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FIBREOPTIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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(*Fibre Optic Solutions*)

Andrew Watson - Vice Chairman and Commercial
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Mike Gilmore - Technical Director and Treasurer
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Peter Thompsett - (*Ensign Communications*)

Steve Strange (*Anixter (UK)*)

Paul Taylor - (*AEC*) Co-opted

The FIA is a Company Limited by Guarantee

A warm welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

464 - Total Fibre Networks Ltd.

466 - TriNet Installations Ltd.

467 - Betterbox Communications Ltd.

468 - Electroquest

470 - J. Brand Ltd.

471 - Advanced Training Services Ltd..

Associate

469 - BAA plc

Personal

465 - Sean Smith

New FIA Technical Support Document

FIA Technical Director Mike Gilmore has announced that the FIA is developing yet another new support document for its members. This is intended to bring members up-to-date with recent changes in the installation sector that are not covered by existing standards or specifications.

The document reference will be *TSD-2000-4-2-1* and its title will be "*TESTING OF INSTALLED CABLING Part 1: Attenuation Using Light Source and Power Meter Equipment.*"

Background

International standards exist for the measurement of link and channel attenuation (insertion loss) for singlemode optical fibre. BS IEC 61280-4-2 is the UK version of this standard. There is currently no multimode equivalent although an Annex to the forthcoming EN 50346 document contains relevant information. However, the methods shown in both of these documents are only relevant to connection systems that use a plug-adaptor-plug configuration and assumes that the test equipment measures an single optical fibre in a single direction.

A number of changes in the testing environment have occurred in the last two years including:

- the development of connection systems that do not have adaptors (i.e. plug-socket);
- the development of connection systems that use dissimilar plugs (e.g. MT-RJ);
- the release of test instrumentation that tests duplex systems in different directions at different wavelengths (and in different ways);
- the dawn of test equipment that allows the launch condition to be selected.

It is an alarming fact that many of these changes have no technical foundation and that installers have a lower level of understanding than ever before.

The FIA propose to produce *TSD-2000-4-2-1* as an electronic document (free to members) that defines the appropriate test methodologies depending upon the generic type of the test equipment used and the type of cabling to be tested.

Mike Gilmore will introduce these issues at a forthcoming FIA Breakfast Seminar on 18th October 2001.

Checking Qualifications or Looking for a Job?

The FIA's **SkillsMatch** page on the Association's web site is going from strength to strength. This unique initiative allows personnel holding relevant qualifications in fibre optic technologies to record their achievements on our web-site database, thus enabling employers to undertake checks on-line. It also offers a powerful medium for those seeking employment and for companies looking for staff with specific qualifications.

With details of qualifications obtained located at www.fibreoptic.org.uk/efiasvrql.htm, the first section of the scheme is open to members and non-members alike and forms a comprehensive register of qualified personnel in various fibre optic disciplines. The information includes the names of the personnel, their date of birth, qualifications, certificate details, and the name of the organization that carried out their assessment. Hyperlinks to the "assessors" sites are included if they are FIA members.

The second section is accessible only by FIA members and provides a simple, cost-effective means of allowing qualified personnel who are seeking employment to advertise their availability for work.

The FIA believes the scheme will become a major element in the recruitment of fibre optic professionals.

All those on the database are kept advised about future FIA seminars and other training initiatives that may be of interest and for which they may qualify for discounted rates.

A further benefit is that **SkillsMatch** is linked to the "employment area" on the web-site which allows FIA members to advertise their employment opportunities. So if FIA members wish to advertise for staff, a close bond can be formed between the two areas.

The site gives full details of the opportunities available. Qualified personnel can register their details for an annual fee of just £25 plus VAT. The FIA secretariat will be happy to help those interested or the details can be completed on the downloadable Application Form.

LAN Application Support Guide

Don't forget about the **FIA LAN Application Support Guide** (free to members, £150 to non-members) which introduces the concept of optical fibre cable categories in support of the international and European standards. The Guide is now available for members to **download free of charge** from the 'members' (password protected) area of the FIA web site.

Move for Britelec Network Services

Essex-based Britelec Network Services has moved to larger premises on Springwood Industrial Estate having outgrown its previous location in London Road, Braintree. The move is part of proposed ongoing expansion plans. Britelec Network Services are an independent technology company specialising in computer networking. This covers all aspects of voice, data and optical fibre installations, including cabling and active equipment.

Britelec had been at the London Road premises for the past six years. We were very limited for space at our former offices, which was holding back our plans for growth,' said Managing Director, Brian Tuff.

Britelec can now be found at: 1B Cooper Drive, Springwood Industrial Estate, Braintree, Essex CM7 2RF.
Tel: 01376 321330, Fax: 01376 340006
Sales/Technical Support: 01376 552323
Email: info@britelec.com. Web Site: www.britelec.co.uk
Sales Site: www.switchesonline.co.uk

Breakfast Seminars

FIA Breakfast Seminar (11th October 2001)

Enhanced bandwidth optical fibre cabling

As a special service to Scottish members as well as other interested delegates in the area, the FIA is to repeat a seminar delivered earlier this year in the London area. The event will be held on 11th October 2001 at the Edinburgh Airport Hilton Hotel. The speakers and topics are:

Tony Buckingham of **Nexans** will discuss the **Practicalities and Issues raised by Higher Performance Fibres**.

Mike Gilmore, **FIA Technical Director**, will present **New Standards for Fibre Optic Cables** and **Installation and Testing Issues Raised by SFF Connectors**.

FIA Breakfast Seminars (18th October 2001)

Bisham Abbey, Marlow, Buckinghamshire.

"Installation Testing Practice - are you in control?"

As infrastructures become increasingly complex and the options more varied, how do you know that what you see is what you are getting? Is the test practice in compliance with the latest developments in standards and what are the choices? This seminar outlines the options, their implications and the correct practices. The seminar will be of use both to those responsible for the testing and to the end-user in understanding that due diligence has been correctly carried out and, equally importantly, has been properly documented.

Speaker: Mike Gilmore, FIA Technical Director

FIA Breakfast Seminars (4th/11th December 2001)

The New Singlemode Technologies"

The first December 2001 Seminars is to be held at Bisham Abbey, Marlow, Buckinghamshire. It is planned that the second is to be at a venue (yet to be decided) in Scotland.

"Singlemode is singlemode – it's a standard" was a phrase commonly used throughout our industry. However, there are new breeds of singlemode optical fibre and new transmission techniques which have produced a whole set of standards, acronyms and associated products: these changes may have bypassed those not directly involved.

The FIA will be inviting representatives from two major suppliers to the sector who will bring delegates right up to date with current technologies and trends.

Costs for each Seminar are just £45 + vat for FIA members (£125 + vat non-members). Contact the FIA secretariat for full details.

Formula for Fibre Capability

Two scientists at Bell Labs have developed a mathematical formula that approximates the limit to how much information can be sent down an optical fibre.

Reporting in *Nature*, Partha Mitra and Jason Stark state that they related the non-linear nature of the propagation of light to a linear channel with multiplicative noise. Using this concept, they were able to construct an estimate for maximum data rates.

The key conclusion of their work is that increasing power does not boost the information capacity in a linear fashion. Beyond a certain point, the rise in noise level prevents any growth in data rate.

Raman Boost for Undersea Pump Laser

Agere Systems has developed a pump laser using Raman amplification. Aimed at submarine optical networks, Raman amplification boosts signals more efficiently than erbium-doped amplifiers, which are widely used. Agere claims its laser is the first to use Raman amplification in this application.

The company comments: 'Raman uses the transmission fibre itself as the amplification medium. We generally use a Raman pump source at 1480nm, getting a signal gain 60 to 100nm greater than this. The pump causes phonon vibration within the fibre, which amplifies the signal as it passes.'

Apparently, the technique produces a lower signal to noise ratio than erbium-doped amplification. This is because the amplification is more gradual, thus reducing the impact of noise at the beginning of the amplification.

The pumps are now being tested and must be guaranteed to have a lifetime of at least 20 years.

www.fibreoptic.org.uk

the fast route to obtaining the latest FIA news

OPTO 2001 in Paris

– A Dedicated Area for FIA Members

This is just a reminder that the FIA is to exhibit at OPTO 2001, which is to be held from 23–25 October 2001 at the Paris Expo, Porte de Versailles. It takes place at the same time, and in the same exhibition centre, as three other major exhibition and conference business events: *Electronics Week 2001*, the *Physics Exhibition 2001* and *Capteurs 2001*.

In the last issue of the *Newsletter*, we revealed that the organisers have offered special facilities to any members wishing to have their own stand in an FIA Area at the show.

The event will benefit this year from three important and effective partnerships set up with the **Société Française d'Optique (French Optical Society)**, the **Club Optique** (Optics Industry Association) and **Optics Valley**.

If you would like to book space or make further enquiries, it is important that you mention this news item and the fact that you are an FIA member when you contact the organisers via mrenoult@exposium.fr.

Lightspeed Europe 2001

4-6 December 2001, Earls Court, London, UK

Endorsed by the FIA, Lightspeed Europe is claimed to be the first European optical networking event to take the optical message beyond the industry itself and out to the service provider, carrier and enterprise community. It is a joint venture together with Lightreading.com, a leading online resource for the optical networking industry. The exhibition showcases those companies leading the way in optical networking and runs alongside a highly topical conference programme compiled by Light Reading.

The keynote speakers include: Dr. David Huber: President and CEO, Corvis Corporation, Scott Kriens: Chairman, President and CEO, Juniper Networks, Dr. Hermann Hauser: Director, Amadeus Capital Partners Ltd.

Pre-register for FREE exhibition entry at:
www.lightspeedeurope.com.

The FIA "LAN Application Support Guide" is now available for download FREE to members - simply access the "Members Only" area and select the Documents option

OTT Offers Special Training Rates for ECA Members

FIA member Optical Technology Training (OTT) is now offering special rates for all members of the Electrical Contractors Association (ECA). This follows the announcement that the ECA has appointed OTT as its preferred training provider for the City and Guilds 3466 qualifications and a range of IT cabling courses.

"Many of our members have booked training courses with OTT and I'm sure that the special rates will encourage even more of our members to take advantage of what is on offer. Our relationship with OTT reinforces that we are keen to offer only the very best in terms of training and development services" comments Stephen Plant, Business Development and Training Manager of the ECA.

ECA members can now, for example, train a team of six installation staff to the nationally recognised City & Guilds 3466-04 standard for professional installers of IT copper cabling for just £607.50 + VAT per person. OTT's new 'real world' two-day courses in estimating, planning and directing IT cabling projects are also on offer for only £445.50 + VAT per person.

The ECA is taking a leading role in ensuring that its members receive quality training so that they can provide professional installation services in IT cabling. OTT offers a full range of quality practical training courses for maintenance, management, sales and installation staff.

All the courses can be delivered at OTT's extensive training facilities in Skipton, Yorkshire, at ECA regional offices or on-site at ECA members' premises.

For more information about these courses, either visit the ECA web site www.eca.co.uk under Training/Links/Optical Technology Training or www.ott.co.uk Tel: 01756 797155

CALLING ALL TRAINING PROVIDERS WITHIN THE FIA

Please ensure that you update your details on the FIA Web Site as regularly as possible. It is a valuable resource on the site which is accessed many times each day. Both Approved and Non-Approved Training Providers are featured. The original printed guide to FIA Training Providers has been replaced by the web site guide.

Complete Cat 6 Solution for South Africa

Moving away from fibre, we hear that Molex Premise Networks is now offering its South African customers a complete Category 6 cabling solution with locally manufactured cable which includes Molex PowerCat 6 connectivity modules and Lambda Category 6 cable.

Lambda Cables was one of the first manufacturers in the world to get its Cat 6 cable approved to the latest draft standard by independent test house Delta Laboratories. It is also the only company in South Africa to manufacture Cat 6 cable.

Paul Moulster, Sales Manager for Molex Premise Networks Sub-Saharan Africa said: 'The cable from Lambda completes the PowerCat 6 range available to South African distributors. It allows them the choice of selecting a local supplier which adds to the overall cost-effectiveness of the Molex solution.'

For further details, contact: mcoulthard@molex.com.

Panduit Endorses RCDD Qualification

The RCDD qualification comes into the news again with an announcement that qualified BICSI RCDDs (Registered Communications Distribution Designers) can now approve and sign off Panduit installations for warranty purposes.

Alan Farrimond, Panduit's Business Development Director, said, 'We recognise that qualified RCDDs already meet the stringent criteria of our warranty requirements; therefore they do not need to undertake further technological training with Panduit.'

Over 100 RCDDs in Europe: According to Allen Burton, BICSI Europe regional manager, Europe now boasts more than 100 RCDDs. For an RCDD application form and exam schedule, or a list of training providers, contact BICSI-Europe on 01206 579899 or visit the BICSI website at www.bicsi.org.

This Newsletter is provided as a means of maintaining communication between and with our Members.

It can, therefore, promote the activities of Members to other Members. Articles, product information, news items etc. are always welcome.

Please send the information via email (jpg illustrations) to Roy Atterbury via roy@attassoc.demon.co.uk

Optical Access Networks

Backed by the support of the FIA, a conference on Optical Access Networks will take place from 3rd - 5th October 2001 at the London Hilton on Park Lane. Its main theme will be: *Developing strategies for successfully implementing fibre in the last mile*

While it is accepted that today's optical networks may be big enough and fast enough to span the globe, their ultimate value will be gauged by how well they deliver broadband services to business and residential customers over the last mile. Over the next few years the use of fibre in the access network promises to

transform the broadband access market by eliminating bandwidth bottlenecks and eradicating delays in service provisioning.

The organisers of the conference, EF telecoms, have carefully researched and produced what will be a definitive niche event focusing solely on implementing fibre in the access network to give delegates a comprehensive guide and help them formulate their business plans.

By attending the conference, delegates will hear in-depth presentations from some of the industry's leading experts, each bringing with them their own unique blend of insight and experience. The speaker panel has been carefully selected to provide an unsurpassed mix of operator and vendor perspectives which includes: Telia UK, Telenor, Fibernet, Telewest, Quantum Bridge, World Wide Packets, Siemens, Ovum, Broadband Wireless Association, PurOptix.

The key issues that Optical Access Networks will cover include:

- Upgrading an existing access network vs deploying new infrastructure: comparing xDSL and optical fibre;
- Strategies for deciding where and how to deploy fibre in the access network and which services and applications will create bandwidth hot spots;
- The business case for deploying FTTB and FTTH and creating a solid business plan;
- Alternatives to using fibre in the last mile and the future role of Ethernet in next generation optical access networks;
- The potential of passive optical networks (PONs) as an access network architecture;
- Strategies for targeting the European MTU market.

Following the conference on the 5th October will be a one-day workshop led by Terawave entitled "Introduction to Passive Optical Networks".

To secure your place on what promises to be a hugely successful and informative conference, email: monika@ef-telecoms.co.uk, or call +44 (0) 20 7878 6932. or visit: www.ef-telecoms.co.uk/oan/fia ,

SUPERCATEX - UK Catalogue Exhibitions for Overseas Shows

Devised by the Department of Trade & Industry (DTI) and developed with the Institute of Export and Source of Supply (UK) Ltd (SOS), SuperCatex catalogue exhibitions are proving to be a cost-effective means for British Exporters to explore new markets and increase their exposure overseas.

SuperCatex exhibitions are held in conjunction with the British Embassy or Consulate on the ground and often supported by the local Chamber of Commerce. Both the Embassy and the Chamber of Commerce invite their databases of local companies to the exhibition with the express purpose of encouraging new business for British Exporters.

Custom Built

In a custom-built exhibition arena, usually at a top-class hotel or the local Chamber of Commerce, the event serves as an avenue for local business people to collect information on UK companies with which they are interested in doing business. All enquiries for products are logged via a computerised registration system and fed back to the UK supplier after the event for follow up and potential new business.

Visitors to the show can also obtain a customised copy of the 'British Exporter Directory' CD-ROM featuring over 55,000 UK suppliers of goods and services. Demonstrations of the UK Government's web site and static displays of innovative products and services provide added depth to each exhibition.

Shows held so far this year have produced over 30,000 sales leads for British exporters from businesses based in Dubai, Sharjah, Tripoli, Manila, Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Auckland and Christchurch.

Interest

'Even with the strength of sterling at the moment, there is still tremendous interest in what the UK has to offer', says James O'Sullivan, Managing Director of SOS: 'SuperCatex is a new concept to most of the countries we visit, and visitors appreciate having over 250 British Exporters under one roof.'

Exhibitors can send up to 100 catalogues (or 10kg of material) to each venue for display and distribution, have their full company profile and colour scans featured on the special CD ROM created for each show, and get good coverage in the SuperCatex visitors guide. Costs range from £250 for a single event to £425 for a multi-venue event.

Details can be found at www.supercatex.co.uk or by calling Mike Forster at SOS on +44 (0)117 909 9990.

Fibre Optics Keeps Growing

According to recent press reports, the fibre optics market will continue to expand despite the slow-down. This appears to be the message from Strategy Analytics

Its most recent study suggests that gallium arsenide (GaAs) technology will become the predominant technology in the fibre optic analogue IC market, which will grow to \$1.6bn in 2004, up from \$350m in 1999, a compound annual average growth rate of 34%

Asif Anwar, an analyst with Strategy Analytics GaAs and high-speed circuit strategic advisory service, said: 'The demand for increased bandwidth is shifting the market to focus on 10Gbit/s technology and 40Gbit/s technology based on indium phosphide (InP).'

And there do not seem to be too many technical difficulties hindering the rollout of high bandwidth all-optical networks, according to some companies. Alcatel, for one, expects to begin deploying 40Gbit/s networks next year. Bernard Le Mouel, CTO of Alcatel's optics group, said: 'We are already thinking about how to run networks at 10Petabit/s.'

Strategy Analytics believes that the InP-dominated 40Gbit/s market will be the second largest for fibre optic systems by 2004.

ARABCOM 2002

Some of our readers may be interested in ARABCOM 2002 which is to be held in Qatar from 21 - 23 April 2002 and, we are told, will be dealing with a record breaking increase in the markets covered.

This will be the 5th Annual International Forum and Exhibition for the Development of Telecommunications, Information

Technologies, Broadcasting, and Postal markets in the Arab states, GCC and Middle East region. The 3-day Forum and Exhibition is now well established with the Forum, alone, expected to attract over 1000 delegates.

Visit www.arabcom.com for more details.

www.fibreoptic.org.uk

the fast route to obtaining the latest FIA news

New Kit Provides Fibre Termination in Two Minutes Without Power

Molex Premise Networks has launched a unique fibre termination kit to provide fast and reliable termination. The low cost compact kit is fully operational without power and is easy to use, reducing the installation time to just two minutes per connector.

The self-contained kit comes complete with essential equipment required for carrying out field termination. It includes all necessary cutting, stripping and polishing equipment, 12 connectors, adhesive, accelerant, a stripping template and installer-friendly termination procedures.

The Molex Xpress Termination kit is suitable for local area network (LAN) applications and is designed for use on Xpress STTM and SC connectors.

Industry Proven

Simple and low loss (0.34dB typical) termination is achieved by combining industry proven zirconia ferrule connector technology with a one-part cold cure adhesive. Once the adhesive has been applied directly to the fibre, a drop of accelerant ensures an almost instantaneous bond between the fibre and ceramic ferrule. The adhesive offers a mechanical benefit over 'crimp' type terminations, as it supplies extra support in the ferrule. Normal polishing procedures complete the termination.

The Xpress connectors have been tried and tested in the Molex Reliability Laboratory where they are tested to ensure compliance to IEC 60874-10, IEC 61754-2 and TIA/EIA 568. The connectors have an operational temperature range from -10°C to 60°C.

Polishing consumables and connector kits are available as discrete items.

For further information please contact Martin Coulthard at mcoulthard@molex.com or visit www.molexpn.co.uk.

Health and Safety Issues in Fibre Optics

The following is based on an article written by FIA Technical Director Mike Gilmore for *Practical Electrician* which may be of interest to some of our less technical readers and a reminder to others.

All contractors involved with the installation of optical fibre cables must be aware of the specific health and safety issues associated with laser sources, the optical fibre waste created and the processing chemicals used during the installation process.

As with most things, common sense goes a long way in safety matters.

Optical power

A frequently asked question in training sessions is: 'How many times can you look down a fibre?' The trite answer is 'twice – once with each eye!'

The truth is that you should *never* be tempted to look down an optical fibre or into a port on a piece of transmission equipment. You may have seen laser hazard warning signs on sites; these probably relate to visible laser light. The wavelength of laser sources used in fibre optic networks is invisible to the human eye and must be treated as a potential hazard.

IEC 60825-1 defines the Classes into which laser devices fall, with Class 1 being the lowest output power range: the higher the Class, the greater the hazard. Unfortunately, the optical transmission equipment installed in LAN/WAN applications can easily be changed, creating an unknown future risk. IEC 60825-2 provides specific information on the management of risk for the fibre optics industry in such situations. FIA TSD-2000-5-1 aims to interpret the information contained with the 60825 standards on behalf of professional installers.

Fibre Waste

Optical fibre shards represent a definite risk of injury. Not only are they very painful if they penetrate the skin, they cannot be found by X-rays. Leaving waste on the floor of the cabinet, inside the patch panel or collecting it inside a match-box is definitely NOT the answer. Optical fibre off-cuts should be collected in "sharps" containers, removed from site and they should be disposed of as hazardous waste. FIA TSD-2000-5-3 provides further details.

Chemicals

A variety of chemicals, including chemical strippers to remove optical fibre coatings, adhesives, polishing agents and cleaning materials may be used during the installation process. The controls applied to such chemicals are defined in the COSHH (Control of Substances Hazardous to Health) regulations. Further advice with regard to management of the materials is included in BS 7718. FIA TSD-2000-5-2 collates the information from both sources.

The FIA is just about to complete a number of Technical Support Documents (free to members) that provide detail explanations of some of these issues; more are in the pipeline. These are as follows:

- LAN Application Support Guide** (TSD-2000-1-1) *Published*
- WAN Application Support Guide** (TSD-2000-1-2) *To be published*
- Cable Selection Guide** (TSD-2000-2-1) *Published*
- Connecting Hardware Selection Guide** (TSD-2000-2-2) *To be published*
- Cabling Quality Assurance** (TSD-2000-3-1) *To be published*
- Cabling Administration** (TSD-2000-3-2) *To be published*
- Cabling Installation Practice** (TSD-2000-4-1) *To be published*
- Testing of Installed Cabling – LSPM** (TSD-2000-4-2-1) *In preparation*
- Testing of Installed Cabling – OTDR** (TSD-2000-4-2-2) *To be published*
- Optical Power Safety Levels** (TSD-2000-5-1) *In preparation*
- Optical Fibre – Handling of Processing Chemicals** (TSD-2000-5-2) *In preparation*

Optical Fibre – Disposal of Waste (TSD-2000-5-3) *In preparation*

Readers of this *Newsletter* will be kept advised about the progress and publication details of the documents mentioned above.

Club Optique

The Club Optique is the FIA's sister association in France. There is a constant interchange of ideas between the two groups including the arrangements for the FIA's participation on the Club Optique stand at the Opto 2001 Exhibition and Conference in Paris next month (see Guide to Forthcoming Events below.)

The Club holds regular meetings for its members and recently had a presentation from Draka Fileca Foptica on its range of 10GbE fibre optic products. More recently, Rocquencourt-based INRIA, which is a large research centre for the communications sector including research into systems and the simulation and optimisation of complex systems, reviewed the scope of its work and discussed some of the projects it has handled.

During 2000, the company carried out 80 major contracts for companies such as Alcatel, Renault and CSF.

The Club can be contacted at the following email address: jm.mur@tycoelectronics.com.

Guide to Forthcoming Shows and Conferences

The Kagan Broadband Interactive Summit – A Strategic Conference with Presentations from Leading Experts from Around the World Claridges, London 25-26 September 2001

Networked Storage Conference London 27 September 2001
For information and online registration, visit <http://emea.idc.com/fprum/uk/storage>

2nd International Conference on Outsourced Billing
3-5 October 2001 Grand Hotel Palazzo Della Fonte, Fiuggi, Italy
Contact: monika@ef-telecoms.co.uk Tel: +44 (0)20 7878 6932 or the web site www.ef-telecoms.co.uk

Optical Access Networks – Developing Strategies for Successfully Implementing Fibre in the Last Mile.
Supported by the FIA. London 3-5 October 2001. There will also be a post conference workshop on 5 October 2001 called

Introduction to Passive Optical Networks. For further information, contact Julia Manley on +44 (0)20 7878 6981 or email: Julia@ef-telecoms.co.uk. Details are also on the web site: www.ef-telecoms.co.uk

FIA Breakfast Seminar – Enhanced Bandwidth Optical Fibre Cabling – Practicalities and Issues Raised by Higher Performance Fibres plus New Standards for Fibre Optic Cables plus Installation and Standards Issues Raised by SFF Connectors Edinburgh Airport Hilton Hotel 11 October 2001. Contact the FIA Secretariat.

BCE 2001 –Broadband Communications Europe (Claimed to be Europe’s Largest Broadband Convention) London 16-18 October 2001 For details, visit www.broadband-convention.com

FIA Breakfast Seminar – Installation Testing Practices – are you in control? Bisham Abbey, 18 October 2001. Contact the FIA Secretariat.

2nd International Conference on Optical Components London 6-8 November 2001 Contact: monika@ef-telecoms.co.uk Tel. +44 (0)20 7878 6932 or web site: www.ef-telecoms.co.uk

Opto 2001 Exhibition and Conference Paris 23-25 October 2001. **Supported by the FIA and with its own stand at the show.** Contact: mrenoult@exposium.fr

Irish Telecoms 2001 Dublin 31 October and 1 November 2001 For more information, visit www.smi-online.co.uk/irish2001.asp

Optical Networks 2001 27-28 November 2001, London, UK. **Endorsed by the FIA.** For more information, visit www.visioninbusiness.com

FIA Breakfast Seminar – The New Singlemode Technologies 4 December 2001 at Bisham Abbey, 11 December in Scotland – contact the FIA Secretariat.

FIA Annual General Meeting - 5 December 2001 at The Saracen’s Head, Towcester.

Lightspeed Europe 2001 **Supported by the FIA** Earls Court, London 4-6 December 2001. Visit www.lightspeedeurope.com or see this *Newsletter* for details

ARABCOM 2002 Qatar 21-23 April 2002 Visit www.arabcom.com for further information

CeBIT Satellite, Broadcast, Cable & Networks – International Trade Fair Shanghai 29-31 May 2002. Contact Annette.Levy@messe.de for more information.

Success for BICSI First European Conference

The recent BICSI Europe 2001 Annual Conference held in Brighton from 2-5 July was, say the organisers, a resounding success. Almost 500 attended the four-day event and delegates had the opportunity to attend technical seminars and undertake the BICSI RCDD examination. BICSI Board President Richard Powell, RCDD, Executive Director Jay Warmke, and Europe Regional Manager Allen Burton spoke of BICSI's mission to harmonise cabling standards and practices around the world. To increase its global reach, BICSI has begun to provide its technical manuals and educational materials in several languages. At the conference, Warmke stated that BICSI plans to translate its technical manuals into French, Japanese, Portuguese and Spanish.

Burton predicts that BICSI will increase its numbers in Europe to 1000 by 2002.

The Rt. Hon Sir Paddy Ashdown, made a keynote speech and reinforced the importance of a need for a skilled and flexible labour force to prepare for the communication revolution which,

over the next twenty years he believes, will have a similar impact on our society as the car has had over the last 100 years.

For further information on the conference, visit the BICSI website on www.bicsi.org and click on European Union flag.

Advertising on the FIA Web Site

As an FIA member, your company is automatically promoted on the site. Free access to the membership search pages for all visitors to the site provides complete details of our members and the services and products that they offer.

The site is extremely popular and is often the first port of call for FIA enquiries via the Secretariat. Recent figures received from the server show that the site receives around **20,000** requests for information per month!

The comprehensive statistics relating to visitors to the site are regularly updated and can be checked out by visiting www.fibreoptic.org.uk/logfile.html.

Many areas of the site are available to members who wish to advertise their products and services and several of these have already been taken up. A list of the pages available is provided below together with the highly competitive rates for the space. The advertisements can consist of a company logo or text (or both) but must be within the size of 80 x 80 pixels. The advert will appear at or near the top of the relevant page. All prices quoted are for 12 months advertising - representing excellent value for money!

If you have a particular page you wish to reserve (there are only 16 pages available!) contact the FIA Secretariat. We will then send you instructions on how to send your advert to our webmaster together with our invoice for the relevant amount.

Individual pages: The following pages are available **NOW**.

Join the FIA	£150
FIA Links	£150
FIA Membership Search Engine	£150
FIA Policy Statements	£75
Audit Scheme	£75
Employment	£75
e-Services	£75
Events	£75
FIA Membership Fees	£75
Insurance Scheme	£75
Arbitration Scheme	£75
Mart	£75
FIA SkillsMatch	£75
Standards Forum	£75
Approved Training Provider Scheme	£150
<i>(available only to FIA Approved Companies)</i>	
Approved Installer Scheme	£150
<i>(available only to FIA Approved Companies)</i>	

The prices shown are for a 80x80 pixel advert which will appear at or near the top of the relevant page. All prices are net of VAT and cover a 12 month period.