

Energy efficiency

With energy-related issues topping most plant engineers' agendas, Laura Cork looks ahead to the forthcoming Energy Event, which promises a packed educational programme



As plants strive to cut energy costs and capitalise on low-carbon opportunities, the upcoming Energy Event (11–12 September at the NEC, Birmingham) offers the chance to check out 150 exhibitors' wares. And with the show co-located with two other exhibitions – the Renewables Event, which is new this year and focuses on renewable energy technologies, and Resource Efficiency & Waste Management (see page opposite) – there's even more to see.

The Energy Event is also backed by associations, including ESTA (the Energy Services and Technology Association), the Major Energy Users' Council, the Energy Institute, Waterwise, GAMBICA (the Association for Instrumentation, Control, Automation

systems, with experts offering advice on energy-saving technologies – from its Maxima single stage unit to the Optima variable speed drive range. Throughout the show, Mattei will also be highlighting associated energy-reducing solutions, such as its leakage detection and leakage repair service.

Also, watch out for Wind Direct, which will be offering free site assessments, with visitors able to find out if their location could be suitable for on-site, capital-free power generation from wind. The company uses software tools to perform pre-site assessments, checking for constraints, such as proximity to housing, airports or national parks.

Conference sessions


As for the conference, four theatres will play host to more than 50 CPD-certified seminar sessions, all free to attend. The Energy Insight Conference, the Energy Information Theatre, the ESTA Theatre and the Hosted Content Theatre combine to offer a packed educational programme.

The Energy Information Theatre features case studies from large energy users, such as Wales and West Utilities, which secured a £2 million saving, thanks to accurate monitoring systems. There will also be a practical study looking at how to change user behaviour and the resulting energy savings.

Additionally, keynote speakers will offer guidance and frank views. For example, James Woudhuysen, professor of forecasting and innovation at De Montford University, will explain why he predicts that power cuts are coming and subsidies don't work.

Elsewhere, the ESTA Theatre will be hosting seminars designed for energy managers, looking at principles, awareness of policy issues and effective implementation to ensure savings. The organisation also promises to focus on maintenance and management costs, which will help plant managers to understand how to bring energy costs down.

Moving on, the Energy Insight Conference is due to cover issues of the moment, including energy purchasing and carbon reduction. Visitors will also hear from Professor Brian Cox and Alastair Campbell. Finally, the Hosted Content Theatre will feature presentations by a mix of associations and exhibitors, including Waterwise and nPower. Subjects will range from water efficiency to energy procurement and there will be a live energy debate.

Registration is free: www.theenergyevent.com/pr and enter priority code EPR7. 



What?

The Energy Event

When?

11–12 September

Where?

NEC, Birmingham

& Laboratory Technology), BCAS (British Compressed Air Society), BCIA (Building Controls Industry Association) and Water Technology List.

Looking at the exhibitor line-up, Haven Power, Atlas Copco, Mattei, EcoCooling and Mitsubishi Electric are of particular interest. Dairy business Muller is one that benefited from electricity supplier Haven Power's pricing policy. And agricultural equipment manufacturer Simba International contracted compressors specialist Atlas Copco for its major production and energy-saving programme.

Meanwhile, Mitsubishi Electric will demonstrate how it helped gain a 65% reduction in energy consumption for automotive mirror maker Flabeg in Birmingham. Then rotary vane compressor manufacturer Mattei will be highlighting how plants can improve the energy efficiency of their air