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What is so remarkable about this latest report from FIDIC is that it is founded on the previous State of the World Reports all of which have been authoritative and influential.

Now with Net Zero comes the greatest challenge of all. Not just because the scale of the challenge is unprecedented but because the actions by individual companies and countries bring no specific benefit to them but as a whole may avert the worst of a climate crisis that is impossible to overstate. This underpinning need for collective action taken in different ways in different parts of the world has been acknowledged in Paris some years ago and now must be implemented meaningfully with no further delay or prevarication.

The report is well researched and based on strong evidence. Engineering and technology must play a crucial role in the solutions on the road to net zero, whilst acknowledging that many technical advances in the past have been instrumental in causing global warming.

We as engineers and technologists now have to be a critical player in the team work needed to effect change as never before. It will not be good enough to make promises that are vague and generic; it will not be good enough to deliver gradual and modest change; it will not be good enough to wait for government policy and competitor pressure; companies and governments must now demonstrate positive action towards net zero based on evidence and feasibility. Future generations will look back at this moment in history to know whether or not we were courageous enough to do what needs to be done.

The FIDIC report is a commendable call to arms for the entire community.

