



## FIA Secretariat Report – Council meeting Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010

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**Actions:** Actions completed from previous meeting 21<sup>st</sup> July 2010 –

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**Membership:** At the previous meeting I reported the m/ship number of 197 - **Changes since then:**

23/07/10	1 x resign Corporate B	Passcomm Ltd (please resign)
23/07/10	1 x new – Overseas Associate	Al-Mabtaker Trading
28/07/10	1 x new Associate	Queen Mary, University London
28/07/10	1 x new – Corporate A	Technology House IT Solutions
04/08/10	1 x resign – Student	K. Adebisi (non-payment of sub)
*12/08/10	1 x resign – Corporate C	Arthur McKay & Co. Ltd. (financial cutbacks)
13/09/10	1 x re-instated - Corporate A	Leader Optec
30/09/10	1 x resign – Associate	Cabling Science (please cancel)
05/10/10	1 x resign – Corporate B	Auriga plc (Director no longer requires)

**TOTAL – 196 members**

\* Arthur Mackay now realise their membership was cancelled in error. They have been invoiced for Corp A subscription and once paid will be re-instated.

**NOTE: Date joined box has been added to the DB for each member and as many as are known have been added.**

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**Newsletter** – September issue circulated. Next issue November / December?

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**MOD Forms** – An up-to-date summary was provided by SC on 23/08/10. 54 Applications submitted, 53 submissions approved with 1 refused.

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**FIA – Auditors – Critchleys:** The auditors await the disk etc. from MM. They have the FIA audit booked in for mid October.

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**FIA AIS:** Van stickers: await a decision whether to order stickers – need estimate of number to be printed.

Route 3 Ltd. has now faxed copies of the ECA ITEC certificates.

Hartwoods – I understand KJ is in contact with them and an appointment has been made for a visit on 21<sup>st</sup> October.

A new application for AIS was received from Cable Splicing Services Ltd. on 23<sup>rd</sup> July. (They are not ECA ITEC members and therefore have to provide references etc.)

2 references were sent off on 10<sup>th</sup> August. Copies of these were again sent on 21<sup>st</sup> September. No replies received to date.

The application cannot proceed until both references have been returned.

Steve Wheatley of CSS Ltd. was alerted to the matter on 9<sup>th</sup> September and asked if he could chase up the responses.

We currently have 3 Approved Installers: Hartwoods, J. Brand & Route 3 Ltd. – the web site states that:

'Following the completion of the initial assessment, continued approval requires the submission to the FIA AIS Directorate of one (IRRP) per quarter.

The size of the project covered by the IRRP is unimportant and no commercial details are contained within the IRRP. However, the renewal audit undertaken by the FIA will be based on a selection of the submitted IRRPs'

Should Hartwoods, J. Brand and Route 3 Ltd. be asked for this now?

At the time of the FIA June Seminar FES Ltd. and ACCL expressed the intention of applying for the approval. Neither have submitted applications to date.

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**FIA Qualification scheme:** Ingemar Watson has been contacted re CPD in April, June and September, no reply received to date.

The CT exam taken by S. Dobson (Lucid) after the meeting on 21<sup>st</sup> July resulted in a pass mark of 95%. CT card and certificate have been sent.

Linbrooke Services Ltd. no longer employ an FIA CT and therefore their ATP approval was cancelled on 16<sup>th</sup> September.

We now have 3 Approved Training Providers: CNET Training, Lucid Optical Svcs, and Total Comms Training.

Zafar Hayat, Overseas Associate member, has applied for QS Level V. MG and JC are liaising further with him and to organise an interview etc.

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**e-guide advertising:** I await MG to complete the redesign of the tick boxes on the members data sheets and I will then be able to send out data sheets for checking alongside details of updated e-guide and advertising possibilities.

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**FIA Seminar – June 2011:** At the last meeting we agreed the dates of: Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> & Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> June. Venue Warwick / Stratford area

I have checked availability at the Hilton Warwick / Stratford upon Avon – for the above dates their meeting rooms and B&Bs are **fully booked!**

There is availability at the **Holiday Inn Stratford upon Avon (CV37 6YR)** Charlecote & Harewood Rooms (50 – 70 persons) – total hire fee £1,000 inc. vat. Dinner in the Charlecote room also – no room hire – menu £30 inc. vat p. person – 3 courses with coffee. Tea, coffee and biscuits servings £2.50 p. person inc. vat.

B&B £80 inc. vat. The hotel is in the town centre and has foc parking.

There is also availability at **Forest of Arden, Marriott Hotel & Country Club – Meriden CV7 7HR** – Aylesford Suite & Jaguar Room – total hire fee £1800 inc vat. Dinner in Aylesford Suite – no hire fee - menu from £30 per person inc. vat - 3 course with coffee. Tea, coffee and biscuits servings £3.00 p. person inc. vat.

B&B £140 inc. vat. The hotel has a golf course.

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**Topics for presentations need to be identified. At the last meeting we agreed to advise members of the event and ask for their comments re topics etc.**

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**FIA AGM – Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2010 – The Saracens Head Hotel, Towcester (venue booked)**

FIA Council – 9 places allowed in total. Current: MG, PB, JC, LF, JM, PW & KJ + (two vacant places)

Is every one willing to continue??

2 members should stand down/retire/rotate (but will be eligible for re-election) – I need to know Council member plans in the next couple of weeks.

The rotation rules would mean it is the turn of JC & LF (JC appointed in Dec 06, LF appointed in Dec 07).

Agenda etc. to members – Agenda, proxy forms etc. etc. to be posted out to members on or around 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

Usual timings for the day (2<sup>nd</sup> December) are:

Council meeting starts 10.30 (agenda item – formal approval by Council of FIA accounts y/end 31/08/10),  
Council meeting ends 11.15.

AGM starts – 11.30

AGM ends – 12.00

Open discussions – 12.00 – 12.30

Lunch – 12.30

New Council re-convenes – 13.30

All Council to send their activity reports (for the year) to PB for the Chairman's report by **23<sup>rd</sup> November**.

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SECREPORT121010

emailed to Council: 7<sup>th</sup> October 2010

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: 8<sup>th</sup> October 2010  
Our Reference: MG/MG/5673  
Your Reference:

## REPORT FOR FIA COUNCIL MEETING 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010

### 1 ACTIONS

#### 1.1 Completed

Re-direct defence emails to Secretary - **completed**

Next NL in September- **completed**

Add date joined box to DB - **completed**

Ask J. Brand re AIS stickers - **completed**

Move web page - **completed**

Contact ZH re QS Level V - **completed**

Look at Exhibition stand boards to be updated – **no action taken**

Suggest changes re tick boxes on DB - **completed**

Report back to Council re RGT testing findings - **completed**

The singlemode OF White Paper needs to be updated with the changes to the ITU-T G.657 OF specifications - **completed**.

e-guide - make possible modifications to product lists - **completed**

#### 1.2 Ongoing

Contact IFSEC contacts re m/ship and docs

- List of suppliers of test cords with reference grade terminations - **dependent on Project RGT**
- Update TSD 2000-4-2-1 to explain the relationship of FIA TSDs to the new standards IEC 61280-4-1 and ISO/IEC 14763-3 (explaining test limits) - **dependent on Project RGT**
- Update TSD 2000-4-2-2 to explain the relationship of FIA TSDs to the new standards IEC 61280-4-1 and ISO/IEC 14763 -3 (explaining test limits) - **dependent on Project RGT**
- Promote FIA membership - **BT membership looks closer**
- Update TSD, TSD-2000-5-1 - **to reflect AORD and guides, ribbon LAN systems etc (BT asked to assist once they become members).**

#### 1.3 Outstanding

- Ask members questions re qualifications - **awaiting input**
- Produce TSD-2000-3-2-1: Optical Fibre Cabling: Operation: Administration: User Guide (to reflect publication of EN 50174-1)
- Produce new White Paper for the 40GbE/100GbE decision to support OM4 over 150 m provided that connection losses are less than 1 dB.

## 2 FINANCIAL

I distributed accounts for August 2010 (Year End 2010) on 19<sup>th</sup> September 2010. These show a 2009/2010 profit of £911.51 (after allowances for audit fees). At the same time last year the FIA accounts showed a loss of £3866.51 (an upturn of £4778.02). Liquidity in August 2010 was £19420 c/f £17402 in August 2009.

This is a good performance considering there is no e-Guide advertising (see item 12) and that the stand costs of the Netcoms 2010 show have been taken into 2009/2010 accounts (only some standards costs have been treated as pre-payments).

## 3 WEB-SITE REPORT

### 3.1 General

[fia-online.co.uk](http://fia-online.co.uk) is 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](http://fia-online.co.uk/maa.htm);
- it is no longer possible to access the FIA Members area without the correct password.

The members access password for 2010 has been "in10tioN".

### 3.2 General

The introductory pages to the web-site have been updated to allow the development of the user-oriented pages.

### 3.3 Council e-mail addresses

[tandm@fiaonline.co.uk](mailto:tandm@fiaonline.co.uk) - access not advised to Paul Bateson, changes not made to web-site

[accounts@fia-online.co.uk](mailto:accounts@fia-online.co.uk) - access not yet advised to Margaret McFarlane, changes not made to web-site

## 4 TECHNICAL REPORT

### 4.1 Technical Support Guides

See action list.

### 4.2 White Papers

Two White Papers have been updated:

- THE TRUTH ABOUT OS1 AND OS2;
- AN OVERVIEW OF SINGLEMODE OPTICAL FIBRE SPECIFICATIONS.

### 4.3 Project RGT

Meeting schedule:

- Meeting 1: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2010
- Meeting 2: 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010
- Meeting 3: 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010
- Meeting 4: 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2010

Members involved have now increased to the following:

- Thomas Butler, Huber and Suhner
- Simon Comben
- Richard Ednay, Optical Technology Training Limited
- Mike Gilmore, FIA
- Martin Johnson, Servicepower Limited
- Jonathan Lewis, The Siemon Company
- Mark Limbert, Ridgemon Technologies Ltd
- Rosemary McGlashon, 3M Telecommunications
- John Marson, Twistnet Communications Limited
- Ros Neat, Brand-rex Limited
- David Robinson, Arden Photonics

All documents are to be found at [www.fia-online.co.uk/eproject-RGT.htm](http://www.fia-online.co.uk/eproject-RGT.htm).

An interim report has been circulated to FIA Council members (19<sup>th</sup> September 2010).

An article advertising this work has been submitted for publication in Netcomms Europe (see Annex A).

All relevant standards bodies have been informed of the key aspects of the report.

### 4.4 European Commission

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## 5 TIA-B

The TIA-B has scheduled the presentations for the Netcoms 10 seminars. These can be found at [www.tiab-online.co.uk/Netcoms2010/Netcoms10.htm](http://www.tiab-online.co.uk/Netcoms2010/Netcoms10.htm).

The TIA-B is in discussion with the British CABLEMAKERS Association to produce a document to explain the impact of the recent extension of the Construction Products Directive to power and communications cables (including optical fibre cables).

## 6 SEMINARS/EXHIBITIONS

### 6.1 Netcoms 2010

The FIA is providing speakers for a number of the seminars on the 14<sup>th</sup> October at the Netcoms 2010 show – these are:

- CABLING STANDARDS UPDATE, Mike Gilmore, **FIA**
- TESTING INSTALLED OPTICAL FIBRE CABLING, David Robinson, **FIA** - Project RGT
- OM3, OM4, OS1 AND OS2: SPECIFICATION AND ADDED VALUE, Mike Gilmore, **FIA**

The last one is somewhat sacrificial (as it is the end of the show).

### 6.2 FIA Summer Seminar 2011

At the last Council meeting we tentatively agreed the dates for next year's seminar/networking event to be 22<sup>nd</sup> /23<sup>rd</sup> June 2011 and the Secretary has been looking for possible venues.

Other events in June which also have been defined are the BICSI Europe summer event in Glasgow (9<sup>th</sup> June) and the Comms Expo (28<sup>th</sup>/29<sup>th</sup> June) at the Barbican (both of which I will attempt to fly the FIA flag as I will probably be speaking).

When we go out to our members to request topics for seminars, it may be a good idea also to determine if they think that the concentration of events in June may reduce their likelihood of attendance.

### 6.3 Comm Expo 2011

When I met with Ian Titchener of Netcomms Europe magazine in Dusseldorf last month he made a tentative offer to allow the FIA to host their seminar at the Comms Expo show. I advised him that I did not really see how it would fit in with our overall ambition to get members to network, discuss and generally enjoy themselves in the controlled environment we produced at this year's seminar in Oxford. However, Council should discuss this to see if there is any mileage in the idea.

## 7 NEWSLETTER

Issue 96 has been circulated.

## 8 ARTICLES

### 8.1 NCN

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### 8.2 Inside Networks

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### 8.3 Netcomms Europe

The FIA was approached at IFSEC by Ian Titchener regarding the launch of a European magazine, Netcomms. I visited Ian in Cambridge in June and he asked the FIA to sit on the Editorial Board of the magazine. Two articles have been submitted as detailed in Annex

I agreed on behalf of the FIA Council and their banner has been placed on the available spot on the FIA 3-column web-pages (in the absence of another sponsor). We shall see how this develops.

## 9 APPROVED INSTALLER SCHEME

See report from Ken Jones.

## 10 QUALIFICATION SCHEMES

### 10.1 FIA

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### 10.2 JIB ECS

This action is the responsibility of Ken Jones and John Colton

## 11 ESS

Only CNet have applied to date.

## 12 DATABASE UPDATES

Following my e-mail of 23<sup>rd</sup> July in which I sent out a proposal for a change to the tick boxes for products and services, I received input from Paul Bateson.

Making these changes is a significant task (as it affects many other aspects of the database i.e. is not simply cosmetic) and had to be completed before the Secretary issued requests for new data to be included in the e-Guide (which in turn delayed any revenue from advertising).

This task has now been completed and the new format is shown below.

SERVICE DETAILS	
Principal Service	<input type="text" value="Installation"/>
Secondary Service:	<input type="text" value="System integration"/>
<b>PRODUCTS</b>	<b>SERVICES</b>
Components	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IT network design
<input type="checkbox"/> Connectors	<input type="checkbox"/> Video network design
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cords	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Passives e.g. splitters	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabling design
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Installation hardware	<input type="checkbox"/> Cabling installation
Installation	<input type="checkbox"/> Jointing
<input type="checkbox"/> Tools	<input type="checkbox"/> Termination
<input type="checkbox"/> Consumables	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cabling maintenance
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleaning/inspection	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Testing
<input type="checkbox"/> Jointing equipment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Test equipment	<input type="checkbox"/> Assessment/audit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cords - test, MCC	<input type="checkbox"/> Calibration
Transmission equipment	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IT/data networking	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment hire
<input type="checkbox"/> Video	<input type="checkbox"/> Equipment service/repair
Design tools	
<input type="checkbox"/> Software	<input type="checkbox"/> Training
Other products	Other services
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

## **13 STANDARDS ACTIVITY**

### **13.1 Key items**

CLC TR 50510 (published in the UK as BS PD CLC TR 50510) provides an overview of FTTx. This document is now being revised and the task was allocated to a CENELEC TC Working Group (TC86A WG4) which was chaired by Ros Neat of Brandrex UK. Unfortunately Ros Neat has resigned from international standards work and the UK has proposed that I take over this role on her behalf.

This proposal may not be accepted (there are politics afoot I am sure) but I will keep you updated.

### **13.2 British**

#### **13.2.1 BSI STANDARDS MAKER FORUM**

Last meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2009 - M. Gilmore attended as TCT7 Chairman.  
Next meeting: 19<sup>th</sup> November 2010 - M. Gilmore to attend as TCT7 Chairman.

#### **13.2.2 BSI GEL 86: TECHNICAL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE: FIBRE OPTICS**

Last meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010 - M. Gilmore attended on behalf of the FIA.  
Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 - M. Gilmore to attend.

#### **13.2.3 BSI GEL 86/1: SUB-COMMITTEE: OPTICAL FIBRES/CABLES**

Last meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 - M. Gilmore attended on behalf of the FIA.  
Next meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 - M. Gilmore to attend.

#### **13.2.4 BSI GEL 86/2: SUB-COMMITTEE: CONNECTING HARDWARE**

Last meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> September 2010 - M. Gilmore attended on behalf of the FIA.  
Next meeting: 1<sup>st</sup> March 2011 - M. Gilmore to attend.

#### **13.2.5 BSI GEL 86/3: SUB-COMMITTEE: SYSTEMS**

Last meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2010 - M. Gilmore attended on behalf of the FIA.  
Next meeting: 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011 - M. Gilmore to attend.

#### **13.2.6 BSI TCT7**

Last meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> June 2010 - M. Gilmore chaired, Phil Whitehead attended for the FIA  
Next meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010 - M. Gilmore to chair, Phil Whitehead to attend for the FIA.

#### **13.2.7 BSI TCT7/-1**

Last meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> June 2010 - M. Gilmore chaired.  
Next meeting: 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010 - M. Gilmore to chair.

#### **13.2.8 BSI TCT7/-2**

Last meeting: 5<sup>th</sup> October 2010 - M. Gilmore attended as Secretary  
Next meeting: 25<sup>th</sup> January 2011 - M. Gilmore to act as Secretary.

#### **13.2.9 BSI TCT7/-3**

Last meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010 - M. Gilmore attended as Secretary  
Next meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010 - M. Gilmore to act as Secretary.

#### **13.2.10 BSI IST6/-12**

Last meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> October 2010 - M. Gilmore did not attend, report submitted from TCT/7  
Next meeting: not known - Mike Gilmore to attend.

### **13.3 European**

#### **13.3.1 CLC TC205 WG08 (HBES)**

Last meeting: 27<sup>th</sup> April 2010, Brussels, Belgium - M. Gilmore attended obo TC215.  
Next meeting: 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2010, Barcelona, Spain - M Gilmore will not attend.

#### **13.3.2 CLC TC215**

Last meeting: 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010, Brussels, Belgium - M. Gilmore attended.  
Next meeting: 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011, Brussels, Belgium - M. Gilmore to attend.

### **13.3.3 CLC TC215 CAG**

Last meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2009, Frankfurt, Germany - M. Gilmore attended.  
Next meeting: tbc.

### **13.3.4 CLC TC215 WG1**

Last meeting: 30<sup>th</sup> September/1<sup>st</sup> October 2010, Bordeaux, France - M. Gilmore chaired.  
Next meeting: 17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March 2011, Brussels, Belgium - M. Gilmore to chair.

### **13.3.5 CLC TC215 WG1 PTT**

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### **13.3.6 CLC TC215 WG2**

Last meeting: 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> July 2010, Brussels, Belgium - M. Gilmore attended as Secretary and acting Convenor  
Next meeting: 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> November 2010, Darmstadt, Germany - M. Gilmore to act as Secretary.

### **13.3.7 CLC TC215 WG3**

Last meeting: 7<sup>th</sup> September 2010, Brussels, Belgium - M. Gilmore attended.  
Next meeting: 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> January 2011, Brussels, Belgium - M. Gilmore to attend.

### **13.3.8 ETSI ATTM (ACCESS, TERMINALS, WG AT2**

Last meeting: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2009, Sophia Antipolis, France - M. Gilmore to attend.  
Involvement is on hold

### **13.3.9 ETSI/CLC ICCG**

Last meeting: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2010, Frankfurt, Germany - M Gilmore attended on behalf of CLC TC215 WG1.  
Next meeting: 4<sup>th</sup> November 2010, Paris, France - M. Gilmore to attend.

## **13.4 International**

### **13.4.1 ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25**

Last meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2009, Beijing, China - S. Reeves attended for FIA.  
Next meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010, Seattle, USA - M. Gilmore may attend.

### **13.4.2 ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3**

Last meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> February 2010, Buenos Aires, Argentina - M. Gilmore attended for FIA.  
Next meeting: 18<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> October 2010, Seattle, USA - M. Gilmore will attend.

### **13.4.3 ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3 CITG**

Last meeting: September 23<sup>rd</sup>/24<sup>th</sup> February 2010, Buenos Aires, Argentina - M. Gilmore convened  
Next meeting: This group is now dormant due to the progress of ISO/IEC 14763-2 to FCD stage.

### **13.4.4 ISO/IEC JTC1 STUDY GROUP - DCEE**

Last meeting: 27<sup>th</sup>/28<sup>th</sup> September, Berlin, Germany - M. Gilmore attended on behalf of UK and CLC.  
Next meeting: tba

Mike Gilmore





The Fibreoptic Industry Association

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

Secretary: Jane Morrison

The Manor House  
BUNTINGFORD  
Hertfordshire SG9 9AB  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1763 273039 Fax: +44 (0) 1763 273255

e-mail: [jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk](mailto:jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk)

## A CHANGE OF EMPHASIS FOR THE

# FIA

by

Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA

for Netcomms Europe (October 2010)

The Fibreoptic Industry Association is pleased to contribute to this inaugural issue of Netcomms Europe. This release of a new information source for the networking sector also coincides with a new initiative by the FIA - building on its past successes but somewhat more outward-looking, addressing the user community as much as providing key services for its members. The current activities of the FIA are detailed, as is appropriate for the new readership of Netcomms Europe, in order to provide the contrast with the new approach being implemented in Q4, 2010.

Since 1991, firstly under the chairmanship of Mike Phillips and more recently that of Paul Bateson, the FIA has concentrated on providing information to its membership in accordance with its stated mission *"to promote high standards of service within the fibre optic industry by providing specialist information and support"*. For almost twenty years, the FIA has developed mechanisms to enable the improvement of the quality of the work undertaken by its corporate members - these include both an Approved Training and Approved Installer Scheme - and the personnel employed by them via a Qualifications Scheme. To support this endeavour, the 200 members of the FIA have unparalleled access to Technical Support Documents and White Papers prepared by experts in their chosen fields. Equally importantly, the FIA Audit and Arbitration Schemes provide an independent complaint resolution service for FIA members and their customers alike.

The FIA commitment to *"represent its members at a national and international level"* has been met by its participation on most, and chairmanship of many, of the leading UK, European and international telecommunications/IT infrastructure standards committees. This has allowed members, or at least those who are interested in specific technical areas, unrivalled access to standards development in the field of optical fibre components, cabling installation and testing.

The FIA web-site at [www.fia-online.co.uk](http://www.fia-online.co.uk) has enabled members to access virtually all of the services provided by the FIA without additional cost, and acts as a *"shop-window"* for our members where non-members can access the lists of members, the products and services they offer together with a wide range of White Papers and other information.

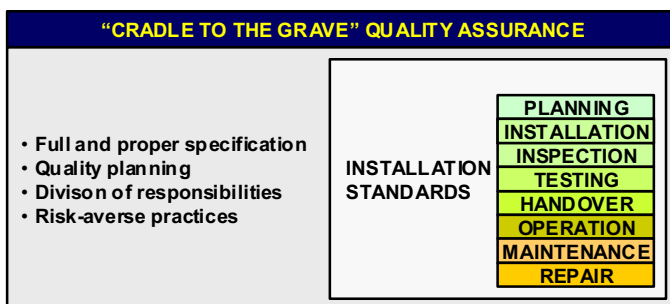
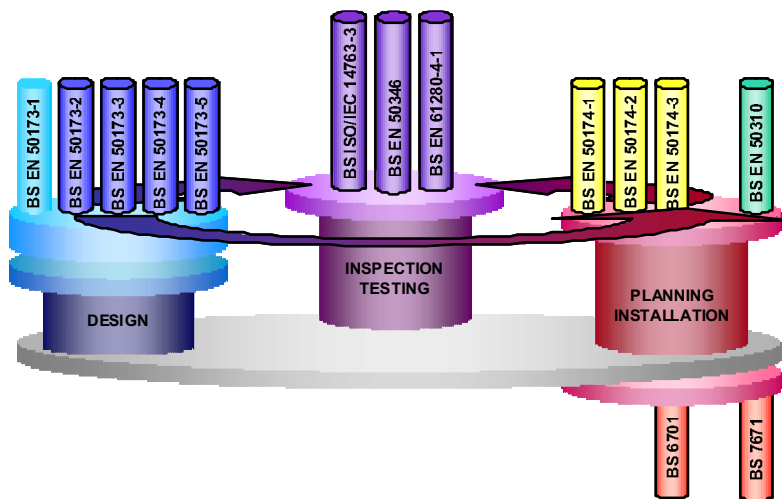
More recently the FIA has created strategic alliances with other groups including the co-hosting of the TIA-B, the Telecommunications Infrastructure Advisory Board ([www.tiab-online.co.uk](http://www.tiab-online.co.uk)) alongside the Electrical Contractors Association ITEC group. This project, forged following the demise of the UK TIA (entitled CITA for a short period before its demise), has enabled the FIA Technical Directorate to apply the knowledge obtained in the standardisation activities funded by the FIA to cabling technologies other than optical fibre. As members of the FIA are automatically members of the TIA-B, this provides them with free access to a much wider information base.



### OUR MISSION

To promote high standards of service within the fibreoptic industry and to represent its members at a national and international level by:

- ▶ providing specialist information and support services to our membership
- ▶ providing a "shop-window" for our members products and services



Against this backdrop of past and current success, and as mentioned in the opening paragraph, the FIA is now about to restructure and add to its existing services. For almost twenty years, the focus of the FIA has been on the supply-side of installations of fibre optic cabling - ensuring that all the necessary standards are in place and if they are not, or if they require clarification, to prepare FIA Technical Support Documents to fill the gap. However, there is a perception that such "top-down, standards-based" quality assurance of installations really only applies to large infrastructure contracts. It is perhaps a reflection of a more general perception of telecommunications cabling as a "commodity" that encourages customers to purchase smaller service packages - a "bit of testing here, bit of termination there" approach - for which it is not necessary to invoke which the good practices defined by standards such as BS 6701 and EN 50174. This is also reflected in the multi-level sub-contracts which are common in larger projects which leave the fibre optic cabling installer as the wagging tail of a very long dog.

These smaller scale installation and/or repair contracts have become subject to investigation by the FIA following numerous complaints by customers who have been dissatisfied by either the quality of the work undertaken or its perceived "value-for-money". Unfortunately, the FIA Audit and Arbitration Schemes do not automatically apply to installers who are not FIA members and although the FIA can assist customers in advising what should have been done in a given circumstance, the horse has already bolted and the stable door is wide open.

In order to begin to address this issue, those accessing [www.fia-online.co.uk](http://www.fia-online.co.uk) later this year will note that, although the emphasis on "top-down, standards-based" quality assurance has not been diminished, a new focus is present - targeted at customers - with the objective of defining the "bare-bones", minimum level of provision for a particular service. For example, if a customer feels that an installed optical fibre cable needs testing - perhaps because a fault has been reported or just to verify claims made by others - the fact that the FIA has produced detailed documents explaining how to undertake the different tests that may be applicable is of little help. What the customer needs to know is which tests should be applied, how to interpret the results and what the minimum requirements for the supply of that service actually are - for example, what questions to ask of the potential supplier, what equipment is required, in what format the test results will be provided and what should they look like.

This customer-centred approach will initially address basic tasks such as cable laying, termination, inspection and testing - all of which could easily be contracted separately - but will be extended as demand increases. Evidence of that demand will come from a new interface to the web-site which will record the type of information that the customers require and allow them to request additional information or services.

It is hoped that a partnership between the Fibreoptic Industry Association and Netcomms Europe will assist in this activity and we look forward to a constructive relationship in years to come.



The Fibreoptic Industry Association

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

Secretary: Jane Morrison

The Manor House  
BUNTINGFORD  
Hertfordshire SG9 9AB  
United Kingdom

Tel: +44 (0) 1763 273039 Fax: +44 (0) 1763 273255

e-mail: [jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk](mailto:jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk)

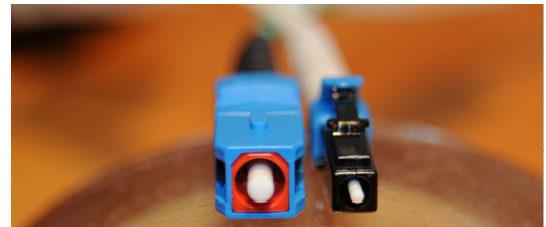
## TESTING STANDARDS TO SERVE THE INDUSTRY (THE WORK OF **FIA** PROJECT TEAM RGT)

by

Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA  
for Netcomms Europe (December 2010)

This article describes the work of the Fibreoptic Industry Association to assist not only in the standardisation of test methods but also in ensuring those standards are usable by its members. This highlights the role of the FIA in not only contributing directly to the production of British, European and international standards but also in the subsequent, and sometimes vital, work in interpreting and explaining their use to its members and the wider industry. In this case, this support work has gone further by establishing procurement specifications to allow members to implement the standards at a reasonable cost - a key factor in their ultimate acceptance.

This work is set against the background of a growing use of optical fibre to support ever higher data rates. As the data rates have increased from 10 Mbps to 10 000 Mbps, the maximum channel lengths have dropped from kilometres to tens of metres for multimode optical fibre. Equally, the maximum allowed losses have dropped from 12,5 dB to approximately 2,0 dB. The need to measure the attenuation of ever shorter links and channels has forced all responsible organisations to take measurement much more seriously.



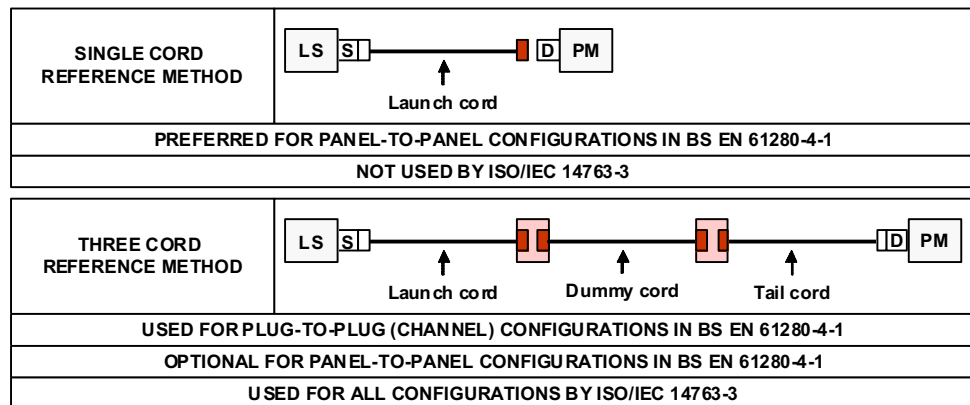
### History

As long ago as 2002, the FIA had identified that the test methods for installed optical fibre cabling were becoming outdated. The FIA attempted to address this by publishing two separate Technical Support Documents covering light source/power meter (LSPM) and OTDR testing. The problems highlighted in these documents were immediately recognised by international standards bodies - which began to develop new testing solutions - different to those proposed by the FIA, but equally generic, as ultimately specified in ISO/IEC 14763-3:2006.

During the development of ISO/IEC 14763-3, the FIA found that, for multimode optical fibre, test results were highly dependent on the launch condition at the interface to the cabling under test. For the FIA, this led to the funded development of practical mode controller cords, which could convert the output from a wide range of light sources into a common launch condition. For ISO/IEC, this meant having to decide what that launch condition should be - and how to define it.

ISO/IEC 14763-3:2006 contained a standardised launch condition (for multimode optical fibre cabling) and a requirement for "reference grade connectors" on all test cords. This represented a considerable sea-change in approach for optical fibre cabling installers but the complexity was not to end there.

ISO/IEC 14763-3 was written to support the testing of structured cabling systems in accordance with standards such as ISO/IEC 11801 and BS EN 50173 series standards. A more general IEC standard albeit restricted to multimode optical fibre. IEC 61280-4-1, already existed (published in 2004) and the work on ISO/IEC 14763-3 forced this IEC document to be revised. Having the opportunity to review ISO/IEC 14763-3, the IEC team decided that the launch conditions required further detailed work and when IEC 61280-4-1:2009 was published (in the UK as BS EN 61280-4-1) it contained a different metric for measuring launch conditions ("encircled flux"). However, the demand for accuracy was maintained in



IEC 61280-4-1 by demanding that the test cords were fitted with reference grade terminations.

In 2009 ISO/IEC 14763-3 was amended to bring its specified launch conditions for multimode optical fibre cabling tests into line with IEC 61280-4-1.

### The FIA response to standardisation

The issue of launch conditions is being solved either by light source

equipment suppliers or by the use of mode controller cords. The FIA web-site provides links to hose suppliers indicating the equipment for which those launch conditions are claimed and under what conditions they are achieved.

However, the matter of reference grade connectors/terminations (RGTs) is of major importance since their use also requires the application of reduced test limits. It is therefore critical to understand what RGTs are, how they are produced and how they should be used. FIA Project Team RGT was established in 2010 to do just that.

The work of FIA Project Team RGT has determined a way forward for the supply of test cords terminated with reference grade terminations - at a reasonable cost for installer. The specification and procurement of test cords will be defined in a Technical Support Document to be published later this year. The Technical Support Document for LSPM testing will also be revised to explain the relevance of the new testing standards and to provide a guide to use of the test cords - and provide further information regarding the issues surrounding the modification of test limits when RGT cords are used.

### Further concerns

This work undertaken by FIA Project Team RGT so far only addresses on circular ferrules on multimode optical fibre - no work has yet been done on circular ferrules for singlemode optical fibre or on either multimode or singlemode terminations using rectangular ferrules.

The work on circular ferrules for singlemode optical fibre is deferred awaiting further work by international standard bodies. However, the issue of RGTs for rectangular ferrules is of greater, more imminent, concern since array connectors containing 12 or 24 optical fibres of cabled optical fibre Categories OM3 or OM4 are beginning to be used in the implementation of 40 GbE and 100 GbE. When these array connectors begin to be used on patch panels, the industry will array connector RGTs to support testing.

The cause for concern is that because if RGTs are not present but are assumed, then the innocent, and standards-compliant, application of the RGT test limits is likely to produce many false "fails". Unless an appropriate mechanism for specification and procurement of array RGTs is developed it may be necessary to apply non-standard test methods - which seems to be a Pandora's box scenario.

This will be addressed by further FIA work but also needs to be considered by standards bodies in relation to possible amendments to address the clear and present risk of false fails caused by the false assumption of RGT presence.



## **John Marson, Commercial Director - Report to the FIA council Meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> October 2010**

### **Actions**

Promote FIA membership – **In Progress**  
Suggest ideas for future promo of FIA - **In Progress**  
NETCOMS 10 – **Stand setup today**  
Arden /FIA launch - **Complete**

### **Membership**

Membership at the moment stands at around 196 , so we are still looking good .My search for new members is constant and will continue. Since the last meeting we have lost 5 members and gained 4 new ones .

### **Netcoms 10**

Netcoms 10 is booked 13/14<sup>th</sup> Oct 2010 I will report on this next after the event . Mike ,Paul and I will be on the stand throughout and will welcome any other Directors to help .

### **Arden/ FIA launch**

Is now complete and we will have some literature on our stand at Netcoms

**John Marson  
Commercial Director**

### **Current actions**

*Promote new membership*