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From left, Peter Moutsatsos, PMP, Warwick Bray, Terence Koo and Rob Loader, PMP

Garbage Patched

As the desire for new tech piles up, so does the electrical and electronic waste. The amount of e-waste is expected to increase to 52.2 million metric tons a year by 2021, up from 44.7 million metric tons annually in 2016, according to the *2017 Global E-Waste Monitor*. In response, more governments are requiring and implementing legislation to ensure proper disposal, including in Thailand, across Europe and in India. Meanwhile China, which has long been the world's largest importer of e-waste, banned the import of 24 types of electronic waste earlier this year.

The growing need for e-waste disposal, along with new legislation, has triggered a spate of projects to build e-waste recycling plants. In March, the Alba Group opened a HK\$421 million facility in Hong Kong that is expected to process up to 30,000 metric tons of e-waste annually and eliminate the city's need to export its electronic garbage. Last year, the Rwandan government completed a three-year, RWF1.1 billion project to build an e-waste recycling facility in Bugesera, Rwanda. And in Australia, Port Pirie became home to the nation's largest e-waste recycling plant after metals company Nyrstar completed an AU\$563 million expansion last year.

These projects can have a real impact, too. In Japan, e-waste peaked in 2010. Since then, recycling projects have helped cut the amount of e-waste nearly in half.

But organizations launching projects to design and build facilities are subject to strict security protocols to ensure they can handle and release hazardous materials. Teams also have to contend with public safety concerns. The Port Pirie plant, for instance, had to invest in new technology after reports surfaced that the pre-expansion plant had increased lead levels in the blood of nearby residents. The expansion included technology to reduce emissions of harmful gases, metal

and dust. Overall, project teams are turning to new technology to help them meet rigid requirements.

Fighting Tech With Tech

Project plans to build new or expanded recycling facilities must meet strict local regulations. And as countries continue to crack down on e-waste, organizations will have to meet increased requirements. Projects are implementing new technology to pave the way.

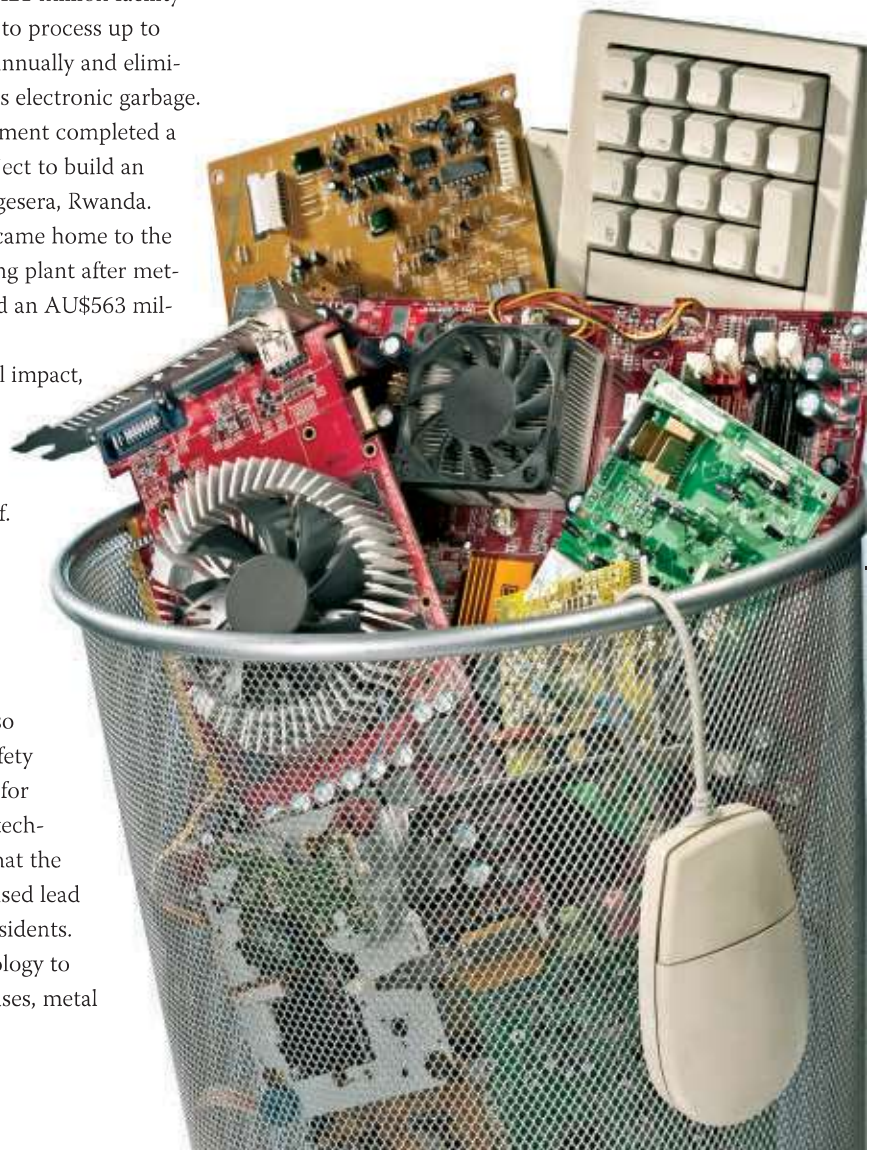
Sims Recycling Solutions (SRS), for instance, launched a project to update processing lines at its e-waste recycling facility in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. The added technology uses metal sensors, color recognition and photo technology

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Source: *2017 Global E-Waste Monitor*





“We look to exceed the very strict requirements for protecting the local environment and the health of workers.”

—Nigel Mattravers, Alba Integrated Waste Solutions, Hong Kong

to separate plastic, circuit boards and metals during processing.

“This new building makes it easier to fulfill local environmental regulations, as we are now able to decrease the noise and dust considerably from the storage and processing of e-waste,” Jan Visser, managing director of SRS, Eindhoven, said in a press release.

The Alba Group has built—and navigated

regulatory issues—for several e-waste recycling plants. For its Hong Kong facility, the organization looked to go beyond what was required by the government, according to Nigel Mattravers, director and general manager of Alba Integrated Waste Solutions, a joint venture founded for the project, Hong Kong. “We look to exceed the very strict requirements for protecting the local environment and the health of workers,” says Mr. Mattravers.

They also leaned on new tech: The plant installed robotic arms in the Hong Kong facility to avoid risks to workers. The robotic arms dismantle LCD TVs, which contain fluorescent tubes with mercury. —*Ambreen Ali*

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PHOTO BY RAICO PAJULA/PIGETTY IMAGES



A branch of Denmark's Danske Bank in Tallinn, Estonia

Bank Breach

Dankse Bank A/S came under scrutiny for failing to prevent suspected money laundering at its Estonian branch, and a shelved IT project may be to blame. A recent internal investigation found that a branch based in Tallinn, Estonia was likely used to carry billions of U.S. dollars' worth of laundered funds from ex-Soviet states and Russia.

The same report found that a failed IT integration helped facilitate the laundering scheme. The bank had dropped the planned integration with the main IT platform in 2008, citing a ballooning project budget and a lack of required resources. Instead, the Estonian branch relied on its own IT platform for the past decade, which was independent from the monitoring systems of the rest of the Danish bank. This lack of integration let transactions that may have been flagged in the main system fly under the radar.

Abandoning that project has now become a costly decision for the financial institution. “That sort of integration is difficult, but it's something that has to be done, and at some point it can't be an excuse,” Matthew L. Schwartz, a partner at the firm Boies Schiller & Flexner LLP, told Morningstar.



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