

2026 AHR EXPO

INNOVATION AWARDS

AHR Expo Innovation Awards are chosen annually in 10 industry categories to represent the most innovative products and technologies in the market today.

Each year, the Innovation Awards receive hundreds of submissions from manufacturers putting forward their breakthrough designs for new and never before seen solutions or improvements upon existing products and technologies. Entries are then closely reviewed by a panel of third-party judges made up of distinguished ASHRAE members. Evaluations are based on overall innovative design, creativity of the product or service offered, product or technology in real-world application, as well as overall potential market impact.

An exciting added benefit of flourishing innovation driving entries to the Innovation Awards is the ability to strengthen the industry through funding attributed to the AHR Expo Workforce Development program. The program, celebrating its fourth year in Vegas, aims to trigger industry growth through experiences geared to inspire future members of the HVAC&R community. Funds collected from the entry fees are donated to programming at the student level, including field trips to the show, curated introductions to professionals and manufacturers, equipment for hands-on learning in school laboratories and monetary donations to student programs in the hosting city. We invite you to learn more about workforce development on ahrexpo.com and encourage you to get involved.

Winners for the 2026 AHR Expo Innovations Awards are:

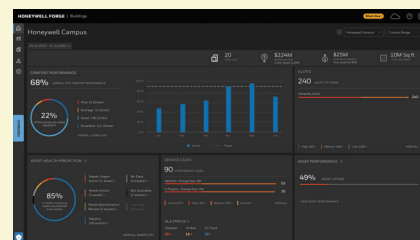
★ ★ ★ **BUILDING AUTOMATION** ★ ★ ★

WINNER: HONEYWELL

INNOVATION: Honeywell Connected Solutions

Booth: C1840

Honeywell's Connected Solutions suite empowers building owners and service providers with cloud-based tools for remote monitoring, predictive maintenance, energy optimization and asset life-cycle management. These applications streamline operations, reduce costs and enhance sustainability, all through a unified, intuitive platform that transforms traditional building management into a connected, data-driven experience.



Finalists: Boldr, Boldr Mini Split Controller Pro Pack (Booth C1840); eDelta Inc./eTrapp, eTrapp (Booth SU1956)

AWARDS

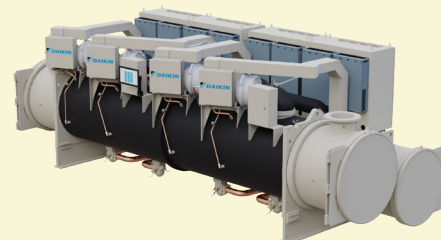
★★★★ COOLING ★★★★★

WINNER: DAIKIN APPLIED AMERICAS INC.

INNOVATION: Magnitude WME-C Quad

Booth: C4916

Magnitude WME-C Quad is the first dual circuit series counterflow chiller that delivers up to 3,000 tons of capacity using Daikin's magnetic bearing compressor technology. It features four compressors, Daikin's proven WME oil-free magnetic bearing technology and mission-critical features like RideThrough and RapidRestore, which offer unmatched part-load efficiency, reliability and uptime.



Finalists: BAC (Baltimore Aircoil Company), Immersion Cooling Tank with Cortex Technology (Booth C540); Gree Electric Appliances, Inc. of Zhuhai, G-Storm Compressor (G-Storm 200 Hz Ultra High-Speed Compressor) (Booth SL1012)

★★★★ HEATING ★★★★★

WINNER: COPELAND

INNOVATION: Copeland Heating-Optimized Modulating Vapor Injection Portfolio

Booth: C3607

The Copeland heating-optimized modulating vapor injection portfolio combines innovative two-stage, tandem and variable-speed compression platforms with enhanced vapor injection (EVI) technologies to deliver maximum flexibility, scalability and performance in achieving the capacity and efficiency requirements of next-generation commercial heat pumps for hot air and water applications.



Finalists: Danfoss, PSG Heating Scroll Compressor (Booth C4907); Trane, Trane 17 Multi-Speed Heat Pump with WeatherGuard (Booth C3618)

★★★★ INDOOR AIR QUALITY ★★★★★

WINNER: SHARP CORPORATION

INNOVATION: Airst

Booth: SL1919

Airst is the world's first mini-split heat pump with built-in MERV 14 certified filters. It captures over 99.9% of dust before it enters the unit. With airflow reach of 43 ft (13 m), it cools, heats and purifies air simultaneously, made possible by its uniquely engineered internal structure.



Finalists: CASPR Technologies, CASPR Medik (Booth SU354); Friedrich Air Conditioning, FreshAire PTAC (Booth C4925)

AWARDS

★ ★ ★ PLUMBING ★ ★ ★

WINNER: IDC FLUID CONTROL

INNOVATION: LeakStop III

Booth: SL1225

LeakStop III is a fully automated water leak detection system for homes and small commercial buildings. The system is built to alarm in the event of a leak detection. When the water flow is continuous and exceeds a preset and programmable maximum value, the system automatically shuts down.

Finalists: GE Appliances Air & Water Solutions, Smart HQ Wireless Leak Detect System (Booth SL1225); Milwaukee Tool, Roll Groover (2927) (Booth C7341)



★ ★ ★ REFRIGERATION ★ ★ ★

WINNER: COPELAND

INNOVATION: Copeland Transcritical CO₂ Scroll Compressor With Dynamic Vapor Injection Technology

Booth: C3607

The Copeland transcritical CO₂ scroll compressor marks a new era of simplicity, scalability and sustainability for small-footprint, distributed CO₂ refrigeration. Featuring dynamic vapor injection (DVI) technology, which enhances efficiency and simplifies design, the transcritical-rated compressor revolutionizes CO₂ refrigeration system designs and applications in North America.

Finalists: DORIN USA, CD700 Range-CO₂ Transcritical Compressors (Booth SL932); Quest Climate, M-CoRR (Multi-Coil Refrigeration Recovery) (Booth SL458)



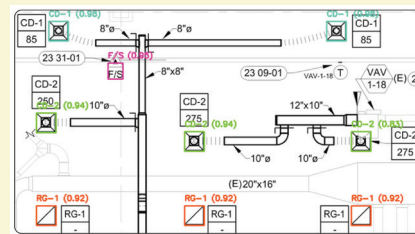
★ ★ ★ SOFTWARE ★ ★ ★

WINNER: REBAR

INNOVATION: Rebar

Booth: SL2331

Rebar is the first AI-powered takeoff platform built for HVAC. It reads construction plans, identifies mechanical pages, marks equipment and generates accurate takeoffs in minutes—cutting hours of manual work. Purpose-built by industry experts, Rebar helps reps move faster, win more jobs and streamline the entire sales process.



Finalists: HVAC Solutions, Inc., AGILE-MEP (Booth SL2205); PhaseAlpa, LLC, AlphaTakeoff (Booth SU2130).

AWARDS

★★★ SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS ★★★

WINNER: BLUE FRONTIER

INNOVATION: BF-DOAS

Booth: SL3720

Blue Frontier's technology to cool & dehumidify is an evolution away from refrigerants and the vapor compression cycle. It is 300% more efficient than current technologies, contains a dispatchable thermal storage battery and can independently control dry bulb and dew point, providing superior comfort. The hotter it gets, the more efficient it becomes.



Finalists: Conifer, Cypress: Rare-Earth-Free IE5+ EC motor for NEMA Frames (Booth SU3030); SHARC Energy, SHARC Series (660, 880, 1212—coming soon) (Booth SU954)

★★★ TOOLS & INSTRUMENTS ★★★

WINNER: CSG COMPRESSORS (HOUSTON & AMERICAN HERMETICS)

INNOVATION: SAMMi

Booth: SL3122

SAMMi is an AI-powered HVAC monitoring and dispatch system that detects issues before they cause breakdowns. It autonomously alerts and dispatches technicians, saving time, money and product loss. Easy to install and scalable, SAMMi turns reactive maintenance into smart, seamless prevention.



Finalists: NAVAC Inc., Flex-X Manifold Gauge (Booth SL255); Uniweld Products, Inc., Uniweld SmarTech FUSION Pro Kit (Booth C3123)

★★★ VENTILATION ★★★

WINNER: ABB MOTORS AND DRIVES

INNOVATION: ACH580 Variable Frequency Drives

Booth: C1707

The ACH580 drive enables seamless control of up to six EC Titanium motors, optimizing energy efficiency, reducing installation complexity and lowering total cost of ownership. This intelligent fan array solution delivers high performance and simplified permanent magnet motor management for advanced HVAC applications.



Finalists: Honeywell, Critical Spaces Control Drives (Booth C1840); Senva Inc., ECMSet Pro (Booth C1056)