



Frixis

Duurzame langetermijnoplossing voor koelopslag

“De opdracht van de
installateur wordt steeds
complexer”

GOLD luchtbehandelings-
kasten: 30 jaar innovatie

GeoTherma:
De warmtepomp
herdacht

“Knowledge is key when it comes to making the refrigeration sector more sustainable”

Founded in 1977 by Leo Michiels, Proviron can proudly and justifiably call itself an established name in the chemical sector. Through a strategy of specialization and sustainable development, this Belgian company grew into a key supplier with an impeccable reputation for flexibility and customer focus. Today, Proviron has factories in Belgium (Hemiksem and Ostend), the USA (Friendly, West Virginia) and an office in China (Hangzhou), serving customers in various industries worldwide.

BY RUDY GUNST

In 2022, Proviron gained greater name recognition in the refrigeration sector when a new blending unit was commissioned in Hemiksem for Proviflow. This installation is specialized for inhibited glycol blending and allows orders for Heat Transfer Fluids (HTF) to be processed faster and more efficiently. This installation is unique in the chemical industry, allowing the customer to choose the dilution, color and packaging of their HTF prior production. Proviflow Heat Transfer Fluids (HTF) have the same function as a glycol solution, namely heat transfer, but has unique anti-corrosion, anti-scaling and anti-biologic attributes thanks to Proviflow's revolutionary chemical inhibitor composition. Proviflow contains carefully selected additives for optimal corrosion protection of various metals and alloys. This formulation is engineered to protect vital components of a cooling system, while extending operational life and reducing the risk of failure and efficiency losses.

Proviflow is currently available in three core variations. Proviflow N is a monoethylene glycol-based HTF, while Proviflow L

and Proviflow FG are monopropylene glycol-based HTFs. More specifically, Proviflow FG is an NSF-HT1 approved product, meaning it is certified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for use in food production and pharmaceutical applications. This

brings us to the subject of this article: an open conversation with America's Anthony Internicola (Commercial Manager Proviflow America & RETA Blue Ridge Chapter Board Member) Jim Barron (Executive Director of RETA) and Mike Hawkins (National President of RETA)



The proviron team at RETA National Conference 2023 in Jacksonville (Florida): Gregory Jansseune, Janet Sebastian and Anthony Internicola.

AIM Act

excited to share our know-how and drive innovation in sustainable secondary cooling. You know, in Europe it is sometimes thought that Americans pay less attention to sustainability, and we are often focused on money. This isn't exactly accurate. The European Union drives F-gas legislation via the Green Deal. The US has the AIM Act (nvd American Innovation and Manufac-

turing Act). The AIM Act empowers the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to counter the harmful impact of HFCs in various industries. It does so on three fronts: gradually reducing the production and use of listed HFCs, tightening controls on HFCs and their substitutes, and facilitating the transition to next-generation technologies through sector-specific restrictions."

"This is the theoretical description, but similar to European F-gas legislation, U.S. legislation prioritizes GWP, quotas, leakage rates, smaller refrigeration volumes, etc. via the AIM Act. We are fighting the same battle to meet climate goals. Maybe at a different pace and with different (intermediate) objectives, but in the end we all still want the climate to be protected."

Knowledge transfer

As in Europe, knowledge transfer is also central in the US. In order to achieve sustainability objectives, it is a prerequisite that knowledge about new environmentally friendly technologies is shared and that there is defined and constructive cooperation within the industry to accelerate product development. Proviron wants to play an active role here and is a valued member of RETA, the Refrigeration Engineers and Technicians Association, for this purpose. Founded in 1910 (!), RETA ensures the professional development of industrial refrigeration operators and refrigeration technicians.

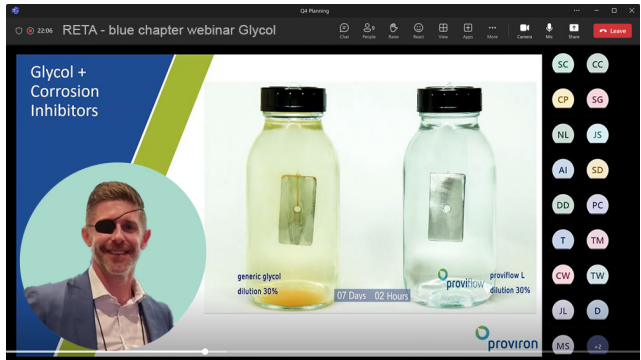
It does this by organizing training courses, networking events and a congress, among other things. RETA is an international association of individuals and companies involved in the design, operation and maintenance of industrial refrigeration systems. Mike Hawkins is the National RETA President. "What makes RETA successful is it's people and how they organize. It consists of regional 'chapters' which are led by industry professionals and stake holders. It's not a competitive division of participation based on company, but the geographic clustering of refrigeration installers in the field. This creates a unique dynamic. The chapters interact with each other and thus, a great deal of "theoretical" knowledge, and practical experience is transferred. Professionals, students and experts working in the HVAC and refrigeration industry who want to continue their education and network with industry professionals should really consider joining our organization."

Transformation

Jim Barron is the Executive Director of RETA and oversees the day-to-day operations of the organization. Jim joined RETA's certification committee in 2001, became chair of that committee in 2002 and began working toward RETA's (American National Standards Institute) ANSI accreditation.

RETA received ANSI accreditation in 2008. In 2009, Jim became the national president of RETA. In all, Jim counts 40 years of experience in refrigeration and management. More specifically, he spent many years working with industrial and commercial refrigeration, including large freezers and cold storage at National Frozen Foods, among others.

"Quality and future-oriented training of refrigeration installers is key to making the refrigeration industry sustainable," Jim Bar-



ron sounds confident. "Or in other words, the more comprehensive the knowledge of the professional, the faster the refrigeration sector can become more sustainable. But training is necessary in so many other ways.

Consider safety. Harmful refrigerant gases are increasingly being replaced by low-GWP and natural refrigerants, but these pose new challenges for installers: higher operating pressures, toxicity, flammability."

"If you've been installing commercial refrigeration units with R134a or industrial chillers with R404a for years, you don't just switch to the natural alternatives like CO2, propane or ammonia, for example. How do I select the best refrigerant case by case considering variables like durability, safety, reliability and energy efficiency?

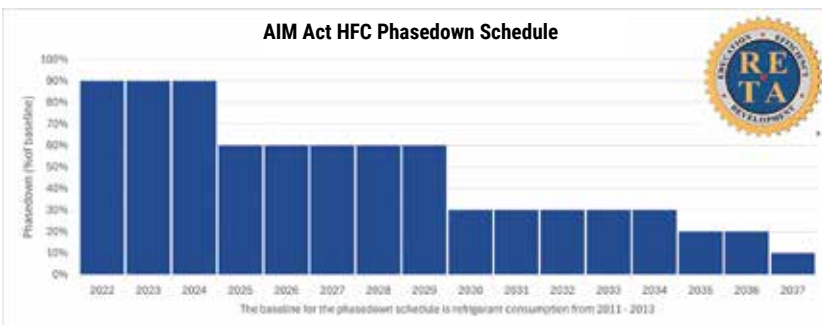
What are the specific design and installation considerations? Which components do I select? What about maintenance and repairs? Industrial refrigeration contractors, technicians, end users, and operators must be prepared for this. RETA plays a key role here thanks to our wide range of training courses and a high-performance certification program at different levels. For this, we count on an intense and fruitful collaboration with the industry." Companies such as Proviron are an

important link, as the course content corresponds to the practice and available products and services.

Podcast

Anthony Internicola nods in agreement. "We do our part to keep the training courses up-to-date with new trends and technological developments. Through this, the installers also learn how they can better leverage new products like Proviflow, ultimately providing better service to their customers and safer conditions for operators, technicians and the environment. We also get to learn from their perspective and the application of legislation, to develop more sustainable cooling solutions faster, better and more effectively."

In the Belgian and European markets, we know that knowledge and training is a key factor in achieving the Green deal's objectives. The better trained our refrigeration system installers, technicians and operators are, the more efficient the roll-out 'in the field' will be. We can further tailor our products and services accordingly.



on October 14th a podcast about the sustainable use of a glycol solution will appear soon via Cool & Comfort.

www.proviron.com/proviflow