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A warm welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

526 - Lightspeed Communications Ltd. – Corporate A
527 - Optical Fibres (UK) Ltd. - Corporate A

Student

525 - Mr. Neville Nelson - Student

FIA Product Sponsorship Scheme!!!

As announced in recent *Newsletters* and mailings, the FIA has agreed to sponsor one or more FIA members to undertake projects that lead to the production of innovative new products and/or services. The main provision was that these should add benefit for the membership as a whole. In return for sponsorship, the FIA required that the resultant products or services be offered to the FIA membership at prices discounted from those charged to non-members.

There was no restriction to the type of product or service to be supported under the scheme. The sponsorship initiative was not restricted to pure financial assistance – where appropriate, the Technical and Commercial Directorates of the FIA would provide assistance, free-at-the-point of delivery, to a successful applicant.

Following a confidential adjudication procedure, it was decided that a proposal from FIA member **Independent Communication Solutions** came closest to meeting the requirements and, was, therefore, declared the winning entry. The runner up was a proposal from **Farmelec Data**. Further details of the selected project will be provided in the next *Newsletter*.

CSCS - Do You Agree or Not Agree?

The FIA has been asked to approve a skills registration scheme on behalf of its members. Before this is done, however, the FIA Council needs to hear the views of the FIA membership so that it can formulate a considered response. To do this, a 'Referendum' questionnaire is being sent to every member involved in installation activities. Because of the nature of the request, the importance of your view cannot be stressed too highly. This is REAL democracy at work and your response WILL make a difference.

FIBREOPTIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The FIA is a Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Council

Mike Phillips - Chairman
(*Fibre Optic Solutions*)
Peter Thompsett - Vice Chairman
(*Ensign Communications*)
Mike Gilmore - Technical Director and Treasurer
(*The Cabling Partnership*)
Unallocated - Commercial
(*Anixter International*)

Industry Sector Directors

Adrian Buckingham (*IBS Limited*)
Dave Carswell (*Black Box Network (NW)*)
Paul Bateson - Test & Measurement
(*Optical Test and Calibration*)
John Colton - Training and Qualifications
(*Lucid Optical Services Ltd.*)
Installation
John Cupitt - (*Dwellight*)
Peter Thompsett - (*Ensign Communications*)

First some background information:

1. The **Construction Industry Training Board (CITB)** has joined with others to evolve the **Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS)**.
2. 'CSCS' is supported by main contractors, major users and by official organisations. The CITB/CSCS Skillcard may be a mandatory 'passport' to work on some sites, and its importance might increase rapidly if it gains wide acceptance.
3. CSCS is issuing **Skillcards** based on NVQs and basic knowledge of health and safety (H&S) issues.
4. There is, as yet, no Skillcard for data cable installers - but there is pressure by CSCS to launch one.
5. An **NVQ** has been listed as relevant to our industry - '**Communications Technology (Infrastructure)**'.
6. An H&S test has to be taken (at a local DVLA centre) after applying for a CITB registration number.
7. The scheme is supported already by the TIA.
8. In the immediate /short term, CSCS has said that existing skilled employees can be entered for a Skillcard on the signed-up 'say-so' of their Employer - with application forms expected to be available at the end of July 03.
9. New industry entrants now, and all staff at some unspecified future date, will have to be registered for NVQs (with all the attendant costs!).

When you receive the questionnaire, you will have just two simple options:

- **The FIA should officially support the CSCS with its current NVQ basis;**
- **The FIA should not support CSCS and should develop its own qualification for fibre installers.**

Please note that the FIA is planning to develop its own qualification -an option is for the FIA to support CSCS now, and work towards special qualification recognition over the next 2 years as an alternative to the NVQ.

OPTO 2003 Exhibition/Conference

Said to showcase all optical solutions for Industry, Networks and Telecommunications, the OPTO 2003 Exhibition/Conference will be held from 21st /23rd October 2003 in Hall 7-1 at Paris Expo - Porte de Versailles - France.

The event is supported by the FIA and we will have a stand in the exhibition area to promote the both the FIA and also the products and services of our members.

With around 200 exhibitors, more than 8,000 visitors and 400 conference delegates are expected. Visitors will have the chance to discover new products, services and applications on offer that characterise today's main fields in the optics Industry, such as optics networks, optoelectronic technologies and lasers and the way in which they contribute to the development of pioneering industrial projects primarily in the automotive, optical telecommunications, aeronautics, space, medical/health, and defence sectors.

At the same time, a conference programme featuring experts, events and dedicated areas in the exhibition will specifically highlight the new biotechnology, nanotechnology and broadband optics network (BON) applications and markets. Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA will present a paper at the conference.

OPTO 2003 is being organised in partnership with: ANTICIPA – TECHNOPOLE LANNION TREGOR, CLUB CMOI, CLUB NANOTECHNOLOGIE, CLUB OPTIQUE, the FIA, GIFO, OPTICS VALLEY, POP SUD, RHENA PHOTONICS, and SFO.

The FIA is being offered substantial discounts for FIA members wishing to exhibit (contact the FIA Secretariat for details). Other information can be obtained direct. Tel: +33 (0)1 49 68 51 53 E-mail: optoexpo@exposium.fr Website: www.optoexpo.com

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.



Fibre Optics in the UK

The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) has just produced a very useful guide to *Fibre Optics in the UK 2003/2004 Edition*. This is a comprehensive guide to research, manufacture and services in optical communications and fibre optic components. The FIA is strongly featured in the document which is easily acquired or accessed. Copies can be obtained by quoting URN 03/816 from dtipubs@eclogistics.co.uk, tel +44 (0)870 1502500 or fax +44 (0)870 1502333. The publication is also available on the DTI web site www.dti.gov.uk and at www.photonics.org.uk.

Broadband to Boost Net Traffic

Internet traffic will nearly double every year for the next five thanks to the arrival of broadband, says researcher IDC. Total traffic levels will increase from **180 petabits (Pb)** per day in 2002 to **5,175Pb (5.2 terabits or Tbs)** per day by the end of 2007. How about that for a "conversation-stopper" over dinner?

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

Are You a Training Provider 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.

OTDR Product Selector

As a first step towards the provision of useful product selection information to FIA members **Paul Bateson**, FIA Industry Sector Director responsible for test and measurement issues, has put together a comprehensive spreadsheet containing the comparative performance specifications of more than 80 different OTDRs from a range of manufacturers.

A limited technical glossary is also included with internal hyperlinks to relevant text.

Paul intends to maintain and enlarge the information provided and may also include other test equipment such as light source and power meter equipment.

To access the information go to the members-only section of the FIA web-site and click on "Product Reviews".

BSRIA: Hope for the Structured Cabling Markets

The Western European market for structured cabling, which includes copper and multimode fibre products used in LAN applications is estimated at US\$ 1.18 billion (at manufacturer sales prices) for 2002, according to a new study from BSRIA. The study comprises 13 European countries including the biggest markets in Europe - Germany, UK, France, Italy, and the Netherlands. These countries account for 80% of the total market value.

Germany and the UK are by far the largest individual markets, with a combined market value of US\$ 654 million - more than half of the total. According to BSRIA, almost all of the countries researched suffered a recession over the last two years. The value in Germany declined by 19%, the UK by 16%, Italy by 12% and Spain by 14%.

The total market fell by 10-15% in volume in most countries; the decline in value was even bigger due to price erosion. Over the next four years, BSRIA expects the markets to grow at 2.3% compound annual growth rate until 2006. Growth will, however, be unequally distributed between countries. Mature markets such as the UK or Holland are forecast to grow only modestly or shrink even further.

UTP remains the most popular cable type in Europe, leading in 10 of the 13 countries researched. Shielded cable, however, also holds a notable share because it dominates in Germany, France, and Switzerland. Fibre technology is used mainly in backbone and campus installations and it did not gain significant ground at horizontal level in fibre-to-the desk installations.

The study shows that Cat 5e was still the most common solution seen in 2002, but this is changing rapidly as Category 6 solutions are making rapid progress. Promoted by all major suppliers, Cat 6 cabling represents the dominant solutions in many countries during 2003 and by 2006 they will be the norm everywhere. Category 7 systems represent only a niche market in the shielded markets and are virtually non-existent in UTP-dominated markets.

Visit www.bsria.co.uk or contact email: wmi@bsria.co.uk.

Fibre-based Amplifiers Developed by UK University

The development of so-called "holey" fibre devices has progressed at the University of Southampton with the application for a patent covering Raman amplifiers and modulators. Many other centres around the world are involved in similar activities.

If the University's research can be commercialised, the result will be a significant cut in the bulk and power consumption of fibre-based amplifiers.

Raman devices rely on non-linear effects within optical fibres. These effects increase with the difference in refractive index between a fibre's core and its cladding. According to the University, with conventional fibres, the difference is a few per cent at most. But with holey fibres, the core has a refractive index [RI] of 1.45 and the cladding is mostly air [RI=1]. This apparently makes holey fibres many times more non-linear than conventional types. It seems that it is possible to get a shorter device, or pump the same device – not just by a factor of two, the potential is said to be very much greater.

Southampton also has alternative materials to normal silica glass. With glasses of higher non-linearity (combined with holey fibres) the researchers have reported 500 times more non-linearity.

Increased non-linearity in holey fibres is due to increased confinement of optical energy which results in higher optical power levels per volume of glass. The beam is smaller, so the electric field is higher and non-linearities are enhanced.

FIA Seminars

Throughout 2003, the FIA has been delivering technical/commercial seminars to its members and those of the Electrical Contractors Association via a variety of ECA regional offices.

The next ECA seminar is on the 24th September 2003 in Cardiff.

A mailer will be sent around in due course.

The FIA is also pleased to announce that discussions have now taken place with SELECT (the equivalent of the ECA in Scotland) and a seminar has also been arranged on the outskirts of Edinburgh on the 3rd September. Once again a mailer will be distributed to all FIA members during the month of August.

Guide to Forthcoming Shows and Conferences

Online Conferences for the European Telecoms Industry. Vision in Business has introduced a new initiative which 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 (or see below)

Mini Business Reports, 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.

FIA APPROVED INSTALLER SCHEME

'There's something in it for you!

The few that have it – *renew it every year.* It's an *exclusive club* and a *'badge'* with value. It *costs little*, but we do not just *'give it away'* but the

**FIA Approved Installer Scheme
(the FIA-AIS)
needs more members.**

If you are active in fibre installations - consider the **selling advantage**. The FIA Council works hard to promote fibre optic industry benefits and members' business interests. The **FIA-AIS** is an industry benefit and **you** are a member. Put the two together for a marketing edge - **added value** for your prospective customers.

If you are active in fibre installations with a strong track record and an ISO 9000 QA 'ticket', talk to us now about your Association's *Approved Installer Scheme*.

More *FIA-AIS* members will help us to persuade the specifiers, consultants and end-users on the value in choosing an *FIA Approved Installer* for their next fibre project.

If you would like to receive more information the criteria and application form can be downloaded from the FIA web-site – <http://www.fibreoptic.org.uk/PDF/Ais.pdf>



If you are interested, visit www.mini-reports.com where you can download two reports free of charge. NOTE Vision in Business can also be contacted on 020 7256 5188 Email: bookings@visioninbusiness.com or visit www.visioninbusiness.com

Optical Communications 2003 - a European Conference. Rimini 21st/25th September 2003. See www.ecoc.it for further information.

Broadband Communications Europe (BCE) - an annual BCE conference and exhibition Maastricht, Netherlands, 14th/16th October 2003. For more information, please visit: www.broadband-convention.com.

OPTO 2003 Exhibition/Conference, Supported by the FIA - Hall 7-1 in at Paris Expo - Porte de Versailles - France, 21st/23rd October 2003.

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

Advertising on the FIA Web Site

You may have noticed that last years sponsorship for the entire web-site has expired and we are seeking a new sponsor the coming year.

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!

If you would like to find out more about advertising on the web-site, contact the FIA Secretariat and you will then be sent details of availability, costs and instructions for submitting your advertisement.

