

Mechanical and Electrical Engineering - UK - 2021

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This report looks at the following areas:

- How the M&E market has bounced back from the disruption of COVID-19.
- Why different end-use markets are facing such varied conditions following the pandemic.
- How some sectors have seen accelerated demand as a result of COVID-19, enhanced by technological changes and government policies, particularly in environmental impacts and infrastructure investment.
- How the industry structure is developing with expectations of change.

Prior to the pandemic, the market came under pressure from the investment delays associated with Brexit. The impact of COVID-19 was rapid and strong, but the recovery in much of the market has been equally swift, and demand has been further buoyed by infrastructure investments.

After years of slow growth in what is essentially a mature sector, albeit one bringing in new technology, the disruption caused by COVID-19 has been widespread. Many of the sectors have shown a rapid recovery in 2021, but there are end-use sectors where the impact could materially change demand for M&E services.

The recent acquisition of SSE Contracting by the private equity group Aurelius Equity Opportunities is, in part, a reflection of anticipated market growth resulting from a new emphasis on infrastructure as the government looks to stimulate wider economic activity in the wake of Brexit and COVID-19. However, a specific statement by Aurelius at the time of the acquisition identified the potential consolidation of the industry, which formed part of the rationale for acquiring what is seen to be the fourth-largest operator in the M&E sector.

Specific opportunities in the M&E sector are emerging as the government looks to implement strategies and incentives to encourage reduced carbon emissions in the quest for net zero, and through infrastructure to encourage



“The combination of technological advances, Brexit, COVID-19 and the emerging policies surrounding net zero are all having a profound impact on the M&E sector. Accompanying these huge influences is a new government emphasis on infrastructure. The market is set for growth and there are emerging expectations of industry consolidation in what is a highly fragmented sector.”

– Terry Leggett, Sr Analyst

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wider economic development following the disruption of COVID-19 and the challenges faced following Brexit.

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