

## COUNTRY REPORT: CHINA

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# climate control

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KEY PERSPECTIVES ON THE REGION'S HVACR INDUSTRY

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## EUROPE'S SHIFT TO NATURAL REFRIGERANTS PALPABLE, SAYS LU-VE GROUP

Representative of Italian company highlights advantages of CO<sub>2</sub>; shares strategy in view of emerging trends

By Hannah Jo Uy | Features Writer

Europe, along with the rest of the world, is moving towards the adoption of natural refrigerants, such as CO<sub>2</sub>, ammonia, glycol and R290, said Fabio Liberali, Chief Communications Officer, Lu-Ve Group. "In particular, the use of CO<sub>2</sub> fluid is becoming more and more popular as a radical solution to eliminate the greenhouse effect caused by halogenated hydrocarbons in the HFC category," Liberali added. "The Global Warming Potential (GWP) of CO<sub>2</sub> is, in fact, very low compared to HFCs – one against several thousands; also, CO<sub>2</sub> does not present any problems of toxicity and flammability nor of impact on the ozone layer."

Providing an example, Liberali said the company has invested in CO<sub>2</sub> by designing



Fabio Liberali

a test plant in its laboratory. "The test equipment is made up of a climatic room operating at a constant temperature," he said. "It is one of the few plants with such characteristics available in Europe dedicated to heat exchangers." Lu-Ve, Liberali said, has also developed a line of products specifically for CO<sub>2</sub> unit coolers

as well as for sophisticated gas coolers, which "in transcritical CO<sub>2</sub> plants substitute traditional condensers in HFC installations".

Liberali said that the company is positioning itself with certifications, as well, saying that in 2000, the company was the first in Europe to obtain Eurovent "Certify All" certification for the whole range of its unit coolers, air-cooled condensers and dry coolers, providing assurance for optimum operating conditions and minimum cost throughout the whole life cycle of the installation. Eurovent, Liberali explained, certifies all the information given in the catalogue, such as power rating, air quantity, energy consumption, noise level and construction features.