

# rac

**rac**  
COOLING INDUSTRY  
AWARDS 2020

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ESSENTIAL READING FOR THE COOLING INDUSTRY: MORE ONLINE AT [WWW.RACPLUS.COM](http://WWW.RACPLUS.COM)



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# Shortlist announced for First Virtual Cooling Awards

## COOLING AWARDS

The shortlist for the 2020 Cooling Industry Awards has been announced, along with the news that due to the changes in Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, the event on 9 December will take place online.

Editor Andrew Gaved said: "We really hoped that we could bring the industry together in person for the 2020 Cooling Awards, but with so many local lockdowns in force, we thought it wouldn't be fair to hold an event that risked many people being unable to attend. So we will be going virtual for 2020 and fully

hoping to get together next year."

As RAC was going to press, an expert panel of judges was deciding on the winners across 17 different categories. A separate set of judges will decide the RAC and IOR National Student of the Year for 2020, which will also be announced at the Cooling Awards.

Three new categories are up for grabs at the 2020 awards, including Cooling Manufacturer of the Year and Small Company Achievement in both the contracting and technology fields.

Mr Gaved said: "Given the particular challenges of working in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic,

with all the restrictions that brings, it has been a great pleasure to see that the industry is continuing to innovate; to demonstrate best practice and to keep meeting customers' expectations.

"While understandably the volume of entries is not as vast as in 'normal' times, our judges have seen companies and individuals with almost 100 different products and project bidding to win the most prestigious awards in cooling."

The full shortlist can be seen on p6-7, along with details about how to register to watch the virtual event on 9 December.

## Chillventa celebrates virtual success

### EVENTS

The organisers of the Chillventa eSpecial virtual exhibition and accompanying Chillventa Congress are celebrating a large turnout from both exhibitors and visitors. The event, for which RAC was a media partner, saw 6,800 active participants from 113 countries, resulting in more than 100,000 networking exchanges via instant messages and 1,200 video calls.

Organisers at NürnbergMesse say that following 30 presentations at the Chillventa Congress; 75 product presentations; and more than 300 roundtables from 207 exhibitors, the feedback has been "incredibly positive".

NürnbergMesse said: "All of this shows that the industry very much needed an event of this kind. We are really happy with the large exhibitor and visitor turnout. Initial positive feedback during the event demonstrates that the refrigeration, AC, ventilation and heat pump sectors were very pleased with the digital opportunities that the Chillventa eSpecial afforded."

**"The industry very much needed an event of this kind. We are really happy with the turnout"**

Preparations are now getting under way for the group's European Heat Pump Summit on 26 and 27 October, where international decision-makers from industry, trade and the research community meet to discuss the latest market developments, research and development issues and trends in heat pump applications.

The next Chillventa is scheduled for 11 to 13 October 2022 at its usual venue of the Nuremberg exhibition centre.

## Cool Concerns claims first with A2L training rig

### TRAINING

Cool Concerns, the refrigeration and air conditioning training specialist, has developed what is believed to be the UK's first A2L training rig.

The system, designed in accordance with EN 378:2016, operates on R454C (Opteon XL20) to provide engineers with hands-on experience in lower flammability, low-GWP refrigerants.

R454C has a Global Warming Potential of 148, just under the 150 GWP threshold. The training rig is based on a Bitzer air-cooled condensing unit, equipped with the company's semi-hermetic Ecoline compressor, connected to a LuVe evaporator.

The electrical control system and related components have all been risk-assessed for use with A2L refrigerants, with labelling giving suitable operator guidance and warnings, including flammable signage.

The training rig includes a refrigerant gas detection system that, in the event of activation, closes the expansion valve, so all



refrigerant is pumped down to the condensing unit and liquid line.

The expansion device itself is mounted outside the cooled space. In the event of the gas detection being activated, the system pumps down so the remaining refrigerant cannot escape into a coldroom. The gas detector also activates a remote audible alarm and strobe light to warn personnel working in and around the coldroom of a potential leak.

All service tools used with the system are approved for use with A2L refrigerants, according to Cool Concerns. This includes the electronic gauge manifold, leak detector, ventilation fan, recovery machine and vacuum pump.

Stephen Benton, director of Cool Concerns, said: "A lot has been written and debated about the use of A2Ls. However, it all becomes much clearer when you come face-to-face with a working system."

"There are more challenges in moving to A2L options such as R454C than, say, from R410A to R32, as air conditioning systems tend to come as complete packaged solutions."

"With an A2L refrigeration application, system design and component choice are much more likely to be the responsibility of the contractor – and therefore require much more careful thought and planning."

Cool Concerns has produced a practical guide for designers of A2L systems to comply with EN 378:2016 as part of its ongoing training programmes.