

News Release

A.O. Smith Water Products Company

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Ajita Rajendra Named 2012 AHRI Chairman

A. O. Smith President and COO serving as chairman for the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute

ASHLAND CITY, Tenn. (Feb. 7, 2012)—A. O. Smith (www.hotwater.com) announces that President and Chief Operating Officer Ajita Rajendra has been named the 2012 Chairman of the Air-Conditioning, Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) (http://www.ahrinet.org/).

Upon his appointment at the 2011 AHRI Annual Meeting, Rajendra addressed the membership, identifying three important issues for AHRI in the new year. First, he called on the membership to work with industry partners to pass legislation on consensus agreements establishing new federal minimum efficiency standards for small-duct, high-velocity air conditioners and heat pump pool heaters.

Next, Rajendra asked that the membership petition the Department of Energy to develop a new, technology neutral water heater testing procedure to correct deficiencies overlooked by the current process. By testing all water heaters on equivalent efficiency levels, a new procedure would yield more accurate and fair efficiency ratings, he said.

Finally, Rajendra challenged the members to work together to make AHRI more credible in the United States and worldwide by standardizing its certification program to be even more stringent than the current Department of Energy certification requirements.

"I've had the opportunity to be a member of AHRI for several years on behalf of A. O. Smith," said Rajendra. "I'm excited for this new level of involvement to serve our industry."

One of the largest trade associations in the nation, AHRI represents more than 300 HVACR industry members across the globe. Its membership accounts for more than 90 percent of the residential and commercial HVACR equipment manufactured and sold in North America.

Rajendra's one-year term began in November 2011.

About A. O. Smith:

A. O. Smith Corporation is a leading global manufacturer and marketer of residential and commercial water heaters and boilers. A. O. Smith offers our customers an additional competitive advantage in that the company designs, builds, distributes and field supports the world's broadest and deepest line of residential and commercial water heaters, as well as commercial boilers. This single-source concept simplifies ordering, installation and service and is backed by more than 70 years of research and innovation. For more information,

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