

VTech e-news

Industry News

#6

Tradeshow Report: IKK

VTech exhibited at the IKK show held in Nuremberg, Germany this past October. IKK is Europe's largest exhibition for Air Conditioning and Refrigeration.

VTech's portable Pre-evacuation system and VTech 100 entry-level charging machine were on display. Additionally, our VTech 75 leak detection and location system was demonstrated by testing A/C coils.

The show featured nearly 30,000 visitors and almost 900 companies from 90 countries, including 149 from Italy – where VTech's European headquarters are located. Next year the show moves to Stuttgart when it will begin a biennial schedule.

VTech's presence continues to grow, with sales representatives and technical support centers being established worldwide.



Customer Focus: Coil Specialists Adds Second VTech 75

Owing to the success of the first VTech installation, Coil Specialist of Gilmer, TX has added a second VTech 75 Pressure Decay Leak Tester and Hydrogen sniffer on their testing lines.

"We're very happy with the equipment" remarks Gerry Averett, President of CSI. "The bottom line is that the new testing process is fast and highly accurate. What a difference compared with the under-water testing that used to be the standard in the coil industry."

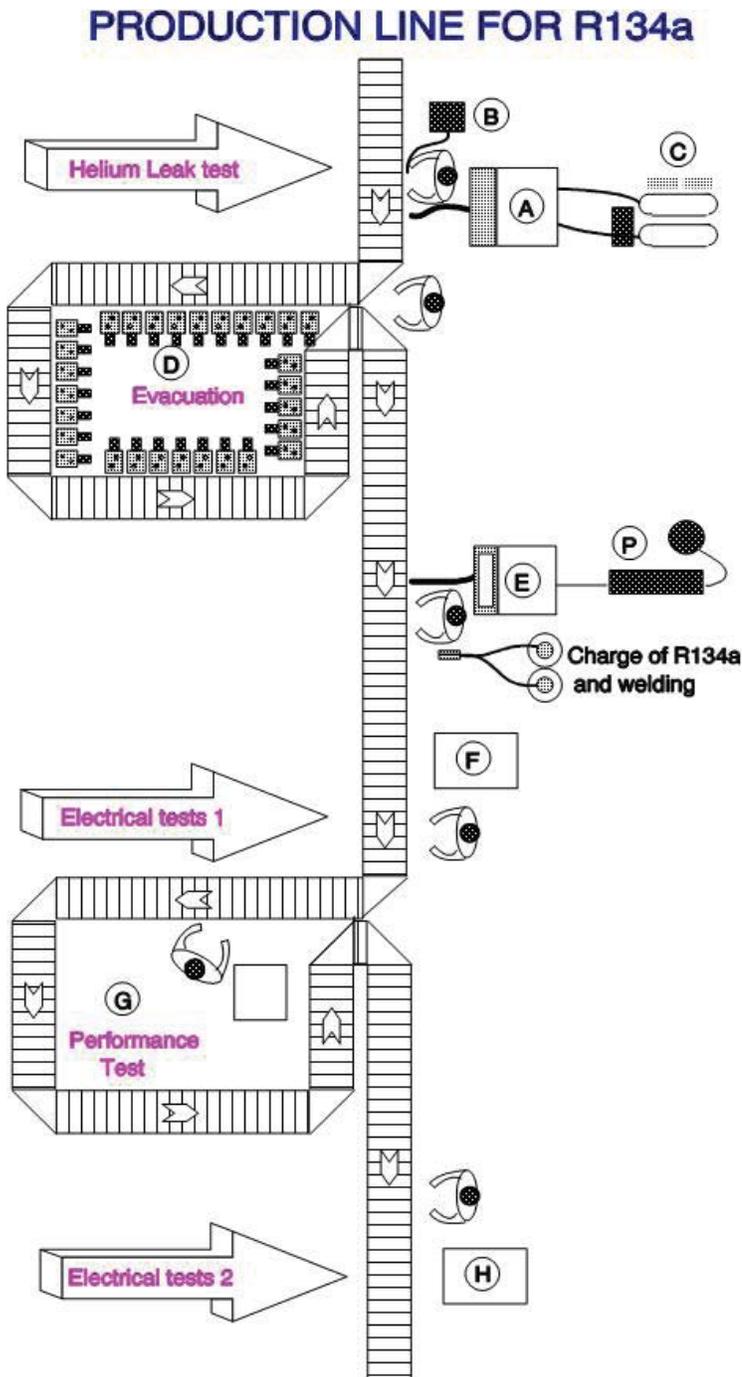
Another innovative feature of the

VTech equipment is the use of hydrogen as a tracer gas vs. the more common helium. In addition to being a smaller and highly mobile molecule, hydrogen has very low background noise (i.e. it does not pollute the testing area). This results in a higher up-time for the leak-detector.

Recent upgrades to the first machine were also performed, demonstrating the expandability of the equipment. Call your nearest VTech office for a live demonstration of this technology.



Technical Focus



Assembly Lines – The Big Picture

When it comes to designing a new assembly line or adding new equipment to an existing one, VTech draws from decades of hands-on experience of its technical staff.

Technical Director Bill Wright Jr. says “We always jump at the opportunity to walk through a plant and discuss the manufacturing plans of our customers. Whether it’s a new line built from scratch or integrating one of our pieces of equipment in an existing lay-out, we can do it. That’s where our experience as manufacturing engineers in large companies really pays off.”

The illustration shows an example of an assembly line for commercial refrigeration: leak testing, pre-evacuation, refrigerant charging, electrical and performance test. A key aspect is that the refrigeration circuit is fully leak-checked before refrigerant is introduced into the system. “This saves a lot of headaches trying to recover refrigerants from leaky systems,” Bill adds.

Table Key

- A. Helium Charging unit
- B. Helium Leak Detector
- C. Helium Recovery unit

- D. Pre-Evacuation
- E. Refrigerant Charging
- F. Preliminary Electrical Test
- G. Performance Tester
- H. Final Electrical Safety Tester

The Refrigerant Issue

As easy as it sounds, we find that old habits are hard to change. As in the previous case study about the A/C coil industry, it will take time to change the established method of checking for fine leaks at the end of the line (i.e. after the circuit is filled with refrigerant).

Based on the Kyoto Protocol, New regulations in Europe concerning the Global Warming Potential of common refrigerants such as R134

are coming into effect (see our summer newsletter for more information). Thoughts are that eventually the US will also follow suit, making it more important than ever to keep refrigerant dispersion to a minimum level.

This is just one more area where planning one's plant layout will be vital – not only in adhering to regulations, but for having a neutral effect on the environment.

Company News

VTech Launches Online Demo of Leak Detection Equipment

Brochures and spec sheets are all fine and good, but we took it one step further by making a demonstration video of our Leak Detection systems, the VTech 75 and VTech CombiTester, available online. Our own Technical Director Bill Wright Jr walks you through the set-up and operation of the system, during the leak test of A/C coils. Click on the link below to play the video.



Launch Video



Say hello to our lovable walrus, VTech's mascot. Unfortunately though, it doesn't have a name. Please send us your suggestion by email at americas@vtechonline.com The selected entry will receive a \$100 pre-paid gas card.



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