

Solutions for a New Economy

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted world economies on an unprecedented scale, but far from delaying the transition to Net Zero, we believe that it presents huge opportunities to rebuild a more environmentally sustainable economy.

ENGAGE WIDELY

Such a transformation can only happen by engaging across a range of stakeholders, and a professional Institute like IOM3 is well placed to do this with our contacts in:

- Universities and research institutes (UK and globally)
- Other Professional bodies and societies
- Governments, Regulators, and NGOs
- Manufacturing and Industry.



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WELCOME FROM THE NEW CHAIR.

In May I was delighted and honoured to have been appointed as the ETG Chair by the IOM3 Nomination Committee and now I would like to introduce myself to you and share some early views of our Group.

I am partially retired but still working part-time time advising corporate boards and senior executives on the Energy Transition, especially representing industries that are heavy users of fossil fuel. The last 25 years of my career was spent with Royal Dutch Shell mainly in the Americas and Asia plus a short time in the UK in the Downstream business segment. My focus for the last seven years with Shell was on global M&A with some time spent on corporate strategy and scenario planning.

My ambitions for the Board of the Energy Transition Group and its Technical Community are threefold: firstly, to meet our core purpose to deliver value for IOM3 members in terms of technical content, networking and events related to the Energy Transition; secondly, to represent the ETG on Climate Change and the Energy Transition engaging internally with the other IOM3 technical communities and the Institute Executive as well as externally with industry, the UK government, and global representative bodies.

Thirdly I aim to facilitate breaking down any barriers between the IOM3 Divisions, Societies, Associations and their constituent Committees that represent IOM3 members and the businesses, universities or other institutions they work for that will be involved in the Energy Transition – the key challenge of our time.

I was not surprised but was very happy to find that I am leading an active, diverse and energetic Board who previously represented the Oil & Gas Division under the Chairmanship of Andrew Sturgeon. I would like to thank Andrew on your behalf for his leadership of the Division. He has also been a tremendous help in getting me up and running.

I would like to end by encouraging you to engage with the ETG in building our membership, our capabilities and our contribution to the challenge of our lifetimes.

I look forward to your feedback, positive or negative, so that we can continue to provide a professional engineering network fit for the 21st century.

Sincerely

Richard M Oblath PhD CEng FIMMM FEI

The Energy Transitions Group is a technical community within the Institute of Materials, Minerals and Mining. www.iom3.org

One year from now

The ETG Board have met three times already in 2020 and have identified several key areas to address in the next 12 months...

- Refresh the website
- Reposition the ETG in line with the IOM3 Technical Communities review
- Recruit new faces to the Board to represent non-oil and gas technologies
- Increase diversity and international representation within the ETG membership
- Host an inaugural one-day seminar on "Decarbonising Energy - the Transition to Net Zero"
- Publish the ETG 5-year strategy



Why the Energy Transition Group?

The Oil & Gas Division has served the IOM3 for over 30 years, so why the change?

Although some members expressed disappointment with the change from Oil & Gas to an Energy Transition Group, I would like to address the rationale and the significant role the oil & gas industry has to play in the Energy Transition and to emphasise that IOM3 is not just “greenwashing”.

This change is targeted at the engagement of our current and future members in humanity’s greatest challenge to ensure the world can meet the goal of keeping temperatures below 1.5°C above those experienced during pre-industrial times.

The global population continues to grow, and as societies become more wealthy, economic growth drives demand for energy upwards, especially within developing economies. This presents the dilemma of continuing to meet society’s needs for access to energy in a safe, sustainable, secure and

affordable manner while concomitantly dramatically reducing greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. There is an imperative for the world, whose population is still growing and for whom 1 billion have no access to electricity, to transition to a net zero carbon resource efficient future. In almost all credible scenarios, the energy provided by the oil and gas industry will continue to be a vital part of the global energy mix in the short to medium term.

“those of you who were members of the Oil & Gas Division have a central role to play”

The oil & gas industry already has direct involvement in developing and supporting the rapid growth in low-carbon solutions, from carbon capture usage and storage (CCUS) to offshore wind, the charging of electric vehicles at petrol stations to the use of biofuels and hydrogen in many applications. These new technologies need to be scaled up rapidly, and are essential if we are to achieve net-zero by 2050 and thus keep average temperature rise at or below 1.5 °C.

Those of you who were members of the Oil & Gas Division have a central role to play, together with members of the other technical communities of IOM3 in the manufacture of materials via the reduced use of fossil fuels, the materials and minerals to be used in producing low greenhouse gas energy systems and the application of technologies from mining (including oil & gas) in the development of safe, reliable and affordable energy solutions.



UK Based, Global Reach

The UK has a special place in the Energy Transition as one of the engines of the first industrial revolution.

In this new revolution, the UK was the first major nation to commit to ending its contribution to anthropogenic climate change by achieving net zero in 2050 and to recognise that the pace at which the economy needs to deliver solutions is set to increase. New policies to deliver these objectives are now needed. The ETG and IOM3 must stand ready to work with both governments and regulators to inform fact-based cost-effective policy development.

A key development in 2019 was the publication of the Climate Change Committee (CCC) report on achieving net-zero which concluded that an Energy Transition to net-zero in the UK by 2050 is affordable, achievable but challenging.

The oil and gas sector will have to earn its position in this new energy world. With the launch of 'Roadmap 2035, a blueprint for net zero' Oil & Gas UK were one of the first industrial sectors to formally support the 2050 net-zero emissions timeline.

Of course, greenhouse gases do not respect national borders thus the Energy Transition is a global effort and we need all people and their governments to urgently face the climate change challenge. Thus, despite being UK based, the ETG will reach out to universities, institutes and like-minded technical communities around the world to work together in these endeavours.

ETG SEMINAR Covid-19 delay

The COP-26 meeting in Glasgow wasn't the only environmental seminar to be delayed by Covid-19. Our own plans to host a one-day seminar this year ahead of COP-26, to explore what the Energy Transition means and what role IOM3 can play in it has been moved back one year and will now precede COP-26, which has been rescheduled to November 2021.

Have Your Say

Coming to an Inbox near you

Please take a few minutes to complete our 2020 Member Survey when it drops in your inbox next month and let us know what you think the ETG should focus our efforts on. Help shape the content of our inaugural seminar in 2021 "Decarbonising Energy and the Road to Net Zero", and let us know how you can help make this event relevant to you.





Professional Development

Previous member surveys have identified the IOM3 route to Chartership (CEng, CSci) as one of the main reasons for membership, particularly for students and early career professionals. Joining an IOM3 Local Society is a great way to get en-route.

Upcoming Events

- **Minerals Recovery Optimisation: new technology & applications, 24/25th August IOM3, London UK.**

With the mining industry accounting for 10 percent of world energy consumption, could new developments in automated mineralogy hold the key to saving the planet and improving profitability? DATES TO BE CONFIRMED DUE TO COVID-19.

- **Energy Transition Europe, 24/25th November, London & online.**

Reuters Events Energy Transition Europe unites leaders and experts from across the public and private sectors to tackle the Energy Transition head on; to shed light on the defining issue of our time and help energy companies meet a uniquely difficult challenge.

- **Decarbonising Energy, September 2021.**

A one day seminar seminar organised by the IOM3 Energy Transition Group. Details and Dates to follow.

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