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A warm welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

496 - Amdahl UK Limited Ltd

Associate

497 - Standards Australia International

UFOs - Unexplained Fibre Optics

For those interested in finding out more about the basics of using fibre optics in the networking environment, a light-hearted but informative FIA publication in .pdf format, "UFOs - Unexplained Fibre Optics" can be downloaded free from the FIA's web site, www.fibreoptic.org.uk.

Everything you wanted to know about fibre optics but didn't like to ask!

ECA gets FIA support for its first Data Conference

The Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA) has a large number of members involved with both the copper and optical fibre aspects of data cabling. The ECA executive has decided to provide those members with technical services to support their activities and has worked with the FIA throughout this year to develop partnerships in a number of areas.

As a consequence of this co-operation the Electrical Contractors Association, supported by the FIA, has created a 1 - day conference that will be held in two separate venues and will cover the latest developments in copper, optical fibre and wireless LAN technology. In addition, the conference will cover associated developments in installation quality assurance and automated infrastructure management.

Presentations will be given by leading industry figures from the FIA itself and FIA members J. Brand and Optical Technology Training. Cabling suppliers Mayflex, and The Siemon Company are also featured in the list of speakers. Further support will come from BICSI Europe, ETSA, and CableNet Training. The event is designed to appeal to both new and experienced installers as well as end users.

The initial conference will be held at the **Birmingham Botanical Gardens Conference Centre** on **17th September**. The second event will be held on **26th November** at the **Institute of Directors, London**.

Delegate fees for **FIA and ECA members** are **£99 plus VAT** for each conference. Places can be booked by contacting Nancy Satariano at the ECA. Tel: 020 7313 4829 or e-mail: nancy.satariano@eca.co.uk.

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)

ECA Conference Agenda

Tim Oldershaw of J Brand Ltd, an FIA member, will be looking at **legal issues**. In addition to system-related issues such as documentation, testing and inspection, he will demonstrate that there is a lot more to the installer's and user's legal obligations than is generally understood.

The **FIA's Andrew Watson** will show that **intelligent connectivity management software** enables the network manager to manage and monitor the physical layer and associated hardware, providing automated network mapping and information on moves and upgrades. This latest network management tool is fast becoming the "must-have" killer application.

Richard Ednay of Optical Technology Training, an FIA member, will be revisiting the debate on **Fibre-to-the-Desk** that has been "just around the corner" for a very long time. Has it now arrived? Or is it still on its way? Do we still need it? Find out the latest status and thinking on this important subject.

Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA, will suggest that a **paperless future should be a prime aim for installers**. He believes paper is an outmoded means of keeping information. Indeed, paperwork is probably the biggest bugbear of most installers' lives. Collecting, retaining, updating and distributing test results, drawings and documentation is a huge challenge. New technology can help: familiar browser technology and a CD-ROM writer means that everyone, even the most computer-phobic, can organise their system data in such a way as to make it a big selling point with customers. Gain the extra edge over the competition by using the power of the PC!

Terry Watson of Mayflex will examine **Wireless networking under IEEE802.11b** that is rapidly increasing in popularity. There are both challenges and opportunities for installers and users alike: - but security is a primary concern and the technology is currently limited to 11Mbps bandwidth over relatively small areas with a limited number of users. How will wireless coexist with cabled networks, now and in the future?

In his second presentation, **Mike Gilmore** will discuss the **challenges of the new optical fibre technologies**. He will point to the fact that as applications become ever more bandwidth-hungry, so IT managers have to consider their migration path to Gigabit and 10Gigabit Ethernet. The implications for fibre cable selection, installation, testing and overall network performance are enormous. For the installer, installation, testing and commissioning procedures are critical. A detailed overview of the opportunities and possible pitfalls will be provided.

John Kellow of The Siemon Company will discuss **Small Form Factor Fibre Technologies**. The small form factor connector is here to stay. This final presentation reviews the various products currently available, the Standards position and looks forward to next generation connector technology.

FIA Seminar Programme 2002

"Stand Out From the Crowd" one more time!!

One of the most successful of the 2002 FIA Seminars was held 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.

Because of its success and the level of interest generated, the FIA are going to repeat the event in October at a central London venue. Members will be advised by e-mail as soon as the final details are available.

The seminar is in two halves. The morning "looking-out" session covers 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 completes off the first part of the day.

In the afternoon, delegates are treated to the client's "looking-in" perspective. At the May event, 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. It is hoped that we can persuade these speakers to donate their valuable time to the FIA once again.

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 and there is still be time to book some space.

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 and will 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

New FIA publications

The complete set of currently available documents is shown below:

- **FIA-TSD-2000-1-1: LAN Application Support Guide**
- **FIA-TSD-2000-2-1: Cable Selection Guide**
- **FIA-TSD-2000-4-2-1: Testing of installed cabling: LSPM**
- **FIA-TSD-2000-5-1: Optical Power Safety Levels**
- **FIA-TSD-2000-5-2: Optical Fibre - Handling of Processing Chemicals**
- **FIA-TSD-2000-5-3: Optical Fibre - Disposal of Waste**

Work has started on **FIA-TSD- 2000-2-2: Connector Selection Guide**. This will provide a "live" archive of connector information and will be available as a .pdf document and as an interactive web-based database.

Another 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.

These documents are free to members so get downloadingwww.fibreoptic.org.uk

Also, don't forget the "Cost Modelling Template" which is available as a free download from the members-only side of the web-site. This spreadsheet allows a highly detailed cost model to be created to compare product offerings across the data cabling market (copper and optical fibre).

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.

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.

A 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 Frédéric 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

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

FIA Members Guide

Many members will have received their copy of the newly published *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 organisations, 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.



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

Photon 02. Cardiff International Arena. 2nd-5th September 2002. Encompassing the Applied Optics and Opto-Electronics Conference, plus an Industrial Technology Programme, and the Photonex 2002 Exhibition.

For details, visit www.photon02.co.uk

ECA ITEC IT Conference 2002 The Botanical Gardens Birmingham 17 September 2002. **SUPPORTED BY THE FIA.** See Page 1 for contact details.

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.** See Page 1 for contact details.