



- Gas absorption chiller
- 330 total refrigeration tons
- 15,000 sq. ft. science center/ theater addition
- Dallas, Texas



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**A noted science center's IMAX theater addition is air conditioned by an absorption chiller/heater chosen for reliability, efficiency and economy.**

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This summer, if you happen to find yourself in Dallas, Texas, be sure to visit the city's brand new 329-seat domed theater at The Science Place TI Founders IMAX® Theater. And while you're there, don't forget to ask how the building is cooled with gas flames. They would love to tell you; in fact, "it's a good scientific lesson," says Jeff Cortman, vice president of Exhibits.

The TI Founders IMAX® Theater, which will feature films that stress science and scientific pursuits, is the centerpiece of a \$13.5-million expansion, started in 1995. Privately funded by Texas Instruments, the first phase was completed in June 1996. The expansion project adds

15,000 sq. ft. of new public space to the hands-on science center which has operated since the 1940s. At its present location since 1985, the expanded space includes a gift shop, food service area and 15,000 sq. ft. grand atrium. Attendance, which usually runs about 500,000 annually, is expected to double.

When planning the expansion, developers knew they would have to install a cooling system independent from the existing building's electric system. After long study and hard analyses, they decided on one 30-ton and three 100-ton Yazakis. In fact, they looked ahead and bought an additional Yazaki gas-fired chiller/heater which will be all set to run





**Lone Star Gas Company**  
301 S. Harwood  
Dallas, TX 75201

**Yazaki Energy Systems Inc.**  
13740 Omega Road  
Dallas, TX 75244

when Phase II of their expansion plan goes into effect and adds another 20,000 sq. ft. “Yazakis are perfect for them, since they meet their size constraints,” says Jim Phillips of Lone Star Gas.

“We chose gas cooling for its reliability, monthly costs, lower maintenance, cost efficiency, and responsiveness, and because we

think it will benefit the city in terms of savings. We are able to justify our decision based on the energy and money saved in operating,” says Cortman. “The old system is terrible — because it’s not centralized, every area has to be operated manually. The new system is wonderful — all centrally controlled and integrated,” he adds.



**AMERICAN  
GAS  
COOLING  
CENTER**

400 N. Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001  
(202) 824-7141  
[www.agcc.org](http://www.agcc.org)

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