.ie



Metal fittings offer easy installation; reliable test safety; full-surface pressing; pressure sleeve with pressing-jaw guide grooves; use of existing Unipe tools.



A particular strength of Unipe lies in the fitting which is designed to perfectly fit the pipe. This ensures that all fittings have an optimised insert-part geometry.



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NOW KITEMARK CERTIFIED TO BS EN 13348

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Now Kitemark certified for the full range covered by BS EN 13348, Yorkshire Medical Gas tubes provide safe and reliable service in environments where safety is paramount. Special quality control, cleaning and packing procedures ensure that all Yorkshire Medical Gas tubes are of a consistently high standard for medical usage.

That's why Yorkshire Medical Gas tubes are the products of choice for customers throughout the world. You're safe with Yorkshire - specify it from Irish Metal Industries.



Always More in the Pipeline From QPL

All in all, it has already been a very busy year for QPL, the 100% Irish-owned pipe manufacturing company based in Cork. With its established ranges already capturing an ever-growing market share, it has now unveiled a brand new pipe, along with three new ranges of pipe fittings.

Building on the success of its brand-leading Qual-PEX plumbing and heating pipe, Quality Plastics has just introduced a new grey polybutylene pipe system in Irish sizes. Qual-PB barrier pipe is available in 1/2", 3/4" and 1" sizes in lengths and coils and is offered principally to those who prefer the added flexibility of the polybutylene pipe material. It is fully approved to BS 7291 Class S and by the Irish Agreement Board in Ireland.

To complement the Qual-PB pipe, the new range of QPB-FIT grey polybutylene push-fit fittings has also been launched. These are available in 1/2" and 3/4" sizes and are fully de-mountable using a simple horseshoe de-mounting clip.

The QPB-FIT fittings are based on the same pattern as the Qual-FIT tan-coloured push-fit fittings launched in February this year to replace the older-style Qual-PLUMB

push-fit fittings. The Qual-FIT fitting offers enhanced performance with a very easy push in for the pipe and by virtue of it being a fully re-usable fitting requiring no spare grab rings or other parts.

The last addition to the range is the Qual-TAP range of manifolds which are available in two variants — a push-fit and a compression-style joint. These complement Qual-PEX pipe-in-pipe perfectly and allow for single continuous supplies to all appliances, eliminating all concealed joints under floors, behind partitions etc. They also provide a more uniform supply to all appliances and allow for better energy conservation as



The new QPB-FIT fittings are based on the same pattern as the Qual-FIT tan-coloured push-fit fittings introduced in February this year

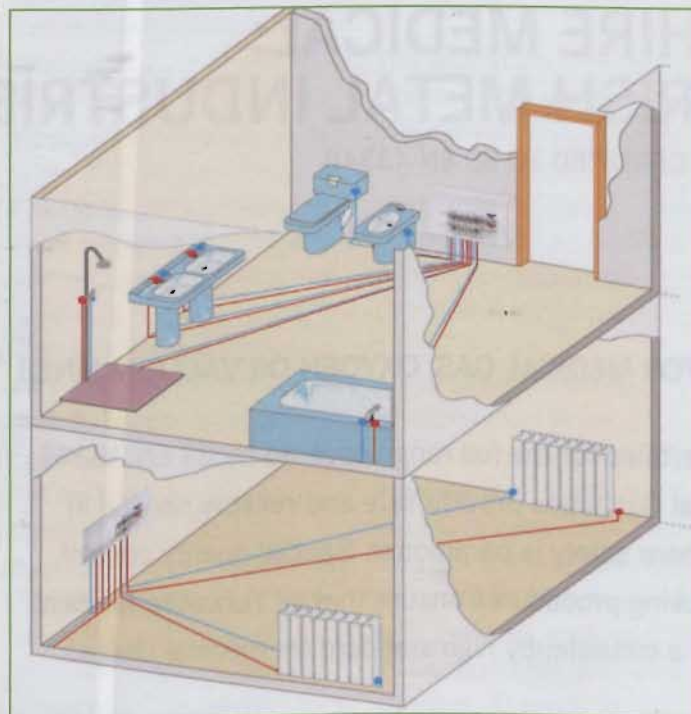


QPL's new Qual-PB barrier pipe is available in 1/2", 3/4" and 1" lengths and coils

supply pipes can be downsized to 12mm rather than traditional 1/2".

These jointless systems are without doubt the future of plumbing, utilising the flexibility of thermoplastic pipe to its best advantage and QPL is once again to the fore in bringing these new innovations to the Irish market. With all these new developments, QPL is taking to the road for the month of May, hosting trade evenings in 12 different regional centres, showing off its new ranges of pipe and fittings, and also showing the latest developments in its very popular Cosy Home Underfloor Heating product range.

Contact: Karen Horgan, QPL
Tel: 021 - 488 4700;
email: underfloor@qpl.ie



This latest range of QPL fittings and systems is without doubt the future of plumbing, utilising the flexibility of thermoplastic pipe to its best advantage

€27 Million Grant Aid Pie — Get Your Slice of the Cake!

The Minister for Communications, Marine and Natural Resources, Noel Dempsey TD, has introduced a grant aid scheme of up to €27 million for domestic renewable heat technologies. The scheme is part of a multi-annual finance package of €65 million for renewable energy that will also include grants for a range of renewable heat, electricity and transport initiatives.

While a desirable and indeed necessary initiative for Ireland Inc, it is also an excellent opportunity for installers to "sell up" when approached to advise on, and recommend, home heating systems for new or refurbishment applications.

Called the "Greener Homes" scheme, it will allow individual householders obtain grants for the installation of renewable technologies such as wood pellet stoves and boilers, solar panels and geothermal heat pumps. Grant aid of €1,100 to €6,500 will be provided, depending on the individual technology used (see Table A).



Mr Noel Dempsey, TD,
Minister for
Communications, Marine &
Natural Resources

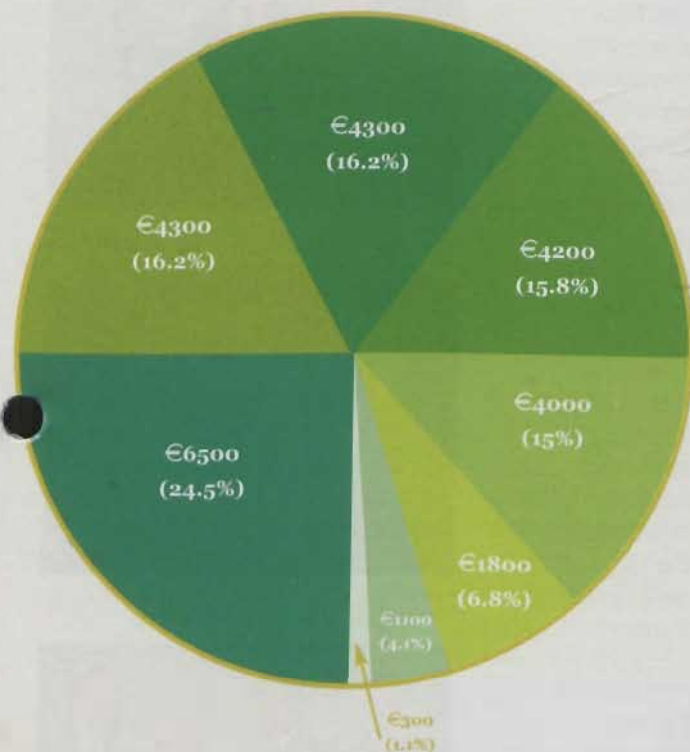


Table A — Technology Grant amount

Heat Pump — Vertical Collector €6500 (24.5%)
 Heat Pump — Horizontal Ground Collector €4300 (16.2%)
 Heat Pump — Water (well) to water €4300 (16.2%)
 Wood Chip/Pellet Boilers €4200 (15.8%)
 Heat Pump — Air source €4000 (15%)
 Wood Chip/Pellet Stoves with Back boiler €1800 (6.8%)
 Wood Chip/Pellet Stoves €1100 (4.1%)
 Solar (per sq m) €300 (1.1%)

The scheme will be rolled-out over a five-year period starting and will potentially support the conversion to renewable energy in up to 10,100 homes. By its final year, it is expected to save energy equivalent to 54,000 barrels of oil per annum and 23,000 tonnes of CO₂ per annum. This is equivalent to meeting 100% of the heating needs of 7,100 homes from renewable energy, or removing 6,700 cars off the road.

"Since coming into office, I have been impressed by the number of householders who want to play their part in contributing to the environment, by installing renewable energy systems in the home. Despite the fact that renewable energy systems have low running costs, high equipment and installation costs have excluded many people from making the switch. This scheme recognises the contribution that individual householders want to make in reducing energy demand, and will provide concrete support for them to make the switch to low-cost, low-emission heating systems," said Minister Dempsey.

The package will also provide funding for a wood chip/pellet boiler programme for small to medium scale enterprises, Combined Heat and Power, and a biofuels capital grants programme to underpin a €205 million excise-relief programme. Details of the scheme can be found on www.sei.ie.

CIBSE Conference

Sustainable Services Design

While "sustainable" is the construction industry buzzword or some years now, it is only very recently that the focus has shifted — quite rightly — to sustainable design. As a consequence of this shift there is now the growing realisation that sustainable design in building services is the real key to devising and implementing a successful strategy on sustainability.

To achieve this objective requires a major shift in established practice. The days of the architect designing the structure in isolation to the building services engineer are numbered. Both the structural and services elements must be considered in unison from the outset and appropriate solutions devised to develop a truly sustainable building.

It is against this background that the CIBSE recently hosted a major international conference in Dublin entitled "The Future for Sustainable Design in Building Services".

With 200 delegates and a panel of leading experts from both Ireland and abroad, this highly-successful event raised more questions than delivered answers but, at this early stage, perhaps that was the correct outcome. Such is the major shift required in traditional thinking and established practice that the

way forward is for architects and consulting engineers to collaborate together to devise a joint strategy for the future. Services issues must be integrated with building fabric issues in a holistic way if we are to minimise energy use in buildings while maintaining high standards of comfort and user satisfaction.

Ireland is under increasing pressure from the EU to get its house in order vis a vis our greenhouse emissions, a significant portion of which is caused by inefficient use of energy in buildings. Latest figures prove that we are failing in this responsibility and we are fast approaching the point where financial penalties will be imposed. If that happens the Irish Government will respond accordingly and impose restrictions and penalties on the industry.

Thankfully, we are not yet at that stage. Indeed, through Sustainable Energy Ireland the Government is actively promoting sustainable design in buildings. More important still is the availability of significant grant aid to those adopting the sustainable route.

While opening the recent CIBSE conference Minister of State at the Department of the Environment & Local Government, Noel Ahern, TD, emphasised the need to reduce the emission of greenhouse gases, a fact which was reiterated by CIBSE Chairman Kevin Kelly.



Pat Lehane, bs news with Jim Fogarty; Tony McKinley; Michael McNerney, Past Chairman, CIBSE Republic of Ireland Branch; Ger Keating; Alan Duggan and Declan Monaghan



Christian Renstrom with Kevin O'Rourke and Aidan McDonnell



Greg Traynor with Jay Stuart; Xavier Dubuisson and Brian Geraghty



Michael McNerney with John Burgess; Dr Ken Beattie and Phil Jones

CIBSE Conference

Sustainable Services Design

Xavier Dubuisson of SEI cautioned against the quick-fix route aimed simply at compliance with Kyoto quotas. In this respect nuclear energy might be seen by some as a quick fix solution, as it has almost zero greenhouse emissions, but Xavier argued that the best and indeed only real solution was an increase in renewable resources with a corresponding reduction in energy use.

DIT President Professor Brian Norton supported this view and showed convincing evidence that renewable energy, including solar energy, was viable in Ireland. He cited wind, wave, tidal and biomass as real alternatives to our over-dependence on fossil fuels.

In a very colourful and well-illustrated paper Professor Terry Wyatt, past-President of CIBSE, outlined what will happen if we do not change our ways, while Adrian Leaman made an entertaining presentation of how designers sometimes get it wrong when they enter the fray with theory-laden ideas that do not take proper account of user needs.

Jay Stuart provided the architectural view and, among many suggestions, offered the example of Woking Borough Council in the UK which has reduced emissions by a combination of renewable energy supplying an island network, combined heat and power, fuel cell technology and reduction of energy use.

Dr Ken Beattie of DIT stuck with this theme, emphasising the role of building fabric design when designing low-energy buildings and stressing the importance of envelope design and using real weather data in dynamic simulation.

The afternoon sessions were mostly on the applications side with John Burgess showing how Arup designed an energy-efficient thermal transfer system for the award-winning Lewis Glucksman Art Gallery in UCC; Christian Renstrom of Fagerhult in Sweden talking about energy-efficient lighting combined with good quality design; Aidan McDonnell of F4Energy discussed the merits of combined heat and power systems while Phil Jones of Building Energy Solutions showed how Building Log books can contribute to greater energy efficiency and higher management standards in well run buildings.

Chairmen for the various sessions were Brian Geraghty, Vice-chair CIBSE; Kevin O'Rourke of SEI; Michael Mc Nerney and Greg Traynor, both past chairmen of CIBSE; and Mike Murphy, Dean of Engineering, DIT.

This was the first international conference of significant scale organised by CIBSE Republic of Ireland branch and, such was its success in terms of delegate participation and industry support, that next year's event is already being planned.



Brian Geraghty with Prof Terry Wyatt; Minister Noel Ahern; Kevin Kelly, Chairman, CIBSE Republic of Ireland Branch and Declan Monaghan



Prof Brian Norton with Prof Terry Wyatt; Adrian Leaman; Dr Mike Murphy and Kevin Kelly, Chairman, CIBSE Republic of Ireland Branch



Jim Began with Peter Fagan and Ben Underwood



Lorcan Mooney with Roger Costelloe; John Leonard; Dermot Breen and Michael Williams

AECI Annual Conference & Trade Show

Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny



Mr Dermot McClannon, President, AECI

This year's AECI annual conference and trade show will take place at the Lyrath Estate Hotel, Kilkenny, over the weekend of the 26 to 28 May 2006. While it will follow the same, long-established format, the actual programme of events is dynamic and innovative.

The theme for the weekend is "Safety in the Workplace" and this will be dramatically reflected in the seminar presentations and of course the products and services on display by manufacturers and distributors on the 60+ stands at the exhibition.

Among the topics to be covered are ESB Networks; FÁS/apprenticeship issues; health and safety compliance; the Construction Federation Operators Pension Scheme; and insurance. RECI will also participate while, as we went to press, ECCSA had yet to confirm.

The proceedings will commence early on the Friday with the annual golf outing. This will be held at the renowned Castlecomer Golf Club with an informal dinner and the presentation of prizes to follow later in the evening.

Saturday morning will kick off with breakfast being served from 7.30am and the Lord Mayor of Kilkenny

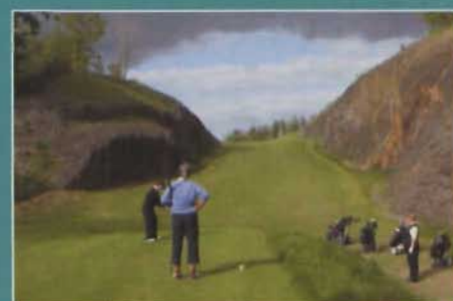


officially opening the trade show at 9.30am. The seminar programme will commence at 11am while delegates partners and guests can enjoy the sightseeing tour which departs at 10.30am.

The President's reception for all conference delegates will begin at 6.30pm with the formal dinner taking place at 7.45pm. Brief speeches, entertainment and dancing will follow.

The conference and exhibition is open to all those involved in building services and those who wish to attend can make a booking through the AECI Head Office in Blackrock, Co Dublin.

Contact: George Kennedy, AECI.
Tel: 01 - 288 6499;
email: aeci@indigo.ie



CER Criteria

The second stage of the Energy (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill 2006 which will provide for the regulation of the electrical contracting sector by the CER was debated in Dail Eireann on the 6 April 2006. It is hoped that this legislation will be passed into law by the end of May. *(It also incorporates a section dealing with domestic gas installations and the registration and training of domestic installers — see page 17).*

Section 4 of the Bill amends the Act of 1999 by inserting new sections to provide that it shall be a function of the CER to establish standards of training of electrical contractors in relation to electrical safety and to regulate the activities of electrical contractors. The CER may appoint one or more Electrical Safety Supervisory Bodies to operate in accordance with criteria and procedures published by the CER. The Bill also creates an offense for non-compliance with specified provisions.

RECI welcomes the Bill which will give the CER the authority to enforce compliance with its criteria in the interest of public safety. RECI is also pleased to note that Eamon Murtagh has been appointed Gas & Electricity Safety

Completion Certificate Must Be Submitted

It is made quite clear on all ETCI completion certificates that the original of the certificate is to be given by the electrical contractor to the customer after he has carried out the post-connection tests. It appears that in some cases registered contractors fail to submit the original of the Completion Certificate to the customer, whether it is a building contractor or the owner of the premises.

Not only does this practice raise doubts as to whether the post-connection tests were carried out or not, but it is a breach of RECI and ETCI Rules. Repeated failure to submit the original certificate to the customer will lead to disciplinary action.

RECI Annual General Meeting

The AGM of RECI will take place at 11.30am on Saturday, 17 June 2006 at Unit 9 KCR Industrial Estate, Kimmage, Dublin 12. All registered contractors are welcome to attend the meeting and express their views. The notice of the meeting and financial accounts for 2005 will be sent to members 21 days before the meeting.

Bonding of Metal Sinks

Further to Rule 544.2.8: Kitchens and Utility Rooms being discussed at a recent ETCI Technical Committee No:2 meeting, the following interpretation for the application of the Rule was agreed:—

TC/2 DECISION 01/2006

Whereas Rule 544.2.8 requires local equipotential bonding of extraneous conductive parts such as metal sinks and draining boards, a situation may arise where such items are not yet in position when the electrical installation has been completed and is otherwise ready for certification.

In such a situation, a bonding connection shall be provided from a local protective conductor to a termination which is permanently fixed and enclosed in a suitable box located in an appropriate position. A notice should indicate that the box contains a bonding conductor.

Immersion Switch — Where To Locate?

Contractors are reminded that Clause 555.3.2 of the Wiring Rules requires that the switch for the immersion heater be located outside the airing cupboard or enclosure where practicable. In the vast majority of situations it is perfectly practicable to have the switch outside and therefore contractors would have to have a very good reason not to do so. Otherwise they will be in breach of the Wiring Rules.

Complete Solutions

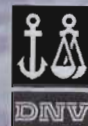
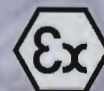
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We offer a complete range of high-quality, competitively priced products for pressure, temperature and level measurement.

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Pressure: from 0/4 mbar to 0/4.000 bar
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