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Our Regular Upfront Section:

12 Big Picture 1 The Brief 16 Timeline: The ever≚changing nature of global energy policies 22 Five Minutes With: Clarice Borges

58 ESG Bringing in holistic sustainability transformation

CRAFT

CHAFT

CRAFT

eStruxture Going full throttle in Canada

18 Trailblazer Tony Atti

94 Shell How Shell's Source 2 Contract digitalisation and Al boosts productivity

112

Net Zero GMVK Procurement Group driving digital transformation

Diversity & Inclusion Smoke-free vision and employees' wellbeing



Norwegian Data Centre Association

Promoting Norway's DC credentials through members' skills

Supply Chain Supply chains must benchmark their sustainable initiatives

TONY ATTI

CO-FOUNDER AND CEO OF PHONONIC

A former research scientist at NASA's jet propulsion laboratory, *Tony Atti* helps cool down the planet in a much safer way with Phononic's solid-state technology.

> ony Atti is a co-founder and CEO of Phononic, a cooling solutions company whose solid-state technology is claimed to be safer and more economically viable compared to traditional cooling and heating. Holding a PhD in Organic Chemistry from the University of Southern California, Atti founded Phononic back in November 2008.

Prior to founding Phononic, Atti was a research scientist at NASA's jet propulsion technology from 1998 to 2001, after which he joined MHI Energy Partners as a Director of Technology in 2002. He then became an entrepreneur-in-residence and a Vice President for business development at INI Power Systems from 2006 to 2008.

Last December, Atti was named Entrepreneur of the Year by the Research Triangle Cleantech Cluster (RTCC) at the 2021 Cleantech Innovation Awards. The Cleantech Innovation Awards is an annual event, held to honour people, organisations, and initiatives "driving cleantech innovation, creative deployment solutions, and workforce development".

Photo credit: Forbes



"I'm honoured to be recognised as an innovator in cleantech," said Atti. "Cooling and refrigeration play a critical role in our quality of life, and Phononic's solidstate innovation is an exciting way to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and support global climate goals, while also meeting the demanding performance needs of the market.

"It's a great honour to be recognised amongst this group of people and organisations who are all coming together for one common goal: to help our state and our world become a more sustainable place to live."

How Phononic's cooling and heating systems are better

Phononic offers semiconductor cooling solutions, claimed to be a sustainable technology that can transform refrigeration and cooling. Among the sectors that use Phononic's thermoelectric chips and fully-integrated products are fibre optic communications, 5G, LiDAR, grocery retail, healthcare, food & beverage, and climate control.

"We manufacture chips that support faster and more reliable 5G communications, which is highly critical for the rapidly-expanding remote workforce," Atti wrote in a release.

Photo credit: Forbes

"Our medical-grade refrigerators safeguard life-saving drugs and vaccines through partners like Thermo Fisher Scientific. Our merchandising solutions provide retailers fresh and frozen product options for grab-n-go customers proficiently using their time in the grocery store." Unlike traditional cooling

and refrigeration systems equipped with high Global Warming Potential (GWP) that reach the thousands due to their use of toxic hvdrofluorocarbons (HFCs). Phononic's solid-state solution has a GWP rating of only 1 – the lowest in the industry. Global use of traditional air conditioning units is projected to release 2.3 billion tons worth of CO2 into the atmosphere by 2050. Phononic's solidstate technology does not use refrigerants such as toxic hydrofluorocarbons. Instead, it uses water and CO2. The technology also uses 30-40% less power compared to its traditional counterparts and reduces the need for a compressor, making refrigeration and cooling silent to reduce overall noise pollution, with the loudest sound produced being only 35 dB.

"The historical refrigerants that had been used for vapour compression systems are both toxic and global warming contributors," said Atti. **O**