

Innovating a New Reality: How a global pandemic remodeled the engineering sector

It isn't hard to notice that life looks substantially different today than it did a couple months back. As we continue along this unknown trajectory, it's easy to get caught up in how we've changed for the worse rather than the better.

The COVID-19 pandemic has undoubtedly impacted our society in a fundamental way. Our interactions, work environment and social lives have all been turned upside down, resulting in mixed outcomes across people and industries. To some this pandemic has been a bane, putting our everyday lives, jobs and aspirations momentarily on hold. But for others, these challenging times are a boon for new innovations and opportunities, and the engineering sector has experienced just that.

Here is an inside look into how the engineering sector has remodeled itself to meet new demands:

A new level of automation

As social interactions and in-person communications become greatly reduced, a new focus has shifted towards automation and harnessing the use of automated technology in various industries. Many companies have increased design and development of new robotic and autonomous machines to conduct their day-to-day operational activities which limit physical contact and save lives.

Revving up new innovations and technology

COVID-19 has been a trying time and has called for the ingenuity and collaboration of engineers to design innovative solutions in order to mitigate the effects of the pandemic. This has also resulted in a dramatic shift in operations as companies have put a temporary hold on their products to respond accord to the global health crisis. However, these challenging times has brought out not only the strength and resilience of the engineering community but their creativity as well. From automotive companies switching gears to manufacture face shields, and tech companies using their expertise to design personal protective equipment (PPEs), productivity has been redefined.

Shifting the collaborative workplace dynamic

As with any technical industry, the engineering sector requires team collaboration and a hands-on work environment in order to design and innovate future technologies. As the global pandemic has demonstrated, in-person collaboration isn't always an option, but engineers have managed to persevere through adaptation and determination. Through virtual team meetings utilizing collaborative software programs, a surge of online engineering communities and sharing of videos showcasing at-home projects, people have managed to increase their professional and social connections in significant ways.