

TOP 10 TIPS

FOR

TECHNICAL ADVISORS



MEET OUR FOUNDER

John Davies CEng is a chartered engineer and has over 16 years of experience in the Energy sector. A former station manager of Uskmouth Power Station and Operations Director at Cobalt Energy, John has amassed a huge amount experience in power generation asset development, construction, commissioning & operation, and has operated at senior management & board level for over 10 years.

“My journey has taken me from the black of fossil fuels to the clean & green of renewables. My passion is all things renewable & sustainable. I want to make a positive impact on the world by encouraging, educating, promoting & deploying emerging energy solutions to decarbonize our planet.”



WHERE DID THESE TIPS COME FROM?

Over the last two years our founder John Davies CEng has been working on his debut book which is set for launch on 3rd November 2021. During his research and picked up over the last ten years visiting over 10% of the UK fleet, John has created a suite of 'Top 10 Tips' pdf's which are referenced in his book and offer Developers, Asset Owners, Asset Managers, Policy Makers, EPC's, O&M's and TA's a condensed list of recommendations to make utility scale PV better. Whether that be improving operational assets, applying lessons learnt from the UK solar boom, or deploying quality focused services for the wave of subsidy-free new build sites. We would encourage you to apply as many of these recommendations as you can and share these pdf's far and wide. We hope you enjoy.

TOP 10 TIPS: TECHNICAL ADVISOR

1 Specialise in solar PV, or at least renewables

I would like to say, long gone are the days when general consultants were involved in the delivery and due diligence process of a solar farm, but its still happening. And it doesn't really help. Employ and position specialists who have been through the process before, this will cause a lot less frustration for all stakeholders.

2 Learn from our mistakes

A lot of sites were signed off in the Solar Boom, with awful standards of construction, design mistakes, procurement blunders and material mismatches. I would put this down to ignorance and naivety. However, we are much more informed now. The technical due diligence function needs to be done properly, and even advanced to new levels. Not to slow the process down or make it harder to deliver projects, but to elevate the general standards of construction and design. Be part of the movement in the right direction.

3 Invest in technology & innovation

Although most links in the chain still have a hunger for a traditional pdf document, with a punch list of items on it, its time to move on. Develop new and more efficient ways to present and store data against the assets and champion these methods to your clients.

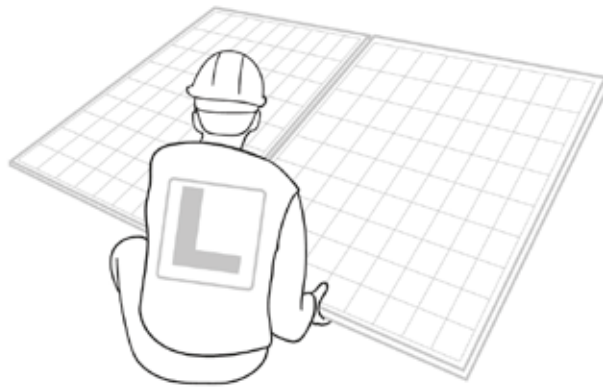
4 Partner with specialists to maximise asset knowledge

You can't be experts at everything, and sometimes it takes more than just your opinion. Search the industry for specialist service & solutions providers to add another string to your bow and create more value for your clients.

TOP 10 TIPS: TECHNICAL ADVISOR

5 Utilise experienced and competent people

Although fairly repetitive in its nature sometimes, please don't send inexperienced Geography students to conduct a site audit, give them a check list and ask them to take lots of photos. This may be good for your profit margins but is not good for elevating standards. Send you're A team.



6 Train your consultants in what to look for

Anyone can walk around a solar farm and stumble across issues, take a photo and stick it on the punch list asking for explanation. That's easy. But an experienced and well-trained consultant can spot things that many others wouldn't. And for heavens sake, make sure you reference the defects location. Use What3words to pin point exactly where the issue is, and not send the EPC/O&M on a site tour trying to locate your lovely photo.

7 Do your own work and do it right

On several occasions I have been approached by consultants conducting a site inspection who have asked whether we have seen anything in our travels as their punch list is looking a bit light. This type of behaviour effects people's perception and opinion of TA's. Some may argue that this is prudent to ask, as we perhaps have seen more of the site than them, whereas I see it as laziness and trying to bulk out their output to the client and justify their fee. Elevate your professionalism and produce work your company will be proud of.

TOP 10 TIPS: TECHNICAL ADVISOR

8 Champion quality

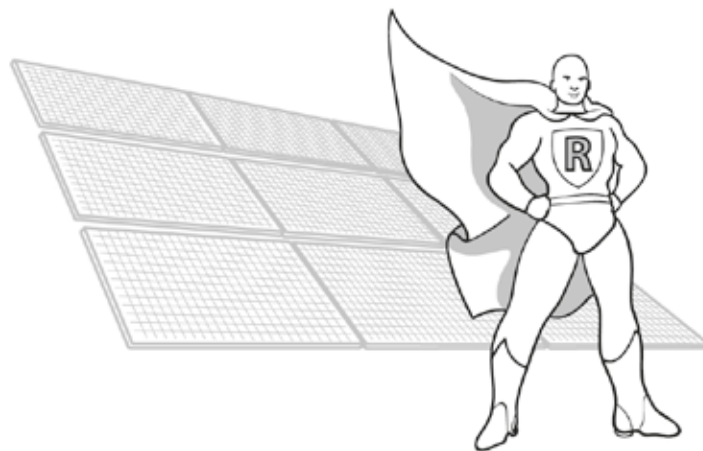
In many circumstances a TA will influence what procurement strategy the asset owner will go with on their pipeline of new build projects. This is a big responsibility and opportunity to influence best industry practice on the pre-build process. Work in upstream and downstream quality management services into your employers' requirements documents and be armed with the justifications for the value it will add. And push for pre and post Electroluminescence module testing.

9 Get more hands on

Particularly with the global covid-19 pandemic, most people have been working from home and site visits have reduced to a drip. However, when it opens up again, try not to justify to yourself that staying at home is the best thing for the standard of your services. Of course, there is a lot you can do from your desktop, but I would urge you to get to site more, get involved with the process, be part of ensuring quality and this will add great value to the asset owner.

10 Decide your involvement in Revamp & Repower projects

Decide whether you are in or on the side-lines with the approaching wave of revamp and repower projects. Decide if you will conduct the same arm's length technical due diligence services for such projects, or you want to get more involved. This is a big opportunity, but do not bite off more than you can chew.



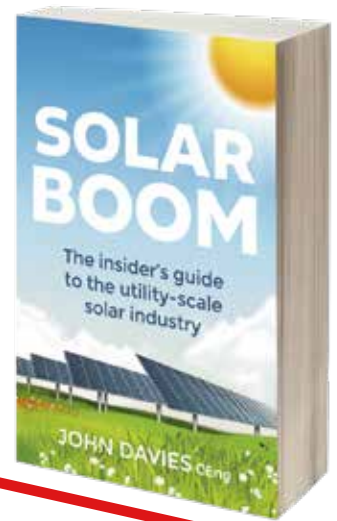
Want to read more? Check out our Founder's debut book, due for launch 3rd November 2021

SOLAR BOOM BOOK LAUNCH

The global demand for green energy has never been higher, and it's set to soar.






There's never been a more critical time for us to harness the power of the sun, and with the world deploying solar photovoltaic (PV) technology more quickly than ever, we need to get it right.

Offering insights from the frontline of the utility-scale solar industry, Solar Boom sets out the pathway to success and how to avoid mistakes in your new-build pipeline, whether you're a solar newbie or a veteran.



E-BOOK LAUNCH 3RD NOV

Read this book to understand:

-  Who's who in the utility-scale solar industry
-  Strategies to revamp and repower your portfolios
-  How to enhance your ageing and underperforming assets
-  The key mistakes of the subsidy-driven solar boom and how to avoid them
-  The future of solar PV and its potential to save the world from the effects of climate change

Book Testimonials

"John's passion for renewables is highly contagious and his call to fight to save the planet is powerful. His inspiring book is particularly accessible to those with little to no knowledge of solar energy and gives great insight into the UK Solar Boom: the what, who and why. Buckle up and enjoy this solar coaster!"

Arnoud C. Klaren

Head of Projects, Quintas Advisory

"A comprehensive but easy to read book about the whole solar powered universe. Providing an in depth knowledge especially for those people entering the professional solar business."

Erik Lohse

Solar Quality Expert and Creator of the MBJ Mobile Lab

"A must read textbook for the utility scale Solar PV industry! John, articulates clearly and dives deep into the details, addressing the issues and providing applicable solutions. Whether you are a newcomer in the industry or a seasoned professional, this book is the one that you will always refer back to."

Ypatios Moysiadis

Wattcrop Managing Partner & City University Postgraduate Lecturer

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If 2DegreesKelvin can add value, we will design an optimised solution bespoke to your requirements. If we are unable to assist, then we'd be pleased to make introductions to other independent specialists.

Book your FREE 30 minute consultation with our Founder & CEO John Davies CEng.



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