



Contact:

Kasey Arnold-Ince
415-883-2300, ext 19
Karnold-ince@paxstreamline.com

PAX Streamline Launches Solar Air Conditioning

September 14, San Rafael, California—Cleantech pioneer PAX Streamline introduced its high-efficiency air conditioning solution today at the Food Marketing Institute's (FMI) Annual Energy & Technical Services Conference in Palm Springs. The product, named Sonoma Cool, employs innovative liquid desiccant (LDAC) technology and solar heat to remove the humidity from outside air before cooling, effectively reducing the energy costs for commercial HVAC.

Conventional air conditioning employs a roundabout system that first chills the outside air far below the comfort zone to condense out the water, then re-heats the air to the traditional comfort temperature of 72° F (23° C) and 50% humidity. This is extremely energy intensive, with dehumidification consuming as much as 80% of the energy employed for HVAC. Sonoma Cool's LDAC strategy can cut these HVAC energy costs by up to 25%.

"For too long, we've ignored the low-hanging fruit of energy efficiency," said John Webley, PAX CEO. "Sonoma Cool will allow shopping malls, hospitals, office buildings, movie theatres, and other commercial buildings to instantly realize the costs benefits of efficient energy usage." He continued, "Supermarkets and cold storage warehouses will experience an additional benefit: their refrigeration cases will also perform more efficiently with Sonoma Cool managing the facility's humidity."

The Sonoma Cool system, which leverages salt, water, and heat for its low energy dehumidification process, can take that heat from a solar thermal or hot air PVT array, or employ low grade waste heat from the building's refrigeration (or other) equipment.

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PAX Scientific is an industrial design firm that employs a fundamental scientific discovery, called the PAX Streamlining Principle, to translate natural flow efficiencies into streamlined geometries. The company then uses these geometries to create designs that significantly improve the performance, output, and energy usage of a wide range of industrial and domestic equipment. PAX Streamline's latest offering is the high-efficiency air conditioning solution, Sonoma Cool.

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