

HVAC&R INDUSTRY
EMBRACES GREEN AT

AHR Expo

As if there wasn't enough green at last year's green-themed AHR Expo, this year organizers have planned a full blown green invasion of the HVAC&R industry.

The International Air-Conditioning, Heating, Refrigerating Exposition is the largest trade show for the HVAC&R professional with more than 70 educational sessions, 375,000 net square feet of exhibit space and 50,000 anticipated attendees from more than 120 countries. After a successful installment in New York, the 61st AHR Expo returns to the site of its historically largest shows, McCormick Place, Chicago.

"At the last AHR Expo (2008 in New York) we started to set in motion features that acknowledged the growing emphasis on green in the HVAC&R industry," says Clay Stevens, president of International Exposition Company, which is responsible for producing and managing the show. "We recognized the critical role played by our industry in saving energy and assuring a safe and healthy indoor environment.

"The 2009 show will take the green and sustainable emphasis to the next level."

Placing significant emphasis on environmentally friendly and energy-efficient products and technologies, some of the contemporary subjects encompassed by the show include green building, sustainable design, renewable energy, efficiency and indoor air quality. Several more green seminars and sessions are scheduled in comparison to the 2008 program.

The U.S Environmental Protection Agency's Energy Star Program will have a booth while conducting an educational session as well. The American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE)



The AHR Expo will span 375,000 net square feet of exhibit space at Chicago's McCormick Place. (Courtesy of Oscar Einzig)



Many of the new products and technologies on display emphasize environmentally-friendly features and energy efficiency. (Courtesy of Oscar Einzig)

events



The 2008 AHR Expo took place in New York City and attracted tens of thousands of attendees worldwide. The 2009 expo returns to Chicago, the site of its most successful past shows. (Courtesy of Oscar Einzig.)

will present various seminars on a number of green topics. Exhibitors can submit their greenest products to the expo's Innovation Awards in the "Green Building" category.

Last year the award went to Carrier

Corporation's Evergreen 23XRV chiller, which is, according to the company, the world's first integrated variable speed, water cooled, screw chiller. The product is ideal for efficiently chilled water plants.

The Green Mechanical Council will host two educational programs free for interested attendees, including a three-hour workshop focusing on defining common phrases and terms, pointing out misconceptions to overcome and identifying the trends that are making green practices mainstream.

Any exhibiting companies that showcase products for improving indoor air quality will be provided with an Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) designation sign to display.

A day-long educational program entitled LEED Implementation for Building Operations and Maintenance will be presented by the U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC). The course is designed for professionals in charge of implementing LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) building standards and includes successful project strategies through different credit categories while guiding attendees towards certification.

The HVAC Mobile Green

Classroom will be on site thanks to the Partnership for Environmental Leadership, a collaborative effort of six eco-conscious industry associations. The trailer is a hands-on learning environment, which features new technologies for sustainability in mechanical service and construction including tips to improve building energy efficiency while considering occupant health, safety and comfort.

Some of the new technology demonstrations featured in 2008 included solar collectors or hot water systems, HVAC system design software, micro-computer control system for green technology boilers and carbon neutral building design.

Onsite training opportunities will be available in coordination with MCAA's LEED AP training programs and the UA/MSCA's Green Awareness Training and Certification Program.

"As a leading information resource for the HVAC/R industry, it is critical that the AHR Expo keep its attendees on the cutting edge of the latest 'green' products and issues," Stevens says.

The show also reflects a commitment to green principles with the choice of venue. McCormick Place uses many recycled and environmentally friendly products, which include renewable and fully compostable cold beverage cups, flatware and packaged food boxes as well as entirely recycled paper products in the restrooms. Organizers feel a responsibility to help disseminate information about the latest industry trends and help companies keep up with the times.

"Every one of the last few years has seen the green theme gain in emphasis and importance. HVAC buyers and manufacturers (sellers) alike are now taking green issues more seriously. The degree to which products and systems help buildings measure up to green standards now impacts the whole selection and decision-making process," Stevens says.



Attendees check out the latest HVAC+R products. (Courtesy of Oscar Einzig.)

December 10–12—Introduction to Metallurgical Lab Practices.

ASM International Headquarters, Materials Park, OH. This beginning level course is designed for people with basic or limited familiarity to a materials lab or metallurgical lab practices and non-technical professionals like those in sales or purchasing. The students will learn metallography through sectioning, mounting, grinding, polishing and etching samples. For more information, visit www.asminternational.org.

January 12–15—ProMat 2009.

McCormick Place South, Chicago, IL. The Material Handling Industry of America sponsors ProMat 2009, which is addressing the changing workforce, latest manufacturing equipment and technologies as well as distribution and supply chain issues. There will be over 800 exhibits and an educational conference with a keynote address entitled “Building the Workforce of the Future.” The conference will also feature more than 100 educational sessions covering trends, best practices and cutting edge equipment and technology solutions for improving productivity and profits throughout the supply chain. For more information, contact Carol Miller at cmiller@mbia.org, (800) 345-1815 or www.mbia.org.

January 19–21—Northwest Food Manufacturing and Packaging Convention and Exposition.

Oregon Convention Center, Portland, OR. The 95th installment of this annual show attracts 4,000 food processing industry professionals from all parts of the country. More than 450 booths are on display for CEOs, plant managers, purchasing managers, production and quality assurance managers and mechanics. Educational sessions will focus on topics that include energy and environment, government affairs, radio frequency identification (RFID) workshop and productivity and innovation. For more information, visit www.nfpamembers.org.

January 26–30—AWS Certified Welding Supervisor Seminar.

Hilton Suites Atlanta Perimeter, Atlanta. If you’re involved in the welding field, consider this five-day intensive supervisor training and certification course. The course focuses on necessary knowledge supervisors need to improve productivity, throughput, weld quality, safety and environment. It focuses on the science more than the art of welding in addition to the economics of welding. The program attracts engineers involved with design drawings, foremen, lead welders, line leaders, purchasing personnel, corporate welding instructors and detailers or drawing preparation personnel. The seminar is offered in various locations across the country. For more info, visit www.aws.org/certification/CWS.

February 3–6, World of Concrete.

Las Vegas Convention Center, Las Vegas. World of Concrete is an annual international event for the commercial concrete and masonry construction industries, which attracts over 1,700 suppliers spanning more than 900,000 net square feet of exhibits. On display are new products, technologies, tools and equipment. Outdoor exhibits and event areas bring hands-on demonstrations, resources and techniques. More than 150 seminars are held beginning a day before the exhibition. For more information, visit www.worldofconcrete.com.

February 10–12—Pacific Design and Manufacturing Show.

Anaheim Convention Center, Anaheim, CA. This show is co-located with Automation Technology Expo (ATX) West, WestPack, MD&M West, Electronics West, PLASTEC West Pavilion and Green Manufacturing Expo. The annual show in its 11th year features over 350 exhibiting companies and pavilions that include CAD/CAM and rapid prototyping, enterprise software technology and contract manufacturing. This is the West’s largest

advanced design and manufacturing event, cumulatively attracting 45,000 manufacturing professionals.

February 17–19—Expo Manufactura.

Cintermex, Monterrey, Mexico. This international manufacturing trade show is Mexico’s rendition of IMTS in its 14th installment. The event includes over 350 companies, representing over 600 brands from around the world, 8,500 professionals are expected to attend in search of equipment, machinery, processes and solutions for industries that include automotive, aeronautical, electrical appliance and medical devices. A conference program includes keynote speeches, seminars, presentations and manufacturing solutions that include Six Sigma practices and other efficiency standards. For more information, visit www.expomanufactura.com.mx, or contact Shane Poblete at (301) 493-5500.

February 24–26—Houstex 2009.

George R. Brown Convention Center, Houston. Organized by the Society of Manufacturing Engineers, this event looks to stimulate ideas, expertise and business connections in manufacturing technology. On showcase will be advanced machine tools and production systems for industries including energy, medical and aerospace. An advanced technology conference will address “Manufacturing Processes for Oil and Gas.” Houstex is co-located with the International Pump Users Symposium, and attendee badges provide full access to both shows. For more information, visit www.sme.org/houstex.