

ClimateTalk™ ALLIANCE

HVAC and Smart Energy Leaders Team Up to Form ClimateTalk Alliance

The ClimateTalk™ Alliance announced its launch in November with industry-leading members including Consert Inc., Embedded Electronic Design Solutions (EDC), Emerson Climate Technologies, E-Senza, EWC Controls Inc, Microchip Technology Inc., Rheem Manufacturing Company and Watsco, Inc. In January additional industry leaders joined including 3 Notch Industrial Communications, Aprilaire, Arzel Zoning Technology, Control Solutions, Inc. Minnesota, ecobee, Everex Communications, In2 Networks, Jetlun, Lynxspring, Nogginhaus, Tendril, Varidigm and ZoneFirst. The ClimateTalk Alliance will drive the future of ClimateTalk, an open standards communication framework that enables simple connectivity among diverse HVAC and Smart Energy devices, leveraging existing industry standards for seamless information integration.

With HVAC equipment consuming 40-45 percent of the energy in the home and new regional efficiency legislation on the horizon, this alliance has been formed to drive collaboration on standards that address fragmentation in the HVAC communications market by providing simple, cost effective solutions and provide interoperability for applications in the Smart Energy arena. This unified approach to improving efficiency through communications will offer benefits to utilities, OEMs, contractors and homeowners alike.

"The ClimateTalk Alliance will help answer the growing need for a common communications protocol geared toward the residential HVAC industry," said Kelvin Kleman, engineering manager electronics & controls, Rheem

Manufacturing Company. "With the flexibility and adaptability of the ClimateTalk standardized protocol model, the alliance will support expanding this concept to control applications outside of HVAC, including air quality equipment and energy management systems, as well as a number of other applications."

The ClimateTalk framework allows various components, including increasingly important smart energy devices, to send messages in the same language, no matter what brand of equipment is being used. It offers an easy-to use solution for the homeowner as well as installation and diagnostic simplicity for contractors, which is of growing importance as the number of certified technicians for advanced systems continues to decrease. It can also expand message sets and applications, allowing for the addition of new components without upgrading the user interface, which offers ease of integration and flexibility for the OEM and allows for OEM customization and differentiation within a common framework.

"The ClimateTalk Alliance is well underway and we're seeing consistent growth and increasing support throughout the industry," said Craig Johnson, Chairman, ClimateTalk Alliance. "We are looking forward to taking these developments to the next level and continuing to demonstrate the benefits that an open protocol like ClimateTalk can bring to the industry."

The ClimateTalk Alliance is open to companies committed to providing long term interoperability of communicating devices that provide reduction in energy consumption while improving comfort and end user experience. For more information, please visit www.ClimateTalk.org. ■

