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A warm welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

- 507- Twistnet Communications Limited
- 506 - Belden Wire & Cable
- 505 - Hutchison Communication Systems Ltd
- 504 - Complete Contract Solutions Ltd
- 502 - Telindus THTI
- 501- Active Communication Co. Ltd
- 499 - GCL Ltd
- 498 - Norcomm UK Ltd

Associate Overseas

- 503 - Fluke GmbH

Personal

- 500 - Mark Coker

**FIA membership
reaches an all-time
high of 211**

FIA Annual General Meeting

All FIA members should make a note of a very special date in the FIA calendar. The Association's Annual General Meeting is to be held on Thursday, 12th December 2002 at the Saracens Head Hotel in Towcester and all attendees are invited to join Council Members for a buffet lunch following the event.

The FIA came into being to serve the Fibre Optics Industry and those working within the sector. A glance through our web site will show just how much has been achieved since its formation in February 1990. The Association now has an international presence and has played a very big part in the raising of the profile of the fibre optics industry in both the UK and internationally. Many of its publications have become the definitive guides to achieving good practices in the industry.

However, inputs to the FIA Council from members are a vital element in the process of moving the Association forward in a way that bring event more benefits to both members and the industry. The AGM presents the membership with a prime opportunity to offer new ideas, make criticisms, and actually become a part of the decision-making processes if the desire exists. New people are always welcome to play a role within the Management Council – and can be voted on to the Council at the AGM or co-opted to carry out specialist roles.

The Agenda for the AGM will be sent to all members at the beginning of November. The secretariat will be happy to provide any further information.

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!

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/FIA Conference Boosts Cabling Knowledge

Andrew Watson, FIA Commercial Director, looks at a successful new initiative

During September, and set in the exotic surrounds of Birmingham's Botanical Gardens, the first of two cabling technology conferences was held by the Electrical Contractors' Association with technical support from the FIA. The well-attended event was aimed at members of the ECA working in the copper/fibre data cabling field as well as others involved in the area. An enthusiastic audience of delegates from a broad cross-section of the industry benefited from a comprehensive programme presented by acknowledged industry experts.

Seven papers were included in the event beginning with Tim Oldershaw, J.Brand Ltd, presenting "**IT and the Law**" a comprehensive guide to creating a healthy IT system whilst complying with the law.

Changing the subject completely, FIA director Andrew Watson and Simon Barnard of Molex Premise Networks presented a detailed analysis of **Automated Infrastructure Management** - a technology that is gaining momentum in corporate networks for the control, management and administration of infrastructures. Following this Richard Ednay of Optical Technology Training reviewed the topic of **fibre-to-the desk**, including basic requirements and the possible options available now that new networking solutions are coming to the fore.

The morning concluded with a look at making use of **browser technology** as an invaluable aid for installers in the recording of documentation and records of an installation. Potentially a vital element of any network installation, this topic was presented by Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA.

After lunch, the subject matter turned to the increasing use of **Wireless LAN technology**. Terry Watson of Mayflex gave a very detailed guide on the sector and plenty of advice on application of wireless in the network.

With the changes in optical fibre cable standards and new Gigabit applications, Mike Gilmore returned to the podium to present an **update of standards and technologies for fibre applications** and introduced some of the implications concerning the use of Gigabit applications in a network.

The day concluded with a presentation by John Kellow of The Siemon Company covering the background and options for **small-form factor optical fibre connectors**.

The entire event will be repeated on **26th November** at the **Institute of Directors** in London. Delegates are assured of a day packed with useful information. They are also provided with an opportunity to get more detailed material from the presenters during the morning and lunch breaks. Full documentation for the presentations is supplied to each delegate and they are urged to comment of the event using a special questionnaire which is also entered into a prize draw. The feedback will be used to make future conferences even more valuable for delegates.

Book for the IoD conference NOW! Places can be booked by contacting Nancy Satariano at the ECA, Tel: 020 7313 4829, email: nancy.satarino@eca.co.uk. Delegate fees are just £99 plus VAT.

ECOC 2002 - Copenhagen

This year's European Conference on Optical Communications was held in Copenhagen at the beginning of September- Richard Ednay, Technical Director of Optical Technology Training reports on this year's event.

The exhibition alongside the conference was Europe's largest-ever fibre optics exhibition. Despite the present and dire economic situation, the exhibition claimed to be larger than last year's event in Amsterdam. However, they may have sold more space but there were plenty of empty shells and open spaces in the exhibition hall, so in reality it was probably no larger than 2001's show.

There were plenty of grumbles about the lack of visitors – exhibitors did, in fact, outnumber the exhibition visitors. The number of conference delegates was down to about 1600, but the number of technical papers submitted was up by 70% on the previous year. It seems that many people now have enough time on their hands to write up papers rather than working flat out on more commercial activities!

Gloomy

The general mood among delegates and exhibitors was pretty gloomy – the scene was set in one of the opening plenary sessions with some startling figures on how bad things are compared with the height of the boom a couple of years ago:

- 500,000 jobs have been lost in the industry
- Capital expenditure is down by 45%
- The major vendors have lost 2 trillion dollars in market value
- Carrier share prices have gone down by an average of 80%
- Component vendors have seen revenues drop by 90%

So the emphasis of development in the industry has to be on delivering products that cost less and send more data over longer distances in smaller packages that use less power! One example quoted was the price of 10Gb/s transponder modules that have more or less halved in price every year since 1999, with prices currently at about \$4k. Other key technologies that will help to achieve the required cost savings are greater integration of components and "tuneability" of wavelengths.

New Technologies

Despite all the economic gloom, there were still plenty of new technologies being presented at the conference and some interesting new products at the exhibition. The post-deadline papers included presentations on 1550nm VCSELs, all optical regeneration, photonic band gap fibres, optical switching, dynamic dispersion compensation and much more besides! All relevant new technologies will, of course be incorporated into OTT's wide ranging portfolio of training courses.

In addition, of course, there is the social side to the proceedings. The conference welcome reception was held in the former Stock Exchange (just like last year in Amsterdam!) a beautiful building in the old centre of Copenhagen. All conference delegates had a free pass to the Tivoli gardens, the famous city centre funfair and entertainment centre. Since the weather was unseasonably warm, it was very pleasant to stroll around the city centre in the evening. It seemed that everyone else was doing the same, I kept on encountering fibre-optics people strolling and eating out.

FibreSystems Europe holds party for delegates



Of course the social highlight of ECOC is the Fibre Systems Europe party, this year held in an old church that has been converted into an art gallery - with dynamic chandeliers and other travelling works of art.

Next year, ECOC moves on to Rimini on the Italian Adriatic coast and will be co-located with the international Integrated Optics and Optical Fibre Communications Conference which promises to make it an even more significant event. Make a note in your diary for 21st-25th September! See www.ecoc.it for further information.

BCE Moves to Holland

PBI Media, organiser of Broadband Communications Europe (BCE), have announced plans to move their annual BCE conference and exhibition to Maastricht, Netherlands, as from 14-16 October 2003.

PBI Media recently announced a partnership agreement with the European Cable Communications Association (ECCA) to organise and manage their European Broadband Communications (EBC) conference and exhibition in Prague during 2003.

There has also been a re-focus of BCE's content to 100% broadband technology, implementation and strategy for European cable operators. It will again concentrate on technology deployment issues such as VoIP, VOD, SVOD, and EuroDOCSIS, for voice, data and video over the cable network. For more information, please visit: www.broadband-convention.com.

Lightspeed Europe 2002 Gets FIA Support and FIA Members Get a 25% Discount

Lightspeed Europe takes place from 3rd-5th December 2002, at Earls Court in London. The FIA has agreed to give its support to the event.

Lightspeed Europe is the only optical networking event to take the optical message beyond the industry itself and out to the service provider, carrier and enterprise community. It is presented together with **Lightreading.com**, said to be the world's leading online resource for the optical networking industry. The Lightspeed Europe Conference, programmed by Lightreading.com, features keynotes from leading figureheads within the industry, and focuses on the scientific, technical and business issues of next generation telecommunications technologies. Visit www.lightspeedeurope.com to view the full programme.

All members of the FIA are entitled to a 25% discount on a 1-day or 3-day conference pass. To claim your discount, please email lightspeedconference@pentoneurope.com with your full contact details and you will be sent a discounted registration form. Ensure you state you are an FIA member.

The exhibition is FREE to visit and showcases those companies leading the way in optical networking, including Nortel Networks, Siemens and Agilent Technologies. Pre-register for your FREE exhibition pass today at www.lightspeedeurope.com.

OTT launches new specialist courses

Engineering with optical fibre

Fibre optics technology is now commonly applied to overcome problems in many engineering projects, both for communications and for sensor applications. Requirements for higher bandwidth, smaller sizes, lighter weights, lower power consumption and lower costs can all be met with well engineered fibre optic systems. At the same time some problems are eliminated such as EMC, cross talk and electrical safety.

Optical Technology Training is launching a new set of courses designed to meet the increasing requirement for engineers to have specialist knowledge of the application of fibre optic technology for a wide range of engineering projects. The range of nine courses embraces specialist areas such as **fibre optic sensors, plastic optical fibre, subsea umbilical terminations, military applications, manufacturing cable assemblies**, and **photonics** technologies. Different levels of courses are available for project engineers, support staff and technicians.

Richard Ednay, Director of OTT, comments: "For the last twelve years, we have delivered numerous customised training programmes to meet the specific requirements of staff involved in using fibre optics for interesting applications outside of mainstream communications cabling. We decided it was time to formalise this to help our customers appreciate the range of expertise and support we can offer them."

Advanced Fibre Testing Course

OTT has just 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).

Richard Ednay may be emailed via Richard@ott.co.uk. Details of OTT Courses may be found on www.ott.co.uk and to find out more about the new range of the courses, contact OTT on + 44 (0) 1756 797155

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

National Training Award for CTTS

The leading telecomms training provider, Cable Telecommunications Training Services Ltd (CTTS) received a National Training Award in recognition of training excellence.

The National Training Awards are sponsored by the UK Skills Council and the Department for Education and Skills. The Awards are universally recognised as being the No 1 training award in the UK, given to organisations and individuals who have achieved training excellence and success through training.

The award winning Digital Cable Networks programmes delivered at CTTS's state of the art national training centre based in Lincoln, was considered by the judges to be an example of exceptional and effective training. The company has a nine-year history of successfully delivering a range of telecommunications-related courses.

Further information about CTTS can be found at www.cable-training.co.uk.



David Gower presents CTTS Team, Martyn Cook, Sara Cook and Stuart Brown, with their National Training Award

As a National Training Award winner, CTTS have been invited to a celebration at the Guildhall in London with other national winners across the UK. At this ceremony a handful of special awards will be made to organisations and individuals who have demonstrated outstanding achievements in the field of training and personal development. For further information about the National Training Awards visit the web site at: www.nationaltrainingawards.com.

New FIA publications

The complete set of currently available documents is shown below:

- **FIA-TSD-2000-1-1: LAN Application Support Guide (£150.00 for non-members)**
- **FIA-TSD-2000-2-1: Cable Selection Guide (£75.00 for non-members)**
- **FIA-TSD-2000-4-2-1: Testing of installed cabling: LSPM (£150.00 for non-members)**
- **FIA-TSD-2000-5-1: Optical Power Safety Levels (£75.00 for non-members)**
- **FIA-TSD-2000-5-2: Optical Fibre - Handling of Processing Chemicals (£15.00 for non-members)**
- **FIA-TSD-2000-5-3: Optical Fibre - Disposal of Waste (£15.00 for non-members)**

Work is almost complete 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** (£150.00 for non-members), will be ready for publication in early November. The document addresses testing installed cabling using OTDR equipment. A third document, **FIA-TSD-2000-3-3** (£150.00 for non-members), 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.

The existing **FIA-TSD-2000-5-1: Optical Power Safety Levels** will be revised before the next Newsletter is published so keep your eyes peeled for information sent to you by e-mail and on the web-site.

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).

Another New Instructor for CableNet

CableNet Training has appointed another instructor to its team; Paul Cooney is a senior technical lecturer and specialist in Voice over IP.

Paul comes to CableNet with four years experience as a senior technical trainer and member of the TIA Voice over IP Standards Committee. His primary responsibilities will include developing and constructing CableNet's already strong portfolio of network based training such as the TCP/IP, Voice over IP Networks, LAN Design & Implementation and Network Engineering courses.

Richard Way, CableNet's Training Manager commented “Paul's experience, qualifications and drive made him the ideal candidate for the job”.

Contact CableNet Training via sales@cablenet-training.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

Network Intelligence seals Northern Trust contract

Leading structured cabling manufacturer 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 to improve network security, reduce downtime and cut costs significantly.

Northern Trust has selected a Molex Category 6 and Real Time intelligent patching system, to be installed by Comunica, the communications infrastructure specialist, at new offices located in Herons Quay, Canary Wharf, and retrofitted to existing offices at Devonshire Square.

Now available for Category 5e and Category 6 networks, the Molex Real Time Patching System is the only monitoring system of its kind which can be retrofitted to legacy cabling systems as well as new installations, regardless of the age and tenure of their existing infrastructure. This allows users to migrate to intelligent connectivity management throughout their organisations.

For further details contact: Martin Coulthard on 01489 6998735

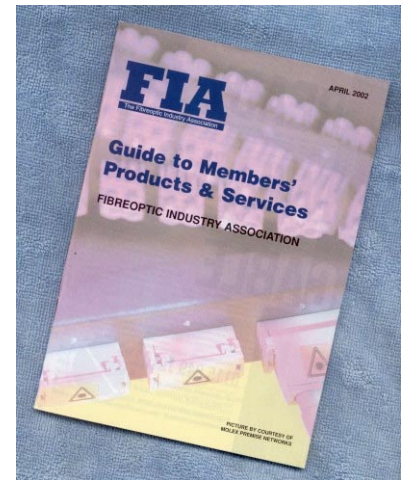
FIA Members Guide

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

ECA ITEC IT Conference 2002 The IoD London 26 November 2002. **SUPPORTED BY THE FIA.** See Page 2 for contact details.

Public Wireless LAN London 27-28 November 2003. For details, visit website smi-online.co.uk/pwlan.asp

FIA Annual General Meeting Towcester 12 December 2002.
