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The FIA Application Support Guide – A New Year's Revelation

Over the past few years, the FIA has published a number of valuable and often acclaimed guides starting with the publication of the *Code of Practice for Installation of Fibre Optic Cabling* (pending its final publication of BS7718 by BSI in 1995). This was followed by other documents including the *Installation Specification* and the *Quality Plan Templates* and, more recently the *Cable Selection Guide* (now undergoing review).

Now, FIA Technical Director Mike Gilmore has announced another important new initiative.

Applications Support Guide

At the FIA AGM, it was revealed that a plan has been initiated to develop a new publication called the *FIA APPLICATION SUPPORT GUIDE*.

The reason for the initiative, designed to support both members and their clients, is to reflect the complexities that have arisen following the development of network applications that are bandwidth-limited using multimode optical fibre.

Attenuation-Limited Systems

The conventional means of designing an optical fibre cabling system has been to ensure that the optical loss budget of the cabling design is conformant with the optical power budget of the equipment to be eventually connected to it.

Faced with an installation of fixed dimensions, the options would be to increase the optical power budget of the equipment or reduce the optical loss budget of the cabling. The actual performance would be verified during post-installation testing and the test measurement would have to be conformant with the optical loss budget of the cabling design.

While the process outlined is simple in theory, the reality is somewhat more complex but, nevertheless, the whole process is attenuation driven.

Bandwidth-Limited Systems

In recent months, the whole area of cabling design and verification in support of high bit rate LAN technology has added a new level of complexity and one which features particular difficulties for installer and user alike. The restrictive factor for these new networks (or "applications" as the cabling standards guys call them) is not attenuation but modal bandwidth. The most infamous of these is Gigabit Ethernet but there are others such as ATM 622Mb/s and the high speed FiberChannel applications. These applications have quite restricted channel lengths using low bandwidth multimode optical fibre.

There are two separate difficulties which have to be addressed by the *FIA APPLICATION SUPPORT GUIDE* - the first is one of design of new systems and the other is verification of existing systems.

Obviously designing new systems assumes the use of optical fibres with acceptable modal bandwidth performance. There are new guidelines being issued as part of the revision of the structured cabling standards which increase the profile of 50/125 and singlemode cabling (together with changes in patch panel layout etc.). These will be included in the *FIA APPLICATION SUPPORT GUIDE*.

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Laurent Amestoy – Passive components
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Andrew Richards
(*Electra-Net (UK)*)

Colin Snook - Training & Qualifications
(*CableNet*)

Steve Strange
(*Anixter (UK)*)

Peter Thompsett - Installation
(*Ensign Communications*)

Chief Executive: Gary Kibblewhite

Secretary: Lady Helen Long

FIA Administrator: Jane Morrison

The FIA is a Company Limited by Guarantee

Verification

Verification is clearly a more difficult problem. Obviously, users must have an indication that these new high bit rate applications are going to function correctly before they shell out hard cash for the latest transmission equipment.

This is where the problems lie because, while modal bandwidth is generally unaffected by installation practices, it is, unfortunately, expensive and possibly unrealistic to measure "in the field" using current test methodology. If, therefore, the requirement for a given minimum modal bandwidth was not clearly stated at the time of installation there is little chance of determining its value after the event. The inability to measure it might attract the more rash suppliers into providing product that did not meet the requirements even if they were stated. If the requirements were not stated then the user may have got very poor product indeed.

Standards

The layman might say there should be standards for this and indeed there are. ANSI/TIA/EIA 568A specifies a modal bandwidth of 160MHzkm @ 850nm and 500MHzkm @ 1300nm and the international and European equivalents increase the requirement by specifying 200MHzkm @ 850nm.

However, a recent international survey of optical fibre manufacturers showed almost 100 available combinations of attenuation and modal bandwidth in the two operating windows and a worrying number of these options did not meet the basic requirements detailed above. This means that a considerable amount of manufactured product fails to meet accepted standards for LAN connectivity – SO WHERE IS IT????? It could be that it has only been used in non-critical areas but, more realistically, the product may have been used to manufacture lower cost cables where the bandwidth shortfall has been discreetly ignored.

Square One

So we are back to square one – unless it has been properly specified, we do not know the bandwidth of the installed optical fibre and will have difficulty in measuring it anyway. The first time it will be "tested" is when the user connects the bandwidth-limited equipment and attempts to determine if there are transmission problems.

The FIA Council believes that this is not an acceptable situation. Indeed, even if there are no alternative solutions, it is the role of the *FIA APPLICATION SUPPORT GUIDE* to clearly state this risk.

Yet Another Complication

Putting modal bandwidth to one side, there is yet another complication. Sometimes the bandwidth-limited applications also have quite restrictive limits for attenuation. These deliver even more risk for installer and verifier alike because all power measurements have a built-in inaccuracy or measurement error.

Historically optical power budgets of 11/12dB (62.5/125) or 6/7dB (50/125) were typical. However, 1000BASE-SX and 1000BASE-LX have optical loss budgets of 2.35dB and 2.6dB respectively. Measurement errors become much more important when measuring low loss values and implications of higher than expected loss results become much more serious. Once again the *SUPPORT GUIDE* is required to provide advice and guidance where the measured values are so likely to exceed the specified

values.

Almost a year ago, Mr Gilmore expressed his concerns about the problems of optical fibre selection between 50/125 and 62.5/125. At the time, Gigabit Ethernet over optical fibre was still largely vapourware. However, the problems predicted are now beginning to manifest themselves. He is now getting several calls each week regarding distance expectations and, in most cases, the installer/user has no idea what bandwidth of optical fibre is actually installed.

The need for guidance, therefore, is not just useful – it is critical to network design and management.

**Work on the development of the
"FIA APPLICATION SUPPORT GUIDE"
starts in the New Year and a team of technical
experts from the FIA is being gathered to write the
document under the Technical Director's
chairmanship. If you would like to become involved
please do not hesitate to contact him via email on:
Mike.Gilmore@BTInternet.com
or Tel: 0113 232 3721**

FIA AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the FIA was held on Wednesday, 2nd December, 1998 at the Saracen's Head Hotel in Towcester.

The meeting was attended by just eight members with voting powers and twelve members sent in apologies for their absence.

The AGM was opened by the FIA's chief executive Gary Kibblewhite gave a particular welcome to those members who had been able to attend.

Chairman's Report

Having approved the Minutes of the 1997 AGM, a report on the past 12 months of activity was made by the FIA's chairman Mike Phillips. He particularly thanked all those that had contributed to the many achievements during the year and, in particular, expressed his pleasure at the way the Council Members were handling issues related to the industry sectors for which they had assumed a responsibility. This new means of allocating tasks had only been introduced at the 1997 AGM but had had already proved very successful.

The accounts of the FIA were kept in good order by Mike Gilmore and Margaret MacFarlane who not only looked after the day-to-day finances of the Association but also prepared excellent monthly management accounts.

Mr. Gilmore, being a co-opted Council member, was also thanked for his highly valued work relating to Standards, the Audit and Arbitration Schemes and, more recently, his work on the *Application Support Guide* (see the front page). He had also provided solid inputs in relation to his Technical Support role for members.

The handover from the previous secretary Roy Atterbury to the new secretariat had been very smooth and the Association's affairs continue to be handled efficiently and professionally.

Lastly he thanked Gary Kibblewhite who provided excellent managerial support within the Association.

Mr. Phillips looks to the future of the FIA with great confidence as it enters its ninth year and stressed that the FIA Council was aiming to give even greater value in terms of services to members.

Treasurer's Report & Year end Accounts

The Treasurer's Report and draft accounts had been circulated at the meeting and Mr. Phillips confirmed that these were a correct view of the finances. The Council had approved the accounts which showed a small loss on the year which balanced the small profit made last year.

The membership figures were stable and costs were down. Overall, the accounts reflected a well managed Association.

Chief Executive's Report

In his report, Gary Kibblewhite stated that the overall number of **members** had increased by 2 during the year and was held at 186. However, this represented a churn of 10% and it was hoped to reduce this percentage over the coming months.

Membership fees had not been increased for two years although it may be necessary for a rise next year. The stable fee structure had been made possible by the fact that many services undertaken by the FIA had been completed via sponsorship and this had held costs to a minimum.

A revised version of the **Approved Installer Scheme** had been completed and was ready for full launch in the New Year.

The **ELCIS** (European Licensed Communications Installer) scheme had undergone a metamorphosis but the FIA were now working with the TVSC to put the scheme back on track.

Mr. Gilmore had put in a huge effort to generate the new **Audit and Arbitration Schemes**.

A **Strategic Development Programme** is now part of the FIA agenda and a meeting with a specialist promotion company had been set up with costs again underwritten by sponsorship.

The **Web site** under the expertise of Mr. Wenner continued to flourish and the FIA has recently produced a **diskette** for promotion use (see this *Newsletter*) which guides would-be web site users around the FIA site.

The **Cable Selection Guide** is due to be completed in the New Year with the support of Steve Strange of Anixter.

A **Conference** is planned for the first quarter of 1999 under the control of Mr. Watson (see this *Newsletter*).

The **Golf Days** continued to be well supported by members and provide an ideal climate for members to meet and discuss common problems.

Mr. Kibblewhite finished by referring to the recent publication of a new version of the FIA **Members' Guide** and the new **Guide to Training Providers** which have been well received by members. The **Membership Pack** has also been upgraded.

Elections to Council

Three places had become available on the Management Council and four nominations had been received. After a very close vote, the following were elected:

Laurent Amerstoy
Andrew Richards
Steve Strange

MOD TAP
ELECTRA-NET (UK)
ANIXTER (UK)

NEWS FROM TRAINING PROVIDERS

CableNet voted Trainer of the Year

Independent training provider, CableNet Training Services has been voted Trainer of the Year by the UK's communications industry.

Designed to reward outstanding achievements in mobile and fixed line communications for business users, the award is one of thirteen presented at the communications industry's Awards Evening held in London last month.

The company also received a Highly Commended award for its pioneering work in creating the European Licensed Communications Installer Scheme (ELCIS).

The judging panel recognised CableNet's contribution to the creation and implementation of standards for those working in the industry.

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

New FIA-Approved Training Provider

Fujikura Europe
Levels 1 & 2

Promote Your Products and Services to 1000's on the FIA Web Site

Many thousands of people all over the world have accessed the FIA's DTI-funded web site which now forms a major source of information for companies interested in Fibre Optics. It can be found under the address www.fibreoptic.org.uk

The FIA is now able to offer its members the opportunity to place heavily subsidised advertisements on the site similar to the Lightdata page that comes up when you enter the site.

A limited number of slots are available on a first-come first-served basis at low rates for the next 4 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:	Cost of converting your wording into an advertisement + VAT
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	£195
Qualifications	
Newsletters	£195
Press releases	£195

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

Photonics Opportunity

Photonics Online is a virtual community for professionals and vendors in the photonics industry and can be found at <http://www.photonicsonline.com>.

We have been invited by the publisher to ask members to send press releases or news items if believed to be suitable. They should be directed to:

Charles Kessler email: ckessler@photonicsonline.com
or by telephone on 888-680-3223

Climbing A Mountain

Gary Kibblewhite, chief executive of the Fibreoptic Industry Association recently completed a week-long 100km trek across the Himalayas in order to raise funds for the Teenage Cancer Trust.

Gary climbed to over 11,000ft and slept under canvas in below zero temperatures at night. He described it as a "Fantastic" experience. And it was not all fun – one member of the party broke a leg and another broke a finger but it was all in a good cause!

Gary's personal sponsors gave a staggering £8,500 towards the Trust's costs of setting up specialised cancer units in hospitals throughout the UK specifically for teenagers and Gary said: "Many, many thanks to all of you in the industry for giving so generously!"

Anyone interested in joining the trek in 1999 to visit the virtually untouched Inca settlement of Machu Picchu, situated high in the Andes in Peru, should telephone the TCT on 0171 436 2877.

Joint venture required with company in China

The FIA has received a request for interested parties to discuss a joint venture for the manufacture of fibre cable for the Chinese telecomms industry.

Mr Sean OON works for an Asian based manufacturing group called the Paracorp Group. The organisation is a listed company in Malaysia and it also has a listed company in Hong Kong. Manufacturing plants are based in Malaysia and China.

The organisation is now seriously considering setting up a fibre cable manufacturing plant in China to cater for China's telecommunication growth. However, the company does not have all the knowledge to proceed and requires joint venture partners with the appropriate know-how.

If any FIA member is interested, please contact Mr. Oon via email seanoon@paracorp.com.my or call the Kuala Lumpur office on +60 3 634 6100 or the Hong Kong office on +852 2603 3138.

Guide to Forthcoming Shows and Conferences

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

Help!!!

Andrew Keely at homestd@globalnet.co.uk is in need of some specialised help as quickly as possible. Having seen the FIA site on the web, he states the following:

"I use a three chip digital Panasonic video camera for marine filming. As yet there is only one company manufacturing housings for this wonderful piece of kit (which produces broadcast quality images).

These housings are very crude and the few controls that are useable through the aluminium cylinder are operated by levers passing through quad x "o" rings. Every time a control is used it means letting go of one of the unit's two handles and, needless to say, film taken during this period is a shaky mess and no use for anything.

So, what I'm hoping is that it would be possible to operate the camera's remote control unit via an optical fibre.

The infra-red sensor on the camera is clearly visible through the half inch thick clear Perspex (which makes up the front of the housing). If I mounted the remote unit on one of the handles, in a sealed water and pressure resistant box, could an optical fibre be used to transport the infra-red signals to the camera?

The signal passes through the Perspex ok. But there would have to be some pretty serious bends in the fibre and water pressure, perhaps, would be a problem?

The unit would have a maximum operating depth of 60 metres, giving a pressure of 7 atmospheres. Would the fibre be "happy" under this sort of pressure? I look forward to receiving any thoughts or suggestions.

Andrew Keely"

Are there any good distributors out there ...?

NetSys UK is a recently incorporated systems integration company based in Newbury. It is looking for a competent and recognised fibre optics distributor with good support and service. The company is also hoping for competitive terms. If you want to talk to them, please send an email to NetSysUK@aol.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

IEEE warns of Gigabit Cat 5 Risks - FIA Standards Director Questions Press Reports

According to recent reports in the Press, the IEEE has warned that 1 in 10 Category 5 cable installations will not support Gigabit Ethernet. FIA Standards Director Mike Gilmore believes that this (if a truly represented statement) is an understatement of the reality.

The first draft for the IEEE Gigabit-over-copper Standard is said to recommend enhanced digital receivers to compensate for problems such as cross-talk, external noise and inter-symbol interference. Possible enhancements for Cat 5 specifications are under consideration.

Pushing Boundaries

However, Drusie Demopoulos, marketing vice president of Foundry, believes that only 2% of Cat 5 networks will need to be upgraded. "You're pushing the boundaries, but not to the point where things do not work. 10% is a very cautious estimate," she considers.

Over Optimistic

Neil Ricard, a Gartner Group analyst, said Ms Demopoulos was being over-optimistic and that copper networks with 50 to 500 users were certainly at risk.

... and nothing but the truth!

The FIA's Mike Gilmore, however, suggests that both commentators are highly optimistic. Cat 5 installed before 1998 did not specify all the parameters to guarantee Gigabit Ethernet operation. It should be clear, therefore, that the chances of any existing Cat 5 installations supporting Gigabit Ethernet requirements can be considered a lottery with unknown odds.

This is why so much work is being invested into respecifying the new Cat 5 (1999) Standard. Once this Standard is in place and the requirements met, the new installations MIGHT make Ms Demopoulos' statement a little closer to reality.

it is worth noting that BT has stressed its commitment to internationally standardised Category 5 as the infrastructure standard.

BT says its 'positioning statement' follows recent market confusion concerning future developments in cabling, particularly the proposed planned introduction of Category 6 and 7 standards in the year 2000. "The modest amount of extra bandwidth spectrum provided by Cat 6 cable is very unlikely to be utilised by businesses in terms of everyday voice and data requirements - and yet the costs involved for customers are substantial," says Peter Crouch, cabling marketing manager, BT Business Systems.

"Cat 5 is easy to install and maintain. It's a costeffective investment which will meet current and future needs and is nowhere near the end of its useful life. Installing Category 7 will be complex and very expensive, due to screening requirements of the completely new cable and connectors. **With this in mind, BT recommends that if a business needs capacity in excess of a Gigabit to the desktop, then fibre is a lower cost, proven alternative.'**

Electra-Net's MD Joins FIA Council and the Company Leaves Home

Confirmed just too late for inclusion in the latest edition of the *FIA Guide to Members Products and Services*, Electra-Net (UK) Ltd has announced that it will be operating from new offices as of 1st January 1999. Larger premises have been acquired less than a mile away from the original headquarters and these will provide the extra space needed to accommodate the company's growth over the next few years.

Andy Joins FIA Council

Since its recent acceptance as a member of the FIA, the company has given great support to FIA projects and now had an even more direct involvement following the appointment of its managing director, Andy Richards, to the FIA Management Council at the recent AGM.

The current move is a result of the great success enjoyed by Electra-Net over the past two years as a provider of high quality subcontract labour to the industry. Clients range from local Software Houses to Computer Services companies and major Network Installers operating on a national scale.

Work is also undertaken on a fixed price or day-rate basis for other installation companies who require additional skilled labour during busy times, or who simply find it more practical and cost effective to use a company based nearer to customers in the south-west.

With its own team of fourteen directly employed engineers, Electra-Net can take on any project involving UTP, STP, IBM Type 1, Coax and, of course, fibre optic installation, termination and testing.. The company can also provide engineers who have been specially trained to work on specialist systems including ITT Cannon LANConnect 5, Ortronics, Connectix Net5 and AMP NetConnect..

Database Initiative

As part of Electra-Net's commitment to ongoing and active involvement with the FIA, many of the company's employees will

be registered and made available as part of the newly launched Recognised Qualifications Database initiative. The new address is as follows: **Unit 6, Williams Business Park, Gore Road, New Milton, Hampshire BH25 6SH. Tel: 01425 612441 Fax: 01425 616317**

FIA Web-Site Introductory Floppy

FIA web-site usage continues to grow with over 800 new companies a month accessing the pages. This, as most people will know, is concurrent with the "explosion" of E-commerce via the internet. Even so, the FIA is aware that many more businesses have yet to recognise the potential and deploy the necessary infrastructure to link to the World Wide Web.

Even when "surfing" the internet, how many companies outside the FIA's membership understand the range of services that the FIA can provide and benefit companies that are involved in the highly diverse fibre optic industry?

To address both these issues, an initiative has been implemented to promote and guide people through the considerable "hype".

An article on the subjects has been produced by Andrew Watson of 3M and Richard Wenner of Lightdata that will be shortly published in appropriate publications. A leaflet has also been printed to list the different services accessible through the web site or to members of the FIA.

To support these activities a floppy disc has been produced through sponsorship by **3M Telecom Systems** (the manufacturers of the Volition Cabling System). This will be used in the membership packs, at exhibitions and conferences and in response to enquires from the published articles. It has been designed to make it easy to open and explore the FIA's web site and also promotes the benefits of membership.

For those using a PC connected to the outside world, a link from the disk has been provided to gain direct access to the FIA web site. Copies are available from the Secretariat.

3M and Volition are trademarks of 3M company.

FIA/CABLE & WIRELESS SEMINAR

Training and the Impact of New Cabling Standards and Technologies

A 1-day event to be held at the Cable & Wireless College, Coventry on

16th February 1999

Organised by the FIA in partnership with the Cable & Wireless College

The seminar will address the following issues:

Morning - TRAINING

Qualifications - with such confusion about different qualification schemes, the industry needs to know what the schemes offer, if they are relevant, and which ones are truly appropriate. And why should a business invest in training its staff? – **A speaker from the TVSC will provide the answers**

When deciding on **outsourcing training**, what guidelines & benchmarks should be used? – **A speaker from Cable & Wireless will provide the answers**

There are a number of different **Training Initiatives** being promoted such as ELCIS and BICSI – what value do these have? – **A speaker from the Training Provider sector will provide the answers**

FIA Approved Training Scheme – its value to the industry and to those that want to join the industry – **A speaker from the FIA will give the facts**

Afternoon

Impact of new cabling technologies and standards

Cat 6 – Cat -7 - Fibre – **A leading figure in the industry will assess the reality of the technologies**

The impact of Gigabit Ethernet – **FIA chairman Mike Philips will assess the technology and its future in the industry**

Fibre-to-the-Desk - a positive solution - **Speakers from 3M will show the way forward**

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Network managers, IT managers, Installers and System integrators

Call the Secretariat NOW to reserve your place

- ◆ Do you use Fibre Optic Cabling?
- ◆ Do you Design, Specify or Install Fibre Optic Systems ?
- ◆ Are you a Manufacturer or Distri-butur of Fibre Optic Systems or Components ?

... then there is a mass of useful information for you on the FIA's DTI supported web site

Formed in 1990, its membership is concentrated mainly in the UK but Overseas Chapters service other member organisations across the world.

The FIA Web site is truly a Treasure Chest of information providing in-depth coverage of:

FIA Approved Installers ■ FIA Approved Installer Scheme ■ FIA Approved Training Provider Scheme ■ FIA Approved Training Providers ■ Buy & Sell ■ BS7718 – Code of Practice for the Installation of Fibre Optic Cabling ■ Cable Installers ■ Calibration Services ■ Consultants ■ Discussion Forum ■ Distributors ■ Employment ■ Events ■ FAQ's ■ Glossary of Terms ■ Industry News ■ ISO 9000 – Registration Scheme ■ Trade Magazines ■ Manufacturers ■ Members Forum ■ FIA Members ■ FIA Membership Rules ■ NVQ's ■ New Products ■ FIA Newsletters ■ Press Releases ■ Site Sponsors??? ■ Standards ■ Statistics???

Houses ■ Training & Training Providers ■ and the Year 2000

Reveal the treasures with THIS key:

www.fibreoptic.org.uk