

CONTRACTOR[®]

THE NEWSMAGAZINE OF MECHANICAL CONTRACTING

PLUMBING | PIPING | HYDRONICS | RADIANT | BATH/KITCHEN | TECHNOLOGY | TOOLS | TRUCKS | GREEN | MANAGEMENT

Geo in the rocky mountain state

Apartment complex will be entirely heated, cooled by ground-source heat pumps

SPECIAL to CONTRACTOR

BRIGHTON, COLO. — One of Colorado's largest geothermal projects is soon drawing to a close. When finished, Solaire Apartments, in Brighton, Colo., will be entirely heated and cooled by ground-source heat pumps. The 252-unit, 12-building complex uses 112 wells to provide 326 tons of heating and cooling capacity.

The up-front premium associated with a ground-source system hasn't made them popular with property owners in the rental business, but the owners at Solaire see the value, and they're sure it'll pay off.

"While the first costs of installing geothermal to serve the Solaire residences was more expensive than conventional HVAC, the ability to eliminate a portion of the per-unit energy costs makes our community more affordable for residents," said Brock Vinton, developer of Solaire.



Triton fusion system

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Contractors battle stupid-below-zero weather

BY ROBERT P. MADER and CANDACE ROULO OF CONTRACTOR'S STAFF

CHICAGO — Plumbing and heating contractors across the northern tier of the country had to contend with the Polar Vortex the week of January 6th as temperatures plunged well below zero at the beginning of the week, accompanied by enough snow to make driving hazardous. Malfunctioning heating equipment, frozen pipes and panicking homeowners were the most common problems.

"It certainly spiked service calls," said Mitch Zych, general manager of Air.Water.Energy, in Carol Stream, Ill. Zych had to deal with heavy snow followed by extreme temperatures. Because the bad weather was forecast with plenty of notice, A.W.E. held a customer service meeting to prepare its people and to arm them with advice for homeowners.

Two easily fixable problems were clogged filters not allowing proper airflow through a

furnace and ice and frost sealing the sidewall air intakes and exhausts on sealed combustion equipment. That happens when temperatures dip below -10°F, Zych said. The contractor also dealt with panicky homeowners calling, not because their equipment was malfunctioning, but because it couldn't keep up with the heat loss.

Zych said their customers wanted problems fixed rather than replacing equipment, so the contractor planned a call night where they matched up service tickets with older equipment, bought some pizzas and had the sales staff spend an evening calling customers pitching replacement sales. They gave homeowners partial credit for what they paid for the repair toward the cost of replacement equipment.

► Turn to Below-zero, page 8



SMC Geo helped residents at Solaire realize the benefits of geothermal.

AHR Expo products are getting smarter

BY ROBERT P. MADER and CANDACE ROULO OF CONTRACTOR'S STAFF

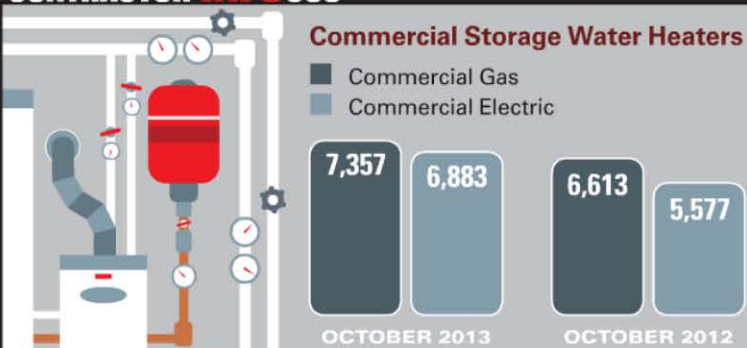
NEW YORK — Like its 2008 predecessor, the 2014 AHR Expo here was a winner. Management announced before the show that more than 1,800 exhibiting companies had reserved 387,000 sq.ft. of booth space, exceeding the record-breaking exhibit space reserved for the 2008 New York show by nearly 6%.

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The P-K SONIC boiler.

CONTRACTOR INFOCUS



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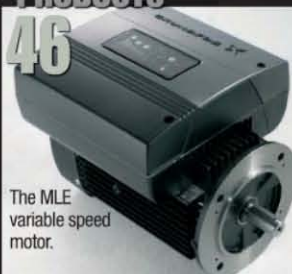
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Student competition to set stage during annual convention.

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Online forum geared for business owners and contractors.

FEATURE

20 Influential People
CONTRACTOR features the most influential people in the plumbing & hydronics industry.

PRODUCTS



The MLE variable speed motor.

green choice

THE MLE VARIABLE SPEED MOTOR

is offered in ranges from 3 to 30 HP for building devices. It is ideal for use in integrated, intelligent pumping solutions for most commercial applications. The integrated system consists of a sensor, system controller, VFD drive and standard asynchronous motor all in one. The company will make the unified motor and variable frequency drive available in multiple models ranging from end-suction to incline to split-case pumping solutions. The motor adapts precisely to current demand to deliver performance, energy efficiency and reliability.

Grundfos

CIRCLE 101 ON CARD



▲ THE MODEL NRC711 TANK-LESS WATER HEATER offers temperature settings from 100°F to 140°F for two-bath residences. Improvements to the heat exchanger make it three times more durable in its ability to resist scale buildup. New scale detection software minimizes leaks by indicating when it's time to flush the system. The heater has an input range from 15,000 to 157,000 Btuh.

Noritz

CIRCLE 106 ON INQUIRY CARD

▼ THE CLW CHILLER is a large-capacity unit able to continuously monitor and optimize system performance. Available in 60- to 140-tons, it is engineered to precisely distribute heated or chilled water for fan coils, radiant floor heating, snow/ice melt and many other applications.

WaterFurnace

CIRCLE 108 ON INQUIRY CARD



▼ THE VRF WR2 AND WY-SERIES MODULAR WATER SOURCE UNITS are now available in smaller, lighter units with plate-type heat exchangers. Both the WR2 (heat recovery) and the WY (heat pump) are designed for buildings with closed boiler water tower or geothermal loop systems.

Mitsubishi Electric

CIRCLE 109 ON INQUIRY CARD



▲ THESE NEW RADIANT CONTROL PRODUCTS allow for easy installation and system integration. They include the 0-10V DC powerhead, the 0-10V DC actuator, and a zone valve that is easily installed using the company's ProPress and PEX Press adapters.

Viega

CIRCLE 102 ON INQUIRY CARD

▼ THE VICTORIAN BATH COLLECTION features a single-handle lav faucet, a single-handle lav faucet with riser and a two-handle widespread lav faucet. Also offered are tub, Roman tub and shower trim. All faucets are WaterSense labeled.

Delta Faucet

CIRCLE 104 ON INQUIRY CARD



▼ THIS 2" MULTIPORT TEE features 1" outlets and provides an efficient solution for flush bank installations with fewer fittings and connections. Designed to centralize connections and supply lines, the tee provides material and labor savings, allowing for flexibility in design and installation.

Uponor

CIRCLE 105 ON INQUIRY CARD



▲ THE CADET PRO TOILET COLLECTION has been expanded to provide five different bowl and tank options, in standard and water-saving models. The toilets feature metal parts, an oversized 3" flush valve and a myriad of options. All bowls are available in both 12" and 10" rough-ins, except for the Compact Right Height elongated that is offered in 12" and 14" rough-ins.

American Standard

CIRCLE 107 ON INQUIRY CARD



▲ THE ELEMENTARY TOILET is designed for children. The 1.28 GPF toilet includes safety features such as a slow-closing lid and a cover lock that prevents children from playing with the trim. It is 24" to the top of the tank with a rim height of 11.25".

Mansfield

CIRCLE 103 ON INQUIRY CARD

▼ THE VIPER SERIES HET now includes a compact, elongated bowl model. It utilizes just 1.28 GPF, and features a reliable FluidMaster fill valve, a 3" flush valve for quick bowl clearing, powerful dual-fed siphon jets and a 2" glazed trapway.

Gerber

CIRCLE 110 ON INQUIRY CARD

