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Agile, responsive Carrier in pioneering mode

The announcement last month that Carrier is now trading as an independent company is good news for customers and employees. Being part of a diverse group has some advantages. However, few can doubt the challenge for senior management to keep abreast of rapid changes in markets, customer needs and technology across several divergent sectors.

As a stand-alone business, Carrier can now focus unswervingly on meeting the needs of customers, and building on our unrivalled heritage and installed base across the HVAC industry.

Carrier was there at the beginning, with founder Willis Carrier pioneering the technology that has since transformed the way we live across the globe. No other company has played such a transformational role in laying the foundations for the modern air conditioning industry. The opportunity now is to work with our customers and develop the next generation of zero- and low-carbon technology needed for the future.

That process is well underway. We are seeing the first fruits of Carrier’s huge ongoing R&D programme delivering near zero-GWP solutions on HFO refrigerants, and the new generation of lower GWP systems on R32 poised to come onstream. Together with TCUK stablemates Toshiba and CIAT, the newly unleashed Carrier is a formidable force for innovation and industry-leading customer service. Watch this space!

Carrier now independent following UTC spin-off

Carrier is now operating as an independent, publicly traded company after successfully completing its separation from United Technologies.

The company employs around 53,000 employees globally, and is active in more than 160 countries.

Pioneering offering
In addition to its pioneering offering in commercial and residential HVAC equipment, Carrier’s wider business encompasses fire detection and suppression systems, access controls for security, and refrigeration equipment for retail and transport applications.

Carrier President and CEO Dave Gitlin said: “Against the backdrop of unprecedented global uncertainty, Carrier and its employees remain focused and continue to solve critical challenges – from improving indoor air quality, protecting the world’s food and pharmaceutical supply and keeping people safe and secure.

“I am honoured to lead this fantastic company and now, more than ever, I am incredibly proud of the perseverance and resilience of our talented workforce. For more than a century, Carrier has been a symbol of excellence, and today, as a standalone company, we have defined our own strategy, vision, culture and priorities. We have an unmatched legacy and look forward to delivering sustainable long-term growth to our shareholders and other stakeholders.”

Greater focus
As an independent company, Carrier will have greater focus and enhanced agility based on its own distinct operating priorities and strategies for long-term growth and profitability. This includes strengthening and growing its core businesses, extending its product range and geographical coverage, and expanding service and digital offerings. Carrier begins next chapter, see p2
Carrier chooses R-32 refrigerant to replace R-410a in commercial chillers based on scrolls

As part of our commitment to provide customers with solutions that use the right refrigerant for each application, Carrier has selected R-32 to replace R-410A refrigerant, a high global warming potential (GWP) refrigerant, in commercial chillers using scroll technology.

R-32 was chosen for its lower environmental impact, high energy efficiency, wide availability and ease of use. In the UK and Europe, the refrigerant will be offered in some scroll chillers in the coming months.

Best solutions
Chris Nelson, President of HVAC, Carrier, said: “Carrier harnesses the right refrigerant for each application in order to provide the very best solutions for our customers.”

“After thorough evaluation of the options, Carrier selected R-32 for scroll chillers and heat pumps for its lower impact on the environment, reaffirming our continued commitment to sustainability.”

Carrier’s use of R-32 refrigerant and expert system design will reduce the refrigerant carbon footprint by 80% in commercial scroll chillers and heat pumps.

This is due to the much lower GWP and a significant reduction in system refrigerant charge compared to the previous generation using R-410A. The Global Warming Potential (GWP) of R-32 is 675, while the GWP of R410a is 2,088.

This equates to a significant difference in environmental impact.

A kilogram of carbon is equal to 1 GWP. Therefore, 1kg of R-32 is equivalent to 675kg of carbon, while 1kg of R-410a equals 2,088kg of carbon.

“Carrier harnesses the right refrigerant for each application to provide the best solution for our customers.”

This, combined with the higher energy efficiency of Carrier chillers optimised for use with R-32, results in substantially lower equivalent carbon emissions.

Research suggests 95-98% of the environmental impact of air conditioning systems comes indirectly through energy consumption, while only 2-5% is from refrigerant leakage.

Carrier continuously invests in long-term solutions to lead the industry and promote highly efficient products.
Toshiba Joins Forces with BL Refrigeration for Queen’s University CPD Programme

Toshiba has joined forces with BL Refrigeration and Air Conditioning to lead a series of Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses for building services engineers at Queen’s University, Belfast.

Topics included an update on the latest revisions to the F-Gas Regulations and the implications for end users, plus an overview of the Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM), and how it relates to air conditioning.

The programme was led by Paul Turley, Toshiba’s regional specification manager in Ireland, and Keith Elliott, technical director of BL Refrigeration, with eight building services engineers from the University’s Estates management team attending, coordinated by the University’s John Devlin. The series began before the Covid-19 outbreak, and is now being offered remotely via online group video platforms.

Ken Lawlor, who heads Toshiba Ireland, said: “Queen’s University has a lot of Toshiba air conditioning on its campus, and we have a strong relationship with the estates team through BL Refrigeration, a key installer and service and maintenance contractor for the university over many years. The CPD courses are a great way of getting quickly up-to-speed with the latest legislation and technology, to improve system design and product application for both efficiency and environmental protection.”

John Devlin said: “The sessions were very well received by our engineers, and provoked interesting debate with lots of questions. It was a valuable exercise and I am grateful to Toshiba and BL Refrigeration for their time and sharing their expertise on these key topics of interest.”

For more details on Toshiba’s CPDs: https://www.toshiba-aircon.co.uk/news/article/toshiba-rolls-out-new-programme-of-cpds/

Toshiba Raises the Bar on Top-level T7e Warranty Cover

As part of our ongoing programme to raise standards across the industry, Toshiba’s top-level warranty cover is now only available to installers who are registered members of REFCOM’s Elite F-Gas scheme.

David McSherry, Toshiba sales manager, said: “All air conditioning installers require F-Gas registration to certify they are competent to handle refrigerants safely. However, REFCOM’s voluntary Elite scheme takes this an important stage further, with workplace audits certifying that members comply with all current legal requirements, and follow procedures to control and account for all refrigerant used in order to protect the environment.”

He added: “Toshiba has championed higher installation standards for many years, and this is the latest step in our continuing campaign. REFCOM Elite encourages best practice, and we believe installers operating to this standard deserve credit for their professionalism and expertise. The new approach to warranties is designed to reward them and incentivise the trade at large to raise standards to those of the best.”

Leading the market, Toshiba took the decision four years ago to base the level of warranty cover on installers’ technical competence and commitment to continuous training rather than on their level of equipment purchases.

Following this latest initiative, REFCOM Elite members qualify for the company’s top T7e Seven Year Comprehensive Warranty, while non-members receive basic five- or seven-year standard cover.

Grace period

New applicants to Toshiba’s top T7e warranty scheme were required to be registered on REFCOM Elite from January 1st 2020. However, existing customers have until January 1st 2021 to register, providing an extended period of grace during the current Covid-19 outbreak.

For more details and to register for REFCOM Elite: https://www.refcom.org.uk/elite/
Royal South Hants Hospital in Major CIAT AHU Upgrade

Royal South Hants Hospital in Southampton has upgraded its air conditioning system with the installation of top-of-the-range ClimaCIAT Airtech Air Handling Units (AHUs).

Eight premium ClimaCIAT Airtech units were specified by consultant GLJ Design and installed by Lowe & Oliver to provide high quality conditioned air to wards, operating theatres, the pharmacy and audiology department as part of a major refurbishment programme at the community hospital.

They replace ageing CIAT Ozonair units installed in the 1980s, which had come the end of their operational life.

Flack-pack solution
Due to logistics challenges on site, some of the CIAT units were disassembled and supplied flat-packed, enabling CIAT’s on-site team to move individual components into position, before reassembling them into complete units for installation by the contractor.

To ensure air conditioning continued to be provided to wards and operating theatres during the refit, a temporary rental AHU was stationed on site and connected up to each circuit as individual AHUs were taken offline and replaced. Work was also carried out at weekends to meet the project’s strict timescale.

The high specification project was carried out to Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) guidelines, which includes detailed requirements on the design, maintenance and operation of ventilation in healthcare premises. The focus is on ensuring patient comfort and the prevention and control of healthcare-associated infections. It also includes minimum requirements for AHU design with regard to the control of Legionella, as well as safe access for routine inspection and maintenance.

Excellent support
Gary Jones of building services consultant GLJ Design said: “We selected ClimaCIAT Airtech units for their combination of high quality and cost-competitiveness. There are only a handful of companies that produce high level equipment that can meet HTM standards for use in hospitals, and we were aware of CIAT’s capabilities from previous projects.”

He added: “The company provided excellent support throughout, with CIAT’s Adam Hardacre managing the technical and onsite aspects from the design stage through the various project reviews. I’m pleased to report that everything went according to plan, with all equipment passing the onsite leakage tests despite the flat-pack delivery and reassembly required. It was an excellent team effort and a credit to everyone involved.”

TCUK has developed a skid-mounted version of its high performance Floway AHU and DX condenser package that saves customers even more time and money.

It comprises a compact CIAT Floway Access AHU, incorporating a thermal wheel which operates with more than 80 per cent efficiency, matched to a high efficiency Toshiba digital inverter condensing unit, in a single package that comes fully wired, charged with refrigerant and commissioned ready for installation. Paul Smith, sales director for TCUK Applied Products, said: “Demand for AHUs with integrated DX coils has been increasing, however systems with components from different manufacturers can be difficult to configure. We solved this a couple of years ago with the launch of Floway DX, which seamlessly combines CIAT Floway with Toshiba’s highly energy efficient Digital Inverter Condenser in an integrated package.

“Now, with the launch of the skid-mounted version, installers have the added benefit of being able to lift a single piece of equipment onto a roof in a single step. As a result of its plug-and-play design, it can then be installed quickly and easily, and be in action rapidly. This saves even more time on site, while retaining all the benefits of support from a single supplier.”