



*Michael Harris, MInstR, President of MACPartners.*

## Who needs a Trade Association?

This question is often asked of Michael Harris, President of MACPartners, the European Trade Association for vehicle air conditioning, or thermal management, as it is more often referred to nowadays! Michael's stock answer is **"anyone who is involved in servicing a vehicle today!"**

Sealed circuit cooling systems are now fitted to nearly 100% of vehicles being produced and sold into the UK market and with the increase of hybrid and electrically powered vehicles, cooling has become an essential part of the vehicle, whereas 20 years ago it was a luxury.

So you ask WHAT'S IN IT FOR US? or WHY DO WE NEED TO JOIN ? Michael explains that MACPartners represent all sectors of the vehicle cooling market in Europe, from tool and parts manufacturers, to training institutes and we especially look after the interests of the independent aftermarket such as garages, workshops and vehicle technicians.

In today's world, the face of the refrigeration industry is changing rapidly:

- So much more air conditioning service potential – that cannot be ignored or referred to "specialists".
- A wide variety of new alternative refrigerants – it remains critical that technicians are aware of the challenges posed by the new refrigerants.
- What tooling and equipment is best suited to your needs.
- What type of accreditation do you need.
- Probably most importantly – environmental concerns. MACPartners remain at the forefront in arguing our member's issues with the so called F'Gas regulators and monitors of refrigerant quotas both in Brussels, but also in London too with DEFRA. The UK now heads towards exit from the EU, when the UK legislation will be passed into the hands of bureaucrats in London. MACPartners have and will continue to lobby on behalf of the UK industry in this respect.

## WHO ARE MACPartners?

Founded in June 2004 by and for our members, MACPartners is a non-profit association, for the benefit of the international Air Conditioning Industry. Our members are mostly from the European market, although we do have a few members from other parts of the world.

We strive to coordinate and defend the interests of the mobile air conditioning industry and to serve our members with top class information and support.

Our mission is to achieve the highest standards for the quality of service to vehicle air conditioning systems, in order to protect the environment and to satisfy our customer expectations.

We strive to achieve a pan European standard to the highest professional level of service provision offered to the end customer.

MACPartners upholds the aims of the environmental objectives of the UK Government and European Commission in support of the Kyoto and other protocols in order to reduce refrigerant emissions.

We work in association with other similar trade associations within Europe and around the World.

Further information including our code of practice and membership application form can be found at our website – [www.mac-partners.eu](http://www.mac-partners.eu)

Michael Harris resides in the UK and trained as a mechanical engineer before entering a long sales career worldwide, within the refrigeration and air conditioning industry. He now works part time as President of MACPartners in order to offer high levels of support to the independent vehicle aftermarket and can be contacted by email at [michael@mac-partners.eu](mailto:michael@mac-partners.eu)

The question that Michael asks is – **“If not us, then who else is better placed to stand up for you”**

Membership of MACPartners offers very good value for a very competitive subscription fee, details can be found on our website. Please consider joining us – the stronger we are as an Association, the louder voice we have with the legislators and the better technical advice we can continue to provide to our Members!

*MICHAEL HARRIS*

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