

PRESS RELEASE – 17 JUNE 2025

## **Sustainability as a corporate goal: Flach relies on ECOOLTEC TM182 for distribution transport**

- **A year ago, food wholesaler Flach purchased three refrigerated rigids to commence testing the ECOOLTEC TM182**
- **Sustainability, cooling capacity and service friendliness have convinced the company's decision-makers**
- **Fleet manager David van Deventer calculates that the system will pay for itself thanks to the lower costs for service and maintenance**

**The food wholesaler Flach is continuously working to reduce the CO<sub>2</sub> footprint of its truck fleet. To this end, it specified the purely electrically powered ECOOLTEC TM182 transport refrigeration unit, as it is currently the only solution for heavy commercial vehicles that utilizes natural refrigerants with the lowest global warming potential. The first trucks have now been in operation for a year, and the fleet manager is delighted with ECOOLTEC's customer focus and reliability of their systems. Flach has therefore increased its fleet to a total of eight trucks fitted with the ECOOLTEC TM182.**

From food outlets to wholesalers and Michelin-starred kitchens: food wholesaler and Service-Bund member Flach Rhein-Main GmbH is supplying its customers in the most environmentally sustainable, and climate-friendly way possible. Part of the sustainability strategy of the group of companies (with subsidiaries in Büttelborn near Darmstadt and in Frielendorf Schwalm-Eder district) is that fleet manager David van Deventer orders the company's refrigerated vehicles fitted with an electrically powered transport refrigeration system. By doing so, he reduces pollutant and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the truck fleet. To make further progress in reducing its CO<sub>2</sub> footprint. Flach decided a year ago to equip three

vehicles with the ECOOLTEC TM182 transport refrigeration unit as well as a multi-temp body to test the sustainable technology in real life conditions.

Instead of the fluorinated refrigerants (fluorocarbons or F-gases) R452A and R410A with GWP (Global Warming Potential) values of more than 2,000 that were previously used in transport refrigeration, ECOOLTEC only uses the natural refrigerants CO<sub>2</sub> (R744) and propene (R1270) with negligible GWP values of 1 and 3. Should the refrigerants be released into the environment due to a service error or accidental damage, they will not harm the climate.

### **Sustainability and low operating costs convince decision-makers at Flach**

In addition to sustainability, the economic benefits of the ECOOLTEC system have convinced the company management and owner family of the food wholesaler and fleet manager van Deventer. Natural refrigerants offer high availability at a competitive price, while synthetic refrigerants have recently become significantly more expensive, the reason for it being the shortage of quantities available on the market due to the F-Gas Regulation. The ECOOLTEC system therefore also scores highly in terms of service and maintenance. "Because the TM182 only contains small quantities of refrigerant, we only need to top up a small amount of refrigerant if that ever becomes necessary. This is more cost-effective, and we don't have to worry about the global warming potential of the refrigerant," explains van Deventer.

Conventional transport refrigeration machines with a comparable refrigeration capacity contain up to 14 kilogrammes of F-gas as refrigerant, depending on the specification, whereas the TM182 only needs 0.7 kilogrammes of propene and around one kilogramme of CO<sub>2</sub> per refrigerant circuit, so that even in the event of accidental damage with total loss of refrigerant, there is no damage to the environment. According to Deventer, ECOOLTEC's wear, and replacement parts are also cheaper than those of other manufacturers. As explained by the fleet

manager, the low-cost of maintenance alone saves the company several hundred euros per year per vehicle.

### **'TM182 reaches target temperature quickly and maintains it reliably'**

The fleet manager also praises the system's cooling performance. "Even during the hot summer last year, the TM182 reached the target temperature of minus 18 degrees Celsius very quickly and maintained it reliably," he reports. This is particularly important in the temperature-controlled distribution transport, which Flach operates within a radius of 200 kilometres around the Büttelborn site.

The drivers confirm the units' very effective cooling performance and praise the easy control of the ECOOLTEC system via the control panel in the drivers' cab. They are also impressed by the quiet operation: "They can only sense a slight vibration in the cabin, but don't notice any noise. This is different with models from other manufacturers, which, unlike the TM182, are not integrated into the body but protrude above the cab," says David van Deventer.

### **Early models prove reliable despite pre-series status**

Although the first three TM182s were still in pre-series status when they were introduced to Flach's fleet a year ago, right from the start they delivered. "Newly developed technologies can present challenges at the beginning. I fully expected teething troubles, but the ECOOLTEC system surprised me in a positive way. We only had a few issues to solve at the start of the operation," reports the transport and logistics manager. "As soon as those arose, the ECOOLTEC team responded immediately and supported us. The experience gained was then incorporated into the series version of the TM182," says van Deventer.

The fact that there was hardly any unplanned downtime can also be credited to the TM182's remote maintenance option. It was possible to restart the system over-the-air without a service technician having to drive to the truck first. The fact that

ECOOOLTEC has integrated Flach's preferred service partner into its own service network was also a major advantage for the fleet manager.

### **8 out of 41 trucks are already equipped with the ECOOLTEC TM182**

The positive experiences right from the start and the combination of unique sustainability and economic efficiency convinced the decision-makers at Flach. They ordered more refrigerated trucks with the ECOOLTEC system. There are now three 15-tonne and three 18-tonne trucks equipped with the TM182 among the company's 41 trucks. Two further 18-tonne trucks with ECOOLTEC refrigeration units will be added to the fleet soon. This means that eight trucks with the TM182 will then be on the road for Flach, supplying food outlets, wholesalers and starred restaurants with the full-range retailer's 12,000 items in the most environmentally friendly way possible.

#### **Caption:**



*The first distribution trucks with the transport refrigeration unit ECOOLTEC TM182 have been on the road for Flach for a year now.*

ECOOOLTEC Grosskopf GmbH is a European manufacturer of future-oriented, environmentally friendly transport refrigeration systems. The mission of the company is to offer operators of refrigerated vehicles transport refrigeration systems which are particularly sustainable, efficient and reliable. Key features of the ECOOLTEC technology are the exclusive use of natural refrigerants with no global warming potential and the all-electric alternator or battery drive. The company headquarters and production site is in Mülheim a. d. Ruhr (North Rhine-Westphalia). CEO Henning Altebäumer is responsible for the management of the company. ECOOLTEC also owns ECOOLTEC UK Ltd. which is located in Buckingham (Buckinghamshire), Managing Director is John Winter.

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