

太阳能制冷设备:

SOLAR COOLING SYSTEMS: NEW SOLAR OPTIONS FOR HIGHLY GLAZED BUILDINGS

玻璃建筑的新选择



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在欧洲和全世界, 空调和太阳能加热设备的市场年度增长率为百分之几。一方面, 这来源于住宅以及办公酒店建筑对空调越来越大的需求。另一方面, 也来源于公众环境意识的增加和政策方针的指引。

如果使用消极被动的冷却方式驱散热量, 必须使用有效的冷却设备, 尤其是外观漂亮的玻璃建筑的冷却。由于采用大量压缩机式冷却机, 这些冷却设备的生产和供应价格很低。然而, 由于占用大量电能, 这些设备对当地环境产生了负面的影响。夏天与国家电网连接的普通压缩机式冷却机的电流需求越来越接近它们的容量极限。同时, 在许多南方国家, 这些设备在过去几年里一直成为形成国家电网的主要原因。因此, 寻找一种由废热或太阳能提供能量的替代型空调设备以及开发一种综合的太阳能加热和冷却设备十分重要。

太阳能冷却市场

用于空气调节的太阳能冷却设备最初出现在20

世纪70年代。例如: 德国的Dornier-Prinz 太阳能技术股份有限公司 (Schubert et al., 1977) 或美国的Arkla工业公司 (现在为意大利的Robur SpA) (Grossmann, 2002)。由于市场对太阳能冷却设备需求很少, 这些太阳能冷却设备的生产终止了。

今天, 太阳能冷却设备的市场依然很小。在欧洲, 投入使用的冷却功率约为8—9MW。所使用的100—120套太阳能冷却设备使用太阳能热量收集器对建筑物里的空气进行调节。大部分设备在德国和西班牙使用。投入使用的太阳能收集器表面积总量约为20,000m² (见图1)。约60%的闭环系统为吸收式冷却机和约12%的吸附式冷却机。带有吸附轮的DEC系统在开放式吸附空调设备中所占的百分比最高, 为25%。液体吸附设备仅占4%。然而, 这个潜力很大。在德国, 仅消耗在办公建筑的加热和冷却上的电流总量就达到40,000GWh (Nick—Leptin, 2005)。现在, 中型和大型的太阳能冷却设



太阳能冷却系统真空管收集器 (来源: SolarNext)

Vacuum tube collector for solar cooling systems (source: SolarNext)

The air-conditioning as well as the solar thermal market in Europe and world-wide shows annual growth rates of several percents. In the first case initiated by the growing demand for air-conditioning in residential houses as well as office and hotel buildings and in the second case by increasing environmental awareness or political guidelines.

If the thermal loads can't be dissipated with passive cooling methods, especially in attractive highly glazed buildings, active cooling machines have to be used. Due to the large number of manufactured compressor chillers, these systems are produced and offered at very low prices, however, such systems increase the adverse effects on local environments as a result of using primary energy such as electricity. The high current demand of common compressor chillers but the national electric networks in summertime more and more on their capacity limits. Simultaneously, in many southern countries, these units have been the main reason for the bottleneck in the electric networks in the last few years. Therefore, it is important to search for alternative air-conditioning units that are driven by either waste heat or solar thermal energy and to develop combined solar cooling and heating systems.

Solar Cooling markets

The first solar cooling systems for air-conditioning were developed in the seventies of the 20th century, e.g. by the company Dornier-Prinz Solartechnik GmbH, Germany

(Schubert et al., 1977) or Arkla Industries Inc., USA (today Robur SpA, Italy) (Grossmann, 2002). Due to the lack of demand on the market for solar cooling, the production of these solar cooling systems was stopped.

The market of solar cooling is still small: today in Europe approximately 8 to 9 MW of cooling capacity are installed. These are about 100 up to 120 solar cooling systems, which use solar thermal collectors for the solar air-conditioning of buildings. Most of the systems are realized in Germany and Spain. The altogether installed collector surface is nearly 20,000 m² (Figure 1). Approximately 60% of the closed cycle systems are absorption chillers and around 12% adsorption chillers. The DEC systems with sorption wheels dominate the open sorption air-conditioning systems by 25% and only 4% liquid sorption systems existing. However the potential is very high – in Germany 40,000 GWh of current consumption are accumulated alone for the air conditioning of office buildings (Nick-Leptin, 2005). The technologies for the solar cooling units in the medium and big performance range are fully developed, only the small-scale performance range below 20 kW will be still developed and investigated.

System technologies

The solar cooling technology is used since several years, but there are not a lot of complete solar cooling systems commercially available. In principal absorption chillers and DEC systems (Desiccant and Evaporative

Cooling) and occasional adsorption chillers are used for the air-conditioning of buildings. Against it liquid sorption systems are mainly in prototype or field test stage. The technology of heat driven solar cooling systems is mainly divided into closed systems to produce cold water and open systems for air-conditioning (Figure 2).

Closed absorption / adsorption chillers

The heat driven closed absorption (Figure 3) or adsorption chillers (Figure 4) most closely resemble common vapour compression chillers in terms of their integration into buildings. The chillers provide cold water at temperature between 6°C and 20°C. They can also be used for central air conditioners as well as cooling systems with decentralised air treatment, such as fan coils and cooled ceilings. The ammonia/water absorption chillers could generate evaporator temperatures down to -20°C, which are useful for cold processes.

In absorption chillers the refrigerant (water or ammonia) is absorbed by a liquid sorbent (lithium bromide or water). In the directly or indirectly solar powered generator with high heating temperatures, the refrigerant is desorbed from the solution. This generates a high refrigerant vapour pressure, which is sufficient to condense the refrigerant in the condenser. After evaporation, the refrigerant vapour is absorbed in the solution which is cooled in the absorber. The solution is pumped to the generator by a solution pump where it is regenerated and throttled back to the absorber. The heating temperatures for desorption are between 75 and 160°C according to the technology. At adsorption chillers the refrigerant water is adsorbed on a solid sorbent like silica gel among disposal of latent heat on the surface. The latent heat decreases to zero with increasing addition of water molecules, then only evaporation heat has to be dissipated. The desorption of the



西班牙Mataro实验室中太阳能辅助DEC系统的通风PV正面和太阳能空气收集器 (来源: zafh.net)
 Ventilated PV facade and solar air collectors of a solar assisted DEC system of a library in Mataró, Spain (source: zafh.net)

stored water and the pressure generation for the condensation is already caused by low heating temperatures of 60 to 70°C.

Open sorption assisted air-conditioning

Open systems normally employ a combination of sorptive air dehumidification and evaporative cooling, which is used in ventilation systems for treating air. Sorption assisted air-conditioning is in effect a well-engineered technology. In DEC systems (Figure 5), both the humidified exhaust air and supply air serve as coolants. The supply air is blown directly into the room through heat recovery process. The minimum supply air temperature is about 16°C. The physical adsorption of water on silica gel or lithium chloride serves the air drying in this process. Afterwards the air will be cooled by direct evaporative humidification of the dried and through a heat exchanger precooled air. The thermal heat input is

required for the regeneration of the sorbent, this means the desorption of the adsorbed water. The heating temperatures could be chosen very low between 60 and 70°C as well.

Reference values

The average value of the specific collector surface of all systems in Europe is about 2.9 m²/kW. A value of 3.0-3.5 m²/kW could be valid as reference value for thermal driven cooling machines. Usually for open systems the reference value is related to the air quantity, a value between 8 and 10 m² per 1,000 m³/h installed volume flow has been carried out as useful value (Henning, 2005). These values are only rough reference values. The specific total costs of installed solar cooling systems using closed absorption or adsorption chillers are in range between 5,000 and 8,000 EUR/kW. At open systems with sorption wheels specific total costs of 2,000 to 3,500 EUR/kW are determined.

Conclusion

In Germany, Europe and worldwide the energy consumption for cold and air-conditioning increases. In Germany 14% of the total current consumption are used for cooling (77,000 GWhel), which corresponds to 5.8% of the primary energy demand. Thermal cooling by solar or district heating or biomass could be lead to a clear reduction of the energy consumption and the CO₂ emissions. An assumption for single-effect thermal chillers is above all a very high solar fraction or betters a complete solar heating system, because low COPs lead rapidly to higher primary energy consumptions, if an additional heating system has to be used. For an economical operation of solar cooling system the additional investment costs for the thermal cooling technology have to be further reduced, which is expected at higher piece numbers. At very low heat prices e.g. with an existing solar thermal plant with heating support, thermal solar cooling systems can be nearly compete today with common electrical compressor chillers. At a general trend to larger solar thermal plants, small-scale thermal chillers offer a good possibility to use efficiently the summery heat.

Many concepts of absorption, adsorption and liquid sorption technology are turned from the prototype into field test stage or into small serial production. In the next few years further projects are expected for the small scale cooling capacity range.

Literature

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