

## TIA-B update - October 2007

In June the FIA introduced the possibility of a cross-platform telecommunications infrastructure advisory body to replace and enhance the services of CITA (ex-TIA (UK)).

From the FIA perspective the objective of the TIA-B (**Telecommunications Infrastructure Advisory Board**) is to:

- allow information from the existing FIA commitment to standards activity to be presented to a wider audience and to cover a wider range of telecommunications technologies;
- support FIA members who wish the quality of technical support documentation, query resolution and arbitration/audit services already provided by the FIA to its core technology to be extended to all telecommunications infrastructure cabling media;
- produce technical services including BSI-endorsed publications to support the “copper” cabling infrastructure sector;
- allow services already offered by the FIA and to be extended to cover all telecommunications infrastructure cabling media.

It was never the intention of the FIA to single-handedly manage the operation of the TIA-B. Instead the FIA were keen to involve other trade associations as co-hosts. The most obvious trade body was the ECA (Electrical Contractors Association), and specifically the ITEC (Information Technology, Electronics and Controls) group within the ECA. The FIA opened early discussions to this effect and to get the “ball rolling”, pending any agreement between the FIA and ECA, an inaugural meeting of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Advisory Board was held on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at the IET, London - free-of-charge to all FIA and ECA-ITEC members. Following a 90-minute presentation of the objectives and operation of the TIA-B, the meeting moved on to agree the initial projects to be handled by the TIA-B.

Six projects were identified as being of either high or medium priority. High priority items were the development of an Infrastructure Advisory Note (IAN) entitled “Standards Usage Guide” and the development of Standard Interpretation Documents (SIDs) on “Segregation between mains power and telecommunications cabling” and “Earthing of cabinets/frames/racks”. These are of significant value due to the expected changes to the requirements the European, and therefore UK, standards in 2008. In the medium priority area were three further IANs covering “Glossary of terms”, “Wireless network installation practice and safety” and “Cabling infrastructures and carbon footprints”. The latter created significant interest during the meeting so we look forward to seeing the scope of this most topical work.

Project leaders for most work packages were identified at the meeting and the work on all six projects will begin almost immediately. In addition, three other issues of considerable value were deferred pending decisions by co-hosts and the outcome of other standards activity. Complete information regarding the meeting is downloadable at [www.fia-online.org/TIA-B/pdf/L5142.pdf](http://www.fia-online.org/TIA-B/pdf/L5142.pdf).



Since that meeting, we are pleased to report that not only have the ECA-ITEC agreed to become co-hosts but that the CMA have also been involved in similar discussions.

This is excellent news allowing the TIA-B and the membership of its hosts to benefit from:

- the historic commitment to, and substantial sponsorship of, international, European and UK standardisation activities across all telecommunications media by the FIA via its Technical Directorate;
- the vitally important links to the electro-technical area provided by ECA-ITEC and the wider ECA;
- the user and consultancy base within the CMA.



This is a true “win-win” situation for members of all three bodies and work has already started to identify the immediate and medium-term tasks.

**REMEMBER** - any member of a TIA-B host is automatically a member of TIA-B, but does not have membership rights to the other hosts – e.g. FIA members will have seamless access to the TIA-B members site, but will not have access to the members sites of the ECA-ITEC or CMA.



[www.fia-online.co.uk/TIA-B](http://www.fia-online.co.uk/TIA-B)