**AFTER**

Among the energy sector companies, the automation level remains diverse. While IT systems (e.g., dispatch systems) play the primary role in network companies, the automation level in generating companies may be lower where the focus is on certain highly-tailored industrial solutions. In retail companies, the automation level depends on the coverage, region, and range of activity. For these companies, the attention is focused on accounting, the management of calculations, and contracts.

Nevertheless, energy sector companies are monitoring new IT systems with particular interest, although they are still being cautious regarding the implementation of these systems in practice. In 2013 and 2014, the interest increased for geopositioning, cloud projects, and billing (BI). These are new solutions that allow changes in the existing infrastructure and increase the energy efficiency of data processing centers. These trends will be gradually growing in the future.

It is necessary to highlight 7 groups of technologies that are important for the energy sector. They are presented in Fig. 2.

In March of 2014, the introduction and application of BI systems among the energy sector companies was in 7th place in terms of “popularity” (46 projects out of 1,000). Big data operation technologies are widely used to provide data analysis and management and to improve decision-making support.

Modern companies in the energy sector are interested in introducing IT systems that solve BI tasks (i.e., record-keeping, monitoring, analysis, budget-making) and specific energy industry problems. With increasing frequency, retail companies are in need of an energy audit system that will monitor the implementation of instructions provided by the Russian Federal Service for Environmental, Engineering and Nuclear Supervision (Rostekhnadzor RF) and that will control inspections of high-quality maintenance of energy utilities.

In the coming years, the need for convergent solutions in the business analysis field is expected, specifically, in convergent business analysis, such as GIS+BI or technological data+BI.