



Volume 10 • Issue 4
July/August 2010

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Annual Subscription

To all Overseas Destinations £99.00

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ISSN 1748 5290



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Let us Know who you Want to Hear From

As the country adapts to life after the emergency budget and the comedy football, there's a great deal of soul searching and talk about the direction that the country (and football team) needs to take in order to have a successful future. Leaving aside what you may or may not feel about the sincerity of Cameron and Clegg's call for a national discussion, for one, I feel encouraged because people seem to be moving beyond the 'armchair expert' mentality of simply yelling opinions and moving towards genuinely engaging in discussion and debate. Conversations are being held on how we got into this mess, what the causal factors were, how we can get out of it and how we can avoid it happening all over again.

This is one of the reasons why my favourite article to work on each issue is the headline interview and why my favourite questions are: 'How do you see the current state of UK manufacturing and engineering?' 'What do we well?' 'Where can we improve and how?' and 'What are the biggest opportunities and threats facing us?' Over the past years we've had these questions and others answered by inspirational leaders from many different fields that all touch the world of maintenance, engineering and manufacturing. We've had input and wisdom from ROSPA, CIBSE, IMECHE, The Packaging Society, The Learning Skills Council, and The Manufacturing Advisory Service to name just a few. This has been complemented by hearing from a former young woman engineer of the year, a former maintenance engineer of the year as well as leaders in business, in software, in services and even from manufacturers and engineers themselves.

I particularly liked the perspective from this issue's interviewee, Gus Desbarats from British Design Innovation (BDI) as he highlights the critical role played by design and innovation in developing our national competitive advantage. He also has a great insight into the humanistic element of business at an individual company as well as a national level.

To me, the most significant thing that emerges from almost 3 years of interviews is the consistent core message that the UK has a heck of a lot going for it when it comes to maintenance, engineering and manufacturing. Yes, there are challenges ahead but we're starting from having some of the best people at every level and I for one am encouraged by that. And while not everyone agrees on how best to overcome these challenges that's also encouraging because it (1) reflects the reality of life and (2) gives you and I the chance to read and assess opinions and insights which may be different to our own.

All of which got me thinking – who do YOU want see interviewed and which areas of business, industry and life that impact what YOU do on a day to day basis do you want to hear from? Customers? Solution providers? Politicians? Business Leaders? The Unions?

If you've got suggestions or even if you want to nominate yourself, then send an email to info@maintenanceonline.co.uk ✨

Chris Pope, Associate Editor