

CINTEC WORLDWIDE

Egypt's oldest pyramid at risk and a British company has been called in to stop its collapse



A British engineering firm have won a lucrative contract to help save the oldest pyramid in Egypt. The 4,600-year-old pyramid of Djoser almost collapsed in 1992 after being hit by an earthquake. But in a bid to preserve the ancient structure, a firm from South Wales has been called in to keep the pyramid standing.

Rescue operation: A Welsh engineering firm has been called in to save the Pyramid of Djoser in Egypt. A team from Cintec in Newport has been contracted by the High Council of Egyptian Antiques to rescue the landmark, which is also known as the Step Pyramid. The firm worked on Windsor Castle after the fire of 1992 and was also called upon by the Indian government to strengthen a major Delhi bridge ahead of last year's Commonwealth Games.

Landmark: The 200ft pyramid was built in around 2650BC. And after building a reputation for preserving landmark structures, Cintec has won an £1.8million contract to save the Pyramid of Djoser. The engineers will use self-inflating water-filled bags to bolster against the collapse of a damaged ceiling inside the pyramid. Stainless steel structural reinforcement anchors will also be implemented in a bid to secure the strength of the building's central chamber. Peter James, managing director of Cintec, said: 'We are extremely pleased to have been appointed for this project and are always looking for new methods to support and maintain historical landmarks across the globe. We recognize the importance of both historical and religious structures to their cultures and hope to continue to develop advanced reinforcement systems that will preserve archeological structures for future generations. 'The Step Pyramid project is of particular importance to us as the entire structure could be destroyed at any point due to the damage on the ceiling and roof caused by the earthquake. 'We aim to work as efficiently as possible on this project without comprising the design or strength of the structure.' Built in around 2650BC as a burial place for Pharaoh Djoser, the Step Pyramid can be found in Saqqara, around 19 miles south of Cairo.