

# OZONews

A weekly electronic news service on ozone protection & implementation of the Montreal Protocol compiled by:  
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### 1- **Market Still Hot for Banned Ozone Depleting Chemicals** (Japan)

Although banned since 1996, CFC 12 commands an underground premium to recharge car air conditioners. Late in 2000, an auto parts distributor in Kita-Kyushu got an unexpected call. "We have Russian-made CFC 12," the female voice on the other end said. "Are you interested?" Six years after chlorofluorocarbon 12, the key coolant in auto air conditioners, was banned from domestic production and importation, the market for it is still hot. The man who got the call was immediately wary and said no thanks. But there are no penalties for those who decide to trade in CFC 12, although production and import were banned in 1996 by international agreement. Indeed, the parts dealer still gets calls for CFC 12 from his customers. Since demand is so brisk, he ordered thousands of 390-gram cans of the chemical from another parts supplier in Kita-Kyushu early last year. He paid 1,600 yen per can for the chemical at 99.5 percent purity... customs inspectors cracked a smuggling ring at Kita-Kyushu's Moji Port, in which CFC 12 was being brought in from China. Authorities questioned the parts dealer... But that deal was by no means the only CFC 12 smuggling effort cracked in Japan last year. In July, dealers tried to bring in CFC 12 from Thailand through New Tokyo International Airport at Narita. And in November, customs inspectors sorted out a plot to smuggle CFC 12 from China through Yokohama. Everyone the authorities cornered on such deals was in the auto parts business, and used CFC 12 to recharge car air conditioners... One reason for the continuing popularity of CFC 12 is the delay in converting car air conditioning to newer equipment that does not need the rare coolant. The delays are the result of a weakened economy since car owners have put off trading in for newer models and opted to get by with older models that use CFC-coolant air conditioners... Mitsuru Takeda of Japan's Save the Ozone Network, a nonprofit organization, warned that companies in Japan may end up shipping CFCs in used cars to developing nations. "Even if there is less use of the older air conditioners in Japan," he said, "if they are still used in developing nations, the environmental impact cannot be ignored." An Environment Ministry study has determined that CFC 12 concentrations in the atmosphere of Hokkaido have hardly changed since domestic restrictions were imposed in 1989.

**Full Text @:** <http://www.asahi.com/english/national/K2002022500525.html>

**Source:** The Asahi Shimbun, 25 February 2002

### 2- **Canada Led the World in Protecting the Ozone Layer**

... Canada has been a world leader when it comes to protecting the ozone layer. Federal and provincial governments passed strong laws to ensure we met our international commitments. Corporate reluctance to change melted rapidly and Canadian consumption of ozone-depleting chemicals has now fallen an impressive 95 per cent ... The twin problems of ozone depletion and greenhouse gas emissions have much in common. Both are caused by human activities, both have the potential to cause widespread human and environmental damage and both can be addressed with a range of solutions... The protection of the Earth's ozone layer is a powerful symbol of optimism and hope, proving that Canadians are capable of tackling a complex environmental problem with wisdom and will. We must now apply that same leadership to the challenge of climate change.

**Full text @:**

[http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article\\_Type1&c=Article&cid=1014333008015&call\\_page=TS\\_Opinion&call\\_pageid=968256290124&call\\_pagepath=News/Opinion&col=968350116695](http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1014333008015&call_page=TS_Opinion&call_pageid=968256290124&call_pagepath=News/Opinion&col=968350116695)

**Source:** The Toronto Star, 22 February 2002

### 3- **Europe's Largest Satellite Prepares for Lift-Off**

After months of delay, the largest Earth observation satellite ever built in Europe is due to be launched this week... Fourteen countries including Switzerland have cooperated on the €2.3 billion (SFr3.4 billion) project. The eight-tonne

satellite, known as Envisat, is the size of an articulated lorry. It has 10 instruments on board that will monitor environmental changes. During its five-year life, the satellite will circle the earth every 100 minutes, gathering data on global changes such as depletion of the ozone layer, ocean levels, the state of polar ice and plankton currents in the world's seas... Professor Daniel Nüsch, who works at Zurich University's remote sensing laboratories, told swissinfo... "Hundreds of scientists from all over the world from many different fields are today very keen to get data from space to be able to give answers to burning questions such as 'Can we slow down global warming?' 'How badly damaged is the ozone layer?' ... As Envisat circles the globe 14 times a day, information will be relayed to ground stations worldwide for analysis. The satellite will return in a 35-day cycle to the same orbit and after three days draw a complete map of the world... An Ariane-5 rocket is due to launch Envisat from the European Spaceport in French Guyana on March 1. It was scheduled to lift off last October but a malfunction in the launcher caused a six month delay...

**Full text @:** <http://www2.swissinfo.org/sen/Swissinfo.html?siteSect=511&sid=1039474>

**Source:** Swissinfo, 25 February 2002

**OzoNews is available on the OzonAction Programme web site @:**

<http://www.uneptie.org/ozonaction/compliance/ozonews/main.html>

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