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Many governments around the world are looking to research and development as a means of tackling important global energy issues. On the electricity supply side, modernized electrical grids prepared to handle an increasing amount of renewable energy, flexible and reliable grids designed for an expanding global demand, access to electricity for all, and progressively increasing energy costs are some of the items that must be dealt with, and soon.

On the demand side energy, efficient manufacturing is top of the list. Productivity improvements across the process and manufacturing industries, in combination with reduced energy content per unit produced, are forcing industries around the world to adopt modern automation tools and energy efficient products and solutions.

Global competition drives quality standards, which further emphasizes the importance of automation.

Industrial safety, another important aspect of modern manufacturing principles, is highlighted with articles that describe some of ABB's more creative solutions.

Technology innovations from ABB addressing the topics listed above are the main focus of the next issue of ABB Review. The Best Innovations of 2005 are described, some briefly and others in greater detail. Also in this issue, we hear about customers who have successfully applied these new innovative products and solutions.