

# Innovative Equipment at Apollo Pac

## Apple growers to benefit from new nitrogen generators

Leasing nitrogen generators to cope with increased demand for controlled atmosphere (CA) storage at Apollo Pac's Whakatu coolstore is a thing of the past thanks to the recent acquisition and installation of two Absoger Portable Nitrogen Generators.

Coolstore engineer Mike Dobbs says its machinery wasn't able to cope with increased volumes and after a lengthy search and rigorous assessment process Absoger generators, supplied by Tauranga based Hort Air Services, were selected.

Mike is impressed with the generation capacity - 420m3 per hour of nitrogen at 2 per cent oxygen.

Each unit has its own inbuilt oxygen sensor so Mike can view output purity at all times. Apollo Pac is not only saving on power bills but has doubled the quantity of nitrogen generated, he says.

Other benefits include 24/7 availability of Hort Air services staff, the machines can operate at full or half capacity and maintenance and running costs are lower compared to older machines and other manufacturers.

There are 44 CA stores at Whakatu, which makes it the largest coolstore facility nationwide, and probably the largest single installation of Nitrogen

Generators in New Zealand, Hort Air Services director Jason Anderson says.

Portable nitrogen generators are available for all industries and until April, when the new machines were installed, Apollo Pac leased a generator to make up its shortfall.

Jason, an expert in CA, says it's a competitive industry and growers expect the best in service and technology. The Absoger nitrogen generator delivers significant savings of 40-50 per cent on power bills which ultimately will benefit growers.



Apollo Pac Site Engineer Mike Dobbs discusses the new nitrogen generators installed at the coolstore with Jason Anderson, director of Hort Air Services.

## About Hort Air Services

Hort Air is the exclusive distributor of Absoger horticultural equipment in New Zealand offering equipment leasing, sales and servicing, staff training and expertise in construction of CA rooms. It is also the largest leaser of portable

nitrogen generators and ethylene scrubbers in New Zealand.

Absoger is based in the south of France and leads the world with CA and ethylene sampling technology. Hort Air Services is the first in New Zealand to offer

a mobile ethylene sampling service for post harvest operators and coolstores with options to lease or buy. The Ethylene Analyser "EASI-1" offers extraordinary sensitivity to ethylene at levels as low as 10ppb and is suitable for monitoring SmartFresh rooms.

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**EASI-1**  
Ethylene Analyser  
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CSD 102

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Apollo Pac Site Engineer Mike Dobbs checks the keypad information on the new Absoger nitrogen generators.