

Stuck in the gulf

UK construction firms are bracing for another hit as failed US-Iran talks send fresh shockwaves through global energy markets, threatening to drive up costs yet again at a time when more than half of UK firms are already being forced to raise prices due to soaring utility bills. SaveMoneyCutCarbon, the UK's leading decarbonisation platform, warns that what was once a manageable cost line has now become a full-blown threat to project planning and growth, with geopolitical instability increasingly dictating whether construction firms can hire, invest or even stay competitive, CEO Mark Sait writes

With the built environment accounting for roughly 40% of the UK's total energy use, the sector is particularly exposed to price swings that feed directly into materials, site operations and project viability.

The collapse of US-Iran peace talks marks a sharp escalation in global energy risk, turning what had already been a volatile backdrop into a more immediate and unpredictable threat for UK businesses. Rather than a gradual easing of pressures, the UK's construction sector is now facing the prospect of renewed price shocks feeding quickly through fuel, transport and supply chains, with little warning and even less time to react.



Mark Sait

Geopolitical

This kind of sudden geopolitical breakdown is exactly what is reshaping how businesses think about energy. What was previously a longer-term transition discussion is now being accelerated by real-world disruption, as firms look for practical ways to insulate themselves from external shocks, from on-site generation to reducing overall energy demand.

At the same time, the pressure is becoming more acute for smaller firms, who are not only

absorbing rising costs but also navigating growing expectations from customers and supply chains to demonstrate sustainability progress. For many, the challenge is no longer about whether to act, but how to do so quickly and affordably in a market that remains complex and fragmented.

In that context, the failure of diplomatic talks is not just another international flashpoint. It is a clear signal that volatility is likely to persist, reinforcing the need for businesses to build resilience into their operations as global instability continues to translate into immediate commercial risk.

Sustainability: vital

The big issue really is about security and the ability to plan. Where once upon a time energy was very stable, you multiplied it by 12 months, put it in your budget, and it never moved. I don't have time for saving the planet, I'm trying to save my business this quarter. Sustainability has moved from a nice to have to a commercial imperative. [i](#)

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