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FIA Secretariat Report – Council meeting Friday 8th December 2006

Actions: All Actions completed from previous meeting 3rd October 2006

Membership: At the previous meeting I reported the m/ship number of 192 - **Changes since then:**

13/10/06 New Corp B – PR Power Installations Ltd.

25/10/06 1 x resigned – M. Andersson – Personal member (non payment of old sub)

01/11/06 1 x resigned – Blue Rock Comms Ltd. – Corp. A. (non-payment of old sub)

20/11/06 1 x resigned – Serco Rakmulti – Corp B. (non-payment old sub + company restructure) AIS members also

01/12/06 1 x resigned – TFN Communications – Corp B (non-payment old sub but may re-join)

TOTAL – 189 members

FIA General Newsletter: Issue 82 (November) was sent out on 14th November. I presume the next Newsletter will appear at the end of January 2007?

FIA Qualification scheme:

David O'Hara – FIA 050003 – I wrote to him on 30th Oct as we have not seen any CPD evidence since he was awarded his qualification in Sept 05 – no reply received to date.

Ingemar Watson – FIA 050004 – I wrote to him on 30th Oct as we have not seen any CPD evidence since he was awarded his qualification in Sept 05 – no reply received to date.

Paul Sanders – FIA 050005 was awarded Level IV Certified Optical Fibre Design Engineer – 16/10/06

Shaun Wheatley – FIA 050006 was awarded Level II Certified Optical Fibre Cabling Technician – 16/10/06

Martin Rawlinson – FIA 050007 was awarded Level III Certified Optical Fibre Cabling Specialist – 30/10/06

Les Lythgoe – FIA 050008 was awarded Level IV Certified Optical Fibre Measurement Engineer – 30/10/06

Andy Sturdy – FIA 050009 was awarded Level III Certified Optical Fibre Design Specialist – 30/10/06

CERTIFIED TRAINERS: A form was received from Total Communications to register their Trainer Mr. I. Bhandal. As the grand fathering rights expired 31/10/05 Mr. Bhandal needs to sit the CT examination. It appears Mr. Bhandal cannot provide any suitable dates for the exam until Feb 07. £41.13 has been paid.

A second form was received from Total Communications to register their Trainer Mr. M. Davies. As the grand fathering rights expired 31/10/05 Mr. Davies needs to sit the CT examination. This is being arranged

for Friday 8th December at 09:30 (at Towcester). £41.13 has been paid. Mr. Davies is bringing copy certificates with him on the day of the exam.

Critchley's – auditors: Draft accounts circulated to all Council via email 05/12/06. MG has agreed the figures. Council to formally approve at Council meeting Friday a.m..

AGM – Friday 8th December:

The Agenda and related paperwork was sent out in hard copy to all members on 6th November.

AGM starts – 11.30

AGM ends – 12.00

Open discussions – 12.00 – 12.30

Lunch – 12.30

New Council re-convenes – 13.30

In addition to Council 5 members have said that they will attend. I have booked 15 for lunch.

2 nomination forms received for the two vacant places. David Madsen of DMOptics – nominated by John Colton and John Colton of Lucid – nominated by Lee Funnell

Meeting dates & venues for 2007: We should aim to put these in place (inc. venue) for the year. Margaret asks that all Council members pre-book train tickets wherever possible to take advantage of cheaper fares.

SECREPORT081206

5th December 2006

For the attention of THE FIA COUNCIL



The IT cabling infrastructure
division of
e-Ready Building Limited

The IT cabling consultants

e-Ready Building Limited
Next generation IT infrastructures

Date: 4th December 2006
Our Reference: MG/MG/4976
Your Reference:

REPORT FOR FIA COUNCIL MEETING 8th DECEMBER 2006

COMPLETED ACTIONS

- Put up banner ad on web site re Qualifications scheme - **completed**
- Email Council details re new EU directive - **completed**
- Organise watermarked pdfs re new AIS documents - **completed**
- Investigate quotations re AIS database - **completed**

ACTIONS UNDERWAY

GENERAL

- Organise special Newsletter re PSP

AIS

- Discuss new AIS promo with PL and JM
- Write article for NCN re new AIS

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

QS

- Put university/academic courses info on website - **awaiting input from LF/JC**
- Add info to web site re Univ. of Gloucestershire BTEC award - **awaiting input from LF/JC**

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ONGOING ACTIONS

GENERAL

- Promote FIA membership - **ongoing**
- Re-edit FIA documents - **underway**

FINANCIAL

2005-2006

I distributed accounts for August 2006 on 19th September. These show a 2005/2006 profit of £2915 (before audit costs and tax). At the same time last year our profit was £6492 (with the same caveats).

The audited accounts show a profit of £2166 (before tax) with a negligible tax bill.

I had understated profit by £250 and their fees of £1000 have been taken into accruals leaving a residual difference of (£750.00). The new auditors do not take into consideration non-renewals as Deloitte Touche used to.

October 2006

I distributed accounts for October 2006 on 22nd November 2006. These show a YTD profit of £2045. At the same time last year our profit was £474.

Liquidity in October 2006 was £23834 c/f £19710 in 2005.

The general message is “steady as you-go”.

WEB-SITE REPORT

fia-online.co.uk is now functional at a 100% level.

If Council Members find pages that require amendment let me know.

For the information of Council Members:

- all Council Meeting Minutes, attachments and lists of actions can be found at **fia-online.co.uk/maa.htm**;
- access without password to all Members services is achieved at **fia-online.co.uk/default2.htm**.

TECHNICAL REPORT

TECHNICAL MATTERS

ISO/IEC 14763-3 has now been published and is also BS ISO/IEC 14763-3. A Newsletter will soon be issued (based on the article prepared for Networking+ on Testing Times Ahead together with the content of the presentation made the FIA Seminar on 1st December (<http://www.fia-online.co.uk/pdf/Presentation/L4757d.pdf>).

Action: Mike Gilmore

I have asked any members wishing to supply reference test cords to contact me. We will be producing a White Paper defining the requirements of a reference test cord with the help of the respondents.

Action: Mike Gilmore

The web-site has already been updated in readiness for links to:

- THE IMPACT OF ISO/IEC 14763-3
 - Topic-specific Newsletter
 - Reference Cord White Paper
 - Test Cord Suppliers
 - Mode Controller Cord Supply

We shall then:

- amend its testing documents TSD-200-4-2-1 and 4-2-2 to reference ISO/IEC 14763-3;
- promote the MCC from ICS.

Action: Mike Gilmore

TECHNICAL SUPPORT GUIDES

The re-edit of all documents is underway.

I am preparing a TSD-2000-2-3: OPTICAL FIBRE CABLING: COMPONENTS: CORDS as per the FIA Seminar presentation (September 2006) which can be found at (<http://www.fia-online.co.uk/pdf/Presentation/L4906a-1.pdf>).

Action: Mike Gilmore

I am preparing a White Paper on Supplier Warranties.

Action: Mike Gilmore

UKCPO

Our formal relationship within UKCPO requires signing. This will be brought to the Council Meeting. A first meeting of the KTN Project will be held before year-end (predicted - not definite)

SEMINARS

The FIA are planning to hold further techno-commercial seminars in February and March 2007. Dates and topics are required.

NEWSLETTER

General Newsletter Issue 82 prepared and circulated w/c November 2006

APPROVED INSTALLER SCHEME

Contract to re-build data base has been completed. Support material almost complete. Sample to be reviewed at meeting

ARTICLES

I have produced two more articles for Networking+. See Annex A.

A further article is in the system for Networking+ with a deadline of:

- 08/12/06.

If any Council members wish to input an article of 800 words please let me know.

QUALIFICATION SCHEME

Web-site complete. The database for trainers, learners etc. has been developed and used to record the early data received.

STANDARDS ACTIVITY

BSI STANDARDS MAKER FORUM

Last meeting: 25th September 2006 - M. Gilmore to attend as TCT7 Chairman and represent the FIA. See Annex A (October article). A FTTx seminar is being considered by TCT7 and GEL86.

Action: MG

BSI GEL 86: TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: FIBRE OPTICS

Last meeting: 26th September 2006 - M. Gilmore provided report.
Next meeting: 28th March 2007 - M. Gilmore to attend.

BSI GEL 86/1: SUB-COMMITTEE: CABLES

Last meeting: 6th September 2006 - M. Gilmore attended.
Next meeting: 7th March 2007 - M. Gilmore to attend.

BSI GEL 86/2: SUB-COMMITTEE: CONNECTING HARDWARE

Last meeting: 20th September 2006 - M. Gilmore did not attend due to ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3 Meeting clash.
Next meeting: tba

BSI GEL 86/3: SUB-COMMITTEE: SYSTEMS

Last meeting: 6th September 2006 - M. Gilmore attended:

- comments developed to IEC 61280-4-1 Ed.2 (see turf war below in ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3);
- discussions took place regarding the work of TC86 CCMMLC (affecting FIA PSP).

Next meeting: 7th March 2007 - M. Gilmore to attend.

BSI TCT7

Last meeting: 6th December 2006 - M. Gilmore to chaired, L. Funnell expected to attend. Verbal report to be given to Council.

- possible BIP on cable fire performance
- FTTx
- BS 6701 mandate from UK versions of EN 50173-x.

Next meeting: 6th June 2007 - M. Gilmore to chair, L. Funnell to attend.

BSI TCT7/-1

Last meeting: 5th December 2006 - M. Gilmore chaired. Verbal report to be given to Council.

Next meeting: 13th February 2007 - M. Gilmore to chair.

- developing comments to 6MP drafts EN 50173-3
- developing comments for amendment to ISO/IEC 14763-3.

BSI TCT7/-2

NTR.

BSI TCT7/-3

NTR.

CLC TC215 WG1

Last meeting: 6th/8th November, Brussels - M. Gilmore chaired:

- approved EN 50173-1, -2, -4 and -5;
- resolved comments to SecEnq draft EN 50174-1.

Editing meeting: 11th/12th January 2007, London - M. Gilmore to chair:

- developing TR on 10GBASE-T channels.

Next meeting: 16th/17th April 2007, Brussels - M. Gilmore to chair:

- resolving comments to EN 50173-3.

CLC TC215 WG2

Last meeting: 28th/29th November, Darmstadt - M. Gilmore chaired:

- resolving comments to SecEnq drafts EN 50174-2.

Next meeting: 6th February (provisional) withg WG1 experts - M. Gilmore to chair:

- reviewing EN 50174-1, -2 drafts

Following meeting: 19th/20th April 2007, Brussels - M. Gilmore to attend

ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25

Last meeting: 22nd September 2006, Berlin, Germany - M. Gilmore attended.

Next meeting: 14th September 2007, Jeju Island, Korea - M. Gilmore to attend.

ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3

Last meeting: 18th/21st September 2006, Berlin, Germany - M. Gilmore attended:

Next meeting: 26th February - 2nd March 2007, Kona, USA - M. Gilmore to attend.

Following meeting: 10th -13th September 2007, Jeju Island, Korea - M. Gilmore to attend.

ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3 CITG

- Primary job: development of ISO/IEC 14763-2 (replacing the existing TR)

Last meeting: 20th/21st September, Berlin, Germany - M. Gilmore chaired.

Next meeting: 27th February - 1st March 2007, Kona, USA - M. Gilmore to chair.

Following meeting: 11th -12th September 2007, Jeju Island, Korea - M. Gilmore to chair.

I also attend a joint ETSI/CLC Task Group and the FIA is well recognised in this forum. It will change its status in January and I will report further at that time.

Mike Gilmore

Annex A: Article for Networking+

THE LATEST DIRECTIVE – FOR YOUR EYES ONLY

by

Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA

for Networking+ (October 2006)

One's eyes are only too easily drawn away from any document from the "European Parliament and of the Council": a title relating to "the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to risks arising from physical agents" hardly makes it anymore attractive.

However, the three words "artificial optical radiation" makes anyone involved in the optical fibre industry pay attention. Directive 2006/25/EC, ratified on the 5th April 2006 has had no fanfare and further work is required before it becomes statute in each member state - nevertheless it may have significance for users of optical fibre transmission equipment.

This European Directive is the latest in a list of documents covering health and safety risks - but this one deals specifically with optical radiation, due to its effects on the health and safety of workers, in particular damage to the eyes and to the skin. The Directive covers the wavelength range 100 nm - 1 mm. Optical fibre communications fall nicely inside this range, operating in the IRA and IRB bands (780nm - 3000 nm).

The primary objective of the Directive is to establish limits and responsibilities for ensuring that they are not exceeded. Unsurprisingly, the responsibilities fall on employers - including both organisations that install and use optical fibre communications systems.

Before everyone starts panicking - it may be worthwhile reminding ourselves of the existing standards. There are two main standards: BS EN 60825-1 and BS EN 60825-2 and they have been around for years. The first defines the Class of optical devices – if you use optical fibre transmission or test equipment will be familiar with the little labels that confirm the Class of the device – normally Class 1 (essentially safe in all foreseeable circumstances). The second is more directly relevant to installers and users of communication systems. BS EN 60825-2 discusses the hazards generated by the connection of equipment of a given Class to optical fibre cabling - and the requirements necessary to control them.

Unfortunately, few professionals know about BS EN 60825-2. To address this shortfall, the FIA produced TSD-2000-5-1 (November 2001). Customers are required to define the hazard classification of their sites based on the equipment to be installed - which in turn defines how installers should label the ports, panels and cabinets. Without this action no professional audit of an installation can be "signed off" - since it is as bad to over-label as it to under-label the hazard. If customers wish to use more powerful equipment, they may have to re-classify the hazard in that area and re-label accordingly. This system requires the customer to have knowledge of, i.e. to record, the safety Class of all the optical equipment on their premises.

It is unlikely that the Directive will require more than this - at least for our sector of industry. Unfortunately most customers do not follow these simple rules. So if little else is achieved, maybe the Directive will act as a wake-up call to customers and their consultants.

FIA members have free access to all FIA Technical Support Documents. If any readers wish to obtain a copy of the TSD-2000-5-1, please contact the FIA Secretariat (jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk) or the author.

AT LAST! - INTEGRATED CABLING STANDARDS
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THE END OF SUPPLIER WARRANTIES?
by
Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA
for **Networking+ (November 2006)**

The new European structured cabling design standards for offices, homes and data centres were approved for publication in November and are expected to be published as British Standards with the next two months. These design standards go far beyond their predecessors in that they mandate the use of installation practices according to existing British Standards.

For customers and their consultants this makes life very easy indeed. In future, if you ask for cabling in accordance with BS EN 50173-2 for your new office block or corporate headquarters you are not only defining the component choice and configuration rules - you are stating a requirement for installation quality assurance as well.

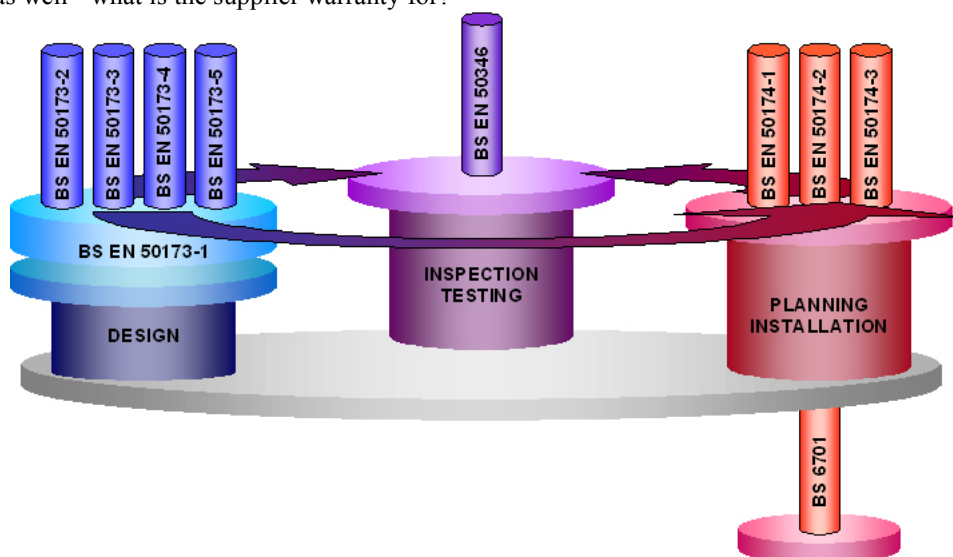
This has a number of not-so-obvious but nevertheless welcome effects.

One of these effects is that many well-known system suppliers, who for years have taken little interest in installation standards (because they have had their own), have suddenly woken up. They are now very keen to ensure that what the installation standards require or recommend actually matches their internal procedures (or vice versa). This is great news for the future of installation standard compliance at the high-end of the market and will inevitably have a trickle-down effect.

Another of these effects will be re-focussing of the meaning of installer competence. Unless installers qualifications are based on the relevant British (or European) standards they are of no obvious benefit under contract.

The seemingly minor change in the meaning of conformance to the BS EN 50173 series of standards also calls into question the value of cabling system supplier warranties. For the last fifteen years, cabling systems have been supplied with a variety of warranties ranging from all encompassing end-to-end "channel" guarantees at the top-end of the market, via the more straightforward "link warranties" to the most basic component warranties. They have all come under fire at some point - usually when something goes wrong and the customer is unhappy.

With the publication of the new European cabling design standards, the justification of warranties is once more under the spotlight. Put simply the question is this - if a tender document demands conformance to, lets say, BS EN 50173-2 which defines the cabling performance specification and its configuration - and now the installation quality assurance and practices as well - what is the supplier warranty for?



The integrated approach to the implementation structured cabling

Over the past few weeks the FIA Technical Directorate has been reviewing a range of warranties from suppliers across the structured cabling spectrum - both for copper and optical fibre cabling. We have reviewed the requirements of those warranties in terms of their scope, their demands for standards compliance, procedures for installer approval and requirements and evidence of installer training. It has not been a very edifying process.

In order to try to shed some light on the situation the FIA is launching a White Paper on the subject of cabling system supplier warranties. It provides a clinical assessment of the key features of the different types of warranties thereby allowing the client to clearly understand what is on offer. It should be published by the time you read this article - go to www.fia-online.co.uk/epaper-tech.htm to find about more about FIA White Papers.

Our review of supplier warranties is wholly in line with the latest changes to the standards. It integrates seamlessly into the Mk.II FIA Approved Installer Scheme that was launched in September this year - the principal aim of which is to minimise risk, both for the installer and the customer alike. Full details of the FIA Approved Installer Scheme are available at www.fia-online.co.uk/eais01.htm



John Marson, Commercial Director - Report to the FIA council Meeting on 8th December 2006

Actions

Promote FIA membership – **In Progress**
Suggest ideas for future promo of FIA - **In Progress**

Promotion of membership in progress and completed actions

The FIA membership currently stands at 191 members . this is the same amount as this time last year. My hoes were to get this up to 200 at least by now but due to resignations this has not be achieved .During the ensuing year I will continue my efforts to gain more members and to promote the FIA to the best of my ability with a personal aim of 200+ members by this time next year .

During the last year we have accepted 21 new members

13 Corporate A
4 Corporate B
2 Corporate C
1 Associate
1 Personal
21 Total New Members Y/E 2005-2006

My mail shots and cold calling will continue each month .

Proposed new actions

Promote new membership

John Marson
Commercial Director.