

Editorial



Dear reader,

Rescuing the Earth from climatic disaster has dominated the headlines of the national and international press like no other subject since the publication of the 4th Assessment Report on Climate Change by the United Nations a few months ago. A subject that before was only of interest to a minority involved with the environment, and concerned for the future of the Earth, has become a long-standing, almost completely dominating issue practically overnight.

Since then the media has published a wide range of catastrophic scenarios and horror stories. As a result it is increasingly difficult for the average person on the street to separate serious reporting from sensationalism, or to differentiate between expert concerns worthy of attention and circulation-boosting panic mongering. It is also not possible to be certain which statements from politicians are aimed at a long-term, sustained impact on the climatic trend, and which are simply populist reflex reactions to achieve short-term political goals.

Independent of these issues, the task facing mankind, if mankind is to protect the Earth from long-term climatic change, consists on the one hand of satisfying the dramatically increased demand for energy resulting from globalisation using energy sources that are significantly less polluting than the fossil fuels dominant up until now, and on the other hand to increase the efficiency of energy utilisation by increasing the usage of energy-saving systems and technologies.

The fact that the need for safe and effective explosion protection will not necessarily go away as a result of a reduction in the utilisation of crude oil and natural gas is demonstrated by our article on geothermal energy on page 8.

Even if it is possible to drive forward the utilisation of alternative energy sources that in themselves do not actually require explosion protection, e.g. solar or wind power, hydrogen will very probably become the dominant energy carrier. And, as this substance is highly explosive, explosion protection will be necessary for a large part of the infrastructure. We find ourselves in the midst of developments that are both exciting and crucial for the future of mankind. During this process explosion protection will continue to play an important role in general safety.

The editorial team

Title picture: HERRENKNECHT Vertical GmbH
»Hot Rock« deep drilling rig for exploring geothermal heat.

Impressum

Ex-Magazine 33/2007 (ISSN 0176-0920)
is published on behalf of:

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VISUELL Studio für Kommunikation GmbH, Stuttgart

Production

Wahl-Druck GmbH, Aalen

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