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Lacima #1 in ten categories and top 5 in 23 categories







This year's Software Rankings reflect the increasing number of firms offering commodities software outside the core CTRM space, writes Stella Farrington

he digitisation of the energy space is a concept currently much discussed by industry executives and chief risk officers alike. Not only is technology increasing operational efficiencies up and down the value chain but it is transforming business processes, disrupting age-old business models and even shaping relationships by introducing new ways for market participants to engage with clients, counterparties and competitors.

As a result of technological advances, particularly in cloud computing, machine learning and artificial intelligence, the number of firms offering software that is relevant to energy risk management and trading is on the increase. In particular, an industry has grown up around energy and commodity data and analytics, as well as robotic processing automation.

Most energy firms now engage with some outside providers for some of their data – for example, data on physical energy flows gained by sensoring technology or shipping data garnered from the use of satellite imagery. They

are also more keenly aware of using their own in-house data – for example, retail data from smart meters – to better effect. For this, many firms have built relationships with consultancies or software firms offering analytics platforms.

In a recent *Energy Risk* survey on the use of commodities technology by energy firms (which was sent out at the same time as the Software

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Rankings and will be published in full next month), more than half of the respondents said they believed that in the future they would need to manage an increasing number of relationships with software firms. Some 40% of respondents refuted this, however, believing that large commodity trading and risk management (CTRM) software firms would buy up many of

these smaller firms over time, becoming closer to one-stop-shops once again.

This year's *Energy Risk* software survey has been expanded to reflect some of the new technological offerings now available to energy and commodity trading firms beyond the core CTRM space. It contains an entirely new section on enterprise risk software, as well as new categories on data, analytics and project development.

While the CTRM section reflects the dominance of the large, traditional vendors such as Ion Commodities, Pioneer Solutions and Allegro Development, the enterprise risk section shows the popularity of more specialised firms such as Lacima and CubeLogic. Several data providers appeared for the first time, for example Kpler and Veson Nautical for shipping data, while Genscape topped the list for data gathered through thermal and sensoring techniques. ZE PowerGroup dominated the data management section, while there were wins for Lacima, KWA Analytics, Machina Automation and capSpire in the technology advisory category.



C/ETRM software providers

Futures and options software

Market	risk:	ana	lytics
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Lacima 2 Ion Commodities: Openlink 3 **Pioneer Solutions** 4 Ion Commodities: Aspect 4 Allegro Development

Risk and analytics visualisation

1 Lacima

2 Ion Commodities: Openlink Pioneer Solutions 3

4 CubeLogic

Allegro Development 5= Ion Commodities: Aspect 5=

Market risk: management and reporting

Ion Commodities: Openlink 1

2 Lacima

3 **Pioneer Solutions** 4 Ion Commodities: Aspect Allegro Development

CubeLogic

5=

Position management

Ion Commodities: Openlink

2 **Pioneer Solutions**

Lacima 3

Allegro Development 4

5 Ion Commodities: Triple Point Technology

Best customer services/support

Pioneer Solutions

2 Lacima

3 Ion Commodities: Openlink

4 Allegro Development

5 Contigo Software

Physical trading and transaction software

Power

Ion Commodities: Openlink 1 **Pioneer Solutions** 2

3 Allegro Development

4 Lacima

Contigo Software

Operational risk

Ion Commodities: Openlink

2 **Pioneer Solutions**

3 Allegro Development

4 Lacima

5 Ion Commodities: Aspect

Market risk: stress-testing

Lacima 1

2 Ion Commodities: Openlink

3 **Pioneer Solutions**

Allegro Development 4

5 Ion Commodities: Aspect

Model valuation

1 Lacima

2 Ion Commodities: Openlink

3 **Pioneer Solutions**

Allegro Development 4=

Ion Commodities: Aspect 4=

Portfolio management

Ion Commodities: Openlink 1

2 **Pioneer Solutions**

3 Lacima

4 Allegro Development

Ion Commodities: Aspect

Credit risk

Ion Commodities: Openlink

2 **Pioneer Solutions**

3 CubeLogic

4 Allegro Development

5 Lacima

Overall ease of using the system

Allegro Development

2 **Pioneer Solutions**

3= Lacima

3= Ion Commodities: Openlink

5 Contigo Software

Gas

Ion Commodities: Openlink 1

Pioneer Solutions 2

3 Allegro Development

4 Lacima

Ion Commodities: Triple Point Technology



Enterprise risk software

Best a	analytics package	Best m	etrics
1	Lacima	1=	Lacima
2	Ion Commodities: Openlink	1=	CubeLogic
3	Pioneer Solutions	3	Ion Commodities: Openlink
4	ZE PowerGroup	4	Pioneer Solutions
5	Ion Commodities: Aspect	5	Allegro Development
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Market risk reporting and management

1	Lacima
2	CubeLogic
3	Ion Commodities: Openlink
4	Pioneer Solutions
5	Ion Commodities: Aspect

Best credit risk software

Dest Ci	cuit iisk sortware
1	CubeLogic
2	Ion Commodities: Openlink
3	Pioneer Solutions
4	Lacima
5	Allegro Development

Reporting capability

1	Ion Commodities: Openlink
2	Pioneer Solutions
3	Lacima
4	CubeLogic
5	Ion Commodities: Aspect

Best business intelligence software

Best business intelligence softwa	
1	CubeLogic
2	Ion Commodities: Openlink
3	Pioneer Solutions
4	Ion Commodities: Aspect
5	Lacima

Technology advisory

Ease o	f working relationship	Analy	tics development
1	Lacima	1	Lacima
2	KWA Analytics	2	capSpire
3	Baringa Partners	3	KWA Analytics
4	Contigo Software	4	Accenture
	•	5	Sapient
Under	standing client needs	Most i	nnovative project developer
1	Lacima	1 capSpire	
2	KWA Analytics	2	KWA Analytics
3	Baringa Partners	3=	Lacima
4=	capSpire	3=	Sapient
4=	Contigo Software		

Methodology

The survey went live on January 14, 2019 and closed on February 15. It received 261 valid votes.

To compile the Software Rankings, respondents were asked to vote for their preferred software vendor, data management firm, data provider and technology adviser in a variety of categories. All votes were carefully checked and invalid votes stripped out. Examples of votes considered invalid are people voting for their own firm or using a free internet-based email address, multiple votes from the same person or IP address, and voters who choose the same firm indiscriminately throughout the survey.

Following closure of the poll, the results are subject to an internal review process, which can result in categories being dropped if they do not have enough votes. The outcome of the review is final.