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Advising Greentech companies
to help maximize growth

Meet Maximo Your Friendly Solar Installation Robot



Photo: copyright AES

That the company insists won't
take jobs from humans.



AES Corporation has deployed a first-of-its-kind solar installation robot.

Maximo – a pick-up truck sized robot – is intended to accelerate construction of utility-scale projects which currently can take 12 to 18 months to complete.

The inevitable automation of solar farm manufacturing



- With the shortages of solar installers becoming more problematic, looking to automate was inevitable.
- According to AES's chief product officer Chris Shelton, the US solar industry installs about 15,000 modules/hour. That's projected to increase to 50,000 modules/hour by 2035.
- I have no idea if these number are accurate but suffice it to say that lots of solar panels are being installed.
- Couple that with a maturing industry where margins will get squeezed and the natural reaction is to turn to automation.



Utility-scale solar panels can weigh 60 pounds or more.

Maximo can install these heavy panels at twice the rate of humans.

Of course it employs AI

(what doesn't these days)



Photo: copyright AES

- Maximo leverage AI to:
 - Power computer vision to ensure precise panel placement.
 - Learn and adapt to achieve higher performance levels.
 - Reconstruct images obscured by glare and similar lighting conditions.
- Maximo has already installed 10 MW of panels and AES expects it to build up to 5 GW of projects in the next three years.
- That includes the first deployment at the 2 GW Kern County California solar-plus storage project - the largest such project in US.

But it won't take jobs – Ha!



Photo: copyright AES



Seriously?

- If Maximo isn't going to reduce labor costs by reducing labor, why do it?
- Why companies feel compelled to blow smoke up our butts about automation is beyond me.
- Automation drives higher productivity which in turn drives economic growth – it's a good thing.
- Yes, some people may lose their jobs, but what would a world without automation look like?

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Said AES's Mr. Shelton, "We are not focused on eliminating or replacing people in this equation. It's actually just the opposite – we want to bring more people into this workforce."

Ah, the good old days

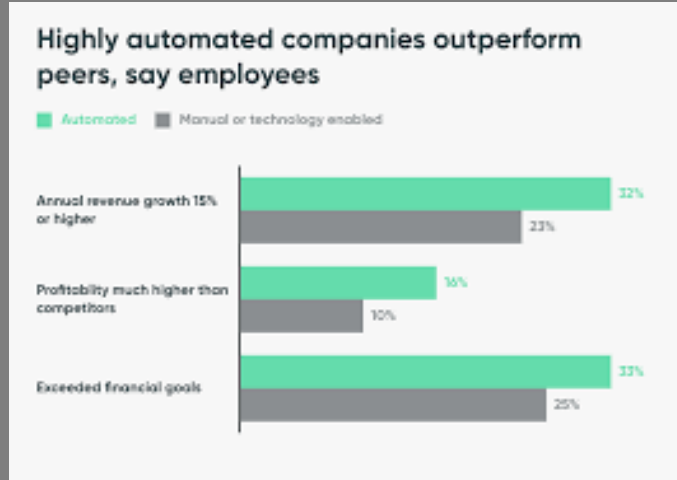


Image credit: ServiceNow

Without automation the global economy would collapse.

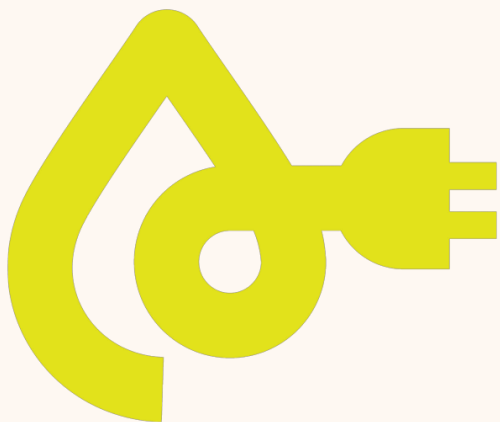
Successful people embrace change and adapt to it.

Let me see a show of hands:

How many people want to return to the days of doing everything by manually?

Don't see many hands.

Maximo will help lower the cost of solar and thus the cost of energy.



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- An honest assessment of the climate change effort.
- I cover what's working – but more important - the issues/roadblocks that the industry would prefer to ignore.
- A must-read for anyone with a desire to understand what's really going on with renewable energy and climate change.



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