



8th International Energy Agency Heat Pump Conference
Global Advances in Heat Pump Technology, Applications, and Markets
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News Release

For Immediate Release

IEA HEAT PUMP PROGRAM ANNOUNCES WINNERS OF INTERNATIONAL HEAT PUMP AWARD

The organizing committee for the 8th International Energy Agency Heat Pump Conference, held in Las Vegas May 31 to June 2, 2005, has announced the first winners of the Peter Ritter von Rittinger International Heat Pump Medal. The awards were presented at the Conference Banquet. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to the advancement of international collaboration in research, policy development, market development and applications for energy-efficient heat pumping technologies. In the IEA definition, heat pumping includes air conditioning, heat pump and related refrigeration technologies.

The awardees were selected from nominations submitted by IEA member countries and by interested individuals.

The initial awardees are:

Dr. Bernard Spinner of France (deceased), a distinguished researcher in the field of sorption heat pump technology. Dr. Spinner, who served as Director of the French CNRS Institut des Matériaux et Procédés, led a team that developed the STELF process, a thermo-chemical based heat management and cold production system. Over the last 20 years Professor Spinner contributed to the improvement of this process, and in 2000 he was awarded the very prestigious European Grand Prize for Innovation in the theme of the year "Energies and their Applications." This prize promotes European industry and applied research.

Dr. Katsuhiko Narita, who was instrumental in the rapid development of the Japanese heat pump market and in stimulating technical advances for heat pumps now applied in world markets. Dr. Narita has been active in the IEA Heat Pump Programme and, as a key member of the Japanese National Team, coordinated the team and provided initiative in establishing the Heat Pump and Thermal Storage Technology Center of Japan in 1986.

Mr. Nance C. Lovvorn of the United States, who pioneered customer satisfaction programs at the Alabama Power Company for heat pumps that have had very broad and lasting impact in improving

reliability of heat pumps, and initiated training programs for designers, installers and service personnel. His efforts included certification of installers, applications and manufacturers, and the monitoring of long-term performance and reliability of installed heat pumps. Studies that Mr. Lovvorn conducted in conjunction with the Electric Power Research Institute have been of continuing value to utilities and governmental agencies involved with heat pump applications internationally.

Research Team GEMINI – Center Applied Refrigeration in Norway, who combined talents of the Norwegian University of Science and Technology and SINTEF Energy Research to advance and promote CO₂ heat pump technology. The team has worked with manufacturers and industrial partners for commercialization of the CO₂ technology to a number of new application areas including automobile air conditioning and domestic water heating. Furthermore the leading activities undertaken by the team have encouraged a significant volume of international research and development activity – both by private companies and in the form of international collaborative projects. Work by this group has resulted in new products introduced, under license, by manufacturers in Japan.

Mr. Wayne R. Reedy of the United States who, as a researcher and product development engineer, was responsible for numerous new heat pump component and system designs, including integrated products, resulting in 17 patents. He developed techniques for the first field measurements of “in situ” operating efficiency of heat pumps, and managed the first extensive program using instrumentation packages for monitoring performance of installed residential and commercial systems in the U.S. and Europe. In the 1970s Mr. Reedy led a team that developed the industry’s first microprocessor-based control for residential heat pumps and was responsible for development of two air-to-air heat pump products featuring integrated potable water heating.

These individuals distinguished themselves through their efforts in research, engineering and market development for energy-efficient heat pump technology.



The award is named for Peter Ritter von Rittinger, an Austrian engineer who designed and installed the first known heat pump, in 1855, for a salt works in the village of Ebensee in Upper Austria. Rittinger recognized that use of heat pump technology could achieve savings of as much as 80% in comparison with direct firing of wood. The award celebrates the technical skills and entrepreneurial spirit of Rittinger that are shared by the awardees.

Conference Secretariat

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