

Eaton-Williams offers refurb or renew package

EATON-Williams has launched a Refurbish or Renew service with the aim of easing the decision making process for facilities managers.

Facilities managers often face the dilemma of renewing existing air handling and ventilation plant or refurbishing on site. Space constraints, limited access, changing conditions in buildings combined with energy efficiency and environmental issues can all affect the decision-making process.

By using Eaton-Williams Refurbish or Renew service, facilities managers can take advantage of a comprehensive feasibility study carried out on site of all equipment. This is followed up by a dedicated m&e services department to help decide on the most appropriate route.

In most cases Eaton-Williams can refurbish plant in situ using engineers who have vast experience of maintaining and servicing a variety of ventilation and cooling plant.

Refurbishment can be cost-effective, avoids service disruption and can be carried out over an agreed period taking into account business operations and financial restraints.

Trained engineers will handle the whole process from the initial survey and quotation through to carrying out the work and commissioning the project.

Where the option to refurbish existing plant is not cost-effective, the company can provide a renew package. Following a survey, Eaton-Williams will provide a quotation for supplying either Edenaire or Moducel ventilation plant.

This can also include a customised facility, tailoring the equipment to fit into the same plant space or for location on an existing roof top kerb.

R22: ticking bomb or chance for shrewd contractors

IDS Refrigeration, the refrigerant specialist, has identified major opportunities for m&e contractors arising from the phasing out of the HCFC R22 from December 31, 2009. The company calculates there could be around 100,000 systems currently operating on HCFCs such as R22 in the UK. They will all have to be dealt with and each provides an opportunity for m&e contractors.

"The key is that it will be illegal to use, buy or to sell virgin R22 after 31 December 2009," said Mel Bridges, managing director of IDS. "So, end users in all sectors have two options. Either rip out and replace the entire system or take out the R22 and use a drop-in replacement like DuPont's ISCEON 9 Series."

The alternative of keeping fingers crossed that there will be sufficient volume of good quality reclaimed material to go round, isn't one that any responsible organisation will contemplate.

"In a supermarket application, the total cost of a complete plant replacement might typically be about £300,000 whereas the drop-in refrigerant option would cost around £30,000. Unless the plant is nearing the end of its useful life, the choice is a no brainer. In other types of application, whether it be air conditioning or the industrial sector, the cost differential in favour of conversions will invariably apply.

Mel believed the phase out of R22 and HCFC blends can be considered a ticking timebomb.

"If end users do not act soon, a doomsday scenario could see hospitals closing, food supply chains interrupted and funeral parlours non-operational. So organisations will eventually act but will they act in time?"

The end of 2009 is 40 months

away so it is easy to understand why many end users have not twigged just how urgent is the need for action.

"Reduction in availability of R22 is just 16 months away, with manufacturers forced to reduce production by 16% from the end of 2007," insisted Mel. "And whereas it will be legal to use recycled/reclaimed R22 to top up existing systems, there is currently insufficient returned product for reclaim and reprocessing, and more critically, limited capacity for reprocessing and storage, so product availability will definitely be a problem."

Mel maintained that the likelihood of supply difficulties across Europe will emerge in 2008 and continue in 2009.

"End users therefore, should work to a maximum timescale of 24 months from now, rather than 40, particularly if their application is process or supply critical."

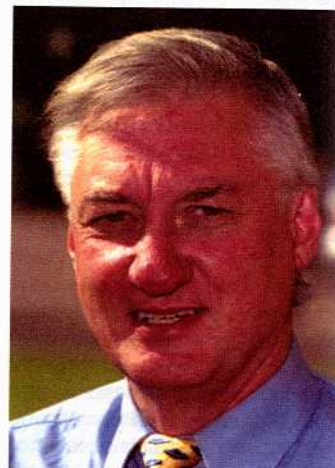
Another issue will be price. As manufacturers reduce production it is absolutely inevitable that prices will rise very significantly. It is the natural law of supply and demand.

However, it is the limited timescale which is the real critical factor.

"To deal with 100,000 outstanding applications means tackling 125 each and every working day from today onwards," Mel calculated.

Understandably, end users have limited time windows when they can allow on-site activity. Factor that into the equation, and the extent of the problem and the opportunity for m&e contractors becomes apparent.

"The direct replacement refrigerant solution is not only far less costly but causes less on-site disruption and more can be converted in the same timeframe."



Mel Bridges: supply difficulties from 2008 on reclaimed R22

DuPont is the world's largest producer of refrigerants. The DuPont ISCEON 9 series is a family of non-ozone depleting HFC retrofit refrigerants for CFC and HCFC equipment. Typically, they are the easy-to-use alternative with little or no engineering changes required but can also deliver increased energy efficiency of up to 9%. With energy prices seemingly on a non-stop upward spiral, this is a major benefit.

"All in all, the R22 phaseout offers a tremendous commercial opportunity for contractors to drum up substantial business during the next 24 months, whether installing complete replacement plant or drop-in replacement refrigerant conversions. Some forward thinking companies are well ahead of the problem and converting equipment, but many have yet to start," Mel added.

To find out more about the 9 Series replacement refrigerant option, call IDS on 0117 980 2520.

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T | 01202 85 14 40 F | 01202 87 61 11 E | sales@abilityprojects.co.uk W | www.abilityprojects.co.uk