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Revolutionary Driver Cooling System

Unipart Rail has partnered with Creative Design to bring the revolutionary CabCool driver cooling system to a wider market.

Creative's Cabcool is a unique air cooling system which differs from Air Conditioning by using no CFCs or coolants and using as little as 20% of the power used by traditional cooling systems, making it both energy efficient with significantly reduced environmental impact.

Already fitted on the Victoria and Circle lines on London Underground, and in trials on a number of systems across Europe, the 500 units already installed have clocked up over seventy two million kilometres of service with superb effectiveness, helping to keep drivers cool by reducing air temperatures by up to 19° in extreme situations.

Unipart Rail will now be Creative's international distribution partner for Cabcool.

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Editors' Notes:

More about Cabcool

Drivers' cabs can get very hot - sometimes in excess of 32 degrees, and this makes for very uncomfortable working conditions. Air conditioning units are bulky, heavy and energy hungry and impractical for installation on vehicles.

Innovation company Creative Design has kept a cool head in the face of this difficult problem and has developed the Cabcool system - a system which is solid-state, CFC and coolant free, and uses only 20% of the energy of an air conditioning system.

"At the heart of our solution is a technology called Peltier devices, together with some clever technology we have developed" explains Creative's Tony Hume. He went on "The small electrical devices in the units are traditionally used to cool computer servers, but with creative thinking, they have been developed for use on trains."

The units draw in air from the driver's cab and pass it over the cold surface of the Peltier device, and is then channelled out to cool the driver. The heat from the units is vented outside the train. In the first trials, air was cooled by 12 degrees, and cooling of up to 19 degrees from cab ambient is now commonly achieved with the latest models.

Successful installations

Brian Tillson, Unipart Rail Technical Sales Manager explains "These units are so compact that they can be easily retro-fitted into many types of rolling stock. They are already fitted on the Victoria and Circle lines for London Underground, whilst overground fitments include full fleet fitment on Class 319 passenger fleet, trials are successfully concluding on Class 66 Locomotives and a UK city tram. Vehicles in Germany are also currently undergoing trials." To date, there are around 500 units installed with collectively over seventy two million kilometres of service. Our design service can assess your fleet and develop an installation process complete with all fittings and installation training required for your vehicles."

Driver Control

The driver has complete control over their environment through a simple yet effective driver control interface which allows setting to various degrees of cooling and air flow speeds. The added benefit of the system is that it can also be used for heating - meaning that those frosty mornings can quickly be dispelled.

Very low Maintenance

With the exception of the fans, the actual cooling units have no moving parts at all, being totally solid state, unlike air conditioning units. This means that a unit can have a very long in-service life. The five-year maintenance cost is estimated at £285 - consisting mainly of the replacement of dust and particle filters which improve the air quality as the unit is running.

System Demonstrations

Unipart Rail has now partnered with Creative to bring the benefits of the system to a wider audience.

Benefits at a Glance

Low energy consumption – 800W

Cools air by up to 19 degrees from cab ambient

Makes the driver environment more comfortable

Can be designed into tight space envelopes

Use of laser scanning to analyse fitment area

No CFCs or Coolants - nothing to refill

Environmentally friendly - no harmful waste

Can be fitted overnight

Has been designed into in-service "67" tube stock and "C" stock LUL, Class,319,1001 Shunter and Plasser tamping vehicles, trials on 165,66,455, 456, 317, 156, 323, City Trams)

About Creative Design

Creative Design is a leading design consulting company servicing the rail and product manufacturing industries. With a world wide client base which includes many blue chip companies, Creative Design has developed its own product portfolio to compliment its consultancy business.

Creative Design's key services include industrial design and engineering design which operate from their Cambridge and Leamington Spa offices. Rail industry projects span the full range of services from market research through design to manufactured products.

About Unipart Rail

Unipart Rail is the rail arm of the Unipart Group and the leading provider of logistics, supply chain management and Lean consultancy services to the UK rail industry. Dorman, the LED signalling innovators, and Dorman Varitext, manufacturers of Variable Messaging and Passenger Information Systems, are part of Unipart Rail.

Unipart Rail operates at sites in Doncaster, Crewe, York, Southport and London, has offices in China, Thailand, Australia, Germany and North America and supplies materials & services internationally.

With nearly 800 employees across the UK and China, Unipart Rail is a major partner to the rail industry and has extensive expertise in Infrastructure and Traction & Rolling Stock systems and products.

About Unipart Group

The Unipart Group employs more than 8,000 personnel worldwide and has an annual turnover of more than £1billion. It is a leading full service logistics provider and consultant in operational excellence.

Operating across a range of market sectors, including automotive, leisure, marine, manufacturing, mobile telecoms, rail, retail and technology, Unipart offers a breadth of services from third party logistics to expert consultancy.

All Unipart sites operate according to the Group's proprietary version of Lean known as The Unipart Way. This is a philosophy of working underpinned by tools and techniques that inspires efficiency, flexibility and outstanding customer service in any process.

Unipart also offers expert consultancy in implementing Lean principles and in supply chain management across a variety of industry sectors.

The Group's clients include Homebase, Sainsbury's, ASOS.com, Vodafone, 3, BSkyB, Jaguar Land Rover, Severn Trent Water and HMRC.