



Spiral welder unveiled

Dr Robert John, director of The Welding Institute, Cambridge, recently officiated at the launch of **Rewinds & J Windsor's** new £100,000 purpose-built spiral welder for the reclamation of shafts and other components.

The specialist machine was conceived and designed from scratch by engineering manager Mark Lavelle, who believed that there was no machine currently on the market that could meet his specific needs. So, working with the manufacturer,

he ensured his ideas became reality. The spiral welder has a capacity for work pieces up to 6000mm long by 1600mm diameter, making it one of the largest in the UK.

This investment heralds further expansion for the company in a region where many traditional engineering companies have closed.

RJW has DNV accreditation for welding processes and ASME qualification for spiral welding.

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Lands End by truck



A **Jungheinrich** forklift truck has been driven between John O'Groats and Land's End, raising more than £15,000 for Cancer Research in the process. The diesel-powered counter-

balanced hydrostatic truck from the Jungheinrich 4s Series, left John O'Groats on 25th February and reached Land's End four days later.

Friends Stuart Colvin, Steve Hare and Steve Golding operated the truck in 4h shifts and undertook the challenge in memory of friend, Tim Frankham, who died from a brain tumour. Colvin says: "Tim received a new Chemotherapy drug which extended his life by a year and we aim to raise at least the amount it cost to provide this treatment."

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Looking into lava

The secrets of climate change and the formation of giant lava deposits on Mars may soon be revealed to a team investigating lava flows from Mount Etna, using sensing technology developed for industrial use.

Harry Pinkerton, Professor of Physical Volcanology and Head of Environmental Science at the University of Lancaster analyses the



rheological properties of molten lava using equipment he has developed based on a torque sensor from by **Sensor Technology**.

Sensing and data capture is done through a robust Torqsense unit, so sensitive that it detects any slight change in dynamics. The non-contact transducer uses Surface Acoustic Waves to create frequency dependent strain gauges to measure the change in resonant frequency.

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Award for Energy Manager

ABB's cpmPlus Energy Manager software has won the 2010 *Engineers' Choice* award for best new product in the *Dashboard Software – Energy* category, selected by readers of *Control Engineering*.

The software helps customers in all industries and building sectors to monitor, manage and optimise their energy usage to boost efficiency and deliver cost savings. It addresses the business side of energy management by producing accurate energy demand plans and taking advantage of them in energy supply planning and optimisation.

Being able to accurately plan the energy requirements a day-ahead provides financial advantages, especially in the open electricity market, and can lower energy costs.



Energy Manager includes reporting and analysis tools that evaluate the energy use patterns of all processes and pinpoint areas for improvement.

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Year starts well for CNG



2010 is already proving to be a bumper year for commercial gas specialist **CNG**, with the company announcing projects with a host of high end brands and famous faces.

The company's siteworks division completed a project for celebrity chef Jamie Oliver as part of Jamie's Kitchen and similar work is underway for five Estee Lauder Cosmetics sites. A major regional project is also scheduled with Charles F Stead and Co, which will see CNG supply gas for Prada, Louis Vuitton, Clarks, Lacoste and Reebok at Sheepscar Tannery in Leeds.

These latest collaborations are just one part of CNG's ongoing plan to boost its product and service portfolio to offer high quality gas provision, siteworks and customer service to all types of commercial customer.

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Engineering history goes on show

A colossal steam turbine has made its penultimate journey from Drax Power Station where it has been generating electricity for the past 36 years, to County Durham where it awaits its final resting place in the Discovery Museum.

The engineering marvel has finished its working life and will be replaced with more efficient **Siemens** turbines as part of a £100m steam turbine modernisation project.

The collaboration between Siemens Energy, Drax and Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums to showcase the first steam turbine of this size to the public has been years

in the making. Weighing in at 25t, the turbine is part of the UK's first 660MW steam turbine generating sets. Until space is ready in the Museum, it will be kept at the Regional Museums Store, Beamish, where it will be on view to visitors.

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