

Introduction

Hu-Tech is a leading ergonomics and Human Factors consultancy. We have been providing specialist technical services to all major industrial and service sectors since 1989. Our oil and gas industry experience includes the UK, Europe and the Middle East, having worked with the broad spectrum of organisations that make up the industry as a whole.

All Hu-Tech consultants are qualified and registered ergonomists and the Company is an Ergo-

nomics Society Registered Consultancy. We are accredited to ISO 9001-2000.

“The experience we have gained working with some of the top Oil and Gas companies in the World enables us to have a clear understanding of the challenges that arise with projects of this nature. We believe that this knowledge translates into an efficient and economic solution for our customers.”

Dr Ian Randle, Principal Consultant

We use a range of specialist tools and techniques but our focus is always on providing practical, cost-effective solutions. We are experienced in working within design teams and understand the practicalities of integrating top quality human factors within the framework of large engineering projects.

Hu-Tech Competencies

- Control room and user interface design and assessment
- Human Factors specification, design, review and verification
- Task and Workload analysis
- Human Error Identification
- HF input into safety cases and safety management systems
- Workplace and equipment design and layout
- Workplace ergonomic assessments
- Manual Handling assessment

There is significant evidence suggesting that systems which adhere to the “human-centred design” philosophy during early development often result in increased productivity, enhanced quality of work, safer and more healthy working conditions, a reduction in support and training costs, and improved user satisfaction”, (Randle and Rensink, in press)

Hu-Tech has project experience in each of the HSE’s key Human Factors topics for COMAH industries:

- Organisational Change
- Organisational culture
- Integration of Human Factors into risk assessment and investigations
- Staffing Levels and workload
- Managing human failures
- Fatigue from shiftwork and overtime
- Training and competence
- Procedures
- Communications and interfaces
- Human factors in design

We are able to carry out a ‘health check’ to determine the maturity of Human Factors integration within an organisation’s management processes, and make recommendations to help our clients achieve best practice in each of the key areas above.



Resource pack for the industry (client: Health and Safety Executive)

The purpose of the resource pack is to provide an introduction to ergonomics for people who work offshore. It can be used to raise awareness, or as an aid to assessment. The resource pack illustrates ergonomic problems found in the offshore workplace and provides assessment checklists and practical information to help reduce the risks. It is available free from HSE or Hu-Tech directly.



Musculoskeletal disorders and injuries

Hu-Tech has a long, well-established reputation for helping organisations address the risk of musculoskeletal disorders at work. Although aches and pains are common in the workforce, we look to prevent them and reduce the severity through good ergonomic design. Our approach includes:

- Ergonomic workplace and equipment layout and design
- Changes to the task or environment
- Evaluation of organisational context, including risk identification and safety culture
- Identifying underlying reasons for musculoskeletal risks – research conducted by Hu-Tech in 2005/6 for the HSE showed that the root causes of manual handling incidents were mostly design and organisation related. Despite high awareness of risks and safe behaviour, people will always make mistakes – good design and management can prevent them from occurring

As well as carrying out manual handling assessments, we have undertaken a number of studies to assist with the development of good practice guides. Our approach is always to indicate solutions and how these can be met.

For information visit www.hu-tech.co.uk or email: info@hu-tech.co.uk

Hu-Tech Ergonomics

Guildford

81 Addison Road
Guildford, GU1 3QE UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1483 457441
Fax: +44 (0) 1483 853382

Northampton

Saxon Court, 29 Marefair
Northampton, NN1 1SR. UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1604 233428
Fax: +44 (0)1604 604 967

Scotland

Alloa Business Centre
Whins Road, Alloa
Scotland FK10 3SA
Tel: +44 (0) 125 972 6631
Fax: +44 (0) 125 972 6620