

Cool change for automotive air-conditioning

Visteon Corporation, the United States, recently exhibited its advances in climate control technology at the 2000 SAE Automotive Alternate Refrigerant Systems Symposium. An enhanced R-134a system demonstrated progress in key areas. It combines state-of-the-art system and component technologies, which improve overall efficiency by 30 per cent while reducing refrigerant charge by up to 18 per cent.

Another system that is being tested and refined operates with a gas – pure carbon dioxide (CO₂) – that is more eco-friendly than traditional refrigerants.

Studies indicate that CO₂ systems have at least comparable ability to cool vehicle compartments. A third system takes CO₂ technology a step further by mixing it with a “co-fluid.” This combination reduces operating pressures to traditional levels and allows the use of current automotive refrigeration components.

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(Website: <http://www.visteon.com/news/features/092500.htm>)