

January 20, 2026

## **Noritz and Nihon Itomic Form Partnership to Develop Commercial CO<sub>2</sub> Heat Pump Water Heaters for North America** **– Exhibit at AHR Expo 2026, One of the World's Largest HVAC&R Shows, in Las Vegas This February –**

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Noritz Corporation (Head Office: Kobe, Hyogo, Japan; President and CEO: Masayuki Takenaka), a leading manufacturer of water heating systems, and Nihon Itomic Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Sumida-ku, Tokyo, Japan; President: Hirofumi Moriya) have entered into a partnership to develop their first commercial CO<sub>2</sub> heat pump water heater for the North American market.

As part of this launch initiative, the two companies will showcase the new technology at AHR Expo, one of the world's largest HVAC&R exhibitions, taking place from February 2-4, 2026 in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.



### **Background and Purpose of Partnership**

Environmental awareness and decarbonization initiatives have gained more attention over the years across North America, driving strong demand for electrification and heat pump water heating solutions. In line with its medium-term management plan, Noritz has positioned global business expansion as a core growth strategy, with the North American market representing a key focus area.

Noritz and Nihon Itomic first partnered in July 2025 to launch a commercial hybrid water heating system for the Japanese market. Building on that success, the two companies are now leveraging Nihon Itomic's expertise in electric and CO<sub>2</sub> heat pump technology and Noritz's proven manufacturing capabilities to jointly develop their first commercial CO<sub>2</sub> heat pump water heater for North America.

### **Details of Partnership and Future Outlook**

Under this partnership, Nihon Itomic will lead product development. Manufacturing will be carried out by RB Corporation (Head Office: Tsuchiura, Ibaraki, Japan; President: Takeshi Tsuji), a Noritz Group company, while NORITZ AMERICA CORPORATION (Head Office: Fountain Valley, California, USA; President and CEO: Jay Hassel) will oversee sales and distribution in the North American market. CO<sub>2</sub> refrigerant-based heat pump water heaters offer a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions compared to conventional fossil fuel systems and integrate seamlessly with renewable energy sources. Through this joint development and future market introduction,

Noritz and Nihon Itomic aim to accelerate the transition to a decarbonized society and create a future where comfort and environmental responsibility coexist.

## About AHR Expo 2026

**Organizers:** ASHRAE (American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers), AHRI (Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute)

**Venue:** Las Vegas Convention Center, Nevada, USA

**Dates:** February 2-4, 2026

**Visitors (2025):** Approx. 50,000

**Exhibitors (2025):** Approx. 1,800 companies

**Focus Areas:** Heating, ventilation, air conditioning, refrigeration, piping, control systems, energy efficiency, sustainability, etc.

**Official Website:** <https://www.ahrexpo.com/>

## Company Profiles

### ■Noritz Corporation

<b>President and CEO</b>	Masayuki Takenaka
<b>Head Office</b>	93 Edomachi, Chuo-ku, Kobe, Hyogo, Japan
<b>Established</b>	March 1951
<b>Business</b>	Manufacturing, sales, and service of equipment such as water heaters and gas stoves
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.noritzglobal.com/">https://www.noritzglobal.com/</a>

### ■NORITZ AMERICA CORPORATION

<b>President and CEO</b>	Jay Hassel
<b>Head Office</b>	11160 Grace Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708, USA
<b>Established</b>	January 2002
<b>Business</b>	Sales and after-sales service of gas tankless water heaters and related products
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://noritz.com/">https://noritz.com/</a>

### ■Nihon Itomic Co., Ltd.

<b>President</b>	Hirofumi Moriya
<b>Head Office</b>	Tokyo Skytree East Tower 24F, 1-1-2, Oshiage, Sumida-ku, Tokyo, Japan
<b>Established</b>	March 1957
<b>Business</b>	Plan, design, develop, manufacture, sell, and maintain commercial use water heaters, boilers, instantaneous water heaters, hot water storage tank, sink unit with electric water heater, CO2 Heat Pump Water Heater, supply hot water units, faucets and fittings.
<b>Website</b>	<a href="https://www.itomic.co.jp/english/">https://www.itomic.co.jp/english/</a>

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