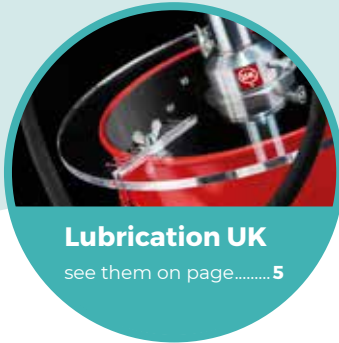


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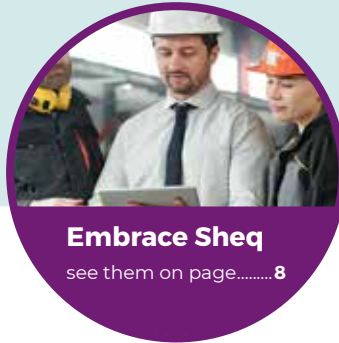
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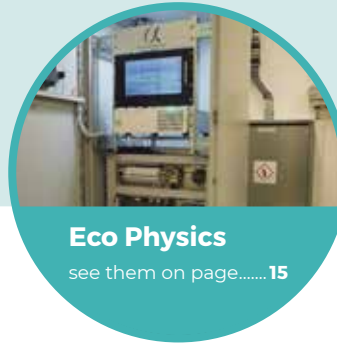
Lubrication UK

see them on page.....5



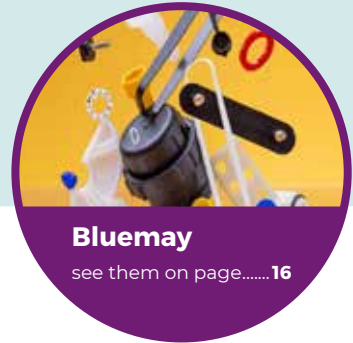
Embrace Sheq

see them on page.....8



Eco Physics

see them on page.....15



Bluemay

see them on page.....16



Cath Harrison
Executive & Lifestyle Support Partner
Founder, Bee-Assisted Ltd

In today's fast-paced world, time has become one of our most valuable assets. Whether you're running a business, leading a team, managing projects, or juggling family commitments, it can often feel like there simply aren't enough hours in the day.

That's where Bee-Assisted comes in.

Founded by me, Cath Harrison, Bee-Assisted

Bee-Assisted Ltd: More Time for What Matters Most



it's about having the right support around you.

What started as traditional PA and Executive Assistant support has evolved into a holistic service. Today, Bee-Assisted provides bespoke Executive Assistant, operational and personal lifestyle management services designed to give clients back their most precious commodity: time.

Support is tailored to individual needs and can include diary and inbox management, travel planning, recruitment administration, event and project support, research, supplier sourcing and

personal lifestyle management.

As my business has evolved, I've realised the greatest value I bring isn't simply completing tasks. It's building trusted relationships, understanding how my clients work and becoming a genuine extension of their business and personal lives. Being the person who already knows the answer. The person who spots problems before they arise. The person who protects a client's time, keeps things moving and quietly takes things off their plate.

For many clients, it's not about getting through a to-do list. It's about creating space to be present for the moments that matter most.

If that sounds familiar, I'd love to chat.
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Professional support. More time for what matters most.

New Schmersal webshop: faster, simpler, fully responsive

With the new webshop, Schmersal is consistently investing in the digital future and offers customers worldwide modern, efficient and user-friendly access to the product portfolio.

KA Schmersal GmbH & Co. KG has successfully launched its new online shop. With modern technology and a significantly improved user interface, the platform offers customers worldwide a more convenient and efficient shopping experience for products, order data, and services. The complete portfolio comprises approximately 15,000 products from the fields of safety, control, and automation technology.

Significantly simplified ordering and registration process.

A key focus of the relaunch was further improving user-friendliness. The entire ordering process has been made clearer and more intuitive. Existing approval processes for business customer registration remain in place, but now run more efficiently. Another advantage for existing

customers: existing login details remain valid, ensuring a seamless transition to the new system.

Product information is now presented more clearly and technically

The product detail pages are now more user-friendly: Technical features, specifications, and relevant information are more prominently displayed and easier to find. Additional features such as a product comparison further assist customers in selecting suitable solutions.

Responsive Design

Mobile usability has also been consistently improved. The new webshop now features a modern, responsive design. Content and functions automatically adapt to different devices, ensuring convenient use on the go.

Internationally available and with personal support

The new webshop is available in approximately 20 countries, strengthening Schmersal's



international digital presence and ensuring a consistent shopping experience worldwide. In addition to digital optimization, Schmersal continues to prioritize personal support. Customers will continue to benefit from technical and sales support hotlines for quick and expert assistance.

Web shop: www.products.schmersal.com

Contents

Company To Watch	3
Product Highlights	4-5
Material Handling	6
Business	
Management	7
Management	
Services	8
Finance &	
Technology	9
Surface Finishing	10-11
Laser Welding	12-13
Industrial Process	14
Oil & Gas	15
Industry	16
Energy & Power	17
Testing &	
Measurements	18
Training	19
Software	20

Contact

Publication Management

Thomas Reilly
Sales Manager
T 07483 935397
sales@bestpracticeuk.co.uk

Production

Robert Sharp
Production Manager
production@businessandindustrytoday.co.uk

Accounts

Paul Whitaker
Accounts Manager
T 0121 824 4742
accounts@bestpracticeuk.co.uk

Editorial

Gina Burton
Editor
gina@freshmedia-uk.co.uk

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July 2026 | Issue 703

Editor's Notes

Gina Burton
Editor



Welcome to our July issue, where we dive into the latest advancements, practical insights, and groundbreaking innovations shaping the key sectors of UK industry.

Flexxbotics is advancing robot-driven manufacturing with the latest release of FlexxCORE, its patent-pending automation platform. New capabilities are enabling robots to coordinate multiple machines, processes and product lines, helping manufacturers scale production, improve quality and increase efficiency while laying the foundation for future AI-powered smart factory operations. See page 14.

As air quality regulations tighten and concerns over climate and human health grow, ECO PHYSICS is leading the way in ultra-sensitive Nitrogen Oxide measurement technology. On page 15, discover how this Swiss innovator's world-leading chemiluminescence analysers are helping industries monitor emissions, improve environmental performance, and tackle one of today's most pressing pollution challenges.

Oxylabs is transforming web data collection with OxyCopilot, an AI-powered assistant that simplifies web scraping through natural language prompts. By reducing technical complexity and development time, the innovative tool helps businesses access valuable public web data faster, enabling teams to focus on analysis, insights, and innovation. See more on page 21.

Have any news to share?

Email: sales@bestpracticeuk.co.uk

On the Cover

With the new webshop, Schmersal is consistently investing in the digital future and offers customers worldwide modern, efficient and user-friendly access to the product portfolio.



Download our iOS app here





Growing Through Service, Simplicity and Strong Relationships



The world of e-commerce moves quickly, and behind every successful online order is a logistics operation working hard to ensure products arrive on time and in perfect condition. For Lockwood Fulfilment, that responsibility goes beyond simply shipping parcels, it's about becoming an extension of its clients' businesses and taking away the operational headaches that can slow growth.

The company has steadily built its reputation by offering fulfilment services that are straightforward, reliable and flexible. Working with businesses of all sizes, Lockwood Fulfilment handles everything from warehousing and order dispatch to inventory management and returns, allowing customers to spend more time developing their brands rather than managing logistics.

What sets the business apart is its practical approach. Rather than trying to overcomplicate fulfilment with unnecessary jargon, the team focuses on delivering a service that simply works. As online retail continues to evolve, many businesses are looking for partners they can trust to handle the day-to-day operations while they concentrate on sales, marketing and customer relationships.

The next year promises to be an exciting one for Lockwood Fulfilment. The business is preparing to move into a larger warehouse towards the end of the year, creating the capacity to welcome more customers and fulfil around twice the volume of orders it currently processes.

For the team, the move represents more than additional space. It reflects the steady growth the company has experienced and provides an opportunity to continue investing in the level of service that existing customers have come to expect. Expanding without losing that personal touch is something the business sees as particularly

important.

Among the services attracting growing interest is Lockwood Fulfilment's Amazon FBA labelling operation. With sellers often working to tight deadlines and strict compliance requirements, the company offers a 24-hour turnaround service that helps products move into Amazon's fulfilment network quickly and efficiently. However, one area that has become particularly valuable to customers is returns management.

Returns can be one of the least enjoyable aspects of running an online business. They require time, organisation and administration, often taking attention away from more productive activities. Lockwood Fulfilment has responded by developing a dedicated returns department that handles the process from start to finish, removing much of the hassle for retailers.

The service has proved increasingly popular, particularly with businesses experiencing growing order volumes. By managing returned goods efficiently and professionally, the team helps customers maintain smooth operations while improving the overall experience for their own consumers.

As the company continues to grow, it remains aware that the logistics industry faces significant change. Customer expectations around speed and convenience

continue to rise, while supply chain pressures and increasing costs present ongoing challenges for fulfilment providers across the sector.

Rather than viewing these issues as obstacles, Lockwood Fulfilment sees them as opportunities to improve. Investing in larger facilities, refining internal processes and maintaining close relationships with customers all form part of the company's approach to adapting as the industry evolves.

Staying connected with developments across logistics is another priority. Members of the team recently attended The Delivery Conference 2026, using the event to meet other logistics professionals and e-commerce businesses while discussing the latest trends affecting fulfilment and delivery.

The company also plans to attend Multimodal 2026, one of the UK's leading logistics and supply chain events, where conversations around transport, warehousing and inventory management continue to shape the future of the industry. Events like these provide valuable opportunities to share ideas, build partnerships and better understand the challenges facing customers.

Looking ahead, Lockwood Fulfilment appears focused on measured, sustainable growth rather than rapid expansion for its own sake. The planned warehouse move, investment in specialist services and continued emphasis on customer support all reflect a business that understands the importance of combining operational efficiency with personal service.

In an increasingly automated world, that balance may prove to be one of its greatest strengths. While technology and systems play an important role in fulfilment, the company's philosophy remains refreshingly simple: build strong relationships, solve problems efficiently and make life easier for the businesses that trust it with their logistics.

For more information, see below.

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Advancing best practice in lubricant transfer with the all new Pro-LubDrive

In industrial maintenance, where uptime, precision and asset longevity define operational success, even routine lubrication tasks demand smarter thinking. Filling systems with grease or oil seems like a mundane routine, but in high-intensity operations – from heavy machinery to central lubrication networks – the act of filling can be surprisingly challenging. Traditional pumps, whether hand-operated or pneumatic, demand physical exertion or bulky infrastructure, making lubrication less straightforward than it should be. Enter the Pro-LubeDrive Filling Pump from Lubrication UK, a product that demonstrates how a fresh perspective on a basic task can yield a step change in practical performance and workplace safety.

Lubrication UK has long stood as a stalwart in supplying tailored lubrication solutions across the UK, bringing over two decades of industry experience to a range of sectors. From automotive and mechanical engineering to rail, construction and renewable energy, the company's portfolio spans automatic lubricators, accessories and bespoke installations designed to reduce downtime and enhance equipment longevity. In addition to specialist systems, the company supplies all types of lubricants and lubrication equipment, ensuring customers can source everything from fluids to dispensing hardware through a single, knowledgeable partner. Their emphasis on value-driven innovation is clear across the range of products they support, but nowhere is this more evident than in the development of their Pro-LubeDrive Filling Pump.

The Pro-LubeDrive is described as the world's first eccentric screw pump that can be driven by a standard cordless drill or driver, deceptively simple with impressive speeds that carries substantial real-world benefit. Designed for filling or transferring grease up to NLGI 2, the system also handles a wide range of industrial fluids and transmission oils, making it a highly versatile addition to any maintenance toolkit. In essence, it removes the need for the heavy manual effort associated with hand pumps, and the dependency on compressed air or mains electricity that comes with pneumatic and electric units. Operators simply mount the robust screw-type pump tube into the lubricant container, attach a battery-powered drill, and begin pumping. What would once require a muscle-intensive process becomes a quick, precise, and efficient operation.



To ensure suitability across different container sizes and applications, the Pro-LubeDrive is available in multiple models. The 600 model is designed for use with tubs or containers up to 18kg and features a usable pump length of 500mm, making it ideal for smaller-scale operations and workshop environments. For higher-volume requirements, the 900 model accommodates containers up to 50kg and offers a usable pump length of 900mm, supporting more demanding industrial settings. This flexibility enables maintenance teams to select a configuration aligned precisely with their operational needs.



But the real value of the Pro-LubeDrive goes beyond convenience. In many industrial contexts, lubrication tasks are performed under time pressure, often in confined or hard-to-reach spaces where heavy equipment is impractical. The ability to deploy a lightweight, drill-driven pump means maintenance teams can work with greater agility and less preparation. There's no requirement for compressor hookups, trailing cables or generators – just the tool they already carry on their belt.

Its application scope is extensive. From filling central lubrication multi-point auto lube systems, to topping up gearboxes, refilling drums, or transferring industrial fluids between containers, the Pro-LubeDrive supports an almost endless range of maintenance tasks. Whether in automotive workshops, heavy-duty engineering plants or on-site service operations, the pump bridges the gap between fully automated systems and traditional manual methods.

From a performance standpoint, the eccentric screw mechanism delivers consistent flow rates – significantly faster than manual pumping – while remaining quieter than many pneumatic alternatives. The simplicity of operation also reduces the risk of repetitive strain injuries; what was once physically demanding work becomes manageable with a familiar battery tool. In an age where workplace sustainability, operator comfort and lean maintenance practices are expected, this blend of speed, versatility and low noise plays directly into industry best-practice frameworks.

Importantly, the design philosophy behind the Pro-LubeDrive reflects a broader commitment from Lubrication UK to provide solutions that integrate seamlessly with customer workflows. Beyond supplying products, the company builds systems in-house to suit specific applications, ensuring each installation is configured exactly to requirements before it ever reaches site. This workshop-based approach guarantees that customers receive ready-to-deploy solutions tailored to their operational demands.



From the perspective of safety and compliance, ease of use cannot be overstated. Maintenance teams are under pressure to mitigate risks associated with manual handling, especially in heavy-industry applications. Reducing the physical strain involved in lubrication – a task often repeated across hundreds of points in a facility – has direct implications for occupational health. Furthermore, by simplifying the process and reducing the potential for error, tools like the Pro-LubeDrive contribute to consistency in lubrication practices, which in turn supports better machine performance, fewer unplanned stoppages and reduced life-cycle costs.

It's worth noting that Lubrication UK's approach to aftercare and support underpins the introduction of any new product. The company partners with customers, offering technical support, installation services and training to ensure that users gain maximum value from their investment. This is a hallmark of best-practice suppliers; an

acknowledgement that product performance is as much about application and support as it is about mechanical design.



In closing, the Pro-LubeDrive Filling Pump is more than an incremental product release – it exemplifies how targeted innovation can overhaul a fundamental task. By turning a conventional tool on its head and empowering maintenance professionals with a solution that is faster, safer and more adaptable, Lubrication UK has set a new benchmark for grease and oil handling.

With multiple model options, compatibility with grease up to NLGI 2, the capability to fill central lubrication systems and transfer industrial fluids, and the backing of a company that supplies all types of lubricants and equipment while building bespoke systems to order, the Pro-LubeDrive represents a practical advance in lubrication best practice – one that transforms a daily chore into an efficient and highly effective part of the maintenance routine.

For more information, please see below:
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Why capital is staying in London despite a cooling housing market

London isn't suffering from a lack of housing demand. It's suffering from a failure to deliver.

New data from Molior shows just 5,547 private homes broke ground across the capital last year, an 84% drop from a decade ago. Against an annual requirement of roughly 88,000 homes, development has slowed dramatically. Even with a modest uptick in starts, the pipeline remains inadequate, with only around 14,000 homes expected to complete in 2027 and 2028 combined.

This isn't a demand crisis. It's a viability crisis.

Construction inflation, labour shortages, higher debt costs and regulatory changes have pushed budgets up sharply, while planning delays add further uncertainty. Developers are being asked to produce mid-market housing at prices that only prime-level sales can support. As a result, schemes stall and supply dries up.

Yet capital hasn't abandoned London. Prime and super-prime property is attracting renewed



Joe Freedman, Head of Origination at ASK Partners

drawn by London's political stability, legal security and global connectivity.

Capital today is selective, not scarce. Lenders and investors focus on experienced sponsors, strong locations and clear demand. Expertise now matters as much as capital.

The collapse in housing starts should be a wake-up call for policymakers. The need for new homes has never been greater. The challenge isn't demand—it's making the numbers work so those homes can actually be built.

www.askpartners.co.uk

Asia Pacific's quiet lending revolution

A quiet but consequential shift is reshaping Asia-Pacific's capital markets. As banks retreat from corporate lending, private credit is stepping in as an increasingly essential source of financing for the region's next phase of growth.



This is a structural reallocation of credit driven by regulation, balance sheet constraints and a widening mismatch between what banks can provide and what borrowers need.

Across Asia-Pacific, banks have reduced cross-border lending and narrowed the scope of borrowers they serve, concentrating on the largest corporates and lowest-risk credits. Mid-market businesses, infrastructure-linked borrowers and asset-heavy companies increasingly struggle to secure funding, creating a growing financing gap that private credit is well positioned to fill.

Asia-Pacific is among the fastest-growing private credit markets globally. Compared with more crowded Western markets, it offers attractive risk-adjusted returns, stronger lender protections and

more relationship-driven deal flow. Lower sponsor penetration often gives lenders greater negotiating leverage, supporting stronger covenants, security packages and downside protection.

Demand is strongest in mid-market corporate lending, infrastructure-related assets, energy transition projects and asset-backed finance. Success, however, depends on local expertise, disciplined underwriting and active portfolio management.

Private credit in Asia-Pacific is no longer peripheral. As banks continue to retreat and capital-intensive growth sectors expand, it is becoming a core component of the region's financing ecosystem.

sclowry.com

ME Asset Management Acquires Swansea Premier Inn



ME Asset Management (ME AM), through its subsidiary ME Swansea, has completed the acquisition of the 132-key Premier Inn hotel on Swansea Waterfront, supported by a £9.6 million senior loan facility from ASK Partners.

The hotel, operated under a long lease to Whitbread plc with ten years unexpired, occupies a prominent waterfront location and benefits from strong demand driven by tourism, business travel and ongoing regeneration across the city.

ME AM specialises in repositioning overlooked or underperforming properties through strategic investment and asset enhancement. For this asset, ME Swansea intends to undertake

façade restoration as part of a wider improvement programme.

Mike Ginsberg, Investment Manager at ASK, said: "This loan presented an attractive opportunity to finance a well-located, income-producing asset with a strong operator covenant. The long lease to Whitbread provides cashflow visibility, while Swansea's ongoing regeneration creates compelling demand fundamentals for quality hospitality assets."

Verender Badial, CEO of ME Asset Management, added: "This acquisition reflects our focus on high-quality, income-producing assets in resilient regional markets. ASK has been an excellent funding partner, and their understanding of value-add and operational real estate enabled us to execute this transaction efficiently."

ASK has now lent more than £2 billion since inception and continues to provide debt solutions across hospitality, residential and wider real estate sectors.

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BEP Surface Technologies earns international recognition

An SME engineering firm has gained major international recognition after Canada formally endorsed its contribution to long-term nuclear waste storage. BEP Surface Technologies received validation from Canada's Nuclear Waste Management Organisation (NWMO) for its role in developing the copper-coated Mark II Used Fuel Container, the primary safety barrier for the country's future deep geological repository.



scan, with zero defects found, confirming the company's copper coating is consistent and of sufficient purity for one of the world's most ambitious nuclear safety programmes.

More than 40 countries worldwide are seeking high-level nuclear waste disposal solutions, but only a small group are making real progress. Finland leads the field and will open the world's first final repository at Onkalo in 2026.

"To be the only non-research, commercial company named in the entire report is a milestone for BEP and for UK manufacturing," said Andrew McCluskey, Managing Director of BEP Surface Technologies.

BEP continues to expand its coating capabilities, backed by international research partnerships and ongoing R&D in advanced surface technologies.

For more information, see below: www.bep-st.com

The Radcliffe company spent over a decade perfecting a specialised copper coating designed to protect nuclear waste containers for hundreds of thousands of years underground.

In its latest annual technical report, the NWMO singles out BEP as the only external company to meet the standard for its Mark II Used Fuel Container. Its Lower Assembly and Hemi-Head components passed every inspection and high-tech

Freudenberg Develops Next-Generation Battery Cell Caps

With Cell Caps 2, Freudenberg Sealing Technologies is developing the next generation of battery cell caps for prismatic and cylindrical cells. The company will present the technology at Battery Show Europe in Stuttgart from June 9–11, 2026, alongside expanded cell-to-cell barriers, venting foam mats, and advanced battery cooling and heat pump components.

Cell caps occupy a considerable portion of cell volume but must reliably seal the cell chemistry, enable electrolyte filling, support fast charging, incorporate safety mechanisms, and contribute to mechanical integrity.

As series production of Cell Caps Generation 1 ramps up, Cell Caps 2 integrates the terminal in molded rubber into the base plate. Liquid elastomer is injected into the gap between the poles and cap base plate, permanently bonding the components and providing gas tightness, mechanical robustness,



and electrical insulation with fewer parts and lower mass.

Generation 2 technology can reduce cell cap height by up to 30%, increasing energy capacity and operating time. Freudenberg is also working on mass production of a round cell cap using manufacturing technology proven in high-volume valve stem seal production.

The company is expanding its safety portfolio with additional thermal barrier variants and venting foam mats. Further details will be available at Battery Show Europe, June 9–11, 2026, Stuttgart.

www.fst.com/markets/automotive-truck-bus/electric-vehicle

Vector Photonics CEO to Discuss PCSEL Applications at CS International

Dr Richard Taylor, CEO of Vector Photonics, the Scottish start-up pioneering photonic crystal surface emitting lasers (PCSELs) in secure communications, will present at the 16th CS (Compound Semiconductor) International conference in Brussels, Belgium, on April 22, 2026. Titled 'Photonic Crystal Surface Emitting Lasers – Their Potential for Advanced Communications', the presentation will examine how Vector Photonics' PCSELs could enable free-space links, orbital angular momentum (OAM) transmission in fibre and free space, and SiP-compatible architectures.

Dr Taylor said: "PCSELs are poised to reshape optical communications and integrated photonics in next generation networks. PCSELs have the potential to improve system performance through design of their mode purity, low divergence, and efficient coupling across

diverse platforms."

Recently, Vector Photonics held the first successful public demonstration of PCSEL technology for optical communication outside a laboratory, transmitting data across the Clyde from the Glasgow Science Centre to the Clydeside Distillery using a system designed and built by Fraunhofer UK.

The presentation will take place at 10.30am on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at the Sheraton Brussels Airport Hotel. The latest CS International event features around 40 leaders from industry and academia, with sessions covering GaN, SiC and microLEDs, highlighting the latest opportunities and trends in the compound semiconductor industry.

<https://www.vectorphotonics.co.uk/>

BEP Surface Technologies Revives 70-Year-Old Grinder



BEP Surface Technologies, a leading electroplating and surface finishing specialist, has embarked on a £600,000 project to transform a 70-year-old Churchill TWR roll grinder into a state-of-the-art flagship of UK precision engineering.

In partnership with Siemens and Made Smarter, the grinder is undergoing a complete overhaul to deliver tolerances as fine as 0.001mm. The two-year project, now 30% complete, will expand BEP's capability in sectors such as electric vehicle batteries and carbon fibre manufacturing.

Machine 22, built in the 1950s, is being transformed into a

high-spec digital flagship. The upgrade equips it with a Siemens SINUMERIK One CNC control, servo motors and a SINAMICS S120 drive system, enabling tolerances five times finer than before while ensuring full traceability and quality assurance.

"Our existing grinders are capable of 0.005mm tolerances, but that's not enough for many of the enquiries we receive," said Jamie Needham, BEP's Project Manager.

The investment builds on BEP's recent £650,000 electroplating refurbishment. With a swing diameter of 1,800mm, between-centres capacity of 8,000mm and the ability to carry more than 20 tonnes, Machine 22 will enable BEP to undertake some of the largest and most demanding roller projects in the UK, strengthening domestic supply chains and reducing reliance on European providers.

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Oxylabs: AI and Automation to Reshape 2025



Oxylabs experts predict AI-driven web scraping, multi-agent systems, and evolving regulations will reshape industries and drive automation in 2025.

The development of artificial intelligence (AI) depends on public web data used for training algorithms. Experts from Oxylabs, a global leader in web intelligence solutions, shared predictions for major AI and machine learning (ML) developments in 2025.

CEO Julius Černiauskas said, "We might see a proliferation in AI and ML-based web scraping solutions for target unblocking, proxy management, parsing, and other tasks."

"I believe the usage of CDP browser tools will grow in 2025. These tools allow scraping with real-like

browsers not easily detectable by anti-bot systems," he added.

Chief commercial officer Tomas Montvilas said, "We will see a proliferation of AI agents and multi-agent systems as companies aim to develop AI architectures that can perform tasks autonomously. Automation of tasks performed on the web will be a big focus next year."

Juras Juršėnas, chief operations officer, said AI-assisted developer tools will go mainstream and affect many industries, including web scraping. He also noted AI's growing role in cybersecurity, helping professionals identify risks faster and at larger scale. Head of legal Denas Grybauskas expects the EU's AI Act and other regulations to shape AI development, while raising new privacy concerns around hyper-personalization.

Juršėnas predicts growth in local Gen AI and video generation models, while Montvilas expects an improved division of labor between humans and AI.

oxylabs.io

Flexxbotics™ Unveils Latest Release of FlexxCORE

Flexxbotics, delivering digital solutions for robot-driven manufacturing at scale, today announced the latest release of FlexxCORE, the patent-pending technology at the center of the Flexxbotics solution.

The new release delivers enhanced capabilities for robotic machine tending, robotic quality control and robotic production lines by enabling industrial and collaborative robots to run multiple machines, operations and part SKUs. The technology equips manufacturers to scale robotic production across the smart factory for greater capacity, quality and EBITDA margins.

FlexxCORE now includes enhanced robot awareness, parallelized data pipelines and greater data granularity, extending communication and coordination between robots, factory machines, inspection equipment and other plant machinery.

"FlexxCORE's fully RESTful API

now has an expanded data model to enable dynamic definition of the production robotic environment," said Tyler Modelski, Co-founder and CTO of Flexxbotics.

FlexxCORE is a low-code environment for composing and running Transformers, enabling bi-directional read/write communication between robots and factory equipment. It delivers compatibility with more than 1,000 makes and models of robots, machines and inspection equipment, while enabling 22x faster connector creation than conventional integration methods.

The latest release enables robot-plus-multi-machine orchestration, autonomous process control, multi-part production and future-ready adoption of technologies such as AI-driven workflows. It is available immediately as part of the Flexxbotics solution.

For more information:
flexxbotics.com/flexxcore.



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One particular area of Industrial Processing is dealing with waste water. The water industry presents a number of unique challenges in the use of perforated products. A key consideration here is the aggressive nature of the water towards the materials being used. RMIG Solutions has vast experience in servicing the waste water industry, and produces high flow, burr-free perforated waste water screens, offering accurate screen tolerances and effective separation.

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Measurably better Chemiluminescence analysers

Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) are chief villains in the battle for climate control; belonging to a family of gases that are formed during the combustion of fossil fuels. When Nitric Oxide (NO) reacts with other gases, for example with Ozone, it forms Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), which is considered highly toxic to human health.

The reaction with Ozone is also an indicator for why Nitric Oxide (NO) is considered a climate active gas, that interacts with Earth's protective Ozone layer. Human exposure to high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂), but also Nitric Oxide (NO) can cause airway inflammation, susceptibility to allergens and exacerbate pre-existing lung or heart conditions.

Nitric Oxide (NO) is a biological marker of inflammation and is also produced by cells involved in the inflammation process. It is typically used to diagnose allergic/eosinophilic asthma. Legal ambient air limit value (annual average value for the European Union) for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) concentrations is 40µg/m³. Maximum occupational exposure limit is 950µg/m³. Indoor air limit value for maximum exposure is 250µg/m³ but the precautionary value 80µg/m³. The WHO defines 40µg/m³ as precaution limit.

The Department for Environment, Food & Rural affairs (DEFRA) has also reported soil chemistry and biodiversity changes across many UK habitats, through gas (dry deposition) and precipitation (wet deposition.) Anthropogenic Nitrogen Oxides (NO_x) influence tropospheric chemistry, which directly cause photochemical smog and concentrated levels of urban ozone.

ECO PHYSICS AG offer world-leading measurements of Nitrogen Oxide (NO_x), through trailblazing chemiluminescence analysers. These innovative analytical solutions are unprecedented in speed and sensitivity, with a cutting-edge range of sensitivities from 1% down to 1 ppt (part per trillion). Chemiluminescence Analysers use a unique thermally-stabilised semiconductor photodiode, to measure light intensity produced by reactions between Nitric Oxide (NO) with Ozone (O₃). The light intensity correlates to the proportion of Nitric Oxide (NO_x) converted to Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) by the reaction.

We caught up with Dr Grischa Peter Feuersänger, Head of Sales & Marketing, to find out more about ECO PHYSICS, "ECO PHYSICS was founded in 1990



through a management buy-out, by co-founders Dr Matthias Kutter and Dr Werner Moser and we now operate from our base in Duernten, Switzerland. We offer innovative analytical solutions for measurement tasks in the fields of environment, health and process control. With our interdisciplinary research and development team, we are delivering customer-oriented and tailor-made products and services. The initial know-how focus was centred on the principle of the chemiluminescence, thus developing and manufacturing analysers for the ambient pollution and emissions. We have

perfected analytical technique in speed and sensitivity. Today we are proud to claim world leadership in the fastest and most sensitive chemiluminescence analysers and the broadest commercially available range."

This Swiss-based innovative company has EN ISO 9001: 2015 quality management and EN ISO 13485: 2016 medical devices-compliance, offering quality assurance to customers across many industries. There is a new range of gas analysers and boxed set gas analysers available: nCLD AL, nCLD AL2, nCLD AL3/8555, nCLD EL and nCLD EL2.

The nCLD AL3/8555 is a next-generational modular gas analyser, offering state-of-the-art simultaneous measurements of NO, NO₂, NO_x, NH₃ and NO_x-Amines. Even lower detection limits can be detected through the newly designed reaction chamber, enhanced gas flow paths, improved pressure and temperature stability. This analyser is adaptable to non-standardised applications, with the unit calibration running smoothly on an automated basis.

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The one- and two-channel chemiluminescence based NO_x analyzers of the nCLD "Facelift" box-solution analyzers detect NO, NO₂ and NO_x at concentrations ranging from 5 ppm to 5000 ppm with minimal detection limits averaging from 0.4 ppb to 0.5 ppb. They hereby focus on two main application areas, Ambient Air (AL, <50ppm) and Emission/Process (EL, <500ppm; EL S <5'000ppm) monitoring. The one-channel nCLD AL, EL and EL S feature an external pump, while the two-channel nCLD AL2 and EL2 include an internal pump. The nCLD "Facelift" boxed solutions consist of five, fixed and preconfigured analyzers. The nCLD AL (Ambient Level) and EL S/EL include a standard NO/NO_x measurement, with an optional NO₂ add-on, while AL2 and EL2 include, due to the two-channel set-up, a standard NO₂ detection. Additionally, all nCLD-models are capable of a remote power down/up including a failsafe feature. nCLD AL2 and EL2 are TÜV approved, qualified according to ISO EN 14211 and 15267 1-3.



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Masdar's Capacity Up By 150% to Over 50GW In Two Years

Abu Dhabi Future Energy Company PJSC – Masdar, the UAE's clean energy leader, has increased its overall renewable energy capacity by 150% to 51GW by the end of 2024, up from 20GW in 2022. The achievement puts the company on track to meet its target of 100GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.



countries, supporting projects totaling over 6.5GW of new capacity. Growth was driven by acquisitions in Greece, Spain and the United States, alongside major projects in the UAE, Azerbaijan, Saudi Arabia, the UK and Uzbekistan.

The company also raised \$1 billion through its second green bond, which was 4.6 times oversubscribed, while Fitch upgraded its credit rating to AA- from A+.

Chairman Dr Sultan Ahmed Al Jaber said the company had made significant progress towards its 100GW target, while CEO Mohamed Jameel Al Ramahi described the achievement as evidence of "bold ambition paired with strategic action".

<https://www.masdar.ae>

Masdar's operational, under construction and advanced pipeline capacity grew from 20GW to 51GW between 2022 and 2024, while its operational, under construction and committed capacity rose from 16.5GW to 32.6GW in 2024 alone.

During 2024, Masdar deployed nearly \$8 billion in equity investments and secured more than \$4.5 billion in project financing across nine

Varel energy solutions acquires Ace well technology as.



arel Energy Solutions (VES) has acquired Ace Well Technology (ACE), an international supplier of oilfield casing, cementing and completion products.

The transaction strengthens VES's portfolio of primary cementing equipment, including patented technologies, while expanding its smart completions offering for offshore and premium market sectors. The combined business aims to provide a broader range of high-quality, value-driven solutions to customers worldwide.

Backed by growth capital, VES and ACE will leverage their combined strengths in customer service, operational footprint and supply chain efficiency to deliver improved value and economics across global markets.

"Varel Energy Solutions is extremely honored to add the extraordinary people and impressive high-performance culture of Ace Well Technology to our organization," said Derek Nixon, President and CEO of VES. "Together, I believe we will create more customer value than ever before while bolstering the foundation for a long-standing, sustainable energy products manufacturing business."

Founded in 2012, ACE has built a reputation for high-value products, technical expertise and customer support, with customers worldwide relying on its casing accessories and completions portfolio.

ACE CEO Stian Anke-Hansen said the deal would create new opportunities for employees and customers, while VES CFO Wit LeBlanc described the acquisition as "another hugely important step" in the company's commitment to being a leading provider of consumable downhole products.

www.varel.com

FeTu wins Institute of Physics Business Innovation Award

FeTu, the Elland-based green energy business whose technology converts low-temperature waste heat into electricity, has been awarded the Institute of Physics (IOP) Business Innovation Award, one of applied physics' most prestigious accolades.



The award recognises FeTu's success in translating physics research into a commercial enterprise. The company's technology enables industrial firms to recover waste heat and convert it into electricity, reducing both energy costs and carbon emissions.

Founded in 2016 by Yorkshire-born designer Jon Fenton, FeTu has grown to a team of 15 and secured more than £12 million in sponsorship, investment and grants. In October, the company established a manufacturing arm in Huddersfield to support the commercial roll-out of its clean-energy technology, with a pan-European pilot programme now underway. Blue-chip food

producers, data centres and industrial manufacturers are currently trialling the product.

Receiving the award, Mr Fenton said: "It is a real honour to receive this award. FeTu is a beautiful example of British ingenuity, overcoming the impossible to enable access to abundant green energy sources that already exist.

"Our ability to generate electricity from heat sources as low as 40°C is a critical development for the UK to recover £4bn in industrial waste heat into free, green electricity."

The IOP Business Awards celebrate businesses using physics-powered innovation to address major challenges, including climate change, healthcare and food production.

Businesses can use FeTu's online calculator to evaluate their own waste-heat-to-electricity case at h2p.co.uk

Yorkshire clean energy innovator invests £1.5m in manufacturing base

Elland-based green energy business FeTu has invested £1.5m in a new Huddersfield manufacturing base to meet demand for its groundbreaking product. The firm's award-winning technology enables industrial firms to recover waste heat from temperatures as low as 40°C and convert it into electricity, slashing energy costs and carbon emissions.

The new facility will enable FeTu, which employs 15 people and is recruiting additional manufacturing engineers, to produce components of its pioneering energy motor in house, ensuring quality and reducing delays.

Founded by Yorkshire-born designer Jon Fenton in 2016, FeTu has secured over £12m in

sponsorship, investment and grants. The new manufacturing arm will enable the commercial rollout of its clean-energy technology with industrial partners taking part in a pilot programme launching this autumn. FeTu founder and CEO Jon Fenton said: "We can generate electricity directly from most heat sources at temperatures as low as 40°C, enabling businesses to drastically reduce operating costs and carbon emissions."

He added: "We're continually working to evolve our system beyond the 300% efficiency advantage it already holds over comparative technology. Enabling commercially compelling power generation below 100°C introduces a brand new weapon against climate change."



Fenton added: "We decided to take control of the manufacturing process ourselves. The team has over 100 years of manufacturing expertise between us."

In the UK alone, low-grade waste heat energy represents a £4bn-a-year opportunity. Businesses can use FeTu's online calculator to evaluate their own waste-heat-to-electricity case at h2p.co.uk.



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IWCF launches Quality Assured for well control training

The International Well Control Forum (IWCF) has launched a new assurance framework to ensure non-accredited training meets the highest standards, setting a benchmark to support global oil and gas safety.

Quality Assured offers a flexible, independent endorsement for well control training that falls outside IWCF's accreditation scope, giving providers and employers confidence in the quality, structure and relevance of their training programmes.

Zdenek Sehnal, CEO of IWCF said: "Through Quality Assured, we're committed to ensuring the highest standards in well control training, providing consistency and empowering professionals. This goes beyond compliance; it's about giving the sector confidence in the training they are investing in and supports a culture of continuous development and accountability across the oil and gas industry."

The framework is comprised of nine standards covering course design, delivery, assessment, digital learning and on-the-job training. Quality Assured was launched at IWCF's



annual well control workshop and AGM in Istanbul.

IWCF is going live with four categories for Quality Assured: Well Control Specialist Topics, Operationally Embedded Training, Specialist Equipment, and Continuous Learning Mechanisms. The Well Academy in Apeldoorn, The Netherlands, was a trial participant. Director of Training Jan Willem Flamma said the detailed feedback provided a true partnership in quality and would help elevate course materials and delivery.

Training providers and employers will receive a 12-month endorsement, supporting vital risk reduction across the sector.

To register interest in Quality Assured visit - <https://forms.gle/nr3b6BE5mQRhTbU6>

BW Converting Innovation Center boosts training and collaboration

BW Converting's Packaging Innovation Center in Green Bay is central to the company's mission to support converters with practical training, hands-on learning and real-world technology demonstrations. Purpose-built for operator development and customer collaboration, the center offers a fully equipped pressroom environment featuring live equipment, experienced instruction and guided production demos.



Equipped for platemaking, plate mounting, flexo and digital printing, and bag converting, the center also features a PCMC Meridian Elite+ laser anilox cleaner. This system can clean four rolls simultaneously without water, chemicals or compressed air, highlighting BW Converting's focus on sustainability, operator

safety and reduced downtime.

The center regularly hosts three-day seminars led by Fox Valley Flexo Services. Small class sizes enable hands-on learning, one-on-one troubleshooting and meaningful interaction with the equipment.

"Every session is shaped around the specific needs of the people in the room," said Mark Keller, Fox Valley Flexo Services. "We focus on fundamentals, but we go deep where it matters." Training topics include press setup and operation, printing plates, mounting tapes, doctor blades, process color, ink management and corona treatment. Participants engage directly in live production demonstrations and guided press operation.

In 2026, BW Converting will expand access to the PCMC Meridian Elite+, beginning with the Harper Roadshow in January. Training is open to anyone interested in the flexographic printing process, with a full schedule of 2026 sessions to be released soon.

bwconverting.com.



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Searce enters the Middle East to support dynamic growth and innovation

Searce, the AI-powered, engineering-led modern tech consultancy, has announced its expansion into the Middle East, establishing its regional headquarters in the UAE. The move strengthens Searce's global footprint, which spans 18 offices and serves more than 3,000 clients worldwide.

"We're genuinely excited about the opportunity to partner with the brilliant minds and forward-thinking companies in the Middle East to drive innovation and modernization together," said Subodh Deshpande, Country Manager at Searce, Middle East.

Specialising in modernization and helping businesses become future-ready, Searce combines process and business consulting with the implementation of technologies including cloud modernization, data and analytics, applied AI and location intelligence. Its "Process first, technology second" philosophy ensures technology adoption is aligned with strategic business goals.

searce

Globally, Searce supports organisations across sectors including financial services, retail, healthcare, manufacturing, travel and logistics, helping them improve efficiency, unlock growth and enhance decision-making through AI-driven solutions.

Already working with several leading brands in the Middle East, Searce is delivering projects across key industries. These include developing a data platform for a major retailer, applying generative AI for a prominent regional bank, and using mapping and predictive analytics to optimise logistics for a UAE-based global ports and logistics company.

Having celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2024, Searce remains focused on helping clients thrive in an evolving digital landscape.

www.searce.com

Compact module delivers 39 TOPS AI performance

congatec, a leading provider of embedded and edge computing technology, has introduced new COM Express Compact Computer-on-Modules powered by AMD Ryzen Embedded 8000 Series processors.

Based on AMD's latest architecture, the new conga-TCR8 Type 6 modules feature up to eight Zen 4 CPU cores, an XDNA NPU and Radeon RDNA 3 graphics, delivering up to 39 tera operations per second (TOPS) for AI inference.

The modules are aimed at high-volume, price-sensitive applications requiring advanced AI, graphics and computing performance, including medical imaging, test and measurement, AI-supported POS systems and professional gaming. With a scalable TDP range of 15W to 54W, they also offer a straightforward upgrade path for existing designs.

Martin Danzer, Director Product Management

at congatec, said the new modules expand the company's edge AI portfolio while providing developers with access to system consolidation benefits through the aReady.COM variant.

Available with four AMD Ryzen Embedded 8000 processor options, the modules support up to 128GB DDR5-5600 ECC memory and deliver immersive graphics across up to four displays at resolutions of up to 8K. They also offer extensive connectivity, including PCIe Gen 4, DisplayPort, USB and SATA interfaces.

The modules can be supplied as application-ready solutions with pre-installed operating systems, virtualization options and IoT connectivity, simplifying deployment and accelerating development.

www.congatec.com



Oxylabs introduces the first AI copilot for web data collection

Oxylabs, a premium web intelligence collection platform, has launched OxyCopilot, an AI-driven solution designed to help users save time and reduce the complexity of web data acquisition. Described as the industry's first AI assistant for scraping, OxyCopilot is integrated into Oxylabs' Web Scraper API platform.

Built using a combination of AI and proprietary Oxylabs technology, OxyCopilot enables users to generate parsing instructions and API requests using only a URL and natural language prompts. The tool is designed for both experienced web scraping professionals and those with limited experience in web data collection.

Julius Cerniauskas, CEO of Oxylabs, said a recent survey found that 74% of businesses experienced growing demand for public web data, while maintaining infrastructure and data parsers remained a significant challenge. "With OxyCopilot, we aimed to help our clients collect the data they need more easily," he said.

According to Oxylabs, the solution lowers barriers to entry by reducing the need for specialist web scraping expertise and minimising development time spent on repetitive tasks. Businesses can instead focus on data quality, analysis and innovation.

Cerniauskas added that OxyCopilot forms part of a broader AI-powered platform as the company moves towards automating the entire public web data collection process.

www.oxylabs.io



AI Marketing Firm Celebrates Record Growth and New Client Wins

A Manchester digital marketing firm is experiencing significant growth as demand for its lead generation services continues to rise just months after launch.

Harper has secured more than 20 clients since launching less than a year ago and has experienced steady growth, consistently adding new clients each month while doubling its turnover.

Co-founder Scott McNicol said: "We're pleased and proud that our hard work is

paying off and that Harper is achieving such great wins.

"The key to our long-term success has always been about maintaining the right mindset no matter what. There have been a lot of early mornings and late nights, but I'm confident we're building something special here."

The firm recently strengthened its growth by acquiring clients across Europe, North America and Australia in sectors including finance, real estate and the arts.

According to McNicol, Harper's expansion

has been driven by its combination of human expertise and AI efficiency.

"Combining the best of what human creativity and innovation can offer with our thriving AI technology has played a major role in our success. People don't just want AI, they want real people as well, and that's what we give them – tech with a personal touch," he added.

Looking ahead, Harper plans to expand its team while continuing to help businesses connect with the right clients and deliver measurable outcomes.

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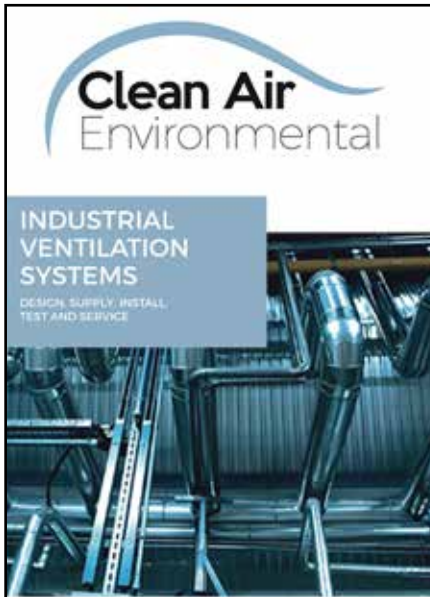


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