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Navigating the currents of transformer industry development



Dear readers,

We are delighted to present an edition packed with insights, innovations, and inspiration from the ever-evolving world of the transformer industry.

Our journey begins with a spotlight on Fernanda Alves from Hitachi Energy. Fernanda's rise from an engineering intern to the Global Product Manager for Transformer Service offers a stirring tale, not only of personal growth, but also of the vast possibilities in the world of transformers. It's a story that reflects the broader trajectory of our sector - moving away from traditional paradigms to embrace digital services and innovations that promote a sustainable energy future.

Similarly, the candid conversation with Max Veit, the dynamic CEO of the Weidmann Group, offers readers an intimate look at leadership in transition. From the corridors of financial strategy to the broader vistas of executive decision-making, Veit's evolution and Weidmann's adaptive responses to a fluctuating market landscape, underscore the resilience and agility required in today's energy sector. Their passionate commitment to environmental protection and sustainability is a rallying cry for us all.

But it's not all about the present and the future. This issue is also a celebration of our roots. The art and science behind transformer insulation design and the ever-evolving world of gas chromatography for DGA invite us to appreciate the foundations on which our industry thrives. It reminds us that every step forward we take is anchored in the lessons and legacies of the past.

Technological innovation is at the heart of this issue. From a deep dive into magnetically controlled shunt reactors that meet the latest standards, to the growing importance of transformer coatings that protect against environmental hazards, we witness the industry's collective drive to evolve, improve and secure. The emphasis on the transformative impact of AI on traditional engineering, and the resulting potential for efficiency and sustainability, underlines the fusion of old and new - a hallmark of our times.

The challenges facing our industry are many. As we confront soaring global energy demands, the surge in innovative digital monitoring systems is testament to our unwavering commitment to longevity, efficiency and sustainability. In addition, articles on online DGA, transformer oil monitoring and insights into the global transformer

market underline the mix of challenges and innovations that are shaping the path of our industry.

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In P. Ramachandran's column, we look at transformer standards - from the iconic IEEE Color Books to the contemporary nuances around electronic tap-changers in wind turbine prototype transformers - serves as a reminder of the benchmarks that guide our steps and the imperative to adapt them as technology advances.

Finally, the article on distribution transformers, particularly those used in harsh marine environments, paints a vivid picture of the extremes in which our industry operates, reinforcing the importance of robust design and adaptability.

Before we conclude, we're pleased to announce a special update. The next edition of the Industry Navigator conference is scheduled for 11-13 June 2024 in Madrid. Please visit our website for full details.

All in all, this issue is a microcosm of our vibrant industry - steeped in tradition yet fiercely forward-looking; challenged by the demands of the present yet relentlessly innovative. As you immerse yourself in these pages, we hope they will inspire, inform and ignite a passion for the transformative power of the industry.

With warm regards,

Mladen Banovic, Editor-in-Chief