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The "Recognized Qualifications Database" Scheme – yet another new FIA service

There are thousands of people in the UK and overseas who have attained qualifications in installation practices for optical fibre cabling. Many are already employed by FIA members but there are a great number who are not. In a time of potential skills shortages within the higher technology industries, the FIA Council believes that a service is required which allows its users to match the persons with the skills to the employers who need them.

The FIA Recognized Qualifications Database (RQD) is exactly what its title suggests - a database of those persons who have obtained qualifications already supported and recognised by the FIA. It is not a training scheme.

RECOGNISED

The qualifications already recognised by the FIA include the three City & Guilds certificates 3346-01, -02, -03 and 3466-04 together with the National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) IOL1 and IOL2.

The initial intention is to create a database which lists as many holders of these qualifications as can be identified. The ultimate aim is to have a completely comprehensive reference site.

IDENTIFICATION CARD

Each person listed in the database will receive an RQD identification card listing their qualifications (after these have been checked) and carrying a photograph of the holder. In addition to this, there will be a special area of the FIA web site <http://www.fibreoptic.org.uk> specifically devoted to the RQD which explains its operation and allows employers to check the qualifications of a particular person. It is free of charge to FIA members

If the RQD-card holder is not employed by an FIA member (or has appropriate permission) they will be able to advertise their services on the RQD pages of the web site. This will allow FIA members to access a labour source when, and only when, necessary. It will also save potential employers the cost of contacting the complete list of FIA members as frequently happens at present.

ACTIVITIES

As part of this exercise, the following activities are being pursued:

- Contact is being made with those training organisations that award the recognised qualifications to determine the number of certificates awarded to-date and, if possible, identify the relevant personnel.
- The TVSC and City & Guilds organisations are being contacted to ensure that they are full aware of the initiative
- The RQD will be advertised directly to qualified personnel both in the media and at their place of work.

For further information, please contact the FIA Secretariat

FIBREOPTIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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Email: fia@fiasec.demon.co.uk

Web Site: www.fibreoptic.org.uk

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BUNTINGFORD, Hertfordshire SG9 9PL
United Kingdom

Chief Executive: Gary Kibblewhite

Secretary: Lady Helen Long

FIA Administrator: Jane Morrison

The FIA is a Company Limited by Guarantee

WELCOME to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

- Optical Services & Sales Ltd (379)
- Arthur McKay & Company (380)
- Plexus Networking Ltd (381)
- MDIS Ltd (382)
- Fujikura Europe (383)
- Accommodation Services Management (385)
- Electrocom Networks (South) Ltd (386)

Overseas Corporate

- Sitaf Saudia Company Ltd (377)
- Lucent Technologies (384)

Personal

- David S. Barnett (378)

FIA AGM

Wednesday, 2nd December, 1998 - 2.00 p.m.

All members are invited to make a special effort to attend the Fibreoptic industry Association's AGM which will be held on 2nd December at the Saracen's Head Hotel which is situated in Towcester High Street.

There will be **two** vacancies to be filled on the FIA Council in accordance with its Memorandum & Articles of Association and nomination forms have been sent to FIA representatives within the membership. However, if your company is a member and you have not seen the notification, you can still nominate yourself or a colleague. Just contact the secretariat and ask for the documentation.

Even if you are unwilling to stand, your presence at the event will be greatly appreciated as all input from members about FIA activities is vital to the work of the Council.

The present Council of management is formed by eight elected members as follows

Mike Phillips	<i>Fibre Optic Solutions</i>
Andrew Watson	<i>3M Telecom Systems</i>
Peter Thompsett	<i>Ensign Communications Ltd,</i>
Colin Snook	<i>CableNet Training Services Ltd</i>
Paul Bateson	<i>Optical Test and Calibration Ltd</i>
Rob Cardigan	<i>MOD TAP Ltd</i>
Rick Brown	<i>Unisys Ltd</i>
Paul Rigby	<i>(resigned March 98)</i>

In accordance with the M&AofA, **Rob Cardigan** is standing down from the Council.

A strong Council is essential to the future success of the Association. Council Meetings are held approximately six times per year. It is both interesting and satisfying to be involved and if you would like to find out more about Council activities, Gary Kibblewhite, our Chief Executive, will be delighted to discuss these with you. He can be contacted by Email: kibblewhite@europartners.demon.co.uk or by telephone (+44 (0)1279 466476)

This year it is intended to complete the formal AGM in around 30 minutes and will then continue with an open meeting and strategic debate on various issues related to the Fibre Optics Industry. We will be grateful for your inputs on this area and ask that you email or fax any questions you would like to be raised during the debate as quickly as possible. See back page for FIA secretariat telephone, fax and email details.

Training Provider News

The following Training Providers have been Approved by the FIA either at **Level 1** (a Training Provider Working from a Fixed Location) or **Level 2** (a Training Provider

Working from a Floating Location):

Cable Television & Telephony Training Services – Level 1
Lincoln Tel: 01522 880900

CableNet Training Services – Level 1
Bury St Edmunds Tel: 01284 767100
and Farnborough Tel: 01252 540466

Lowestoft College – Level 1
Lowestoft Tel: 01502 525060

Optical Training Sales & Services – Level 2
East Grinstead Tel: 01342 300350

CableNet Training opens new premises in Hampshire

With its headquarters in Bury St Edmunds, CableNet Training Services has recently selected Aldershot as the location for its first regional office.

The new office was officially opened in September to provide a local base for individuals and companies seeking to upgrade their skills and gain qualifications in the industry. There are a variety of new initiatives relating to proper regulation of qualifications and training now being developed and Sarah Harris, CableNet's UK sales executive said "Qualifications are becoming a prerequisite for many industry posts and has created the need for companies to get their staff trained and qualified".

The new office also provides an information centre for anyone looking to join the communications industry. Information on the careers available, job opportunities and the recognised qualifications are available for anyone to browse through.

The majority of CableNet's courses will continue to be held at its Bury St Edmunds headquarters.

The new office is located opposite Lloyds Bank at Suite 3, Albans House, 40 Lynchford Road, Farnborough, Hampshire, GU14 6EF. For further details call Sarah Harris on 012525 540466, fax: 01252 542466 or visit the CableNet web site on www.cablenet-training.com

New C&G Certificate open to Datacomms Engineers

CableNet Training's Datacomms I course has received City & Guilds (C&G) accreditation. Now, on successful completion, delegates attending the company's five day course, qualify for the C&G's 3466-04 certificate in copper cable installation. And at the same time, accumulate 37 credit hours which are valid for the BICSI RCDD, Apprentice, Installer and Technician cabling installation programmes, also run at CableNet.

For a course prospectus and further details ring the course co-ordinator on 01284 767100 or visit the company's web site on www.cablenet-training.com.

The Editor of the FIA Newsletter will be pleased to publish details of news, courses, their dates and locations or any other information from Training Providers. Please send details to the Secretariat

FIA Guide to Training Providers Now Published

The FIA has just published a 24pp guide to training and the training providers within the Association.

The publication contains an introduction by Qualifications and Training Director Colin Snook which offers some good tips on how to choose the best training company. In addition, there are comprehensive write-ups on the services offered by the FIA training providers listed.

Please call the Secretariat if you would like a copy.

Fibre Link-up to Cut Internet Waiting Times

A consortium of more than 50 telecoms operators has signed up for a \$1.5bn (£899m) project to create a fibre-optic link between Europe and the United States to reduce waiting time on the net.

The cable, dubbed TAT-14, will have a capacity of 640Gbps, enabling it to carry 7.7 million calls simultaneously. Of this traffic, 80% is expected to be allocated to internet access. Scheduled to be completed by the end of the year 2000, TAT-14 will link Germany, England, Denmark, France and Holland with the US.

The ring network system, which will span some 22,000 miles, will use the latest in Synchronous Digital Hierarchy (SDH) technology. It will consist of four pairs of optical fibre cables. The new system will provide 64 times the capacity of the original TAT-12/TAT-13 Cable Network that went live in September 1996.

FIA Web site goes from strength to strength – and provides Valuable Promotion Opportunities!

The FIA Web site 'hit rate statistics' are available on the web page www.fibreoptic.org.uk. Many thousands of people all over the world have accessed the pages which now form a major source of information for companies interested in Fibre Optics.

The FIA is now able to offer its members the opportunity to place heavily subsidised advertisements on the site. To give you an idea of how these will work, just go into the site and you will find a promotion for Lightdata, one of our sponsors.

A limited number of slots are available on a first-come first-served basis at low rates for the next 6 months as a "trial" Why not have a go - the cost is minimal and you may well be pleasantly surprised at the results!

Don't forget that the site is funded by the DTI which allows space to be sold at a fraction of the cost of normal commercial advertising.

We are offering adverts in a simple format only (i.e. just the company name and logo together with up to 20 words of text. The rates are as follows:

Prior to the following pages being shown:

Approved Installers	£295
Approved Installer Scheme	£195
Buy and Sell	£195
BS 7718	£150
Calibration Services	£195
Fibre Optic Code of Practice	£290
Discussion Forum	£290
Document Templates	£150
Employment	£195
ISO 9000	£195
Locate Members	£290
Magazines	£195
National Vocational Qualifications	£195
Newsletters	£195
Press releases	£195

Cost of converting your wording into an advertisement + VAT

Contact the secretariat to find out how you can reserve a page

FIA Golf Day – Big Success for Association's Event

Following the interest in the FIA's Golf Day held last year, it was decided to repeat the event at the magnificent 18-hole course at Mottram Hall, Prestbury, Cheshire on 7th September. An excellent turnout of members and guests enjoyed the golf, lunch, dinner and use of the comprehensive facilities at Mottram Hall.

Set in 270 acres of parkland, the 7,006 yard par 72 course was designed by Dave Thomas (former Ryder Cup player) and has a demanding woodland section. It was a good day for golf as well as for meeting old friends and, possibly, new customers.

The prizes were presented by FIA chief executive Gary Kibblewhite. As he is naturally in most of the pictures, the names referred to in the captions relate only to the prize winners

Owen Comes Close

Peter Owen of Cablelines came closest to the pin in the tournament and received his prize that had been sponsored by Conformance Standards

Team Spirit

The team competition was won by the above four players who are, l. to r. Tom Topping of Rosebery with Eric Kimpton, Les Owen and Graham Mathieson

Cave Passes Driving Test

The longest drive prize was sponsored by one of the newer FIA members Electra-Net (UK) Ltd. Unfortunately, the winner Paul Cave of AMP was unable to receive the prize himself and it was accepted on his behalf by David Waine, also of AMP

The Yellow Perils from AMP

The prestigious Yellow Ball competition was a clean sweep for AMP contestants Paul Burton (left), David Waine and Paul Cave. Unfortunately, the latter was unable to attend the prize giving

Gardener's World

Ian Rowe of Electra-Net (UK) won a special prize for cutting 8 sq.metres of grass with a single club in the rough without hitting the ball once. It was a tremendous feat of skill.

Barry's Triumph

Winner of the Stableford Competition with 38 points was a delighted Barry Underdown

Bishop Nicks Comp

In a tight finish, Pirelli's Nick Bishop won the Putting Competition sponsored by Electra-Net (UK)

Spoil Sport !!!

Frank Kler, playing for The Cabling Partnership, received a booby prize for hitting a small rabbit that was trying to do something naughty with another small rabbit in the rough

Patch-Panels from Auriga

AURIGA has introduced a new AMP range of IU 19in. pre-loaded rack-mountable patch panels. The panels are designed to be cost-effective, easy-to-use and quick-to-install. Specification sheets are available on the Auriga Web site: www.auriga-europe.co.uk.

Available with a choice of ST or SC terminations ranging from four to twenty-four fibres, the panels feature a slide and tilt mechanism to make original installation and subsequent reconfiguration as quick and easy as possible.

Each patch panel is supplied with FDDI 100MB/s LAN grade 62.5/125 fibre pigtails, cable management rings and gland plates suitable for cables up to 13mm in diameter and will accommodate either tight buffered or loose tube cables. They are available in two versions, one with AMP Corelink mechanical splices and the other with fusion splices.

The total insertion loss in the pigtail and splice is a maximum of 0.6dB for fusion splice units and 0.7dB for Corelink splices.

For more details, call: +44 (0)1908 274200 Fax: +44 (0)1908 378998 Web: <http://www.auriga-europe.co.uk/>

Guide to Forthcoming Shows and Conferences

Communic Philippines 98 9-12 December 1998

The International Electronic Communications & Information Technology Exhibition incorporating **Network Philippines** and **MobileComm Philippines**

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

WDM Technical Seminars for Network Carriers The Forum Hotel, London - 18-20 January 1999

18th - WDM Network Planning & Implementation

19th - Interworking IP, ATM & SDH with WDM

20th - WDM Network Management & Protection Strategies

Call +44 (0)171 915 5056 or email: wdm@iir-conferences.com for further details

Mecom 99 Bahrain 31 January - 3 February 1999

The 10th Middle East International Telecommunications Show & Conference

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

exponet 1999 Vienna 9-11 February 1999

International IT trade show

For further details, Fax: +49 8151 28503

Access Technologies 1999 The Selfridge Hotel, London 8-11 March 1999

This is the 3rd Annual Conference under the above name. It covers market forecasts, applications and services, performance evaluation and case studies on all the access technologies including copper, fibre, wireless, power line and satellite

Call Vision in Business on +44 (0)171 839 8391 for details

Communications Technology Indonesia 99 Jakarta 21-24 April 1999

The 4th International Telecommunications and Business Communications Systems Exhibition incorporating

Mobile Communications Indonesia 99 & Business Communications Indonesia 99

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

Asia CommuniTech 99 Hong Kong 6-9 July 1999

The 2nd Asian Telecommunications, Mobile Communications and Wireless Technology Show & Conference

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

Asia Networks 99 Hong Kong 6-9 July 1999

The 2nd Asian Networking Show & Conference incorporating **Asia Internet 99**

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

exponet 1999 Dusseldorf 5-7 October 1999

International IT trade show

For further details, Fax: +49 8151 28503

exponet 1999 Paris 16-18 November 1999

International IT trade show

For further details, Fax: +49 8151 28503

CommunicAsia 2000 Singapore 6-9 June 2000

The 11th Asian International Information and Communication Technology Exhibition & Conference

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

NetworkAsia 2000 Singapore 6-9 June 2000

The 5th Asian International Networking Exhibition & Conference

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

CableSat 2000 Singapore 6-9 June 2000

The 2nd Asian International Trade Showcase for Cable & Satellite Technology & Services

Call Vivienne Caisey on +44 (0)171 486 1951 Fax: +44 (0)171 413 8211 Email: sing@montnbet.com

Fibre optic training courses

Please Note: The Association has no means of guaranteeing the quality of the Courses listed. They are all believed to be run by reputable organizations but readers are advised to carefully check costs, the range of training given, whether training is specifically allied to City & Guilds, NVQs or other qualifications etc

With effect from the next issue of this Newsletter, the section will be extended to include far more detailed information on a range

Fibre Optics for Engineers ● Fibre Optics for Installers ● An Introduction to Fibre Optics

Organised by Light Networking - Scotland/London. London *Fibre Optics for Engineers* courses are at City University. Those in Scotland are held in Glasgow. They are designed for engineers, technical managers, technicians and technical sales personnel and offer hands-on training. Call for details on installer courses and fibre optics introductory courses. Courses qualify for 12 IEE Technical Professional Development Units and may be customised and presented at customers' premises. No prior knowledge of fibre optics is assumed.

Light Networking is an IEE Approved Continuing Professional Development Provider

Call Joan Rivellini on 0171-477 8133 (London) or Ross Finlay on 0141 632 7338 (Glasgow) for details.

2-Day Installation Workshop

The Installation Workshop held by FIA Approved training provider Optical Training, Sales and Services is designed to cover the range of skills and knowledge incorporating design, specification, planning and control of fibre optic installations working within the requirements of BS7718.

The Workshop places a strong emphasis on practical techniques in terminating, splicing and testing for both single and multimode fibres and is ideal for those engineers wishing to qualify for NVQ1 and NVQ2 in fibre optics.

Please call the number below for details of forthcoming courses.
Call Tony Wilkins or Teresa Hand on 01342 300350 for further details.

City and Guilds 3466 Fibre Optic Installation and Testing Courses

FIA Approved training provider CableNet Training Services is now offering 1-week C&G hands-on courses on the above subjects. The first is the 3466/01 Multi Mode course while the other is the 3466/02 Single Mode course.

These two courses provide a firm grounding in all aspects of fibre optic installation. They encompass the theory and practice of fibre optic transmission which will include:

Fibre/Laser Safety; Optical Transmission Theory; Use of Fibre and Cable Preparation Tools; Connector Selection and Design; Connector Termination and Inspection; Mechanical Splicing; Fusion Splicing; Cable and Hardware Installation Techniques; Link Testing using Visible Light Sources; Link Testing using Infrared Light Source/Power Meter; System Testing using the Optical Time Domain Reflectometer (OTDR)

Successful candidates will gain the City and Guilds 3466 (01 or 02) Certificate. This may be used as 'Accredited Prior Learning (APL) to assist in gaining the additional award of an NVQ Level 2 in Fibre Optics.

Course dates can be obtained by calling the number below.

CableNet also runs similar 1-week courses on **Datacomms Cabling for Computer Local Area Networks (NVQ1 and NVQ2)** and **Cable Television Engineering (NVQ1 and NVQ2)**.

The courses normally take place at CableNet's National Training Centre in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

Call 01284 767100 for details on resettlement allowances and the courses.

BSI Quality Training Courses

BSI offers a range of courses to help businesses develop their quality skills. These vary from a general overview of BS EN ISO9000 (BS5750) to in-depth workshops intended to allow businesses to increase sales and profits while, at the same time, improving customer satisfaction and morale

Call BSI International Training on 01908 220908

Omnicom Courses on Networking and Telecoms

Omnicom provides specialist educational and information services for professional workers in telecoms and networking. Training courses cover

a wide range of subjects including the Internet; network management; LANs; communications cabling; ATM; TCP/IP; SNMP etc.
For a comprehensive brochure, call 01438 742424.

Networks, Datacomms, Internetworking and Telecomms Courses - Various dates and locations

Learning Tree International offers a variety of courses in the above areas providing a 'comprehensive foundation in technology, tools and techniques'

Call free on 0800 282353 for prospectus

The FIA and the Year 2000

Are your computer systems going to fail when the new Millennium arrives?

There has been some dialogue on the FIA's web site www.fibreoptic.org.uk but the level of interest seems to be fairly low. Does this mean that there are no worries in the industry about the potential problems that have been highlighted from the Government downward?

Jon Lansley, for example, asks whether the FIA doing anything about the Year 2000 problem?

FIA web master Richard Wenner states: "Nothing specific at present – but we do have a Year 2000 page on the site which many have found contains useful information.."

However, Gary Kibblewhite, FIA Chief Executive, comments that a very useful package giving information about year 2000 conformity and specially designed for small/medium enterprises has been sent to all members.

He also remarks that he has tried the FIA's AMI bios checker on his PCs and it worked OK! But one PC failed the "RTC year 2000 roll over test" yet passed the BIOS year 2000 roll over test". He wonders whether this should cause him some concern ...

Why not join in the discussion?

KMI Predicts Big Growth for Fibre Optics in Europe

The European Market for single-mode and multimode fibre optic components - cable, connectors and transceivers - was slightly less than \$1.3 billion back in 1996 and will grow at a compound annual growth rate of 17% to \$2.7 billion in 2001. Volume growth will be much higher for each of the product segments.

These conclusions and more are part of a new market study published by KMI on European fibre optics markets. The report, which costs \$12,750, contains more than 580 pages of analyses of the rapidly changing market place based on months of market analysis and interviews with hundreds of organizations including the operators planning to serve the newly opened telecom markets. It also includes 290 tables and figures.

The report supplies valuable statistics and forecasts on the volume, demand, prices and market size for cable, connectors, and transceivers on a European and individual country basis.

Tritec Developments wins Millenium Product status for its TCII+ optical fibre cleaver

Last month, DTI Minister Ian McCartney presented FIA Corporate Member TRITEC Developments with the prestigious Millennium Product award for the TRITEC-designed TCII+ Optical Fibre Cleaver.

The TCII+ is one of the first successful applications under the Design Council's Millennium Products scheme. The initiative, launched by the Prime Minister Tony Blair in September 1997, is aiming to identify new, forward-thinking, creative products emerging from the UK as we approach the new millennium.

The Minister said: "This is a significant achievement for TRITEC. The TCII+ is one of only 202 products which were selected from nearly 1,000 applications."

The TCII+ is used to produce flat square ends on optical fibres so that they can be joined together. When cleaving optical fibres it is very important to dispose of the offcut end in a safe manner - especially in premise installations. The product was selected for its innovative design and safety features.

Patented Mechanism

It incorporates a unique patented mechanism which automatically collects cleaved fibre ends in an integral container. The waste fibre can be disposed of later, removing the need for dangerous sharps to be handled on the installation site.

Weighing less than 0.5kg and measuring 116 x 85 x 3mm - the compact and rugged design makes the cleaver deally suited for use in the laboratory or in the field. In addition, the ergonomic design enables the cleaver to be operated in either hand with a single press of a button. Alternatively, a tripod mounting point is provided for bench-mounted operation.

The cleaver accepts coating diameters up to 2.5mm and scale provided cleaved ends can be produced with as little as 3mm of bare fibre (on 250µm diam. coated fibre).

More information on the Millennium Products initiative is available at the DTI web site <http://www.millennium-products.org.uk/>

Further details on the cleaver are available from TRITEC on 01925 220466 or the company's web site at <http://www.tritec-dev.com/>