



February 9, 2009

New Adelaide test laboratory a First for Australia

In a first for Australia, a new scenario analysis test facility designed to validate chilled beam air conditioning performance, aimed at reducing energy consumption and lowering greenhouse gas emissions in commercial buildings, has been established in Adelaide by a local company.

Dadanco Pty Ltd, already industry leaders in the manufacture of energy-efficient active chilled beam air conditioning units, today announced the opening of the laboratory at its premises in Hindmarsh by Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Energy Patrick Conlon.

Dadanco chief executive Dan Cole said the new lab was the first of its kind in Australia and would make a significant contribution to efforts to reduce energy consumption in air conditioning systems in new and existing commercial buildings.

“The lab is designed to simulate the operating conditions in any enclosed space with an extremely high degree of accuracy so we are able to demonstrate and validate air conditioning performance in terms of human comfort levels,” Mr Cole said. “Air conditioning accounts for about 50% of energy consumption in most commercial office buildings and active chilled beams are proven to be a valuable design solution in achieving lower HVAC fan energy consumption.

“In addition to optimising Dadanco’s active chilled beam air conditioning technology for our clients, the lab has the capabilities for third parties to do their own testing. It is a significant piece of infrastructure that we have established here in Adelaide, which we are pleased to call our home.”

Mr Cole said the facility – which accurately simulates heat sources within a building as well as heat transmitted from the outside – was the technological equivalent of any similar facility around the world.

“For a long time now European manufacturers of active chilled beam air conditioning, equipped with superb testing facilities, have gone unchallenged in the Australian market,” he said.

“This lab is going to assist us in changing that situation.”



Media Release

The lab can deliver precisely-controlled vertical wall loads of up to 240 watts per square metre to simulate the heat impacting on the fabric of buildings, and variable space and floor heat loads of up to 60W/m² to simulate internal heat sources such as people and computers. It tests the performance of air conditioning in terms of space thermal comfort, space air temperature, humidity, thermal capacity and air flow rates. More than 100 electronic sensors installed in the lab monitor these factors.

Dadanco Pty Ltd was established in Adelaide 12 years ago when it won the intellectual property rights over a groundbreaking induction nozzle developed at the University of Adelaide. The nozzle allows air conditioners to achieve the same level of performance with significant reductions in fan energy consumption.

In 2007, Dadanco signed a joint venture agreement with a partner business in the United States to launch its product offering in the American market.

ENDS



CAPTION: Getting to the heat of the matter: Dan Cole with a thermal mannequin designed to simulate the heat created by humans and computers

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