JSERCS prototype ready

Specialised reefer machinery manufacturer Klinge Corporation has completed the development of a prototype reefer unit for the US Army Joint Service Expandable Refrigerated Container System (JSERCS).

As reported in the July 2012 issue of *WorldCargo News* (p20), Klinge was awarded a subcontract by the US Army Contracting Command to design and manufacture the refrigeration machinery for the JSERCS project, which is intended to be the next generation of an advanced Tricon system for the US Department of Defense's Combat Feeding Directorate.

The reefer unit is designed to provide cooling in a single or dual zone simultaneously in -25degF to +125degF (-32degC to +52degC) ambient temperatures, providing temperature control for both refrigerated and frozen food in the field.

The refrigeration unit design is based on equipment that has been qualified to a number of military standards and uses components that have been proven in the container transport industry to be reliable and require little maintenance.

The JSERCS is designed to be the next generation refrigerated Tricon system

The JSERCS unit will be mounted on an 8ft x 6ft 5.5in x 8ft Tricon insulated container, featuring vacuum insulated composite panels, which can be expanded in the field to form a 20ft ISO-sized module. The overall objective is to reduce the transportation footprint by replacing three standard Tricon reefers, each with its own reefer machinery, with one JSERCS unit.

Klinge's design features a movable and removable insulated partition to separate the two temperature zones in the expanded JSERCS Tricon units, allowing for thawing of a portion of the stored food whilst keeping the remaining food frozen for later use.

The cooling capacity and power consumption of the new design are scheduled to be tested shortly at a government facility in accordance with the MIL-PRF-32335 standard.

CPG grows in Indianapolis

Cleveland-based ContainerPort Group (CPG) has shifted its container depot operations in Indiana to a larger, more centrally located facility in Indianapolis.

The new facility is strategically located near Interstates 65, 70, and 465 and is well positioned to service the CSX rail ramp and the newly opened Indiana Railroad Company's intermodal rail ramp, which is operated by CPG and serviced by Canadian National.

The increased acreage will enhance CPG's throughput in Indianapolis and provide its customers with additional container yard and loaded trailer storage options. The expansion complements the company's existing Midwest and Ohio Valley network, which includes depots in Cleveland, Columbus, Cincinnati, Kansas City, Louisville, St Louis, Chicago and Detroit.

In addition to container drayage capabilities, CPG Indianapolis offers a traditional CY inspection service, equipment storage, a full service repair shop and mobile onsite repair capability for both chassis and container repair and maintenance services.

"This move positions us for continued growth in the Indianapolis market," said Jim Kramer, CPG's SVP commercial. "With the introduction of Canadian National's direct rail service from Vancouver and Prince Rupert into Indianapolis, the new facility will provide CPG customers with the services they require to capitalise on the growth in this market."

Emerson rebrands

Emerson Climate Technologies - Transportation Solutions ApS, has changed the name of its reefer container monitoring product to ProAct Transport.

The change is designed to reflect the integration of Emerson Climate Technologies and the Marine Controls Business acquired from Johnson Controls in 2012, which allows global transportation customers to leverage Emerson's refrigeration and monitoring technologies, including ProAct services for commercial and retail markets.

Formerly known as myREEFER, ProAct Transport is an integrated solution, powered by container hardware and local and global monitoring systems and infrastructure, that offers automated, centralised remote monitoring and management of reefer containers, covering their entire journey from producer to final destination.

The ProAct suite of remote services provides timely information on energy expenditure, maintenance costs, refrigerant leaks and shrink causes. Emerson says systematic measurement of these cost drivers provides a powerful basis for everyday decision making by allowing retailers to quickly identify opportunities for operational improvement.

The ProAct Transport solution involves equipping each reefer container with a remote monitoring modem (RMM+) and a wireless data subscription. Once enabled, containers connect to Emerson's ProAct Transport infrastructure to provide access and collect critical operating data.

COA launches reefer services directory

Following five separate incidents in 2011 of explosions relating to refrigerated container compressors, the Container Owners Association (COA) has developed a new global online database of refrigeration machinery repair companies.

Investigations into the 2011 incidents, which resulted in three fatalities, concluded that the reefer machines concerned had contained a refrigerant other than R134a on which they were designed to operate, creating explosive gases inside the system.

After testing samples from over 10,000 machinery units, and in coordination with the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) and refrigeration associations such as Cambridge Refrigeration Technology, ASHRAE and AHRI, it is now known that counterfeit refrigerant was introduced in world markets in 2010.

This introduction coincided with a sharp rise in the price of R134a and wide availability of HCFC refrigerants at low prices due to their phase-out for use in newly manufactured plant under EU and Montreal Protocol regulations.

The counterfeit gases were a mix of HCFCs and other refrigerants but also contained methyl chloride (R40), which is thought to be a factor in the units that exploded.

COA members, who own the majority of the world's fleet of over 1.3M refrigerated containers, are concerned that action must be taken to ensure that counterfeit refrigerants are not used to service their equipment.

With counterfeit refrigerants being sold in new, falsely branded cylinders, it was recognised that only testing refrigerant bottles prior to their use to service machinery could confirm their purity.

A survey of refrigerant gas testing by service companies around the world was carried out by the COA in order to create the new online *COA Directory of Global Reefer Service Facilities*. Available to COA members and non-members alike, the database contains information on over 720 facilities around the world, detailing which of these companies responded to the COA survey with information on refrigerant gas testing at their facilities.

"The COA database is a step forward in the process to assist owners and operators in keeping their machinery operating effectively and safely, using the refrigerant that the machinery was designed for," says the COA. "Members of the COA and non-members can access the directory from the COA website, free of charge and find a suitable service provider to avoid the risk of counterfeit refrigerants being used."

The *COA Directory of Global Reefer Service Facilities* can be found at: *www.containerownersassociation.org/coadb.html*