



EPEE WELCOMES IN-DEPTH UN REPORT WHICH BACKS CONTAINMENT AND RESPONSIBLE USE POLICY FOR HFCs

Brussels, 12 April 2005:

The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE),* representing businesses involved in the development and manufacture of equipment which relies on Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) as a refrigerant welcomes the adoption of the Summary for Policymakers of the 'Special Report on Safeguarding the Ozone Layer and the Global Climate System', published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP) of the Montreal Protocol. EPEE looks forward to the publication of the full report in the coming months

The Summary for Policymakers (SPM), approved at the IPCC meeting 6-9th April in Addis Ababa, highlights the importance of HFCs, as replacements to CFCs. The report clearly shows that while HFC emissions are rising, the combined emissions of CFCs, HCFCs and HFCs have been reduced overall by a third. It further states that HFCs' contribution to global warming by 2015, under Business As Usual (BAU), will be 1% of overall global warming. The report validates the approach of containment and responsible use as the way to reduce greenhouse emissions.

The final report is the result of lengthy work undertaken over two years by a legion of global experts.

According to Friedrich Busch, Director General of EPEE:

"The report is the most comprehensive overview of the state-of-art of technology and science and predictions for the future. This will act as basis to on-going and future action by industry and legislators across the world to reduce chlorine concentration and greenhouse gas emissions. "

The report states that there is potential to halve by 2015 the BAU direct emissions from Ozone Depleting Substances (ODSs) and their Greenhouse gas (GHGs) substitutes by 2015 and about 60% of this potential concerns HFC emissions. In refrigeration applications direct GHG emissions can be reduced by 10% to 30%. Direct GHG emissions of residential and commercial air conditioning and heating equipment (SAC) can be reduced by about 200 MtCO₂-eq (Millions tonnes of CO₂ equivalent) by 2015.

EPEE and its members support these predictions and are ready and willing to work proactively towards these objectives. This willingness is witnessed by EPEE's on-going participation and support for a quick agreement to the legislative debate on an EU-wide Regulation on certain fluorinated Gases. This proposal dating from August 2003 seeks the containment, responsible use and recycling and recovery of F-gases to ensure real reduction in fluorinated gas emissions across the EU.

"The IPCC/TEAP Special Report underlines the need to take into account direct and indirect emissions in the choice of refrigerant, in particular the fact that GHG emissions related to energy consumption over the lifetime of an appliance can be significant. The perfect refrigerant does not exist. But to come up with the optimum solution for each given application, users must make an assessment which balances the characteristics of different refrigerants." states Busch.



EPEE believes that for the foreseeable future, HFCs will continue to play a role in many applications globally, particularly when factors including CO₂ emissions, energy consumption and safety (toxicity and flammability) are taken into account. HFC products will continue to meet the needs of customers, balancing efficiency and emissions impact against the most rigid standards for ozone protection. The IPCC/TEAP special report clearly points to HFCs as part of the solution as ODSs replacements and in terms of predictions for substantial emissions reduction via containment and energy efficiency.

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EPEE Contact for further information on this issue:

Friedrich Busch EPEE Director General, EPEE Secretariat, Brussels 02 7391614

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Notes to the Editor:

****The European Partnership for Energy and the Environment (EPEE)** is a broad-based group of responsible companies, national associations and European associations active in the European air-conditioning, heat-pump and refrigeration industry. It was formed in September 2000 to contribute to the development of effective European policies to reduce greenhouse gases from the use of refrigerants. Further information can be found on-line: www.epeeglobal.org

IPCC/TEAP Report

The WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) meet in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from 6 - 8 April 2005 to finalise the Special Report on "Safeguarding the ozone layer and the global climate system: issues related to hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) and perfluorocarbons (PFCs)".

The summary for Policy makers can be consulted at: <http://www.ipcc.ch/press/SPM.pdf>
The full report which runs to around 350 pages will be published in mid-2005.

The report was requested by the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. It has been prepared jointly by Working Groups 1 and 3 of the IPCC in cooperation with the Montreal Protocol's Technology and Economic Assessment Panel (TEAP). The report aims 'to prepare a balanced scientific, technical and policy relevant report regarding alternatives to ozone-depleting substances (ODSs) that affect the global climate system.'

F-gases proposal legislative discussion status

The proposal is part of the European Climate Change Programme. This programme proposed a range of cost-effective sector- specific proposals to help the EU meet its emission reduction target under the Kyoto Protocol. The draft Regulation was proposed

by the EU Commission on 11th August 2003. It was given its First Reading by the European Parliament on 30th March 2004. A political agreement was reached in October 2005. The Second Reading in the European Parliament is due to start up in Autumn 2005 and is currently being discussed within the Council of Ministers with a view to reaching a Common Position this year.

Measuring the impact on the environment of refrigerants

The Total Equivalent Warming Impact (TEWI) is the measurement tool for the overall environmental impact from energy use and refrigerant emissions.

Refrigerant choice and safety

The perfect refrigerant does not exist but to come up with the optimum solution for any given application users must make an assessment which balances the characteristics of different refrigerants. An essential part of this decision is the consideration of competing technology on the markets. Any choice must be guided by regulation and procedures, which ensure refrigerants, are used in a responsible way. Regulation and laws should not limit the range of choice of refrigerants. Innovative approaches have expanded the refrigerant options that can be considered for use for a range of commercial refrigeration and air-conditioning equipment and this is to be welcomed EPEE advocates a free choice of refrigerant for each application.

Safety limitations on choice are acknowledged. For example HCs are not considered a global solution due to the safety standards and requirements that apply in some regions. However CO₂ is a good refrigerant for heat pump applications such as water heaters, and CO₂ water heaters are already being widely used, particularly in Japan. In this case the use of CO₂ is based on an objective assessment of its performance from all the refrigerants available. In contrast, in conventional air-conditioning systems HFCs remain the preferred refrigerant, which is why it is important to maintain refrigerant choice.

Energy Efficiency

Energy efficiency improvements are the key to sustainable refrigeration, irrespective of the refrigerant used. Energy improvement can be achieved due to equipment design changes such as improved door seals. For hermetic systems, using HFCs as a refrigerant, the environmental impact from energy-use totally dominates the overall environmental impact.

Innovation in the refrigerant market place

Innovation is not limited by the choice of refrigerant those seeking to obtain the optimum cost-efficient environmental performance using a range of refrigerants including HFCs. Where HFCs are used then charge minimisation and leakage avoidance are key design features. In Germany for supermarket refrigeration, mixed systems using CO₂ in the low-temperature part and HFC for medium temperature refrigeration are a good approach to deliver environmental cost efficient performance. In Denmark these types of systems are being installed where the HFCs are used for safety reasons. The reduction in the charge of HFC as refrigerant has in these situations been significant (80-90%).
