SLICING ICE RINK OPERATING COSTS MULTIPLIES BOTTOM-LINE BENEFITS

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EXPERTS IN HUMIDITY MANAGEMENT

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Conditions and operating costs are crucial for ice rinks

KEEN EYE ON EXPENDITURE

The Kvik Hockey Arena in Herning is a powerhouse in Danish ice hockey. It is the home of many-time Danish champions and medal-winners the Blue Foxes, and their ice rink therefore has to provide top-quality facilities at all times.

A key part of this involves controlling the humidity of the air inside the arena, which houses both the main rink and a training rink.

THE CUSTOMER'S PROBLEM

As a professionally run business unit, the arena has to keep a keen eye on all forms of expenditure.

The arena owners were worried that the dehumidifier in the main rink was running non-stop round the clock – regardless of requirements. And that the dehumidifier system was running solely on electrical power – in Denmark the most expensive form of energy.

THE COTES SOLUTION

Rethinking, replacing and refurbishing

A radical rethink of the arena's humidity management systems was called for. Cotes calculations showed there is actually no need to use expensive electricity for air regeneration. Cotes experts replaced the old, expensive-to-run dehumidifier in the main rink with a Cotes CRT9000EV unit, and rebuilt the existing Cotes CRT9000E unit in the training rink.

Both units are now controlled by actual measurements of dew point, not by relative humidity. Even more importantly, they now use surplus energy from the rink's main heating and cooling plant for air regeneration. This energy previously mostly just went to waste.

The new Cotes CRT9000EV unit uses sensors to determine the dew point at ice level, and is fitted with a special DH50 controller to make operation supremely easy.

HOW THE CUSTOMER BENEFITED

Major savings, major benefits

Proper adjustment and monitoring of the dew point translates directly into big savings on one of the biggest expenditure items on the operating budget for this high-profile venue. Rink manager Jørgen Poulsen already reports savings of up to €6,700 a month on the arena's energy costs.

There are other big benefits, too.

- A Cotes technician replaces the filters and adjusts both dehumidifiers once a year, making sure the Kvik Arena provides the exact conditions the Blue Foxes want
- Previous problems with condensation on windows and other structures have been done away with, boding well for future maintenance and repair budgets
- The substantial ongoing savings on operating costs give the owners big opportunities for improving the facilities and the service quality throughout the venue.

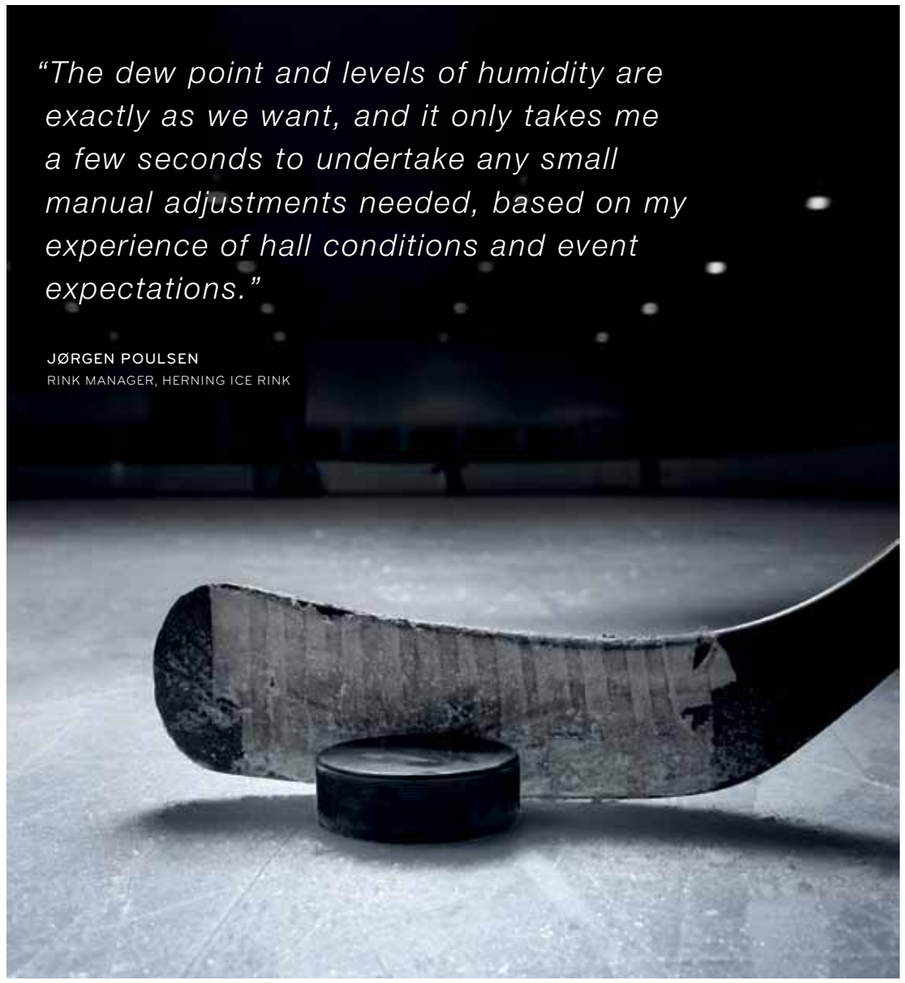
Recycling energy gives new opportunities

The Blue Foxes have seen what is possible using recovered thermal energy to control the indoor humidity environment.

Major savings in operating costs make it possible to open up for improvements in the facilities, service and comfort the arena can provide for users – as well as their families and other ice hockey supporters.

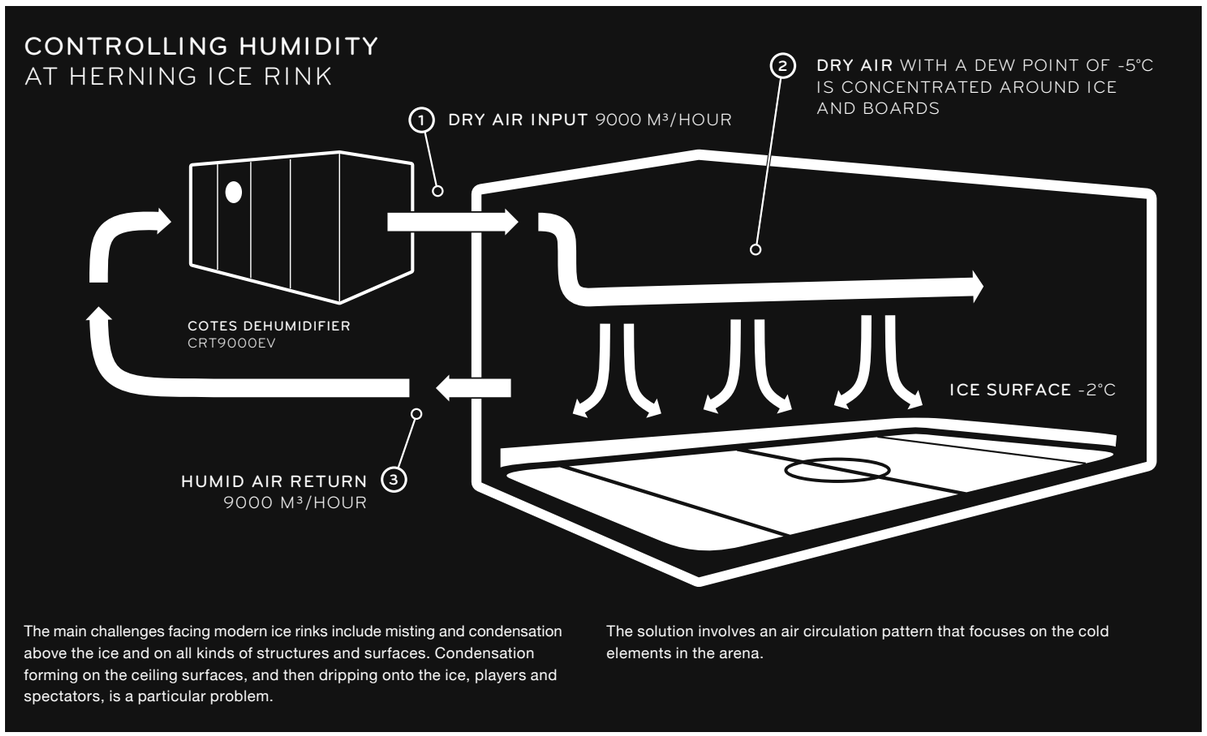
MONTHLY SAVINGS OF UP TO €6,700 ON ENERGY COSTS

Installing the Cotes dehumidification system in Herning.



"The dew point and levels of humidity are exactly as we want, and it only takes me a few seconds to undertake any small manual adjustments needed, based on my experience of hall conditions and event expectations."

JØRGEN POULSEN
RINK MANAGER, HERNING ICE RINK



The main challenges facing modern ice rinks include misting and condensation above the ice and on all kinds of structures and surfaces. Condensation forming on the ceiling surfaces, and then dripping onto the ice, players and spectators, is a particular problem.

The solution involves an air circulation pattern that focuses on the cold elements in the arena.

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