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setting the standards for your
optical fibre infrastructures

A warm welcome

to the following

NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

CROSSCONNECT TRAINING
EXS IT SERVICES LTD

Dates for your Diary

Next Accredited Installer Seminars

Will be held on Monday 20th June at Whittlebury Hall, near Towcester, Northamptonshire, from 09:30 – 12:30.

Summer Seminar and Networking Event 2016

20th/21st June 2016 at Whittlebury Hall, near Towcester, Northamptonshire (see page 3)

Revision of BS 6701 and BS 8492

Those members who keep an eye on the **FIA** Standards Forum will have noticed that the drafts of the 2016 editions of both BS 6701 and BS 8492 have been available until recently.

BS 6701 has been updated to take account of changes to the BS EN 50174 series standards while BS 8492 is the first standard to take account of the changes brought about by the Construction Products Regulation (see page 2).

More Good News

FIA - Qualified success



We are pleased to announce that following their completion of the Certified Trainer examinations on 31st March, **Richard Ednay** of **OTT** (pictured left) and **Geoff Crossley** of **Crossconnect Training** have both been awarded

the Certified Trainer accreditation – our congratulations to you both.

A new Learner application has been accepted from **M. J Cox** and has been awarded Level 1 status. Our congratulations to you too!

Has your company been in litigation with core and access providers regarding damaged cables?

If so, please contact standards@fia-online.co.uk and see page 6

If you wish to sponsor a future Newsletter please contact the FIA Secretary

FIBREOPTIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The FIA is a Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Council

Paul Bateson - Chairman, Test & Measurement
(*Optical Test and Calibration Ltd.*)
John Marson - Commercial Director and Vice Chairman
(*Twistnet Communications Ltd.*)
Alan Bullen - Treasurer and Marketing
(*Lynx Networks plc*)
John Colton - Technical Director
(*Lucid Optical Services Ltd.*)

Jonathan Lewis - Communications Director
(*Huber+Suhner AG*)

Industry Sector Directors

Nigel Hedges - Training
(*Fluke Networks UK Ltd*)
Frank Kler - Installation
(*Core Integrated Solutions*)
Simon Comben - MoD Liaison and Qualifications
(*Metz Connect GmbH*)

Non-Council Role

Mike Gilmore - Standards Liaison
(*e-Ready Building - The Cabling Partnership*)

WANTED - New FIA Council Members for 2016

Lee Funnell resigned from Council on 6th April. We wish to thank Lee for all his hard work and dedication to the role over his years on the FIA Council and wish him all the best for the future.

As usual, each year at the AGM, a number of FIA Directors and members of Council “step down by rotation” and not all will seek re-election, or we need to replace Directors that have resigned through the year. Therefore in December, there are opportunities for new Council members to be elected to serve. It is not necessary for a Director to have a specialist skill as the Council operates a collegiate system of discussion and agreement on all topics.

If you would like to become a Director and have the backing of your organisation please contact the **FIA Secretary** (secretary@fia-online.co.uk) and complete the Nomination Form that accompanies the AGM paperwork, which will be circulated in November 2016 prior to the AGM.

Please note the rules for Council members are available at www.fia-online.co.uk/ecouncilrules.htm

Are you an FIA member?
Do you have NEWS?

This Newsletter is provided as a means of maintaining communication between and with our Members. Articles, product information, news items etc. are always welcome.

Please send the information via email (jpg illustrations) to Jane Morrison via the **FIA** Secretariat

CPR for optical fibre cables

– learn more at the 2016 FIA Summer Seminar!

According to the Official Journal of the European Union, the long-awaited extension of the Construction Products Regulation (CPR) to cover communications (and energy) cables will come into force on 1st July 2016. It has been “coming” for so long that many in the industry have forgotten its significance. Nevertheless, suppliers and building owners together with their consultants and installers will have just 12 months to get used to its implications - the deadline for the termination of co-existing practices is 1st July 2017.

The primary impact is on cable manufacturers and their “distributors” however the secondary impacts will spread far beyond the supply chain. All those involved in the procurement and installation of telecommunications cabling within buildings (and other structures) will be directly affected with radical changes being necessary to how they specify and select the “reaction to fire” performance of cables. The use of EuroClasses to define that performance will replace existing references to UK, European and international standards - affecting all documents using those standards as a basis for procurement or direction. Obvious examples will be the UK Wiring Regulations (BS 7671) and the installation standards for telecommunications cabling (BS 6701 and BS EN 50174 standards). Equally significant will be the demise of categorisation of cables based upon vague cable designations such as “indoor/outdoor” and “plenum” and ill-defined material descriptions such as PVC, LS0H, LFH, LSZH. Also, the misleading use of fire performance standards will come to an end.

Because the CPR applies to all communication cables used inside buildings and other structures, it has more significance than considerations of which transmission performance Category to use - and has implications for cables, **particularly optical fibre cables**, which have specifications related to both external and internal use. The **FIA** AIS seminars were given a preview regarding this matter. Mike Gilmore, Director of standards@fia, has delivered a series of one-day seminars on this topic and will be offering a short overview to FIA members keen to understand the implications of this regulation at the 2016 Summer Seminar in June – another good reason to attend.

Use the FIA web-site to buy BS standards



The **FIA** are BSI Affiliates – meaning that anyone visiting the FIA web-site can click on the link to the BSI web-site and any purchase made of standards, in either paper or electronic format, results in a small payment being made from BSI to the FIA (at no cost to the purchaser).

The **FIA** have now rebuilt this linkage to directly purchase standards from BSI. If you wish to buy a standard, even if your company is already a member of BSI, please use the **FIA** web-site - because the FIA receives a small percentage of your purchase price - and any discounts you normally receive will also be applied.

FIA Website - advertising opportunities

Do you want to promote your business to the world via the FIA website? Prominent advert positioning on the key pages of the FIA website are now available. Advertising packages are open to all members and range from £250+VAT to £1500+VAT per annum.

For full details visit: <http://www.fia-online.co.uk/esponsor.htm>

2016 Summer Seminar – free half-day attendance offer



What did delegates say about the 2015 event?

- **fantastic venue**
- **just the right duration**
- **good and variation of topics**
- **expert speakers and opportunity for networking**
- **very informative**
- **congenial atmosphere**
- **excellent presentations and after-dinner speaker**

As a further encouragement to join us at the seminar, we would like to offer 30 free Seminar places to Installation companies, members and non-members alike, at either the Monday afternoon or the Tuesday morning. A maximum of two attendees per company is possible. Those wishing to take a free-of-charge place must register with the Secretary and provide their name, company, telephone number, email address and their choice of either Monday 20th or Tuesday by 21st June, with a booking deadline for free places of 31st May 2016.

Please note that free places will not permit attendance at the Dinner or the pre-dinner drinks, although can be paid for in addition to the free of charge place if required.

There are also some sponsorship opportunities @ £525 + vat still available – the package includes: -

- an exhibition table-top in main seminar room (full day 20th and half-day 21st June)
- company logo on event publicity
- 3 minute “elevator pitch” slot at seminar on day 1 to introduce the company and provide details of the exhibits.

Delegate places are not included in the sponsorship and must be additionally booked (seminar only £100 + vat – seminar & dinner £137.50 + vat).



Topics and speakers are now confirmed and encompass a wide range of interests in the world of optical fibre and its applications:-

- CPR (Construction Products Regulation) - Mike Gilmore, FIA Standards
- Use existing resources to Win More Business, Protect Profitability, and Step Ahead of your Competitors – Nigel Hedges, Fluke Networks
- The Future of Intelligent Buildings - Lee Funnell, The Siemon Company
- WB Multimode Fibre - Richard Ednay, OTT
- Practical Fusion Splicing advice - David Randall, Sumitomo
- **TBA** - Mark Jameson, Lancaster University
- Testing Parallel Optics- Ed Gastle, VIAVI (JDSU)
- Work Flow Management of OTDR Test Results - Nick Cole, AFL

We are also very pleased to announce that our after dinner talk will be given by the Royal School of Signals – the speaker will give an overview of the school and the fun(!), trials and tribulations of installing fibre around the world.

FIA Summer Seminar 2015 Seminar Papers - go to www.fia-online.co.uk/epresentations.htm

FIA Accredited Installers - the official list May 2016

If your organisation is interested in joining the scheme, contact the AIS Director, Alan Bullen at installation@fia-online.co.uk.

ABM ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING LTD.
BREXONS LIMITED
CABLE DYNAMICS LIMITED
CIS SERVICES LTD
COMPUTER-LINKS LTD
FES LTD.
FORWARD SECURITIES LIMITED
GCL LTD.
HAMPTON TECHNICAL SERVICES LTD
HUNTER COMMUNICATION SERVICES LTD
INFINET DATACOMS LTD.
INTERCONNECT NETWORK SYSTEMS LTD

ITM COMMUNICATIONS LTD
J BRAND LIMITED
LYNX NETWORKS plc.
NETWORK 3 LTD
OPEN NETWORK ASSOCIATES LIMITED
PARAGON DATA SERVICES LTD.
PR POWER INSTALLATIONS
RAMPTEC LIMITED
RE-MARK GROUP
THE KIRBY GROUP
TWISTNET COMMUNICATIONS LTD.
WIRRAL INSTALLATIONS LIMITED

Conditions of Accreditation

As a member of the FIA Accredited Installer scheme companies shall send staff to attend a minimum of two (**free-of-charge**) AIS Technical update Seminars per year. This is an essential part of the AIS scheme and it is imperative for both the company and the FIA that attendance is in-line with the scheme requirements - failure to attend at least two seminars will result in suspension.

Withdrawal of Accreditation

It is with regret we have to announce that **UK DATA CABLING LIMITED** have been removed from the list due to inadequate attendance at the quarterly AIS seminars. While the **FIA** Council fully understand the difficulties companies have making time available to attend these events, such attendance is a requirement of the Accredited Installer Scheme and it is unfair on the other members of the scheme if some do not meet their obligations.

Technical Update Seminar – typical subjects covered

To give an idea of the type of information that is presented during the AIS seminars, a typical half day session timetable is shown below: -

- 09:30 Arrival & Registration
- 10:00 Welcome, AIS update and new AIS download documents
- 10:05 Standards update: SC25 WG3, Mexico, February 2016
 - Wideband MMF (the next “OM”)
 - The end of Category 5/5e in the office
- 10:15 A Quick Review: BS 6701:2016 and BS 8492:2016
- 10:40 CPR and OF cables
- 11:10 Remote powering infrastructures – planning new installs and assessing old ones
- 11:30 Developing the tender response (interactive discussion led by Frank Kler, FIA Installation Director)
 - “Using standards for commercial benefit”
 - Raiding the Archives – FIA Templates
 - FIA Qualifications
 - “Did you know?”
- 12:30 Focus on practical installation issues

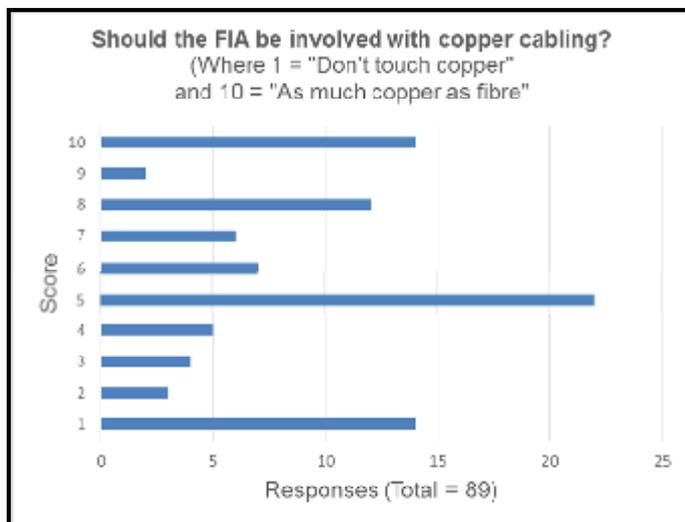
The Importance (or not) of Copper to the **FIA**

It is a question that has come up a number of times from our membership – that of the FIA also being involved in copper cabling.

To help us find out what the true feeling across our membership was, we recently asked in a web-based survey - “**How much should the FIA be involved with copper cabling?**” Scoring on a scale of 1 to 10 where 1 = “Don’t touch copper” and 10 = “As much copper as fibre”, we had 89 responses.

As you can see on the right, the survey results show how contentious the question is, with a high proportion of the answers at the extremes.

The headline figure is that 46% of respondents thought that we should cover more copper than we already do. It’s clearly not enough to justify a swing towards copper so we’ve decided that in deference to the membership as a whole, we should stay as we are at present.



NEW SEARCH ENGINE
Keep your data up-to-date

Members should note that the new Membership Search Engine is now operational on the FIA web-site. This allows users to search for specific approvals, products and services that members are able to offer. Please check your data on-line – if it is out of date then let the FIA Secretary know as soon as possible.

FIA Member Search Engine

The FIA web-site homepage allows you to find the full membership list or by using the advanced search facility you can hone down your search by a members status, approvals, activities, products and services.

The system allows members logos (150 pixels x 100 pixels) to be included within the listing.

The on-line database at the heart of the search engine will, in the medium term, also enable the FIA Secretary to control members’ access to the members-only part of the web-site.

Please send your company logos to the FIA Secretary

.jpg
150 pixels x 100 pixels max.

FIA Membership - and infringements

Perhaps it is a sign of the economic woes of recent times, but it is an unfortunate fact that organisations are joining the **FIA** and then resigning after a year or two but then continuing to advertise their membership on web-pages, letterheads and vehicles. This does not only apply to membership logos but also to other **FIA** schemes such as the Approval and Accreditation systems.

Members will notice a more hard-line tone being taken in relation to membership renewal. In the past the FIA has been relatively relaxed about on-time payment of renewal invoices but this has now been tightened up and you will see that future invoices and associated documentation will clearly stipulate the implications for members of a failure to renew (or a long delayed payment for renewal) while advertising continued membership which has not been paid for. Indeed, if it is found that non-members are advertising their membership after a reasonable time has elapsed (consistent with updating their company information) not only will their actions be reported in this Newsletter but they will be pursued via legal process for the membership fees that would be applicable until the date they finally act correctly.

This may seem harsh but when viewed from the perspective of honest members such behaviour is fraudulent. The **FIA** Commercial Director, John Marson, is always keen to hear of such infringements and welcomes any complaints by paid-up members of the liberties taken by others. Moreover, he pursues the fraudulent organisations without mercy.

Updated **FIA** White Paper on OS1 and OS2

We have updated our previous White Paper "The Truth about OS1 and OS2" which was last revised on 4th October 2010. Check out the new version on the **FIA** web-site White Papers listing.

At the most recent ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3 meeting in Milan (September 2015), it was decided to restrict both OS1 and OS2 to optical fibre types B1.3 and B6_a ("less" bend sensitive singlemode fibre) in the next edition of ISO/IEC 11801 standards - as was already done many years ago in EN 50173-1.

However, to reflect this technical change it was decided also to change the naming of OS1 to OS1a. This should be expected to be followed in EN 50173-1.

In addition, it has been proposed that, as all B6 optical fibres are being revised to have a common mode field diameter, that both OS1a and OS2 will comprise just B1.3 and B6. This is yet to be determined.

None of the above is yet "a done deal" and in the interim the White Paper continues to reflect the correct situation.

Repairing "core" and "access" cables

Accidental damage to the core and access network cables of telecommunications operators is an all-to-common event and affects a wide range of contractors and organisations including other utility installers and local authorities. What happens next is what interests the **FIA**.

Assuming that the telecommunications cables have been installed at the correct depth and in the correct location (which in itself is a big assumption), it has to be recognised that the operator is well within their rights to define the conditions of repair - which, in most cases, will involve the replacement of the cable between two existing joint closures.

The direct costs of removing and replacing the damaged cable will normally have to be borne by the "damager". However, it is the indirect costs that create a major issue. We have seen operators claim as much as 100% of the direct costs to cover the replacement of broken duct infrastructure along the route of replacement - well away from the point of damage. In other words, in such cases the operators are effectively maintaining and improving their physical infrastructure at the expense of those organisations which accidentally damage the cables.

Interestingly these cases rarely if ever come to court - and are settled privately in discussion between nominated experts - to avoid becoming "case law".

In Germany a document was produced which was written from the operators perspective with the intention of it becoming a document which could be referenced in a court of law - lending strength to an operators case. Following opposition from the wider community the document was submitted for consideration to become a European Technical Specification. This resulted in two years of modification and amendment of the document which has now been approved as CLC/TR 50621.

The UK voted against the document, even in its improved state, and have not endorsed its use in the UK. Instead the UK prefers to focus on the topic "designing for repair" in BS EN 50174-2 and a future EN 50174-3. In addition, the UK considers the NJUG rules for location and placement of cable ducts as representing the relevant national regulations.

To gain a better picture of the scale of the problem, the Director of **standards@fia-online**, would like to hear from any members who have been caught in the trap of excessive indirect costs for infrastructure maintenance. Please make contact as detailed on Page 1

FIA Member Web-site Access

It has become apparent that many employees of FIA members are not provided with access to the member's side of the web-site. This is seen by the FIA Council as being a major obstacle to spreading the good practices defined by the **FIA** with member's businesses - and is a cause for concern.

As a result we call on the **Principal Contacts in each member company to ensure that FIA usernames and passwords are passed to all relevant personnel in their organisations.**

FIA Council e-mail addresses

Chairman and Test & Measurement Director: chair@fia-online.co.uk

Secretary (Jane Morrison): secretary@fia-online.co.uk

Commercial Director: commercial@fia-online.co.uk

Marketing Director: marketing@fia-online.co.uk

Technical Director: technical@fia-online.co.uk

Training Director: training@fia-online.co.uk

Installations Director: installation@fia-online.co.uk

MoD Liaison: defence@fia-online.co.uk

Standards Liaison standards@fia-online.co.uk