

Maintec 2011 preview

This year's tightly focused maintenance technologies event is aimed at engineers, technicians and managers specialising in plant assets. Brian Tingham reports



Maintec, the maintenance and asset management show, is returning to Birmingham's NEC from 29–31 March.

Now in its 36th year, and with 140-plus exhibitors, this is being billed as the event for plant engineers wanting an update on innovations from condition monitoring to vibration sensing and access platforms.

If you're looking for something more, organiser easyFairs points to several show features, including the 'Future Factory' and a 'learnShop' programme – the latter delivering seminars for engineers, technicians and maintenance managers (although, as we go to press, no details are available).

Additionally, however, easyFairs says there will be a two-day Maintec Summit (sponsored by Eriks) providing a forum for engineers to air topics likely to have a major influence on the future of maintenance and the link into industrial competitiveness.

Hazards and lions

As for the show floor, two new features for 2011 are: 'Stop the Hazard,' and 'Lions' Lair.' Stop the Hazard is a computer game being launched by health and safety training provider RRC. Managing director Gary Fallaize explains that it's all about helping people to assess risks by spotting hazards. At Maintec, players will perform on a large plasma screen.

Meanwhile, in the 'Lions' Lair', new maintenance ideas will be presented to 'lions' in a Dragons' Den-inspired contest. Those sitting in judgement will be: Graeme Coyne, business manager at Siemens; Paul Dennis, technical facilities manager at Experian; and Richard Wilkins, centre of excellence business

process owner, maintenance from MARS. Their prey will be four exhibitors – Flowcrete UK, Idhammer Systems, MAC EU and the Siveco group.

Turning to new technology, infrared thermometers developer Optris says it will showcase the CTfast LT, with an optical resolution of 25:1 and response time of 6msec. "We have one of the smallest, most precise and fastest infrared sensors in the world," insists managing director Ulrich Kienitz. And, in a similar vein, Testo will be launching its 876 and 882 thermal imagers, which, the company claims, set new technical standards for thermal imagers.

Similarly, Flir will be displaying its latest infrared cameras, including the P640 and P660 for thermographers – each with increased thermal sensitivity and features such as IR window correction, which automatically adjusts sensitivity when inspecting high voltage installations through safety windows. Also, Yorkshire-based explosive atmospheres equipment manufacturer Cordex Instruments will be marking its debut with three new products, including an ATEX/CSA certified explosion-proof digital camera, software for asset management and a laser-based measuring device.

Elsewhere, Fluke says it will be exhibiting a range of rugged portable test instruments. "Fluke 810 is designed to diagnose the most common mechanical problems of imbalance, looseness, misalignment and bearing failures in mechanical equipment," states Fluke marketing manager Ken West. And he cites motors, fans, blowers, belts and chain drives, gearboxes, couplings, pumps, compressors, closed-coupled machines and spindles.

Meanwhile, for visitors concerned with achieving clean production, Dustcontrol will be demonstrating its latest air cleaner, DC AirCube 500. James Miller, general manager at Dustcontrol UK, says: "This unit provides an extremely simple way of decreasing dust concentrations in a working environment. It can also be used as a negative air unit, either by connecting a hose or duct to the outlet, or by installing an inlet transition and hose/duct to the inlet."

Incidentally, while you're at the show, it's worth taking a look at Thermal Energy International's modified range of Flu-Ace boiler heat recovery and emission control packages, aimed at sites using CHP waste heat and traditional industrial boiler systems. The firm claims that efficiencies typically in the range 80–85% can be improved to 90–95%. **PE**



Above right:
Fluke's new test instruments designed for maintenance engineers

