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A warm welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

- 495 - Everlogic Ltd
- 494 - CCL Solutions
- 493 - Independent Communication Solutions Ltd
- 492 - JAC Data Services
- 491 - Management Systems Network Ltd
- 490 - Lucid Optical Services Ltd
- 488 - Leader Optec
- 487 - DJM Communications Ltd
- 486 - Connectorize Ltd
- 485 - Neptune Telecom Services Ltd

Student

- 489 - Richard Orr

New FIA publications

The latest FIA Technical Support Document, the long-awaited, **FIA-TSD- 2000-4-2-1**, covering the use of light source and power meter (LSPM) equipment was published on the web-site in April 2002. The document defines the conventional test methods that have been standardised and harmonised for many years in the US, UK, Europe and international level and discusses the changes required following the introduction of duplex test systems and SFF connecting hardware. The document proceeds to explain the true level of measurement error the impact of this error when short systems (more commonly seen within buildings) are tested.

A second document, **FIA-TSD- 2000-4-2-2**, is now underway and will address testing installed cabling using OTDR equipment. A third document, **FIA-TSD-2000-3-3**, is being written to provide guidance with regard to the installation rules relating to polarity maintenance when using duplex optical fibre connectivity systems. This will provide guidance for all types of installation and will allow installers to select and reference their approach in a particular installation against a set of FIA template.

It is pleasing to report that Standards Australia, the official standards-setting organisation for our colonial cousins "down-under", are planning to join the FIA in order to obtain free access to our Technical Support Documents during the course of development of their new optical fibre cabling standards and specifications.



FIA Technical Support Guides are free to members so get on-line and get downloading

FIBREOPTIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The FIA is a Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Council

- Mike Phillips - Chairman
(Fibre Optic Solutions)
- Andrew Watson - Vice Chairman and Commercial
(Molex Premise Networks)
- Mike Gilmore - Technical Director and Treasurer
(The Cabling Partnership)

Industry Sector Directors

- Paul Bateson - Test & Measurement
(Optical Test and Calibration)
- Stuart Smith - Training and Qualifications
(Cabling Science Ltd.)
- Installation
- John Cupitt - *(Dwellight)*
- Peter Thompsett - *(Ensign Communications)*
- Steve Strange *(Anixter International)*

Advanced Training Centre Approved

FIA member 'Advanced Technology Centre', of Brierley Hill, West Midlands, has been accepted as an FIA Approved Training Provider at Level 1.



Designed to meet the specific needs of SMEs operating in the high technology fields of Electronics, Telecomms and Data Networking, the centre provides support and training using the latest technologies. A research and development facility also offers the opportunity for companies to trial new concepts and work with others to explore and extend cutting edge technologies.

The ATC building is an exciting multi-million pound project at the heart of the Waterfront Business Park in Brierley Hill and is ideally situated to provide a single point solution for companies and individuals. To complement the technology based training environments in a superbly designed interior, it is planned to create a conference centre with seating for 100 that is supported by high levels of ICT equipment affording the opportunity to generate interactive presentations.

For further details, contact: [Russell Ellis](mailto:russell.ellis@stourbridge.ac.uk) Tel: 01384 343106
Email: russell.ellis@stourbridge.ac.uk Further information about the Centre can be found at: www.atc.ac.uk

Data cabling in the Melting Pot – The Great Escape!

On 16th July, in one of his *Melting Pot* seminars, Mike Gilmore, Convenor of the UK IT Cabling Standards Committee, will review current activity in the standards area and provide advice to installers, consultants and clients keen to understand the reality of conforming to the new standards.

At the February meeting of ISO/IEC in Kyoto, Japan, it was agreed to release the FDIS (Final Draft International Standard) of ISO/IEC 11801 Ed. 2. The full standard is now available and no further technical changes can be made. The FDIS is, therefore, a quotable standard. The equivalent CENELEC standard (to be published in the UK as BS EN 50173-1) has also just been published as a final draft.

Never before has so much emphasis been placed on cabling performance in preference to simple implementation rules. Comprehensive testing is considered to be almost mandatory. However, it would appear that obtaining "PASS" results may not be the formality that it has been in the past.

Whether you are testing copper or optical fibre, marginal or even FAIL results are to be expected even if compliant components are used. Competent installers and sensible clients alike will require an agreed quality plan to manage such results in advance of their being obtained. Failure to address the issue will lead to increased costs and delays in payment – neither of which are desirable in the commodity market that is rapidly approaching.

The seminar is at The Building Centre, Store Street, in London and aims to be "required reading" for all users, consultants and installers seeking to address the cost of poor quality assurance techniques in data cabling installations.

Registration begins at 9.00am and the subjects covered embrace *The requirements of the standards; Recognising the problem?; The problem areas: copper; The problem areas: optical fibre; Quality planning; Developing a Universal Quality Plan; Inspection; Test methodology; Management of failure*

The cost of the day is £295 + VAT per person with a discounted rate available to members of the FIA and ECA of £245 + VAT. The fee includes lunch, refreshments and a comprehensive workbook. Contact:

For further details, contact: [The Cabling Partnership, P. O. Box MT 65, LEEDS, West Yorkshire, LS17 8YD, England.](mailto:info@it-cabling.com)
Tel: +44 (0) 113 232 3721 Fax: +44 (0) 113 232 3724 or visit www.it-cabling.com/gendocs/tge2.pdf to download an application form.

FIA Seminar Programme 2002

“Stand Out From the Crowd” 1-day Seminar

The FIA organised a very successful seminar at Bisham Abbey, Bucks on 14th May. The event was aimed at all contractors and installers involved with optical fibre media in LAN and WAN environments, and gave delegates the vital tools and skill sets to enable them to “stand out from the crowd” in an increasingly competitive, almost commodity, market. It was the first in a planned series of events mixing commercial and technical topics of relevance and interest to those involved with the fibre optic market.

The seminar was in two halves. The morning “looking-out” session covered FIA services and how to use them; the use of browser-based technology and CD “soft” documentation to improve system quality assurance and perceived value. A session on network testing, an increasingly important - and much misunderstood - subject, rounded off the first part of the day.

In the afternoon, delegates were treated to the client's “looking-in” perspective. Two presentations, one from Eddie Power of Improcom, consulting engineers, and the other from Mike Daly of HSBC gave a detailed view of their criteria that separate the successful supplier from the also-rans. The afternoon sessions brought fresh insight into what the customer and his advisors actually want and expect – and how to provide it to win the business.

Judging from the time at which the seminar finally concluded there was no shortage of questions and debate - we hope to run this seminar again this year for the unlucky people who could not attend.

FIA Members are encouraged to go to the FIA web site to download recent updates.

Forthcoming Breakfast Seminars

11th July 2002, Bisham Abbey, Buckinghamshire: What qualifications make a datacom specialist?

If you are actively involved in training, recruitment or have an interest in the issues of skills and qualifications then this seminar will provide an important insight to the state of play and a possible approach to resolving the whole very confusing picture. A independent survey has been commissioned by the Electrical Contractors Association to get a perspective on competency levels in the datacoms industry and to see if a viable cross mapping exercise can be done to establish parallel levels of qualifications between the different trades involved in cabling installations. There are two important aspects of this exercise:

1. To set an industry matrix recognised and respected by all in the industry as a true and unbiased standard which can be openly used as a bible by all in the IT industry, academic establishments and learned institutions.
2. To ensure that courses covered are modern, current and cover all current requirements of the industry.

A major part of the problem is that the amount of study time and assessment of prior knowledge/experience is at best uncharted and poorly documented. Any exercise undertaken must take this problem into account in its conclusions. **David Stefanowicz** of the ECA, ITEC will presenting the findings of this comprehensive study, and the direction the ECA will be taking this forward. This is an opportunity for members to understand the picture more correctly and have their input to a key initiative.

Book now! Contact the FIA secretariat for further details. Costs for the Seminar is just £45 + VAT for FIA members (£125 + VAT for non-members).

Exhibit at OPTO 2002 in Paris?

FIA members are being offered a special deal if they would like to exhibit at OPTO 2002 in Paris from 22nd/24th October. The show is to be held at the Paris Expo, Porte de Versailles, in Hall 7.3.

The package, which has been specifically designed to bring FIA members together in a dedicated area, provides a low-cost turnkey solution which removes the need to organise fixtures and fittings. Under the site banner **FIA MEMBERS**, each exhibitor will be provided with a 5m² stand for 1575 euros (further space is available at a cost of 315 euros per square metre) fitted out with its own sign, carpet, partition, furniture - one table two chairs - a documentation display, security services and daily cleaning of the stand. There will also be a common storage area and communication and press services before and during the show.

In addition, each exhibitor will be given further promotion facilities I benefit from the communication plan dedicated to the exhibition. Catalogue, internet site, invitation cards, exposure of the pavilion in all promotional documents, list of exhibitors conveyed in our group and non-group advertising.

The exhibition's press service LBBA CONSEIL will be pleased to help the exhibitors to meet European journalists and to collect company product information to be used when preparing press releases.

For further details contact *Martine Renoult Email* : mrenoult@exposium.fr

Domain scam

One company in particular and possibly some others are trying to make a financial killing on domain addresses. The problem is made more difficult because, when you are approached, it seems that the caller is actually trying to help you.

It works like this - you will get a call from a company that registers domain names and they will say that they have been approached to register a name similar to your own. This, they say, concerns them so if you would like to purchase the name, they will sell it to you and stop 'the other party' using it. Firstly, there is not likely to be another party involved and, secondly, you will be asked to pay a sum that is very much higher than if you simply registered the name with another registration company.

You have been warned!!!

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

News from OTT

Optical Technology Training has completed the first in a series of intensive fibre-optic training courses for Nigeria Telecom 'Nitel' to assist in the current modernisation programme of Nigeria's telecoms network. During a comprehensive 3-week programme, the first team of delegates completed four fibre optics training courses, including the Multimode and Singlemode 3466 City & Guilds Certificate courses, Overseeing External Communications Cabling and Advanced OTDR. The training with OTT was part of a nine-week schedule undertaken by the delegates at a number of locations in the UK and Denmark.

Privatisation of the Nigerian Telecommunications Industry has provided the catalyst for dramatic improvements across its telecoms network. All delegates will play a pivotal role in the modernisation programme currently being implemented across Nigeria. The delegates will be specifically responsible for the installation and maintenance of the fibre optic system between the three main telephone exchanges in the city of Jos, where the population exceeds six million.

New Site Web

OTT has also just launched a new web site - www.ott.co.uk - which provides a new range of interactive services including an on-line booking system for its range of fibre optics and communications courses, a specialist consultancy section for those with a specific enquiry and up-to-date course information and industry links. The site focuses on the needs of its visitors ensuring that people are better informed about courses, qualifications and the industry in general. There are hyperlinks to many useful organisations including equipment manufacturers, standards authorities and industry recognised exhibitions. There are also accommodation and other details.

For delegates visiting OTT's Yorkshire based training facilities for the first time there is a complete section dedicated to the local area from hotels to pubs!

Advanced Fibre Testing Course

OTT has launched a new advanced fibre testing course designed to help data cabling installers and networking professionals deal with today's increasingly complex test requirements and follow the new European testing standard (EN50346).

"The increasing use of high bandwidth systems such as Gigabit and 10Gigabit Ethernet is radically changing the way that fibre optics are being used in datacomms networks," comments Richard Ednay, Technical Director of OTT. "These high data rates force us to use laser, rather than LED technology - and this changes the way that light behaves in multimode optical fibres, he explained. "These complexities are compounded by developments in components such as enhanced performance multimode fibres, small form factor, duplex and hybrid connector systems leading to increasingly complex testing scenarios."

All courses are limited to six delegates to ensure a high level of individual attention and plenty of hands-on practical sessions using all the latest testing equipment and specially constructed test rigs. The cost is £495 + VAT.

Please visit the OTT web site www.ott.co.uk for further information and course dates.

Northern Trust Contract for Molex

Molex Premise Networks has won the contract to provide City of London financial institution The Northern Trust Company, with a new networking infrastructure and database management system. Northern Trust has selected a Molex Category 6 and Real Time intelligent patching system to be installed at their new offices located in Herons Quay, Canary Wharf, and retrofitted to existing offices at Devonshire Square.

For further information, contact: [Martin Coulthard](mailto:Martin.Coulthard@molexpn.co.uk) on +44 (0)1489 898735 or visit www.molexpn.co.uk

FIA Members Guide

Many members will have received their copy of the latest *FIA Guide to Members' Products & Services* which has just come off the press.

The publication contains full contact details about every FIA member with Approved organisations being highlighted throughout. In addition, a comprehensive index allows users to look up products and services by company or by the product/service required

Containing 74pp of valuable information about 200 national and international operations, this is the most comprehensive guide to most of the leading installers and manufacturers in the fibre optics sector.

It will be available at all exhibitions, seminars, and conferences where the FIA has a presence.

Copies are available free-of-charge. If you would like further *Guides* for yourself, a colleague, or another organisation, please contact the Secretariat with your requirements.



Changes to BS 6701 and BS 7718

Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA writes.....

"The IT Cabling Support Group for BSI, TCT7/-/3, has been reviewing the published versions of both BS 6701 and BS 7718. BS 6701 may not be familiar to many optical fibre installers but BS 7718 should be - it is the Code of Practice that governs our installation practices. As such the FIA is directly involved with the review which comes about following the publication of the BS EN 50174 series of standards last year. The group started work on BS 6701 and has only recently started analysing BS 7718. Early indications are that BS 6701 may be upgraded from a Code of Practice to a standard and will sit alongside BS EN 50174-X. The installation content of BS 7718 may well be transferred to the new BS 6701 leaving BS 7718, also upgraded to a full standard, to cover inspection and testing of optical fibre infrastructures. Watch this spacethis could all happen relatively quickly.

TRITEC Wins British Army Approval and more ...

TRITEC Developments Ltd has been awarded a new contract to supply its optical fibre installation equipment to the British Army. The FASE II fusion splicer is being used to install and maintain the Army's optical fibre installations on a worldwide scale. The new contract with the British Army is based on a five-year requirement, supplying nearly 100 fusion splicing units in the first year. One of the first Army units to receive the splicers is Cable Systems Section (CSS), the fibre-optic training department at the Royal School of Signals in Blandford. CSS has provided fibre-optic training to the Royal Signals tradesmen and Ministry of Defence for 15 years. Training focuses on the City & Guilds 3466 qualifications in singlemode and multimode fibre.

African Expansion

TRITEC continues its international expansion by announcing its new partnership with ATC. The company is now the distributor for TRITEC's market leading fibre installation equipment across Africa. ATC is Africa's only manufacturer of optical fibre and is established as the leading producer and supplier of turnkey communication projects and equipment. Furthermore it supplies optical fibre test and fusion splicing equipment to the local Johannesburg and pan-African markets.

This latest announcement follows other recent deals with South American distributor Secotec and the MoD.

New Technology for the Subsea Market

TRITEC has also designed a specialist, bespoke fusion splicing solution for the subsea marketplace - one of the most demanding optical fibre joining environments. The company's FASE II fusion splicer has been adapted to deal with the special needs of the marine environment and includes a modified fibre clamp to cope with the loose-tubed fibre used in specialist underwater communications cabling applications.

Optical Technology Training, a leading provider of communications cabling training, has worked closely with TRITEC Developments for over 10 years. For its range of practical subsea training courses OTT has chosen the adapted FASE II fusion splicer as its preferred splicer. It will be used extensively within the Subsea Umbilical Re-termination Training programme, which has been specially designed by OTT.

For further information visit www.tritec-dev.com or call +44 (0)1925 220466.

ECA ITEC IT Conference 2002

The FIA is working closely with the Electrical Contractors Association to produce two full-day conferences in September and November 2002. The conferences are to be held in Birmingham and London respectively. Full details will be announced in the next Newsletter.

Club Optique

The FIA maintains a close co-operation with its sister association in France, the Club Optique, and the contents of this *Newsletter* are circulated to the Club's members. It is a very active organisation and arranges many meetings, visits and other events for its members. A brief review of its main projects for 2002 is given below:

A meeting on 25th June will deal with the techniques and equipment employed for optical measurement while, on the 5th September, members can visit OCS in Annecy for a presentation on plastic optical fibre. Alcatel will also make a presentation during the visit.

From the 22nd to 24th October, the Club Optique will be exhibiting at the **Opto 2002** show in Paris where it is hoped to have an FIA stand for members.

The final meeting will be on the 12th December when the subject will be the use of long distance fibre optic networks. Presentations will be made by Frédérick Courtot of Colt Télécoms, Jérôme Marc of LD Com, and others to be announced.

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

CableNet and Freshwater Global Join Forces

CableNet Training Services and Freshwater Global Institute (Sydney, Australia) have announced a formal "Strategic Alliance". This agreement enables both organisations to share knowledge, pool resources and provide a much broader range of training and services. The two organisations are similar in their approach to their business and share many common customers, both are BICSI licensed training providers and this alliance will allow a widening of each organisation's portfolio.

Andrew Stevens, sales & marketing director for CableNet Training, said that "the Alliance will enable many of CableNet's courses to be run under licence by Freshwater Global in the Asia/Pacific region".

For further information contact *CableNet Training* on + 44 (0)1284 767100, email enq@cablenet-training.com

Guide to Forthcoming Shows and Conferences

Online Conferences for the European Telecoms Industry. Vision in Business has introduced a new initiative that allows users to access conferences of their choice via their computer. Speakers and presentations from many areas of the sector are available featuring both presentations and slides. Virtually every topic is covered. For a free demonstration, visit www.onlineconferences.net.

Vision in Business has launched a new form of business information, Mini Reports, for the telecomms industry. These contain 6-8pp and there are six reports per month, all of which aim to represent the latest possible information. If you are interested, visit www.mini-reports.com where you can download two reports free of charge. Vision in Business can be contacted on 020 7256 5188 Email: bookings@visioninbusiness.com or visit www.visioninbusiness.com

FIA Breakfast Seminar Bisham Abbey, Buckinghamshire 11 July 2002. For details see this Newsletter.

The Great Escape The Building Centre, London 16 July 2002. For details contact The Cabling Partnership 0113 232 3721.

ECA ITEC IT Conference 2002 The Botanical Gardens Birmingham 17 September 2002. **SUPPORTED BY THE FIA.** Contact details to be announced soon.

5th Annual Irish Telecoms Conference The Shelbourne, Dublin 2-3 October 2002.

For details, visit www.smi-online.co.uk/irisht8.asp

Broadband Communications Europe 2002 Olympia, London 15-17 October 2002.

For details, visit : www.broadband-convention.com

OPTO 2002 Paris 22-24 October 2002. **SUPPORTED BY THE FIA.** Email: mrenoult@exposium.fr

ECA ITEC IT Conference 2002 The IoD London 26 November 2002. **SUPPORTED BY THE FIA.** Contact details to be announced soon.