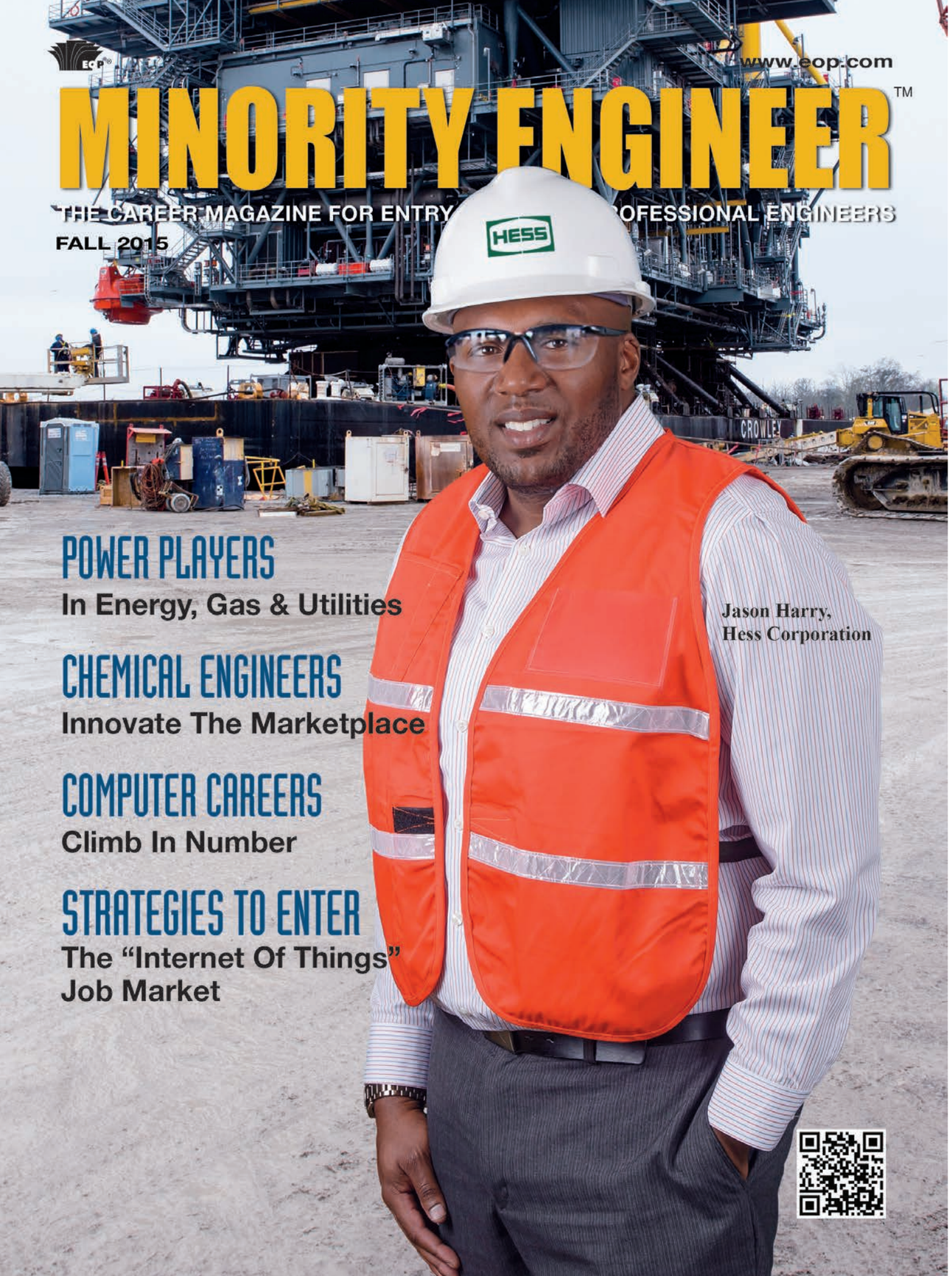

POWER PLAYERS

YOUNG ENGINEERS BRING FRESH PERSPECTIVES TO THE ENERGY SECTOR

Not all utility companies operate under the same construct. Some are publicly owned, some owned by investors, and still others are cooperatives. According to the American Public Power Association (APPA), there are 189 investor-owned utilities generating nearly 40 percent of the country's power, while 877 cooperatives account for 20 percent of power generated. Publicly-owned power companies number more than 2,000, and generate 10 percent of power used. The remaining are federal power agencies or non-utility generators.

Some utilities generate their own electricity, while others purchase electricity from another generator to distribute to homes and businesses. APPA reports the majority of electricity producers supply both full-service and delivery only customers.

For most people, these types of details don't matter much, as long as utilities keep the lights on, homes heated, and water flowing. But for engineers and technical professionals, it is details like these that make utilities full of career possibilities.

HESS CORPORATION ENDORSES EXPLORATION

While most people would not draw a comparison between surgery and subsea oil drilling, there is at least one key similarity: Both rely on exactness. Surgeons must exhibit extraordinary control as they navigate vital organs, and when drilling below thousands and thousands of feet of ocean water to tap crude oil reserves and pump it up to the surface, engineers have to exhibit extreme precision in their calculations and designs.

"When drilling subsea wells, you're literally drilling a hole that is inches in diameter under 30,000 feet of water. You have to be drilling that hole at a perfect angle to make sure you reach the oil. There's a lot of technical risk," explains Jason Harry, a subsea flow assurance engineer for Hess Corporation. Based in Houston, TX, the global independent energy company explores for and produces crude oil and natural gas. It also refines crude oil and sells associated products.

For Harry, there was never any doubt he would pursue a career in the energy sector. Growing up in southwest Louisiana, his extended family's livelihood was tied to the industry.

"My mother's family and my dad's family were in the oil industry," says Harry. "They showed me there were a lot of opportunities to grow in the industry. I thought it would be perfect if I could carry on the family tradition, but take it a step further."

As a student, Harry explored various scientific and technology subjects and how they pertained to the energy and oil fields. He settled on degrees in physics and chemical and biomolecular engineering. It was his first professional position, though, that introduced him to subsea engineering. Not normally a function assigned to an entry-level consulting engineer, Harry embraced the specialty.

BY ANNE BAYE ERICKSON

IN THE NEWS

Hess Corporation has been ranked the No. 1 oil and gas company on *Corporate Responsibility* magazine's prestigious list of 100 Best Corporate Citizens for 2015.

"It's a tough discipline, but this company gave me the opportunity to start right away," he remarks.

Generally speaking, Harry was satisfied with the experiences he was accumulating. As he gained more experiences and observed how various clients operated, however, his expectations for his career and what he wanted out of a professional environment, expanded. That's what prompted him to submit his credentials to Hess (www.hess.com).

"One of the projects I worked on was a Hess project, and there was something about the guys from Hess. They were really easygoing and really knowledgeable. I thought this must be a nice company to work for," says Harry.

It didn't take long for the engineer to realize the differences between being called in as a consultant and being on a project full-time.

"The theoretical calculations I made as a consultant, I can now actually see if those calculations work," he explains. "At Hess, I have access to pressure and temperature readings and rates of oil produced. I can go back into the simulation models and match those calculations to what is going on in the pipe. It makes my work better to have that first-hand access to the information that you don't get as a consultant."

"THE WORKPLACE CULTURE IS SO DIVERSE, AND WHEN I SAY DIVERSE, I MEAN DIVERSE IN KNOWLEDGE"

Harry has gained other professional skills, too. In fact, he characterizes his three years with the company almost like going back to school.

"The workplace culture is so diverse, and when I say diverse, I mean diverse in knowledge," he comments. "I get to work hand-in-hand with guys who have been in the industry for 30 to 40 years. They may be at the edge of retirement, but they are also trying to pass along as much knowledge as possible to the next generation, and I'm a complete sponge."

Jason Harry, Subsea Flow Assurance Engineer, Hess Corporation