



FIA Secretariat Report – Council meeting Thursday 4th December 2008

Actions: Actions completed from previous meeting 1st October 2008 –

Membership: At the previous meeting I reported the m/ship number of 186 - **Changes since then:**

06/10/08	1 x new - Corp A	TCM Communications Ltd.
10/10/08	1 x resign – Corp A	Molex UK (pls cancel – no longer required)
16/10/08	1 x new - Corp B	INS Sudlows Ltd.
11/11/08	1 x resign – Corp A	Cable Contract Services Ltd. – circumstances beyond our control)
24/11/08	1 x new - Associate	Jeff Hague – re-joined
25/11/08	1 x resign – Corp B	Professional Q. Management Srvs. Ltd. (MD said no longer required)
28/11/08	1 x resign – Associate	London Metro University (contact leaving)
28/11/08	1 new – Corp A	Parcomm Ltd.

TOTAL – members 186 (at this time last year we had 199)

I have chased via email 7 contacts Mike made at the Telecoms show that showed interest in joining. Only one has replied to ask that a reminder be sent again in Jan as it is their intention to join in 2009 (G. Dear – RDM)

FIA General Newsletter: Issue 89 (Oct) circulated (email and h.copies) – 24th October.

Presume next issue will appear at the end of January? – MG to confirm

FIA Qualification scheme:

Certified Trainer applications: 3 received from M. Cook of CTTS - (Messrs. Smith, Baxter & Stearn). Paperwork in order and payments made. MG is organising CT exams on 5th Dec at CTTS premises.

FIA – Approved Installer scheme: Lightguide AIS renewal due August 08 – were accepted in Sept 2007 and provided with the tools and software. As they were not using the scheme Council agreed to withdraw the approval. Formal letter sent to them on 22nd July. PL advised he would visit them again in October 2008.

It appears Lightguide sent in an email to me on 2nd Sept (for some reason it was never received). They sent me a copy of this email on 7th Oct.

‘Following on from a recent email received from Peter Lythgoe, please see the following comments;

We have been informed that the FIA has taken away our Approved Installer's accreditation due to the fact that we have not maintained the processes of the software provided to us. I can understand the FIA's reasons behind this, however we were not aware that it was imperative for this to be kept up to date to keep the accreditation. When we were awarded with the logo we were using the system, however our workload varies from week to week, along with the size and duration of each job. Therefore, we felt that the software would only be of benefit to us when we were carrying out larger projects if a lengthy time scale and involvement.

We are keen to have the opportunity to be re-awarded the accreditation, therefore could you please advise me on how to progress with the situation, and possibly re-send the software over to us.'

On 12th November MG provided me with the text for a 'holding email' – which was sent to Nicola Whatley at Lightguide:

apologising for the delay in replying, advising a new AIS Director will be appointed at the AGM (and possibly a modified approach to the scheme), the software originally provided is the correct and current version and if the approval is re-newed they must commit to use it.

Lynx – were written to in March 08 advising that they must provide evidence of implementation by 30th September. PL was visiting on 30th Oct – this was then changed to mid November – see PL report

FIA recommended insurance supplier: It has been brought to our attention that MJ Mac & Co has been acquired by Towergate Insurance. I have emailed Towergate to explain details of our original agreement and to see if they can provide the same services. If they can, we can proceed and put their details on the website.

AGM – Thursday 4th December:

The Agenda and related paperwork was sent out in hard copy to all members on 31st October.

AGM starts – 11.30
AGM ends – 12.00
Open discussions – 12.00 – 12.30
Lunch – 12.30
New Council re-convenes – 13.30

Buffet lunch has been booked.

FIA web-site – members' area password: This is usually changed in January each year. A letter to members advising of the new password could be sent out with the AGM minutes.

FIA Secretariat: The office will shut from Friday 19th December and re-open on Monday 5th January 2009.

Meeting dates & venues for 2009: We should aim to put these in place (inc. venue) for the year. Margaret asks Council members to pre-book train tickets wherever possible to take advantage of cheaper fares.

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: 1st December 2008
Our Reference: MG/MG/5379
Your Reference:

REPORT FOR FIA COUNCIL MEETING 4TH DECEMBER 2008

NOTE: this is concise report due to the co-location of the Council meeting and the AGM - and the subsequent timing allowed for the FIA Council meeting

1 ACTIONS

1.1 Completed

- Include info in NL re Council positions, requirements and commitments - **completed**
- Ask MM to forward disk etc. to auditors - **completed**
- T. Report for AGM by 21st November - **completed**
- Discuss seminars with ECA - **completed**
- Finalise Sept/Oct NL - **completed**

1.2 Underway

1.2.1 GENERAL

- Work with PL and SH re selling new AIS to consultants
- Look at waste disposal info re possible FIA document
- 3M / Seminars etc. – meet with marketing people - **deferred**
- Discuss promo possibilities re AIS with the ECA - **deferred**

1.3 Ongoing

1.3.1 GENERAL

- Promote FIA membership
- Visit Linbrooke if CT exams are required

1.4 Outstanding

White Paper, What is a test cord?

White Paper, Launch conditions for testing installed MMF cabling

White Paper, Test limits

Update TSD, TSD 2000-4-2-1

Update TSD, TSD 2000-4-2-2

Update TSD, TSD-2000-4-1-1

Update TSD, TSD-2000-3-3

Update TSD, TSD-2000-1-1

Produce TSD, TSD-2000-2-3

Produce TSD, TSD-2000-3-2

Update TSD, TSD-2000-5-1

Minor edit TSD, TSD-2000-5-2

Minor edit TSD, TSD-2000-5-3

2 FINANCIAL

The audited accounts for 2007/2008 differed from the FIA management accounts by the single adjustment for auditors fees (£1100) producing a tax free profit of £1533.00

I distributed accounts for October on 1st December 2008 (these were delayed pending any cross-booking of P/L items from the audited accounts). These show a P/L loss YTD of £1216. The comparable figure last year was a loss of £266.80.

Liquidity in October 2008 was £22117 c/f £22722 in October 2007.

3 WEB-SITE REPORT

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

Amendments have been made to de-clutter the "intro pages" and to include our BSI Affiliate status.

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;
- it is no longer possible to access the FIA Members area without the correct password.

4 TECHNICAL REPORT

No content in this concise version of the report.

5 UKCPO

No content in this concise version of the report.

6 TIA-B

A meeting took place on 24th November. Minutes are attached in Annex A.

7 SEMINARS/EXHIBITIONS

7.1 FIA Seminar Topics

No content in this concise version of the report.

8 NEWSLETTER

General Newsletter Issue 90 is ready for circulation in January 2009.

9 ARTICLES

9.1 Networking+

I have written two more articles for Networking+. See Annex B. The remaining date for this year is:

- 05/12/08.

10 APPROVED INSTALLER SCHEME

All software fully functional.

EN 50174-1 and -2:2008 have been approved and this means that work will have to begin to fully update the supporting "help" information.

11 FIA QUALIFICATIONS

NTR.

12 QUALIFICATION SCHEME

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

13 STANDARDS ACTIVITY

No content in this concise version of the report.

Mike Gilmore

Annex A: TIA-B Minutes

SUBJECT: MINUTES OF TIA-B DIRECTORS MEETING

24th November 2008

LOCATION: Floor 40, 8 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London

Attendees:

TIA-B Nominees

FIA: Mike Gilmore, Technical Director and TIA-B Secretary

CMA: Mike Daly: Infrastructure Forum leader

Apologies:

TIA-B Nominees

ECA-ITEC: David Stefanowicz: Technical Manager

Agenda

The agenda below had been circulated by Mike Gilmore (MG/MG/L5402) and the meeting generally followed the order shown.

2.00 pm	1	Opening remarks	All
		Changes to constitution	
		Apologies	
	2	Approval of agenda	All
	3	Document submission	All
		• Communications	
		• EU CoC Data Centre Energy Efficiency	
2.05 pm	4	Minutes of the last meeting	
	4.1	• Approval	All
	4.2	• Actions	All
	4.3	• Matters arising	All
2.15 pm	5	Directors Reports	
	5.1	• CMA	MD
	5.2	• ECA-ITEC	-
	5.3	• FIA including standards reporting	MG
2.30 pm	6	Developing the CMA Forum	All
3.15 pm	7	Projects and plans	All
	7.1	Current list	All
		• Standards Information Notes (SIDs)	
		• "Clarification of the current requirements and recommendations concerning the segregation of telecommunications and mains power cabling": Lee Funnell	
		• "Earthing of cabinets/frames/racks": Tim Oldershaw	
		• "Wireless network installation practice and safety": Steve Smith	
		• Infrastructure Advisory Notes (IANs)	
		• "Guidance in the usage of standards": Mike Gilmore	
		• "Glossary of terms": Steve Smith	
		• "Cabling infrastructures and carbon footprints": Peter Lythgoe	
	7.2	New ideas resulting from unified communications, network convergence, network integration	All
4.10 pm	8	Next steps	All
4.25 pm	9	AOB	All
4.30 pm	10	DoNM(s)	All
		22 nd December (with ECA-ITEC)	
		23 rd January 2009	
		27 th February 2009	

Details of the meeting

Opening Remarks

Mike Gilmore thanked Mike Daly for arranging the meeting location and refreshments.

1.1 Changes to constitution

NTR

1.2 Apologies

David Stefanowicz: Technical Manager, ECA-ITEC.

2. Approval of agenda

The agenda detailed above was approved without change.

3. Document submission

Mike Gilmore presented the TIA-B presentation that he had given on behalf of the Miek Daly at Telecoms 08. This will be uploaded to the TIA-B website.

- **Mike Gilmore would upload pdf (L5368a);**
- **Mike Gilmore would mail the ppt file to Mike Daly (L5368a);**
- **Mike Gilmore would mail the “foundation” ppt file to Mike Daly so that he could use the 3D images created (L5340).**
- **Mike Gilmore would upload photos of the exhibition stands at Telecoms 08.**

Mike Gilmore gave a brief review of the launch meeting of the EU Code of Conduct on Data Centre Energy Efficiency and the associated documents (the CoC and the Best Practices).

The meeting reviewed the opportunity to “endorse” the CoC and Mike Gilmore introduced the following email sent to the EC project manager (Paolo Bertoldi):

“Dear Paolo,

Thank you so much for allowing me to attend the launch meeting in London on the 19th. The event seemed to be very well attended and efficiently run. The presentations were clear and very apposite.

I attended in my capacity as leader of the ETSI STF362 on Energy Efficiency and Broadband Deployment - within which operators data centres play a key role. I would also advise that I am Convenor and Secretary of TC215 WG1 and WG2 respectively. The latter is already writing a “data centre”-specific cabling infrastructure document, which mandates the application of a number of the CoC best practices relating to optimisation of cooling air- flow.

.....

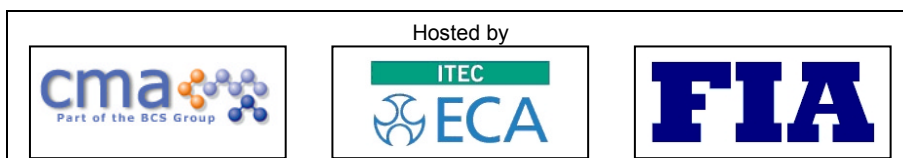
However, I am also Technical and Standards Director of the Fibreoptic Industry Association (which although UK-based does have members from other European countries) and Director of the UK Telecommunications Infrastructure Advisory Board. Both organisations are keen to be keen endorsers and supporters of the CoC and as soon as you have any details of how these bodies are able to apply for “endorser” status please contact me.

We will certainly be placing the CoC on our next seminar agenda for Q1, 2009 and I only wish we could do it sooner. “

As soon as an answer is received Mike Gilmore will endeavour to get the FIA and TIA-B listed as “endorsers”.

- **Mike Gilmore will upload CoC and Best Practices document and provide a hyperlink to the EU site;**
- **other host bodies wishing to become involved should contact Mike Gilmore for contact details.**

Mike Gilmore introduced the document L5340 which had been reduced to assist the development of the CMA Forum. Slight amendments were made to create L5340a.



4. Minutes of the last meeting

4.1 Approval: Document L5251 was approved without change.

4.2. Actions:

Clause 5.1 actions

1. Mike Daly would produce a draft e-mail to send to CMA members; **completed**
2. TIA-B Directors would develop and finalise content; **completed with document L5340**
3. Mike Daly would request that Sylvia Scottow (CMA Administrator) circulate the e-mail to CMA members with copies; of all responses to both Sylvia and Mike Daly; **to be completed in the next few days via CMA support person (Will Roebuck)**
4. an "Infrastructure" bullet to be added to the CMA home page at <http://www.thecma.com>; **to be completed in the next few days via CMA support person (Will Roebuck)**
5. an "Infrastructure" page to be created under "Industry Issues" which links to the bullet (above) and the Forum page (below) – and which discusses the issue of "stretching the infrastructure" as already detailed by Mike Daly; **to be completed in the next few days via CMA support person (Will Roebuck)**
6. a "Forum" page to be created of the same type as the existing fora. **to be completed in the next few days via CMA support person (Will Roebuck)**

L5340a-page2.doc has been sent to enable items 4-6.

7. Mike Daly had already submitted his personal comments to the existing, agreed, Technical Support Documents in written form but was to re-submit in electronic form. **Completed and to be reviewed again in this meeting.**

Clause 8 actions

8. passwords will be applied to the "Directors area which we will be amended to contain Minutes etc; **Completed but passwords to be re-advised**
9. two relationships pages were to be created - one for BSi and one for BICSI. **Completed**

Clause 9.1 actions

10. Dave Stefanowicz and Mike Gilmore are to agree the wording on the TIA-B section to be added to both the FIA and ECA-ITEC stands. **Completed**

Clause 9.2 actions

11. A leaflet is required for all hosts to explain the objective, purpose and activities of the TIA-B and its relationships with its host, BSi and BICSI. Dave Stefanowicz to develop proposals. **Completed**
12. **Mike Gilmore to upload this to web-site**

Clause 11.2 actions

13. Arrange a meeting with Steve Banks. Mike Gilmore hoped that this would be arranged at a forthcoming standards meeting on 15th July. **Arranged for Steve Banks to attend meeting on 22nd December**

4.3 Matters arising: none

5. Directors reports

5.1 CMA

Mike Daly confirmed that he had obtained the database of CMA members via which an e-mail circulation would identify the members of the forum. The actual number of persons was much lower than expected (approx. 320). The plan was to identify the CMA Infrastructure constituency by 22nd December 2008.

The CMA Infrastructure Forum web-pages on the CMA site would be uploaded imminently.
Mike Gilmore to e-mail L5340a-page2.doc and photo of Mike Daly to Will Roebuck.

5.2 ECA-ITEC

NTR

5.3 FIA

All web-links from www.fia-online.co.uk were in place.

Mike Daly advised that he could not attend TCT/7 as CMA on 9th December.

Mike Gilmore to e-mail Will Roebuck to act as substitute.

6. Developing the CMA Forum

See 4.2

7. Projects and plans

7.1 Current list

All agreed to be pursued except for “Cabling infrastructures and carbon footprints”.
The Wireless project will be deferred until CMA Infrastructure Forum is in place

7.2 New ideas

Deferred

8 Next steps

See 4.2

9. AOB

None

10. DoNM

As listed on agenda

The meeting closed at 4.20pm

Annex B: Articles for Networking+



The Fibreoptic Industry Association

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LATEST INSTALLATION STANDARDS HIT THE STREETS!

by

**Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA
for Networking+ (October 2008)**

The final voting drafts of EN 50174-1:2008 and EN 50174-2:2008 are now in circulation - with deadlines in November 2008. These standards have major significance for the telecommunications cabling industry, covering "Installation Specification and quality assurance" and "Installation planning and practices inside buildings". Based on the format of BS 6701:2004, the new EN 50174-1 and EN 50174-2 standards not only introduce substantive changes to their requirements and recommendations but also present them in a more structured way. The latter makes it particularly easy to define the separate responsibilities for installers and their clients - independent of whether those clients are the end-users or their consultants. This article answers a few frequently asked questions concerning these standards.

Why are these new standards so important? One answer is their function - primarily they provide a tool for managing the interface between installers and their clients. Another answer is timing - as the standards will be ratified before the end of this year, it is incumbent on those clients to be referencing them, having understood their contents, NOW! Similarly installers will now be bidding for installation work for 2009 and need to be cognisant of the new standards - in readiness for undertaking those installations.

I frequently hear the cry "why make such a fuss - we know all about installations, who needs standards?" My simple answer to this is to recall the people, both clients and installers, who regularly contact asking "what do the standards say about". They are not asking me because of some innate curiosity but because something has gone wrong, they are in dispute and want to know what they should have done.

If those standards have been correctly listed in the contract then it is difficult to have too much sympathy. However, just because a standard is not explicitly referred to in a contract does not always offer a lifeline. In a court of law, judgement is often based on what a reasonable person would be expected to do - and this is normally based on the available standards. Our national standard for the "installation, operation and maintenance of telecommunications cabling and equipment" is BS 6701:2004 - which mandates compliance with the BS EN 50174 standards.

Installers also do not realise that the presence of other standards in a contract also mandates compliance. For example, any client wishing the cabling to be designed in accordance with any of the structured cabling standards in the BS EN 50173 series, has automatically stated that the installations shall conform to EN 50174. That being said, it should be remembered that the EN 50174 series applies to all telecommunications/IT cabling - not just structured cabling.

How does one obtain a copy of the final voting drafts? One way is to contact BSi and purchase a copy. An alternative is to be a member of a recognised trade association that is involved with their production via BSi. For example members of the FIA can go to their Standards Forum and download drafts of many standards free of charge.

How close are the voting drafts to the final published documents? The answer is "very". The only changes that can be made are technical corrections to a fault in the editing process or the correction of misleading text. A couple of technical corrections have already been identified, which is hardly surprising in such comprehensive documents, other may follow. A process is in place to make the required corrections. For example, FIA members are able to log their concerns via their Standards Forum.



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FTTH - AN INDUSTRY BUZZWORD HITS THE MAINSTREAM!

by

**Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA
for Networking+ (November 2008)**

All of a sudden the term FTTH has reached the mainstream media. This may be the result of an increased output of documents from OFCOM, the Broadband Stakeholder Group and UK government itself - whatever the reason, the buzzword "FTTH" has suddenly taken hold and the FIA has become very popular as a source of informed comment and has had to respond accordingly.

Of course, the FIA has been the focus of the mainstream media already this year. Daily hits on the FIA web-site tripled early in September leading the FIA Council to expect a massive increase in membership. Only later did we realise that Lewis Hamilton had been penalised during the Belgian Grand Prix at Spa, losing all his points, and there was confusion between the Fibreoptic Industry Association web-site (www.fia-online.co.uk) and that of the Federation Internationale de l'Automobile (www.fia.com).

However, the Fibreoptic Industry Association is a source of information for the columnists wishing to display their knowledge on the subject of "broadband deployment technologies". Unfortunately, many of them do not understand the difference between the objectives of the broadband deployment and the means by which it can be delivered.

The biggest challenge is to define "broadband". The great danger is to see "next generation broadband" in terms of a specific data rate - no matter how much a leap it may be from where we are today. Looking back, our current broadband service is fantastic compared to analog modems but we still complain about quality of service - primarily because the applications have changed. What we need to focus on is "true" broadband which has to meet the twin demands of scalability and flexibility - in support of as yet unknown but potentially differentiated subscriber demands.

At a recent seminar in Portugal, a speaker presented the increasing data rates that would be required to deliver HD, VHD (1080p), SuperHD (2160p), UltraHD (4320p) and even 3D-TV respectively, with the most basic 3D service requiring 280 Mb/s. It would be folly for the UK to define a broadband delivery strategy only to realise it could not support the inevitable higher data rates required to provide improved video services. Scalable provision does not only suggest but actually mandates fibre-to-the-home (FTTH) - not just to the building (FTTB) or to the street cabinet (FTTC).

However, there are further considerations. Most proposals incorporating FTTH include the implementation of GPON or GE-PON wherein up to 2.5Gb/s of downstream data is shared between 32 subscribers. A service provider could, and probably will, create service differentials within that overall data rate (and charge accordingly). Nevertheless, this approach prevents one of those subscribers from obtaining significantly higher data rates - even if they are willing to pay for it - without a complete upgrade to the service provision for the complete passive optical network serving that subscriber. This indicates that a point-to-point connection (either physical or logical e.g. WDM PON) may be preferable which would allow the desired flexibility of services provision. However, such a "subscriber right" would have to be a matter for regulation.

Too much focus on FTTH is dangerous as it uses buzzwords and four letter abbreviations to obscure the more fundamental issue - delivery of true broadband, providing both scalability and flexibility of provision, is not a technological matter; instead it is matter of nationally defined strategy and regulation. It is to be hoped that our government and the appropriate regulators understand their responsibility and take action sooner rather than later - can you hear the nation holding their breath?

If you would like to have your say on this topic and would like to join the FIA in order to do so, e-mail jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk or, alternatively, you can contact the FIA Secretariat in 01763 273039.