



VASA DEBUTS OPTEON AT WIRE & GAS 2013

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VASA will make Australian history at its Wire & Gas Training Convention on the Gold Coast next month with the country's first working demonstration system operating on Opteon, the new HFO-1234yf refrigerant.

The system will be charged from the first cylinder of the new refrigerant to be imported into Australia by DuPont. It will be a fitting celebration for the industry network founded 20 years ago on the Gold Coast to lift work practices associated with the use of refrigerants in mobile applications.

The Opteon demonstration will take place during technical sessions at Wire & Gas on 9 and 10 June during training sessions at Australia's newest state of the art HVAC and refrigeration test centre at Ormeau on the northern Gold Coast.

This is a first for the Australian auto air conditioning industry and the result of a close collaboration between the refrigerant and system manufacturers. The company which developed and is now manufacturing the new replacement refrigerant for R134a, DuPont, has supplied the first cylinder to the SuperCool Asia Pacific HVAC and Refrigeration Test Centre for the specific showing for the first time to VASA members.

Others involved in the demonstration are Unicla, the compressor designer and manufacturer, Burgaflex, whose hose and fittings are already certified for the new refrigerant and Shrieve, which makes the compressor lubricant.

Both DuPont and SuperCool have supported VASA as sponsors of the annual training event and have worked around the clock to prepare Australia's first Opteon demonstration on a small truck air conditioning system.

DuPont business manager in Australia, John McCormack, said the initiative would give his company the opportunity to demonstrate the performance of Opteon and share with Australasia's leading technicians the correct handling procedures for this new generation of refrigerants.

"It will also show how service workshops in the VASA network, which maintain strong training regimes for their technicians can take a professional position and remain at the forefront of industry changes," said John.

"Opteon will have different handling and safety requirements to R134a and the VASA workshops should be at the forefront of the air conditioning service and repair sector in promoting these new standards," he added.

Opteon represents a scientific breakthrough for DuPont, because their new refrigerant was designed to meet the European Union directive to reduce the climate impact of air conditioning in cars. The only approved refrigerant till now, R134a, had a global warming potential of 1430, while Opteon's global warming potential is only 4.

SuperCool Asia Pacific managing director, and VASA founding president, Mark Mitchell has confirmed that Unicla International has been conducting HFO-1234yf testing on their compressors for the past two years in readiness for the arrival of Opteon to the market. Similarly, Burgaflex, represented in the Asia Pacific region under the SuperCool banner, has tested the relative fittings and its BURGACLIP connection system which will be used in the system on display next month.

“Convention delegates will be able to see proper HFO-1234yf compliant components that meet all relative standards and testing. This is the beginning of an exciting new era,” said Mark Mitchell.

