



Press Release

Proven energy efficiencies via EC upgrade technology

Building Services Engineers globally are quickly realising the energy reduction potential in their buildings through upgrading HVAC equipment to innovative Electronically Commutated (EC) Fans from ebm-papst, the global innovation leader in fan, motor and control technology.

An EC motor is a mains fed, brushless, permanent magnet motor with electronic commutation. EC motors are more than 90% efficient in converting electrical input into air power. As a result, they consume up to 70% less energy, compared to AC technology. EC cost savings can mean payback periods as good as 12 months

HVAC equipment accounts for 40% of the energy consumption in a commercial building. One of the simplest ways to reduce the energy consumption in buildings is to ensure that all HVAC equipment is fitted with the highest efficiency EC fans.

All businesses are under increasing pressure to reduce their energy consumption whether it be as a result of rising energy costs or the need to reduce carbon emissions. It is therefore important that solutions are found for the simplest and most cost effective ways of reducing a buildings energy consumption.

A complete retrofit or replacement of a system is not needed to maximise performance and reduce energy consumption and maintenance costs. Simply switching to variable EC fans in chillers, air handling units (AHUs) and fan coils will improve efficiencies and cut costs.

In the case of Marks and Spencer, 1,404 fans and 258 condensers were rolled out in 152 Marks and Spencer stores across the UK and Ireland. The EC technology substantially improved the energy performance of the refrigeration systems in the stores with annual savings estimated at £500,000. The project took just three months to complete and was part of an energy saving exercise to reduce the carbon footprint across the estate.

Upgrading to EC fans offers the following key benefits:

- Up to 70% reduction in energy consumption
- Integrated, infinitely variable speed control
- Reduced noise
- Payback periods as low as 2 years
- Direct drive motors for maintenance free operation
- They are in most cases directly interchangeable with their inefficient predecessors, allowing for simple replacement with minimal disruption.

Whilst many new facilities built in the UK already incorporate EC fans in their HVAC equipment, most older buildings continue to use inefficient equipment. Rather than spending capital on buying brand new equipment, often a more cost effective option is to upgrade the fans in existing equipment to new high efficiency EC fans.

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