

MITSUBISHI ELECTRIC WELCOMES EU'S RECOGNITION OF HEAT PUMPS AS RENEWABLE TECHNOLOGIES

EU Directive on the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources places technology alongside wind and solar

London, 23rd December 2008:

Mitsubishi Electric Europe has welcomed the decision by the European Parliament to adopt the European Directive on the Promotion of Renewable Energy Sources, which officially classifies ground and air source heat pumps as renewable energy technologies.

The new legislation, adopted on December 17th 2008, means that each EU member state should increase the proportion of energy it generates from sustainable sources and that the vital contribution of aérothermal and hydrothermal energy sources to this challenge will be recognised.

Martin Fahey, Green Gateway Initiative Manager, for Mitsubishi Electric Europe Living Environmental Systems said:

“This legislation has overwhelmingly agreed to class air source and ground source heat pumps as renewable technology. This places heat pump technology alongside other accepted renewable technologies such as wind and solar. The sun warms the air and ground every day and as such has always, in our view, been a renewable source. This decision merely supports our position.

“The other good news from this decision is that to be classed as renewable a minimum COP (Coefficient of performance) of 2.9 is required. COP is a measure of how efficient a system is, so 2.9 means that for every 1 unit of energy consumed, 2.9 units of heat energy are produced. Mitsubishi Electric Living Environmental systems have many units that far exceed this limit, including our award winning Ecodan air to water heat pump.”

Currently, 40% of all European energy consumption is spent on buildings, so the development of low energy technologies for heating, cooling and ventilating buildings has an important role to play in the reduction of carbon emissions. Air to air heat pumps as part of air conditioning systems are already making a large contribution to reducing emissions in commercial environments while air to water systems are beginning to replace conventional boiler systems for space and water heating in domestic applications.

In September 2008, Mitsubishi Electric announced an expansion of its European R&D facilities (split between two laboratories in Guildford, Surrey and Rennes in France), and the creation of a new division called Energy and Environment, specializing in photovoltaic, air conditioning and heat pump technologies, which will play a vital role in improving European energy efficiency.

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About Mitsubishi Electric

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