

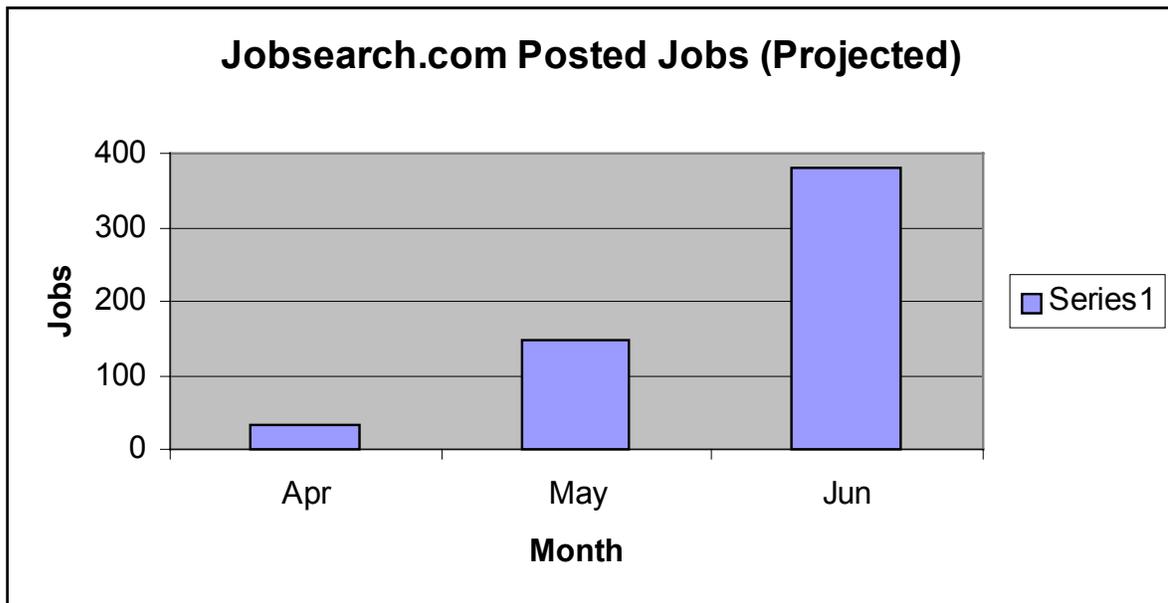
SPED Newsletter

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Society of Piping Engineers and Designers
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Piping Hiring Showing Signs of Improvement

Indications of increased hiring across the US for piping designers and engineers may signal that the decline in the SPED member's job market may be close to ending. Although the SPED Board members say that the Petrochemical market is still soft, a few firms are hiring.

Rumors have been circulating about the potential increase in hiring as a result of Iraqi reconstruction. For certain skills, it is said that some firms are offering a 40% premium for three years of single-status work in the area with four trips home a year. SPED board members indicate, however, that the waiting list for work in Iraq is very long and firms are searching only for certain skills. One member said, "if you were



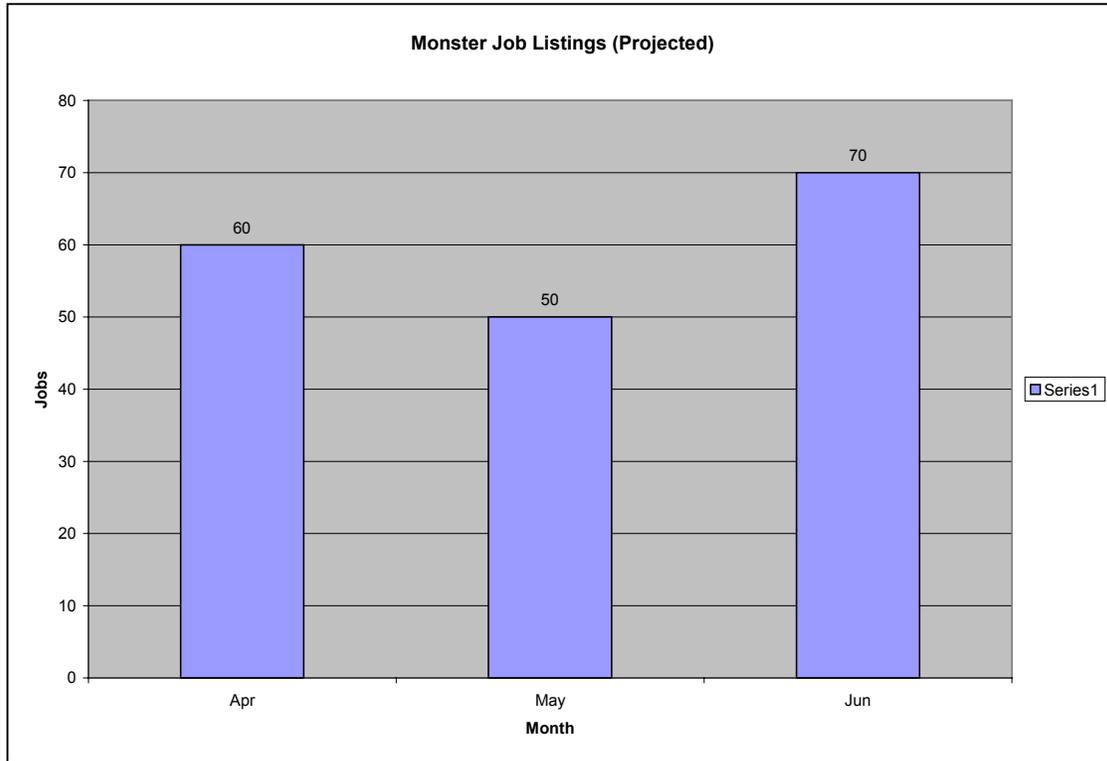
National job boards like JobSearch.com and Monster.com show signs of improving job openings. A study by the SPED office of listings to the criteria "piping and design" (Monster) and "piping and design not HVAC" (Jobsearch), indicated an improving number of postings for June. Jobsearch is more oriented toward government jobs (federal, state and local municipalities/utilities), while Monster seems to be a favorite of recruiters.

SPED maintains a job board for members on its website. The job board is one of the most popular features of the member area and is actively used by both members and employers.

part of designing and/or building a specific plant, they want you. If not, they can fill the position from within." The most demanded skills have to do with power and water treatment plants, etc.

Still, much of the work is out of Houston in other major metropolitan areas not known for petrochemical work. Examples include Washington DC, Philadelphia PA, Virginia Beach VA. This probably indicates that pharmaceuticals, public works and shipbuilding are leading the modest recovery.

Many SPED members have entered training classes or college to improve their employability. As a result, SPED is considering a special 3-



week PDS I class in July. Normal PDS classes are spread over six weeks.

The SPED board is working on a certification program designed to help members become more employable. A public review draft is expected to be ready for review at the June 27 board meeting.

For more information on SPED, contact: Dr. William G. Beazley, Executive Director and Treasurer, SPED, One Main Street, Suite 719N., Houston, TX 77002, 713-221-8224, spedexec@spedweb.com.

For course schedule and enrollment information, contact Nan Bentz at (713) 661-6578.

AVEVA VNET Navigator Uses .NET Technology and ISO 15926, XML Standards

AVEVA Group plc (LSE: AVV), the engineering IT solutions and services provider formerly known as CADcentre, has announced the release of VNET Navigator, a web-centric

solution for the collaboration of plant design models, 2D schematics and their associated drawing deliverables. VNET Navigator is the first product to use AVEVA's VANTAGE Enterprise NET (VNET) platform, which combines generic middleware technology from Microsoft® .NET and the utilization of industry standards (ISO 15926 and XML). The announcement was made at AVEVA's annual International Symposium for Engineering IT (ISEIT) 2003, in June at The Woodlands, TX.

ISO 15926

ISO 15926 - Industrial automation systems and integration - Integration of life-cycle information for oil and gas production facilities, specifies a data model that defines the meaning of the lifecycle information in a single context supporting all the views that process engineers, equipment engineers, operators, maintenance engineers and other specialists may have of the facility.

ISO 15926 is divided into a number of parts. Each part has a unique function:

- ISO 15926-1 provides an overview of ISO 15926.
- ISO 15926-2 specifies a generic, conceptual data model that supports representation of all life-cycle aspects of an oil and gas production facility.
- ISO 15926-4 defines the initial set of standard reference data for oil and gas production facilities.
- ISO 15926-5 specifies the procedures to be followed for registration and maintenance of reference data.
- ISO 15926-6 specifies the scope and information required when defining additions to the ISO 15926 reference data library.

Information concerning engineering, construction and operation of production facilities is created, used and modified by many different organizations throughout a facility's lifetime. Economic, safety and environmental considerations demand that this information is available to owners and operators of production facilities, contractors, and regulatory bodies in a consistent, integrated form. This requirement can be satisfied by specifications that prescribe the structure and meaning of data that is shared by organizations and disciplines involved in all stages of a facility's life-cycle.

Collaboration through Web Services

VNET Navigator exposes the wealth of inter-related plant deliverables to a wider community of users without needing expensive client software, proprietary formats, or training. This is accomplished by providing intuitive, context sensitive browsing for the non-technical user, swiftly locating the information they require. By employing the ISO 15926 data model, flexible XML standards and web technology, links are made between deliverables and their contents. Specific applications are integrated as Web Services using XML as an access format and protocol. The result is a coherent, developing plant data structure, which becomes the key to efficient navigation.

VNET Navigator provides a browsing and content markup capability with fast streaming of 3D models from many common engineering formats – including those of Intergraph. Intelligent, related engineering content is shared securely within the project community and the wider enterprise of clients, vendors and contractors by specific, role-based invitation.

Following the launch of the VNET platform in January, Ian Bishop, Business Systems Manager, Foster Wheeler Energy Limited said: "We consider VNET to be a ground-breaking development, which uniquely offers true, ISO standards-based integration between document and data-centric environments. It will be a key enabler in greatly improving all aspects of managing information quality, accessibility and visualization throughout the plant lifecycle."

Derek Middlemas, AVEVA's Vice-President of Strategic Accounts, commented: "VNET Navigator helps solve a key communication hurdle in global project collaboration - data incompatibility across multiple applications and stakeholders. It quickly delivers genuine benefits as well as a solid, scalable entry into the VNET platform and the information-based collaboration that the industry demands."

The web-centric VNET collaboration platform delivers an integrated approach to engineering portals, data handover between capital and operations phases, data warehousing, global collaboration and integration of plant design and engineering project applications. VNET provides a blueprint for engineering contractors and owner operators to implement holistic and sustainable engineering IT strategies.

VNET supplements generic Enterprise Application Integration (EAI) middleware with an engineering 'brain' and application 'gateways' to give context to engineering information and make it more rewarding. This approach secures the independence of engineering data with low cost of ownership, good interoperability and unlimited flexibility in implementation.

For More Information, Contact: Delores Edwards, AVEVA, Inc., Tel. 713 977-1225, Email delores.edwards@aveva.com

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About SPED

The Society of Piping Engineers and Designers (SPED) is only professional organization devoted exclusively to the betterment of Plant Design Professionals. SPED members are involved with the design and assurance of petrochemical plant mechanical containment and fluid flows. SPED advances the profession through publications, training and other professional development activities.

This publication is mailed free of charge to all SPED members. Annual individual membership dues are \$35 for professionals, and \$20 for full time students. Corporate memberships for companies with fewer than 75 employees are \$300 per year (includes 3 individual memberships). Corporate memberships for companies with 75 or more employees are \$500 per year (includes eight individual memberships).

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