

Unite Offshore

Briefing On Industry 4.0: Automation

The 
Offshore Trade Union

“The Machines Are Coming” - Statoil

The future is autonomous, but robotisation in the oil industry is nothing new. Although the first automation appeared in the 80s and 90s , today we are at the dawn of a new age of digitalisation.” - Statoil

The above statement is made by Statoil in an article about some recent developments in offshore automation.

<https://www.statoil.com/en/magazine/here-are-six-of-the-coolest-offshore-robots.html>

Unite: The Only UK Trade Union Developing A Strategy That Puts Worker Interests First As Automation Picks Up Pace

Throughout the latter half of 2017 the words “Automation” and “Industry 4.0” have routinely been in the press. Of course changes to work process design as the result of technological change is nothing new. History shows some revolutionary changes in the way human beings and societies produce goods and services as a result of technological change. However, this, the 4th Industrial Revolution, will impact upon jobs on a scale not previously seen during the 3 preceding industrial revolutions. It is currently being estimated that between 35% and 42% of all current jobs will disappear across all sectors of the UK economy as a result of automation.

Indeed, you have probably noticed the impact of automation yourself as; supermarkets automate checkouts and petrol stations; banks and local authorities automate customer and citizen services; airlines automate check-in; the list of examples goes on...



For a full list of Sectors at High Risk, Medium Risk and Low Risk of Automation please watch Unite Executive Officer, Sharon

Graham's presentation video available at: [http://](http://www.uniteoffshore.net/automation.html)

www.uniteoffshore.net/automation.html

Automation Offshore PTO

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The Risk To Jobs From Automation In The Offshore Oil & Gas Industry

- The technology exists to allow for fully autonomous offshore drilling operations, with some forecasting the adoption of such technologies by 2025: <https://www.offshore-technology.com/features/featurecan-fully-automated-drilling-technology-finally-win-over-the-offshore-oil-industry-4912630/>
- Companies such as Emerson have a whole section of their website called “Automation Solutions”: <http://www.emerson.com/en-us/automation-solutions>

Some will say automation is nothing new, that industries continually adopt new technologies as they become available. However, we cannot overstate that Industry 4.0 is different.

Unite Offshore are still to get to grips with all aspects of the threat automation poses to offshore jobs. In order to better develop our response in the years ahead we need the offshore workforce to get active, get involved and work with us to ID threats to employment and protect offshore workers interests as new technologies become available.

Unite Response

Given the current regulatory framework in the UK, it is likely that the threat of automation will most clearly be realised during periods of “Organisational Change” or where a company decides to review its operational model.

Unite the Union has developed a New *Technology Agreement*. The purpose of this New *Technology Agreement* is to support Unite Activists and Members to demand to be fully included in any employer led organisational or operational changes that may lead to an increase in automation and a threat to employment.

For more information on Industry 4.0, Automation, the New *Technology Agreement* and to join the debate on this issue visit: <http://www.uniteoffshore.net/automation.html>

Get active, Get Involved, Get In Touch Today

We need to hear from you. To discuss automation and the threat to your employment please get in touch with Unite Offshore Today:

Contact: Peter Lawson, 07817 103 909, peter.lawson@unitetheunion.org or Derek Thomson, 07718 668 510, derek.thomson@unitetheunion.org

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