

## Press release:

### **The Renewable Energy of the Year Prize goes to the Finnish Heat Pump Association - a breakthrough for heat pumps**

The Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr Mauri Pekkarinen, presented the Finnish Heat Pump Association SULPU with the Renewable Energy of the Year prize at the Savexpo Fair in Vantaa, September 18 2009. The prize was part of the Promoting Renewable Energy series.

The Finnish Heat Pump Association was founded 10 years ago. Its role is to promote the heat pump industry and to improve both the operational preconditions of the industry as well as the quality of installation work and equipment. Furthermore, SULPU supervises the interests of the practitioners in the field and promotes the cooperation of its members. SULPU has been active in promoting the implementation of the EUCERT certification system for heat pump installer training as well the equipment quality guarantee EHPA Quality Label system in Finland.



*Photo: The prize was presented by the Minister of Economic Affairs, Mr Mauri Pekkarinen, and it was accepted by Mr Jussi Hirvonen, Chair of the Finnish Heat Pump Association and Mr Petri Koivula, Managing Director*

### **One Million Heat Pumps in a Decade**

Heat pump technology provides the heating and cooling of a building as well as the production of hot water using solar energy that has been stored either in the top layers of the earth, in water systems or in the air.

During the past few years, heat pumps have made their final breakthrough in Finland. In 2008, more than 60.000 different types of heat pumps were sold in Finland, which exceeds the previous year by a third. Ground source heat pumps provided the largest turnover, whereas air source heat pumps sold best when looking at sales numbers per piece. The new arrival on the market is the water source heat pump, which produces hot water by using outdoor air, says Mr Jussi Hirvonen, Chair of the Finnish Heat Pump Association. At present, there are approximately 250.000 heat pumps in use in Finland.

The EU requirement for increasing the use of renewable energy is challenging for Finland – a country that already at present is one of the leading countries in its use. With the optimal use of heat pumps, we should, however, be able to reach as much as a third of the 30 TWh annual increase target. I believe that one million heat pumps will be installed in Finland within the next ten years, Mr Hirvonen estimates.

### The Prize Jury's Statement

The prize jury extends its thanks to the Finnish Heat Pump Association for its role as an active developer of the industry. SULPU has excellently promoted the industry in various situations and contexts and has participated, for instance, in the creation of the heat-pump industry certification system in Finland.

### For more information:

Mr Jussi Hirvonen, Chair of the Finnish Heat Pump Association, [jussi.hirvonen@ivt.fi](mailto:jussi.hirvonen@ivt.fi) , [www.sulpu.fi](http://www.sulpu.fi)  
Mr Petri Koivula, Managing Director of the Finnish Heat Pump Association, [petri.koivula@sulpu.fi](mailto:petri.koivula@sulpu.fi),  
[www.sulpu.fi](http://www.sulpu.fi)

