

ClimateWell and Alfa Laval save energy in new research project

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In a research study, partly funded the Swedish Energy Agency, ClimateWell's patented salt matrix for energy storage was combined with Alfa Laval's cutting edge heat transfer technology. The results were positive and proved the technical concept.

In this unique research project, which ran for a about 1 year and was co-financed by the Swedish Energy Agency, the two leading Swedish technologies were integrated and tested – ClimateWell's patented matrix for salt crystals, that store energy to be converted to heating and cooling; and Alfa Laval's world leading plate heat exchangers.

The project was in this first phase limited to a marine application, but as the overall technical concept was proven, it opens up for opportunities in many other areas:

– The project shows the potential of this technology, not only for the marine application, but for other segments within Alfa Laval. We constantly look for promising technologies that both benefit our customers in terms of cost or energy savings, and have a large impact on our product portfolio. We look forward to strengthening the collaboration with ClimateWell for future innovations, says Mats Nilsson R&D Manager at Alfa Laval's technology development for compact heat exchangers.

ClimateWell's patented matrix for salt crystals are deployed and integrated today by companies like GE, Rheem and Caterpillar in various products to save energy for their customers.

– We see that we can use this as a generic concept in almost all our applications, including heat-driven air conditioning in heavy-duty vehicles and gas-driven water heaters, ClimateWell's CEO Karl Bohman says.

In North America, where natural gas gets more and more popular, over 6 million gas-fired water heaters are sold. The energy saving, in terms of reduced gas consumption is up to 50%, which represents 300 USD per year for a typical household for example in the US. This means that an investment can be paid back within 3 years:

– We estimate the global market potential for this concept to at least 1 billion EUR per year. Alfa Laval solves an important and strategic piece of the puzzle for us: They have everything from the technical competence and manufacturing capabilities to the sales network that are necessary to accelerate our common solution globally. This marks only the beginning of a long and very interesting journey together, Karl Bohman continues.

For more information, please contact:

Karl Bohman, CEO at ClimateWell
+46 705-600 268, karl.bohman@climatewell.com

Ann-Charlotte Björkegren, Central Communication Manager, Product Centres Alfa Laval
+46 709 89 51 17 anncharlotte.bjorkegren@alfalaval.com

About Alfa Laval:

Alfa Laval is a leading global provider of specialized products and engineering solutions based on its key technologies of heat transfer, separation and fluid handling.

The company's equipment, systems and services are dedicated to assisting customers in optimizing the performance of their processes. The solutions help them to heat, cool, separate and transport products in industries that produce food and beverages, chemicals and petrochemicals, pharmaceuticals, starch, sugar and ethanol.

Alfa Laval's products are also used in power plants, aboard ships, oil and gas exploration, in the mechanical engineering industry, in the mining industry and for wastewater treatment, as well as for comfort climate and refrigeration applications.

Alfa Laval's worldwide organization works closely with customers in nearly 100 countries to help them stay ahead in the global arena.

Alfa Laval is listed on Nasdaq OMX, and, in 2014, posted annual sales of about SEK 35.1 billion (approx. 3.85 billion Euros). The company has about 18 000 employees.

About ClimateWell:

ClimateWell is a leading cleantech and innovation company headquartered in Stockholm that has successfully developed and patented a unique form of absorption technology. It is based on salt crystals, which can store chemical energy and convert it to heating and cooling without using any electricity or moving parts.

ClimateWell's technology is currently applied in the fields of solar-powered heating and cooling in buildings, heat-driven air conditioning in heavy-duty vehicles and gas-fired water heaters for residential. ClimateWell's components are integrated in those applications by major OEM customers like GE, Rheem and Caterpillar.

The Company has won awards such as the "GE Ecomagination Award" and the "Technology Pioneer of the Year" at the World Economic Forum in Davos.