

NIMBUS AND KILKENNY COOLING SYSTEMS SUCCEED IN THE SCIENCE OF STAYING CHILLED



BACKGROUND

Kilkenny Cooling Systems is a family-owned and operated company established in 1972. A major player in the beverage cooling industry, their equipment can be found in over 12,000 premises in Ireland and abroad. This equipment relies on ice as a phase change medium for stored cooling, which has been used for decades in their products from beer chilling to food production systems.



THE NEED

Wishing to maximise the performance of their beer cooling system, John Smee, owner of Kilkenny Cooling Systems, approached TEC Gateway in the Nimbus Research Centre at Cork Institute of Technology, to do some work on a prototype beer cooler.

THE SOLUTION

Nimbus, Ireland's largest research centre devoted to embedded electronic systems, suggested Kilkenny Cooling Systems avail of the Enterprise Ireland Innovation Voucher initiative to fund research on the company's VS prototype beer cooler. The €5,000 worth of funding enabled Nimbus to conduct a performance assessment of the company's VS prototype beer cooler, monitoring and analysing the performance of the various prototype systems against industry norms. Nimbus then implemented changes to the product resulting in the superior performance of the VS prototype in terms of thermal cooling and energy efficiency. The cooler is now capable of keeping product lines cool and fresh during quiet periods, using 39% less electricity than a modern standard cooler. This makes it more efficient than any other system on the market.

BENEFITS OF THE ENGAGEMENT

Since its launch, the Kilkenny VS beer cooling system has been very successful with exports to the UK and is out selling their standard system. Kilkenny Cooling Systems has won the IBEC Environment Award 2016 / 2017 and the VS beer cooler was shortlisted for the SEAI Energy Awards.

Kilkenny Cooling Systems represented Ireland at the European Business Awards for the Environment in 2016 and team was 'highly commended' in the Innovation category for the Kilkenny VS Beer Cooler design at the Irish Refrigeration Awards. Nimbus and Kilkenny Cooling Systems have continued their collaboration, with plans for the development of the next phase of the VS prototype beer cooler. By integrating increased functionality and intelligent control of the device to maximize operational efficiency, they envisage increased energy and cost reductions.

“Having expertise on hand such as that provided by Nimbus was extremely helpful and definitely contributed to this project's successful outcome. The Enterprise Ireland Innovation Voucher scheme played a key role in the progress of our VS Beer Cooler R&D project. I would strongly encourage any business considering undertaking their own R&D to avail of an EI Innovation Voucher.”

- John Smee, Kilkenny Cooling Systems

Contact us to connect your Enterprise with MTU. Email us at extended.campusCork@mtu.ie to discuss a collaboration to suit your needs!