

## Interview at ICR2019

# globalFACT Promotes Advanced Climate Technologies that Protect the Global Environment

During the 25th International Institute of Refrigeration (IIR) International Congress of Refrigeration (ICR2019) held in Montreal, Canada, in August, Jordan Smith, executive director of the Global Forum for Advanced Climate Technologies (globalFACT), hosted a seminar. On this occasion, JARN interviewed him to hear about the organization's profile and mission.



Jordan Smith, executive director of globalFACT



Jordan Smith, executive director of globalFACT received JARN's interview

**JARN (J):** Could you explain the structure and vision of your organization for JARN's readers?

**Jordan Smith (S):** globalFACT promotes education, awareness, and policies that support the important role of new-generation, low- and reduced-global warming potential (GWP) advanced climate technologies in protecting the environment, while meeting the rapidly increasing demand for safe alternatives.

Advanced climate technologies include new-generation hydrofluoroolefins (HFOs) and blends and select hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) with lower GWPs compared with previous products. These solutions for refriger-

ants, propellants, and blowing agents significantly reduce the total climate impact and maintain or improve energy efficiency, affordability, and flexibility to enable use for a wide variety of applications and climates.

**J: Where is the headquarters of your organization? How many branches are there in the world?**

**S:** globalFACT is headquartered in Washington, D.C., in the United States. globalFACT is a non-profit membership organization composed of the world's leaders in advanced climate technologies.

**J: During ICR2019, you hosted a seminar. What were your main themes?**

**S:** The title of our symposium was, 'Understanding refrigerant policy drivers and practical implications.' While we all recognize the importance of meeting regulatory needs, end users should also understand how currently available products, such as advanced climate technologies, exist to meet both business and

environmental imperatives. Our discussion examined the global environmental regulatory landscape as well as the approaches, considerations, and lessons learned as businesses adapt.

**J: Refrigerants are among the biggest global environmental issues in the refrigeration industry. What do you think of natural refrigerants such as ammonia and hydrocarbons (HCs)?**

**S:** Natural refrigerant is a marketing term; these products are industrial chemicals. There is no single product that is best for the environment. There is more to measuring environmental impact than GWP. The best-performing refrigerant will be different for everyone. For example, so-called 'naturals' can be energy inefficient, thus driving increased energy consumption. Energy consumption contributes to CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and, therefore, global warming. This 'indirect' effect can represent more than 80% of a refrigeration system's impact on the environment.

**J: As a substitute for high-GWP refrigerants such as R410A and R404A, could you comment on blended refrigerants such as R32, R452B, and HFOs?**

**S:** Advanced climate technologies are viable long-term solutions, and end-users should consider all factors when selecting the right refrigerant for their systems. globalFACT does not take positions on individual refrigerants.



Advanced climate technologies play an important role in reducing energy consumption and emissions

**J: Thank you very much for the valuable information you have given us today.**