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# RADIANT & HYDRONICS E - NEWS

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**Radiant & Hydronics e-News week ending April 14, 2006**

## Radiant & Hydronics e-News Welcomes You!

Welcome to **Radiant & Hydronics e-News**, the industry's only electronic newsletter focusing on radiant and hydronic heating, brought to you FREE by *Plumbing & Mechanical*, *PM Engineer* and *Supply House Times* magazines. You are receiving this because you've opted in or checked "Yes" to receive an e-newsletter when you updated your magazine subscription recently. We are excited to add you as a reader and will be sending you **R&H e-News** twice monthly, plus occasional special editions.



If upon review you decide you would prefer not to receive **R&H e-News**, simply use the "opt-out" box at the bottom of this newsletter.

In this edition, learn about

- Some extreme energy projects in Norway involving sewer heat
- Stay up-to-date with economic news
- Sign up for upcoming events and training opportunities
- Enter *PM's* Best-Looking Truck Contest.

Also, don't forget to visit our sponsors, who have new products and innovation announcements at their Web sites. Just click through!

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## Industry News

### Next: Sewer Energy To Heat Homes

To combat rising oil and fuel prices, a new energy project in Oslo, Norway, taps the heat from raw sewage to warm homes and offices. Large machines at the end of 300-meter long tunnels use fridge technology to pull heat from the sewers and transfer it to a network of hot water pipes feeding thousands of radiators and taps around the city. The heat pump cost \$13.95 million and has an effect of 18 megawatts, enough to heat 9,000 flats or save burning 5,900 tons of oil a year. A larger heat pump in Sweden has a 160-megawatt capacity, and a 90-megawatt plant recently ran on wastewater in Finland.

### RPA Goes Online With Testing, Certification

The [Radiant Panel Association](#) will be beta-testing plans to offer its Radiant Basic and Precision classes online in May and will launch [www.rpacampus.com](http://www.rpacampus.com) sometime in June. At the same time, the RPA is also working with a national online testing company to allow its members to more easily take its certification classes at local RPA member supply houses throughout the country. RPAcampus.com will allow contractors to attend "webinars" of half-hour segments of the Radiant Basics and Precision classes. With the proper computer equipment, users will be able to follow along with a Power Point demonstration, and both hear the instructor's voice and ask questions in real time either through microphone or text messaging.

### Construction Employment Rises Nationally

The [Bureau of Labor Statistics](#) (BLS) reported that construction employment edged up 7,000 to a record 7.5 million, following gains of 44,000 in January and 37,000 in February. For the past 12 months, overall construction employment increased 311,000 (4.3%): residential specialty trade contractors, 6%; residential and nonresidential building, 4% each; and nonresidential specialty trade contractors, 2%. The [Institute for Supply Management's](#) March survey of purchasing executives listed eight items in short supply - all construction-related items. Items that were up in price included: aluminum products/wire, concrete/ready mix, copper products, diesel fuel, freight/shipping costs, lumber, and steel products.

### Hurricane-Area Firms Dealing With Labor Shortage

Companies on the U.S. Gulf Coast face a dramatically smaller labor pool since last year's Hurricanes Dennis, Katrina, Wilma and Rita and has prompted more than a quarter to raise wages, said a study by [Salary.com](#), a Needham, Mass.-based compensation research and data company. One-third of the 119 companies surveyed also said they offered housing assistance, from free or subsidized shelter to home repair loans.

### GAMA Elects New Chairman

Members of [GAMA](#) elected **William S. Rafferty**, executive vice president of [Mestek Inc.](#), as Chairman of GAMA, along with other new officers for 2006-2007 at its 71st Annual Meeting in Phoenix: First Vice Chairman **Patrick J. Quilty**, vice president combustion controls North America, [Honeywell International](#); Second Vice Chairman **Halsey Cook**, president North American residential [Carrier Corp.](#); Treasurer **Robert J. McDonough**, president and COO worldwide heating and cooling [Lennox International](#); Director-at-Large **Charles Carroll**, president and CEO Goodman Global Holdings Inc.; Director-at-Large **Bonnie Kern-Koskela**, president and CEO [Maxitrol Co.](#); Director-at-Large **Simon Parfitt**, president [Rheem](#) Water Heater Division.

### Certifying The 'Wet' Side Too

[NATE](#) and [GAMA](#) announced the release of new hydronic heating tests for the

### Calendar Of Events

April 19

[Radiant Basics Course](#)

Queens, NY

April 20

[MEC Seminar](#)

Edison, NJ

April 20

[Viessmann Academy 'Taking Control'](#)

Warwick, RI

April 20-21

[Lochinvar's Copper-Fin II Product School](#)

Lebanon, TN

April 21

[MEC Seminar](#)

Syracuse, NY

April 21-23

[Kitchen & Bath Industry Show](#)

Chicago

April 24-25

[I=B=R School](#)

Salt Lake City

April 27-28

[I=B=R School](#)

Denver

May 1-2

[RadFest West](#)

Tacoma, WA

May 4

[Viiega Training Program: Basic Radiant](#)

Bedford, MA

May 8-9

[I=B=R School](#)

Seattle

May 11-12

[I=B=R School](#)

Spokane, WA

May 12

[Viessmann Academy 'Say Hello to Solar'](#)

Warwick, RI

NATE series of certification exams. Each test follows the standard for technician certification. They're available through NATE's system of testing organizations. Visit [www.natex.org](http://www.natex.org) under the "Information Forms & Data" heading for more information, or contact **Carl Smith** at 703/600-0361.

### Send PM Your 'Best-Looking Truck'

[Plumbing & Mechanical](#) wants to show off your wheels in its 2006 Best-Looking Truck Contest. This year, contest sponsor [General Pipe Cleaners](#) will give each category winner a \$250 rebate on any of the company's equipment. To enter, send a few photos of your service vehicles for the following categories: Best-looking Pickup Truck; Best-Looking Panel Van; Best-Looking Box Truck; Best-Looking Inside. Enter as many categories as you'd like. Include a contact name and phone number with all photo submissions, and mail entries to:

**PM Best-Looking Truck Contest**  
1050 IL Route 83, Suite 200  
Bensenville, IL 60106

Or e-mail your entry to: [smiths@bnppmedia.com](mailto:smiths@bnppmedia.com). Please be sure to set your digital camera to its highest resolution. The contest deadline is July 7, 2006

### NY Hydronics Seminar Qualifies For CEU Credits

This month's Syracuse, N.Y., [Modern Engineering Concepts](#) seminar (April 21) by **John Siegenthaler** now qualifies for CEU Credits for professional engineers and is recognized by AIA. To sign up for MEC courses or for further information, visit [www.bnpevents.com/mec](http://www.bnpevents.com/mec).



### Company News

#### Taco Upgrades Facility Comfort System

[Taco Inc.](#) has completed a major upgrade to its indoor comfort system at its main facility in Cranston, R.I. - a \$3.5 million co-generation heat/air conditioning system includes new [Burnham](#) boilers in a mechanical room that had previously been a receiving area. The new comfort system is a Taco LoadMatch™ single pipe system. Local electric utility National Grid is providing the company with a \$200,000 electrical rebate for one year based on the new system and its anticipated energy consumption savings.

#### Live Webcast For Knight Heating Boiler

[Lochinvar](#) will host a webcast on [HVACTV.com](#) May 2 for its Knight Heating Boiler with **Ike Gatlin**, boiler product manager, and **Mike Lahti**, vice president of sales. The webcast will give viewers an opportunity to get an up-close view of the new product, and have their questions answered live during the session. The webcast will be aired Tuesday, May 2 at 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Central time, and again at 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Central time. In order to gain access, viewers must visit [www.hvactv.com](http://www.hvactv.com).

#### Appleseed Introduces New Power!Plans For Contractors

Hydronic industry consultant **Al Levi's** [Appleseed Business Inc.](#) has released a group of new business improvement tools for use by contracting business owners. Called Power!Plans™, each of the four comprehensive sets addresses a critical area of the contracting business and provides the information, systems and forms which an owner can use to master the challenges of that particular

May 14-18  
[NAOHSM Convention & Trade Show](#)  
Hartford, CT

May 22  
[Dead Men Steam Night School](#)  
Cleveland

May 23  
[Viega Training Program: Combi-Flex](#)  
Bedford, MA

May 23  
[MEC Seminar](#)  
Seattle

May 23  
[Dead Men Steam Night School](#)  
Detroit

May 23-24  
[I=B=R Schools](#)  
Minneapolis

May 24  
[Dead Men Steam Night School](#)  
Grand Rapids, MI

May 25  
[MEC Seminar](#)  
Anchorage, Alaska

May 25  
[Viega Training Program: Heavy Metals](#)  
Bedford, MA

May 25-26  
[I=B=R Schools](#)  
Eau Claire, WI

June 1  
[Viessmann Academy 'Taking Control'](#)  
Warwick, RI

June 12-13  
[Innovative Thinking: Hiring-Training-Retention](#)  
Lake Lanier Island, GA

June 23  
[Viega Training Program: How to Sell Radiant](#)  
Bedford, MA

aspect of his/her business. Power!Plans is available either individually, at \$395 each, or as a complete set for \$1,185. To order visit [www.appleseedbusiness.com](http://www.appleseedbusiness.com).

### Recent Appointments

- [Laars Heating Systems Co.](#) announced the appointment of **Brian J. Iske** to the position of director of engineering. Iske will lead the company's engineering staff and will report directly to the vice-president and general manager of Laars.
- [Raypak Inc.](#) has named **Steve Thurkill** as national sales manager, replacing **Stan Young** who retired last year. Steve has been with Raypak since 1992. Assuming the central west regional sales manager position is **Bob Ellis**, who brings over 18 years of experience in the boiler business.



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### R&H Box Score

#### Radiant Market Study Results

[PM magazine](#) recently completed a survey of hydronic and radiant contractors in order to evaluate the state of the radiant heating industry. Several market trends were identified, and the study results will be featured in this year's **Radiant Heating Report** in June.

One of the questions focused on last year's tubing installations. In 2005 more than 44% of respondents installed between 10,000 and 50,000 feet of radiant tubing; 41% installed between 1,000 and 10,000 feet; 8% installed 50,000 to 100,000 feet; and 6% installed 100,000 to 500,000 feet. Only 1% of respondents installed over 500,000 feet of radiant tubing.

*How much radiant tubing did you install last year?*

July 20  
[Viega Training Program: Combi-Flex](#)  
Bedford, MA

July 28  
[Viessmann Academy 'Say Hello to Solar'](#)  
Warwick, RI

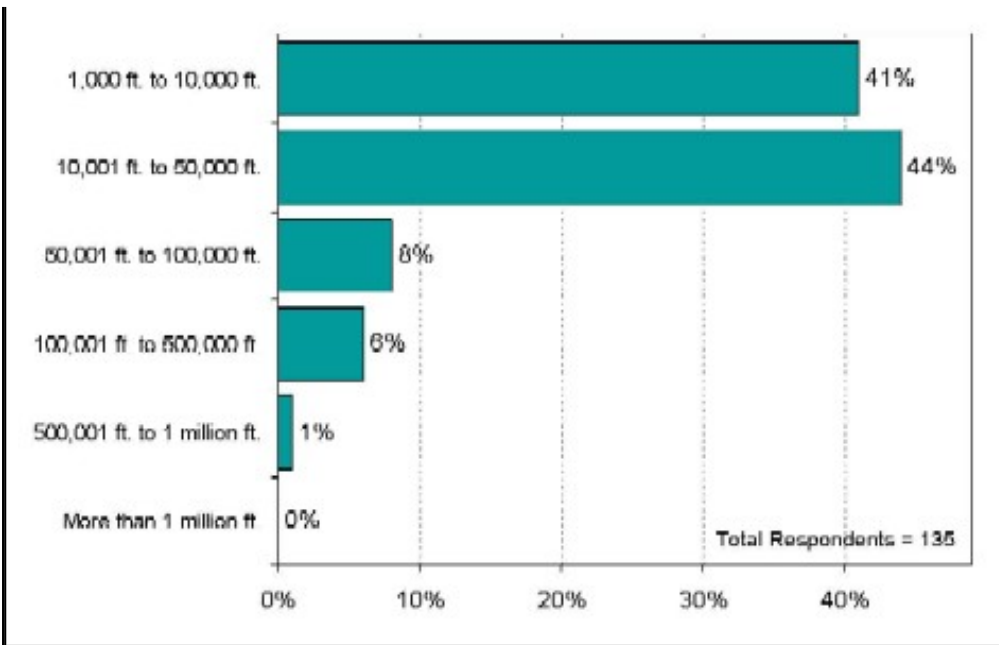
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## Online Now



### It's A New Age For Hydronic System Performance

Just 15 years ago, manufacturers were barely trading water, cranking out replacement boilers at a slower pace each year. The burgeoning new construction market wouldn't have anything to do with hydronics. It was a pretty dismal scene.

Today, the hydronics industry has emerged with an extreme makeover - moving at warp speed with confidence and clear direction. This month in *PM Engineer*, author **John Vastyan** helps explain this phenomenon by tapping the experience and expertise of several industry experts.

[Read the Complete Article @ PMEngineer.com](http://www.PMEngineer.com)

*Grundfos image*

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## Did You Know . . .

### Self-employed people are happier.

Recent UK research found that people who run their own businesses enjoy greater job satisfaction. Academics at the University of Durham discovered that the self-employed have more flexibility and independence, which makes them much happier than those employed by others. The scientists also found that entrepreneurs put up with longer hours because they were worried about how much money they would have in the future.

## Product Showcase



### Grundfos CR Series Pumps

**Grundfos** CR series pumps cover a performance range unmatched by any other pump manufacturer in its field. Superior engineering makes these pumps suitable for a variety of applications - from drinking water to high viscosity liquids. Our unique hydraulic design and the patented production techniques allow the CR to offer the highest efficiency of any multi-stage centrifugal pumps in the world.

## New Products



**Luxury Towel Warmer:** [Myson Inc.'s](http://www.myson.com) new Hydronic AquaVision Towel Warmer provides warmth, beauty and a 17" x 12" flatscreen TV for your bath or spa. Available in four different wall-mounted styles, manufactured of high-quality brass, and delivers up to 2,819 Btu/hr. [www.myson.com](http://www.myson.com).

**EZ PEX Installation:** With [Zurn Industries'](http://www.zurn.com) new, patent pending QickClamp™, installers can make tube-to-fitting connections of multiple sizes with just one crimping tool; one tool fits all four sizes of the fitting (3/8", 1/2", 3/4" and 1"). [www.zurn.com](http://www.zurn.com).



## Industry Links

[Radiant Panel Association](#)  
[National Association Of Oil Heat Service Managers](#)  
[Canadian Hydronics Council](#)  
[Plastic Pipe & Fittings Association](#)  
[American Society of Plumbing Engineers](#)  
[GAMA](#)  
[US Dept. of Energy](#)  
[ISH North America](#)  
[HeatingHelp.com](#)  
[HydronicPros.com](#)





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[www.innovativethinkingconf.com](http://www.innovativethinkingconf.com)



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