

EEB Hub Industry Partner Gallery Features Therm-Omega-Tech, Inc.

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The [Energy Efficient Buildings \(EEB\) Hub](#) recently welcomed a new demonstration unit to its Industry Partner Gallery, as Warminster-based [Therm-Omega-Tech](#) introduced its latest EEB-related product, Circuit Solver™ self-actuating thermostatic recirculation valves.

In replacing the display by FARO Technologies, which completed its demonstration run in July, Therm-Omega-Tech is the latest area business to occupy the Gallery with a product for the commercial building Advanced Energy Retrofit (AER) market.

Therm-Omega-Tech specializes in the design and manufacture of self-actualizing temperature control valves. Mechanical-, electrical-, and plumbing contractors, as well as architectural firms, rely on Circuit Solver valves and similar Therm-Omega-Tech products to dramatically reduce the expense and energy required to supply hot water throughout large residential, industrial, and other buildings.

“Circuit Solver valves deliver hot water instantly, eliminating the need to purchase and power oversized recirculating pumps,” says Therm-Omega-Tech’s Chris Ashworth. “We offer significant electrical savings by virtue of our design—an application that required a five-horsepower pump before Circuit Solver may need less than one horsepower with Circuit Solver valves. The smaller pump is far less expensive to buy, and the energy savings can be on the order of hundreds of watts per hour.”

The product also represents dramatic labor savings. While traditional water systems might require a crew of workers to properly balance the temperature for a high-rise building, Circuit Solver valves automate the entire process.

“You used to have a series of manual balancing valves that required a lot of fine adjustment,” Ashworth adds. “They would turn the system on, see how it worked, and radio to workers on other floors to gauge their temperature. Unfortunately, once you get it set for the empty building, everything is going to change once you get people in it. Unless you have someone there opening and closing valves around the clock, you won’t have an optimal system. Circuit Solver valves optimize those water flow rates to maximize efficiency.”

When asked about the opportunity to exhibit in the Industry Partner Gallery, Ashworth says it’s a way to raise awareness for Circuit Solver valves as a supremely cost-effective upgrade option.

“I’m excited for those contemplating building retrofits to see there *is* a way to significantly reduce utility bills without having to spend a whole lot of money. A lot of green projects have high costs of entry, and you may not see a return for a number of years. With Circuit Solver valves, it’s as fast as 3-4 months.”

“Therm-Omega-Tech has developed a product that not only preserves a limited resource, but they did it in a way that exemplifies the kind of innovative thinking we foster here at [DVIRC](#) and through the EEB Hub,” says Barry Miller, DVIRC’s President & COO. “We’re proud to have been active with Therm-Omega-Tech through a host of Lean, continuous improvement, and marketing projects. Circuit Solver valves are proof that their spirit of creative problem solving is alive and well.”

The Industry Partner Gallery can be found on the third floor of the Hub's temporary headquarters in Building 101 at the Navy Yard in Philadelphia. The program will accompany the EEB Hub when it moves to its new home, Building 661, in 2014, which will include a permanent display space to showcase building retrofit technologies such as Circuit Solver valves.

Rob Crossett, DVIRC's Business Development Manager, coordinates the Regional Supplier Program for the Gallery. These suppliers' displays rotate at 2-3 month intervals and can be seen together with those of the Hub Industry partners: Lutron Electronics, Inc., United Technologies Research Center, PPG Industries, and Bayer MaterialScience, which manages the Gallery display area. The displays are open for viewing to all visitors and participants in EEB Hub activities.

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About Therm-Omega-Tech

Therm-Omega-Tech, Inc. was established in 1983 to produce a proprietary freeze valve for the railroad industry. This valve is now the industry standard for North American railroads, and Therm-Omega-Tech has applied that same technology to develop valves and systems for the industrial market. These include valves for freeze protection, scald protection, steam traps, ambient sensing, and surface sensing, as well as many other applications. Therm-Omega-Tech, Inc. is a privately held organization whose products are distributed and used worldwide. Circuit Solver is a trademark of Therm-Omega-Tech, Inc.

About the EEB Hub

The Energy Efficient Buildings Hub (EEB Hub) was established in by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) on February 1, 2011 with a mission of improving energy efficiency in buildings—literally re-energizing them for the future—from its headquarters in Philadelphia's Navy Yard, one of the nation's largest and most dynamic redevelopment opportunities.

Federal funding for the EEB Hub's first five years of operation comes primarily from the DOE, with additional contributions from the National Institute of Standards and Technology Hollings Manufacturing Extension Partnership (NIST/MEP), the Economic Development Administration (EDA), and the Small Business Administration (SBA).

About DVIRC

The Delaware Valley Industrial Resource Center (DVIRC) is a private, non-profit economic development business consulting firm established in 1988 to serve the needs of the 4,500 small and mid-sized manufacturers in southeastern Philadelphia. The organization's primary focus is to grow the value of our clients' businesses through consulting services, training and education, and executive network groups. Our vision is to establish the region as an internationally recognized leader in manufacturing competitiveness. We believe growing business value improves the standard of living and quality of life for those that live and/or work in the region. DVIRC is a founding partner of the EEB Hub and a member of the executive board.

DVIRC is one of seven affiliates of the Industrial Resource Center (IRC) Network in Pennsylvania. DVIRC is funded in part by the NIST/Manufacturing Extension Partnership and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania through the Department of Community and Economic Development. The collective role of DVIRC and its sister organization New Jersey Manufacturing Extension Program (NJMEP) is to connect Greater Philadelphia's manufacturers to projects and opportunities being developed at the EEB Hub, and to grow business value and spur job creation.