



building automation

Air Change: ten years fresh

Celebrating 10 years in business, Air Change is an Australian company developing air conditioning products that maximise the use of sensible and enthalpy heat recovery.

Air Change's internationally patented heat exchanger is ubiquitous in all its units but the company continually expands its product range by developing new innovative products utilising its core technology. Even after 10 years, 2011 will see the launch of new products designed by the engineering team which will be displayed at expos across the country.

"We've gone from having three staff when we first started, to over 60," national sales manager David Gartrell, who also celebrates 10 years with the company, says. "It's been incredible to be part of that and to watch Air Change grow within the Australian and international HVAC markets."

Innovation is at the centre of the business, with much emphasis placed on research and development. This maintains Air Change at the forefront of the heat recovery industry, offering a comprehensive heat recovery product range.

Air Change's CEO, Steve Atherton, has the task of managing the growth of the company as energy efficiency becomes a business and social imperative in a carbon constrained world. "The company has moved locations three times in 10 years and in April 2010 was publicly listed on the Australian Stock Exchange, a nod to its ongoing growth and expansion," he says.

Air Change has won many industry awards for energy efficiency, sustainability, product design and gained recognition for its employees. In 2002 and 2003 it received the SEDA Green Globe award.



Its rooftop package unit collected the AIRAH Excellence in HVAC Queensland award in 2003 and the national award in 2006. In April 2010, Air Change received the prestigious ESD Product Award presented at ARBS.

Most recently, Shane Carmichael was acknowledged for his contributions to the HVAC industry, awarded as AIRAH's 2010 Future Leader.

Air Change strongly supports the drive for sustainability, highlighted through the inclusion of Air Change products in some of Australia's leading green buildings, such as Pixel, the

world's first carbon neutral office; the Commonwealth Bank office in Homebush; The Gauge in Docklands and the Ark in North Sydney. Air Change is an active member of the Green Building Council of Australia, Property Council of Australia and it is an Australian Technology Showcase company.

Air Change products are being used by the Australian Defence Force in Afghanistan, Davies Research Centre in Antarctica, the Shangri-La Hotel in Fiji and the School of Nations in Macau to name a few of its expanding international markets.

www.airchange.com.au

New life for old stock

The Green Building Council of Australia (GBCA) is developing a new Green Star rating tool to assess the operational performance of existing buildings.

"Green Star will soon address the 95 per cent of the market that isn't brand new," GBCA's Green Star director, Andrew Aitken, says, "Green Star Performance is being developed to assess the full range of existing buildings in the market, regardless of building type.

"Tools such as the National Built Environment Rating System (NABERS) already address buildings in operation. However, our stakeholders have told us there are significant gaps in that market."

Green Star Performance will address this gap



Andrew Aitken

by covering all nine Green Star environmental impact categories – management, transport, indoor environment quality, land use and ecology, emissions, materials and innovation – in addition to energy and water usage covered by NABERS.

Green Star Performance will also consider the combined impact of the various sustainability categories and deliver one single

Green Star rating.

"We will continue to work closely with NABERS to ensure there is no duplication of measurements or benchmarks where widely accepted market practices exist, such as NABERS Energy and NABERS Water in the commercial office market," Aitken says.

Green Star-specific credits will be developed to address operational environmental impacts not addressed by other tools.

The Green Star Performance assessment methodology will enable building owners to gain a holistic assessment of the operational performance of their buildings, regardless of whether they have previously achieved a Green Star Design or As Built rating.

"The tool will also help us to compare Green Star-designed buildings with non-Green Star-designed buildings in operation, providing a better understanding of holistic sustainability performance in the market," Aitken says.

The GBCA formed a stakeholder reference group in July 2010 to provide advice and recommendations. The Green Building Council of Australia has since released a scoping paper and is currently seeking industry feedback.

The Green Star Performance scoping paper can be downloaded from the GBCA website at www.gbca.org.au