



Press release 6 September 2008

New data center without cooling system

Sun Microsystems, Belgacom and Cisco demonstrate scale model

Engineers of Belgacom and Sun Microsystems have created a data center (scale model) which does not require a cooling system. The computer systems are simply cooled with outside air.

For both economic and ecological reasons, Sun Microsystems, Belgacom and Cisco are constantly looking for ways to save energy. Computer rooms (data centers) are energy guzzlers. The computer systems in these rooms generate a considerable amount of heat and are continuously cooled with air conditioning.

According to Paul Kiekens, team leader of Telco, Sun Microsystems: *"Engineers of Belgacom and Sun Microsystems have created a scale model of a data center which does not require a cooling system: the systems are simply cooled with outside air (Full Free air Cooling). The savings are enormous and can add up to 47% of the total energy budget of a data center.*

This cooling technique has already been successfully applied in telephone exchanges for a number of years.

The scale model uses Sun servers and storage systems which are resistant to higher ambient temperatures (described in the ETSI class 3.1 norm) and Cisco switches. All the systems operate around the clock. The temperature and humidity degree are constantly monitored. The test shows that this "Full Free Air Cooling" concept can be used in the Belgian climate and most of Europe without a hitch.

With this test, Belgacom wants to encourage ICT producers to design and certify their devices in accordance with the ETSI class 3.1 norm. Only then can this energy-saving technique be applied on a wide scale.

For a more detailed explanation of the test and the concept:

<http://wikis.sun.com/display/freeaircooling/Free+Air+Cooling+Proof+of+Concept>

<http://wikis.sun.com/display/freeaircooling/FAQ>

More info: www.belgacom.be and www.sun.com and www.cisco.com

Journalists requiring more information can contact Belgacom's Press Relations department:

Haroun Fenaux: +32 2 202 48 67 or +32 476 60 03 33

Jan Margot: +32 2 202 85 01 or +32 475 58 50 37

Frédérique Verbiest: +32 2 202 99 26 or +32 476 60 60 10

For Sun Microsystems:

Inge Van Eycken: +32 2 704 81 45 or +32 479 95 05 94