

### Power industry turns to smart maintenance technology solutions

The Smart Maintenance Technology (SMT) solutions market for the power industry is arguably in its formative stages as power grid operators come to appreciate the benefits of asset management technology and improved maintenance practices for grid reliability. According to a new ARC Advisory Group study, the market is poised for strong growth in coming years as a number of factors converge to drive adoption of SMT solutions, including increased demand for electricity, the proliferation of the Smart Grid, and the aging of both the power infrastructure and utility workforce.

Investment into the electric grid infrastructure provides an economical opportunity for power grid owners/operators to include an asset condition monitoring infrastructure from the onset of these projects. This will fundamentally change the way that grid assets are managed and maintained. "With smarter electric grids, operators will be able to take a more proactive role to ensure the seamless flow of power," says analyst Allen Avery, the principal author of ARC's 'Smart Maintenance Technology Solutions for Power T&D Worldwide Outlook'. "Smart maintenance technology solutions will enable operators to identify problems quickly, preventing equipment failures and subsequent power outages."

## Report urges support for export-led recovery

With government funding for industry thought to be at risk, a new report published by business advisors and accountants BDO LLP urges both government and business to focus on exports if the UK is to forge a prominent role in the new global landscape. The report, 'Transitions – The New Economic World Order' outlines the opportunities open to the UK in the new economic world order and was developed alongside an expert panel convened by BDO.

Although new Chancellor George Osborne has promised tax support for manufacturing, government loans earmarked for industry are being reviewed. In addition, BDO reckons many executives are limited in their outlook, yet to prepare for the changing global landscape. Some 85% of UK board members admitted they are not actively preparing for competition from the Next 11 countries that will become economic powerhouses over the coming five years, according to a new poll commissioned by BDO.

Peter Hemington, Corporate Finance Partner at BDO LLP commented: "Businesses have to look east – the Eurozone's current plight confirms that relying on what's just outside our front door is no longer enough."

Tom Lawton, Head of Manufacturing at BDO LLP added: "The UK is at a crossroads on

the global map. While we welcome George Osborne's plan to protect manufacturers under a new corporation tax framework, there needs to be a clear strategy that rebalances the economy and encourages exporting. This means removing red tape, providing specific support to mid-market manufacturers and supporting emerging technologies while not forgetting the UK's traditional industrial base."



## Changing climate triggers risk and investment issues for mining industry

According to an Acclimatise report, backed by IBM, over 80% of global mining companies surveyed claim their physical assets would be affected by extreme weather events, yet only 13% report taking action to protect their assets that are critical to business success, attracting financial investment and the safety of employees.

The report findings highlight the critical choices mining companies now face to help prepare their business for anticipated additional costs and challenges created by a changing climate. The challenges facing mining enterprises today are pushing leaders to adapt the traditional ways of thinking about their business to discover and explore new practices that will improve the business of mining.

Without building adaptation measures into their business plans, climatic risks could impact upon a company's financial and operational performance, potentially increasing operational and capital expenditure. This is particularly true for mining companies where long-term investment decisions have to be made. However only 3% of companies

surveyed provided evidence that they mainstream adaptation into decision making, highlighting the need for more mining companies to consider action.

"This report shows how important it is for the mining sector to plan for a changing climate," said Paul Simpson, Chief Operating Officer, Carbon Disclosure Project. "Issues such as operating cost, community impact and reputational risks will impact if not managed effectively. As a result, investors want to know how mining companies are dealing with these risks and planning for them in the future. This report helps answer those questions."

You can download a full copy of the report at [www-05.ibm.com/uk/green/cdp2009/mining.pdf](http://www-05.ibm.com/uk/green/cdp2009/mining.pdf)



## Economic downturn sees surge in numbers of self-employed engineers

The UK's economic recession has forged a new generation of home-grown entrepreneurs, with more than a quarter of respondents in the Engineering sector describing themselves as 'self-employed', and among the rest, more than 60% expressing a desire to work more independently, according to the latest survey from global workforce solutions leader Kelly Services.

The findings are part of the Kelly Global Workforce Index, which obtained the views of approximately 134,000 people, including approximately 6,000 in the UK. The survey also found that 21% of respondents have been bitten by the entrepreneurial bug and want to start their own business, with Gen Y (aged 18-29) the most enthusiastic about a commercial venture.

Those who are self-employed – also known as independent contractors or free agents – are more likely to be Gen X (aged 30-47) and baby boomers (aged 48-65), and are mostly male.

Kelly Services General Manager John Callagher says, "Many of those who lost their jobs as a result of the global economic crisis are seizing the opportunity to reinvent themselves as independent contractors, freelancers and consultants, as well as starting their own businesses. Today, more people are taking charge of their own careers and view self-employment as a way of achieving personal and professional success."

## HSE launches new look woodworking website

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has launched a newly redesigned website for workers in the woodworking sector. The woodworking industry is one of the most dangerous in the manufacturing sector. Last year over 300 people suffered major injuries and over 1100 were off work following an accident for more than 3 days.

The new website aims to make it easier for workers, supervisors and managers to fully understand the risks they may face and learn how to deal with them. The site includes lots of new information, including woodworking machine demonstration videos and advice

on best practice. The information that was already available on the HSE site has also been updated and re-organised so that users can easily access specific advice on particular health and safety issues.

There is also a selection of Woodworking Information Sheets (WIS), the safe use of woodworking machinery Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and other information that can be downloaded for free.

Tim Small of HSE's Manufacturing Sector said: "The new website has been designed in close consultation with the woodworking



industry and we hope it will help to reduce the unacceptably high number of incidents that can seriously affect people's lives."

To find out more visit: [www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking](http://www.hse.gov.uk/woodworking)

## ETI to study technology requirements for carbon capture and storage

The Energy Technologies Institute (ETI) is to carry out a detailed study of the availability and distribution of suitable minerals across the UK and technologies that could be used to economically capture and store carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions. These may arise from distributed sources such as small power plants and industrial facilities as well as large power stations.

there remains a risk that potential sites may turn out to be insufficient in volume, uneconomic or impractical.



CCS by mineralisation has been identified by leading researchers as a promising additional method of sequestering CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. Minerals and CO<sub>2</sub> can react together to permanently store CO<sub>2</sub> as a solid carbonate product,

which can then be safely stored, used as an aggregate or turned into useful end products such as bricks or filler for concrete. The project team will explore these and other opportunities for value added use of the resulting carbonate products.

The leading technology for carbon capture and storage (CCS) involves capturing carbon dioxide gas then storing it underground in oil and gas reservoirs and other porous areas. The ETI previously announced the UK Storage Appraisal Project, to improve the estimates of how much practical potential geologic storage space is available around the country, since

There is more information on the ETI website at [www.energytechnologies.co.uk](http://www.energytechnologies.co.uk)

### Health and Safety 10 – North

A machinery safety zone has been added to the attractions at the Health and Safety 10 – North exhibition and conference which takes place at the Reebok Stadium in Bolton on 13-14th October 2010. As well as an educational programme put together by the British Safety Council, the machinery safety zone will incorporate more than a dozen companies and will offer free theoretical and practical seminars about the latest legislation, technology and continuing issues surrounding PUWER and CE marking.