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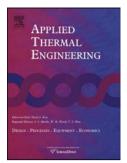
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EXPERIMENTAL AND THEORETICAL ANALYSIS OF A HEAT PIPE HEAT

EXCHANGER OPERATING WITH A LOW GLOBAL WARMING POTENTIAL

REFRIGERANT

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ABSTRACT

In the present paper the experimental and theoretical analysis of a Heat Pipe finned Heat Exchanger

(HPEH) is reported. The HPHE consists of 54 horizontal 12.7 mm micro-fin copper tubes 700 mm

in length and aluminium continuous fins 0.115 mm in thickness with 3 mm of fin spacing. The

HPHE presents an evaporator section of 270 mm, a condenser section of 270 mm and adiabatic

section of 160 mm. The performance of the heat exchanger operating with the well-known

hydrofluorocarbon refrigerant HFC134a is compared with the results obtained using the new low

global warming potential hydrofluorolefin HFO1234ze(E). Tests were run in a double wind channel

with air operating conditions typical for air-conditioning in European countries for both summer

and winter seasons. The consistency of the experimental results is proved by the comparison with a

semi-empirical model of the heat exchanger based on heat transfer correlations available in

literature.

KEYWORDS

heat pipe, GWP, HFO1234ze(E)

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