

Muller Industries Australia



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GRANT HALL'S BLOG

Hello? Is it me you're looking for?

To steal a line from Mike McCann, "energy efficiency has become very sexy."

Even President Obama has dropped some of these provocative words through his dialogue for some time now, probably well before Mike labeled them as sexy. In more recent times however I have noticed our own Prime Minister and Treasurer letting these words slip off their tongues like true energy efficiency campaigners.

If energy efficiency was truly important to our nation's leaders then I would have thought one of the best and easiest decisions to make would be to pick up the phone and dial the number of the Australian Institute of Refrigeration and Heating (AIRAH) and enlist their help.

After all, with around 2500 members who are intimately involved in a major percentage of all (non transport) energy use on a daily basis, surely they could become instant best friends? Because whether it is commercial buildings, process cooling applications, food processing and storage or residential applications, AIRAH members are always there with their hands on the levers.

Mr Rudd – if you would like to dim the lights and slow down the air conditioners, here's the number...

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5 STARS FOR MELBOURNE UNI

Melbourne University's new Faculty of Economics and Commerce building located at 198 Berkley Street is the first academic building to have been awarded a 5 Star Green Star Education Pilot Rating by the Green Building Council of Australia.

The 12-storey building integrates the University's education requirements with state-of-the-art environmentally sustainable design and building services initiatives to deliver carbon reductions of 73 per cent and water use reductions of up to 90% compared to a conventional educational building of the same size and use; based on current modeling.

The building achieves this through the combination of natural ventilation and chilled beam cooling technology, while the installation of Muller Industries' 3C solution contributes to the significant water savings.

According to Manfred Jarchow, Product Solutions Manager for Muller Industries, the company approached Lincolne Scott (building services consultants on the project) and conducted a lunch presentation of the 3C solution to around thirty professional engineers.

"They became interested in the innovative solution the 3C offers and following further detailed design investigations, chose to specify the 3C for the project," Jarchow said.

The building also includes environmentally sustainable initiatives such as a double-glazed facade to maximise thermal performance and glare reduction, and will harvest rainwater collection as well as recycle the building's grey water.

Low-energy light fittings, low-water sanitary fittings, bike storage facilities and showers add to the building's green focus.

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3C TO COOL PRODUCTION OF A380

Muller Industries is pleased to announce that its Australian designed 3C system has been chosen by Airbus, one of the world's leading aircraft manufacturers, to cool part of its plant at Toulouse in the south of France.

Notably, the company's Toulouse plant is home of the world's largest airliner, the A380.

This contract was won by Muller Industries' French partner, Jacir Air Traitement, who will oversee the delivery and installation of the 3C into several production units at Toulouse.

According to Doic Hordern, Airbus have been an historical user of Jacir products.

"The ability to offer integral access for maintenance and full control of Legionella risk convinced Airbus to go for the 3C," Hordern said.

The Airbus product line comprises 14 aircraft models, from the 100-seat single-aisle A318 jetliner to the 525-seat A380 - which is the largest civil airliner in service.

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BIRMINGHAM'S 2009 RAC EXPO

Following on from the successful launch of its SH09 series at February's 2009 AHR Expo in Chicago, Grant Hall made the trip to Birmingham in the UK to present at this year's Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Expo.

The 2009 RAC Expo was held at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre in late February.

Introducing the audience to alternative heat rejection systems, Hall explained that in small and medium installations, there is a growing trend away from the use of traditional cooling towers and evaporative condensers; with a number of factors needing to be considered when selecting the appropriate system such as environmental impact, energy efficiency and health risks.

However Hall questioned the reasoning behind this trend away from traditional cooling towers if the alternative also required substantial water treatment.

"If the alternative system requires water treatment, or applies water into the air stream or directly on to the heat exchanger, then there is no real advantage in moving away from traditional systems," said Hall. "In my view, such systems have similar disadvantages to cooling towers, with the added disadvantage of higher capital costs."

"Nobody can argue the thermal performance of traditional towers - but it's not just about Legionnaires' disease - it's about the cost of compliance to avoid outbreaks, and the environmental impacts of high water consumption and chemical dosing."

"Chemical pollution, and the upstream impact of the manufacture of these chemicals, will appear on the radar at some stage, and become another focus of authorities."

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ESTIMATE YOUR WATER USAGE

Late last year, Muller Industries released its Water Usage Estimator which has since proven to be a valuable tool for both consultants and end users.

The tool was developed by adiabatic guru Robert De Jong of ISECO Consulting, and software developer Rick Cairns.

“Essentially the estimator compares the relative water consumption of the 3C system against that of equivalent cooling towers, in many of Australia’s capital cities,” explained De Jong.

“It wasn’t so long ago that the water consumption of cooling towers was forgotten about, however tools like this highlight the issue of water consumption and make it clear why cooling towers are a technology that should be replaced by more water efficient alternatives such as the 3C.”

While the tool is an estimator only, it does use real data collected over time, and offers the user with the ability to generate very accurate consumption figures simply by changing inputs such as the Load Diversity Factor and Annual Operating Hours.

End.