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10 People To Watch in the Energy & Commodities IT Space 2015

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It's that time of year again, where people start wearing silly hats, dress up in ridiculous outfits (see picture below), drink far too much at Christmas parties (guilty) and the scrooges walk around glaring at people who are in the festive spirit (again guilty)



My colleague and I were sat over lunch discussing our predictions of the Energy & Commodities Space for 2015 and I wanted to open that debate up for everyone reading this.

These are the top 10 people in the Energy & Commodities IT space whom I think we should watch in 2015 as they continue to do great things;

1) Steve Hughes - President & CEO - Aspect Enterprise Solutions

Steve Hughes has been one of the main driving forces behind Aspect's success and 2014 has seen Aspect Enterprise Solutions awarded multiple awards with the latest being the "Excellence In CTRM Software Award" By Commodity Business Awards. They are seeing huge growth and gaining market share.

What will Steve Hughes' next steps be and where will he take Aspect Enterprise Solutions next year?

2) Rick Nelson - COO - Calypso.

Calypso is widely used throughout the capital markets sector but up until now has been almost nonexistent throughout the energy and commodities space.

Rick Nelson, who has worked at multiple award winning, Energy & Commodities Trading Risk Management software providers has recently joined Calypso to help build out the commodities side of the software.

Will he be able to help Calypso gain market share next year?

3) Jan van den Brom MBA - Managing Partner - Agiboo

It was certainly an exciting year for Agiboo as their first client "Hotlett Sugar Trading" went live. They trade 500,000 tonnes of sugar a year and at any given time they are managing an extensive portfolio of different sugar qualities and multiple forms of packaging. Agiboo was chosen for their versatility and flexibility.

What will we see of Agiboo in 2015 and will Jan van den Brom have other vendors shaking with fear?

4) Andrew de Bray - Managing Director - Factum Ltd.

Andrew de Bray I believe is definitely someone we should be watching in 2015. Factum Ltd. has been going for nearly three years now, driven by Andrew who has held some very influential positions in the energy and commodities space over the last 14 years.

I am hearing snippets and rumors about Factum Ltd. and I for one will be watching to see what Andrew de Bray and his partners over in Houston have planned for next year.

5) David Silbert - Founder - TrailStone

I think a special mention has to go out to David Silber, one of the founders of TrailStone which was founded in April 2013 and since then has opened offices in London, Berlin, Sydney, Austin and New York.

Trailstone are seeing huge growth and I will be following them closely in 2015 to see what David and the other founders will have in store for us for next year.

6) Kieron Drake - CTO - Mercuria

If you haven't by now heard of Mercuria's purchase of J.P Morgan's commodities trading desk you may be living in another world (Probably the world where people think it is ok to wear silly red hats and penguin outfits).

The acquisition of J.P. Morgan Chase & Co by Mercuria was finally completed on 3rd October 2014 and now the hard work begins.

Kieron Drake now has a mammoth task of integrating the desks and I can't wait to see how the company grows and as Mercuria goes from strength to strength.

7) Cyrus Dadachanji - Executive Director - EY

Cryus has returned to the consulting scene after spending the last few years at Eni Trading & Shipping. He has being hired by EY to strengthen the Energy & Commodities space within the Treasury Practice.

Utilising his consulting experience from KPMG and his experience as Global Head at Eni I think there are exciting times ahead for both EY & Cryus Dadachanji.

Will EY be doing things differently next year & will they be able to take the lead in being the most prominent big four in the Energy and Commodities space?

8) Richard Quigley - Managing Director - DataGenic

DataGenic have been winners of the global award for Excellence in Commodity Data Management for an unprecedented five years in a row.

Richard Quigley has for the last seven years built up an amazing team and pushed DataGenic onwards and upwards to a world class business.

Will next year be the 6th year or will someone else take the crown from them?

9) Kurt Wissner - CTO - TrailStone

The only company to have two members appear twice in my top ten. TrailStone's CTO Kurt Wissner is definitely one to watch in 2015.

TrailStone have had a record year with massive growth and gaining large market share. Kurt with help from his global heads (Greg Gilchrist & Ken Nguyen) has been instrumental during an implementation of Openlink's Endur, as well as various other platforms, trading desks etc.

Next year will be another amazing year for Kurt Wissner and the TrailStone team and I will be following closely.

10) David Coulon - Partner - PwC

Last but by no means least is David Coulon who joined PwC at the beginning of the month from Big Four rival EY. David spent the last 17 years at EY working his way up the ranks from Auditor to Partner.

Here at Harrington Starr we are incredibly excited to find out what 2015 has in store for this particular PwC practice. With a great team of people including Nick James, Eren Erman, John Chevaller & Ganesh Natarajan with the right direction the sky is the limit!

Will they beat rival EY next year and be the biggest Big Four Presence in the space?

So there we have it, my top ten people to follow in Energy & Commodities Trading IT 2015, there are many people within our space who could have easily featured on this list and this as ever is only my opinion, so please do not be offended if you are not included, it simply means I removed you as you were seen wearing a jingling red Christmas hat!