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A warm welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

557 - Zycko Limited

556 - Fujikura Europe Limited

555 - Astro Communications Limited

554 - Mayflex

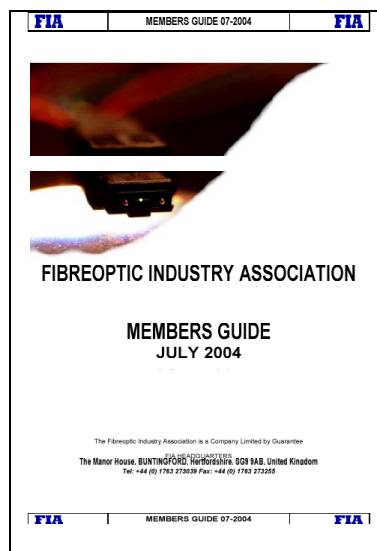
FIA Members e-Guide

The first electronic version of the **FIA** Members Guide is now available for download from www.fibreoptic.org.uk/pdfs/eGuide-0704.pdf or via the hyperlink on the home page at www.fibreoptic.org.uk. The e-Guide contains a listing of our member's products and services together with separate sections for FIA Approved Installers and Training Providers.

The document will be updated on a regular basis, to keep pace with increases in membership and changes in member's details. Please make sure you update your information by advising the FIA Secretariat.

The FIA Secretariat takes this opportunity to thank all those advertisers who have taken space in the July 2004 issue. Advertising space in the e-Guide is available at any time. The advertising contract lasts for twelve months, independent of how many revisions are published during that time. The pdf download from the FIA web-site is a print-quality file and contains hyperlinks to all companies that have advertised.

It is proposed that electronic copies of the e-Guide will be made available at exhibitions and upon request from the Secretariat.



BSI and **FIA** BIP 0007:2004

Telecommunication cabling and equipment installations: A guide to requirements and responsibilities

Don't forget - the FIA sponsored the BIP in support of BS 6701:2004 - it's a free download to members.

FIBREOPTIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The FIA is a Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Council

Mike Phillips - Chairman
(*Fibre Optic Solutions*)

Peter Thompsett - Vice Chairman and Commercial
(*Ensign Communications*)

Mike Gilmore - Technical Director and Treasurer
(*The Cabling Partnership
e-Ready Building Limited*)

Installation Industry Sector Directors

John Cupitt - (*Dwellight*)
Peter Lythgoe - (*Lythgoes*)

Industry Sector Directors

Paul Bateson - Test & Measurement
(*Optical Test and Calibration*)

John Colton - Training

(*Lucid Optical Services Ltd.*)

Lee Funnell - Qualifications

(*Active Communication Company Limited*)

C&G 3666 replaces 3466

May 2004 saw the launch of the new City & Guilds 3666: Certificate in Communications Cabling. There are four elements to the qualification and to obtain the full qualification it is necessary to successfully complete three of the units including the core 3666-01 unit covering the basics of communications systems.

The 3666 qualification is part of the National Qualifications Framework developed by QCA (the Qualifications Curriculum Authority) and replaces the 3466 series of qualifications on 1st October 2004. In the meantime, it is possible to complete a 3466 qualification up to the end of September 2004.

The new qualification has been re-built to reflect the changes in the industry and the standards to which it works since the development of the original 3466 series. However, it has not been all plain sailing. Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA, had begun to receive a number of complaints about the relevance and correctness of the examination questions for the new qualifications. *"This was a matter of concern"* said Mike *"because although the FIA has had no direct input to the process, the FIA do strongly support the use of City & Guilds qualifications. The FIA is well aware of some qualifications in which answering questions correctly requires the information provided during the training to be incorrect – and we do not want such a charge to be made against C&G 3666"*.

City & Guilds were quick to respond to the criticism and FIA Directors, Lee Funnell (Qualifications) and John Colton (Training) were drafted in, along with C&G training organisations, to review the examination questions. Following this review, Lee Funnell commented *"The examination questions have to be clear, unambiguous and in line with the training provided. I am confident that the changes made will ensure that candidates completing the new units will be correctly assessed to meet, and exceed, the needs of the industry"*.

Stolen Equipment - can we help?

As promised in the last Newsletter, the FIA has produced a page on its web-site dedicated to stolen equipment. Access to the page, called "Stolen Equipment Register" and containing equipment types and serial numbers, can be gained from the FIA home page at www.fibreoptic.org.uk or directly at www.fibreoptic.org.uk/efiasvst.htm. If you have any equipment stolen please contact the FIA Secretariat listing the equipment types and serial numbers along with any distinguishing features. We will immediately circulate the information to members (sparing your blushes by omitting your company details) and include it on the page.

If you can think of any other measures we can take to help you please do not hesitate to submit them.

FASE II taken for a ride

TRITEC continued to establish itself as one of the leading suppliers of fibre optic installation equipment to the IT industry. Drayton Manor Theme Park was the latest customer to be convinced by the award winning FASE II fusion splicer.

Drayton Manor Park is one of the UK's most popular attractions. Originally built by George Bryan in 1949, it is one of the oldest theme parks in the UK. Attractions include a zoo, farm, museums, as well as over 100 rides. With corporate banquets also on offer it is not surprising that such an attraction brings in millions of visitors each year. The IT network, therefore, needs to control the admission process effectively. It is not just a case of taking the money and running the business. The network needs to facilitate ease of access for the customer, as well as reduce queuing times.

The IT network at Drayton consists of tills communicating with a server down an optical fibre link. The system allocates the correct price for each entrant (either adult, junior or senior citizen), as well as deciding if it is peak or off peak season.

As the site is built on a 250-acre park, bandwidth requirements over such a large area meant that optical fibre was the ideal transmission medium. There is also the added benefit of being able to expand the network as developments on the site take place in the future, without hindering its performance.

Andrew McSherry, IT Manager of Drayton, discussed the reasons behind the decision to opt for a fusion splicer. "In the past we had used mechanical splices, which do not result in a particularly low splice loss across the joint. Our investigations showed us the comparative

City & Guilds

3666-01:
Basic principles of communications systems

3666-02:
Fibre optic cabling in an internal environment

3666-03:
Fibre optic cabling in an external environment

3666-04:
Copper cabling in an internal environment



accuracy of fusion splicing, and we made the decision to commission the installation. However, as one of the UK's most popular attractions, many of our busiest periods are concentrated around bank holidays – so to allow us to provide a high level of service at those critical times, we decided to bring the capability in-house. Our key objective is to continue to improve our management of effective admission procedures and I am confident that this system will work perfectly in conjunction with our continuing increase in visitor numbers. We are also seriously considering implementing the system at Drayton Manor Hotels, where we can foresee similar benefits.”

In terms of the performance of the FASE II, Mr McSherry believed that the compact design would give the user confidence in the field. “The FASE II is field portable, sturdy and very easy to use. When dealing with cabinets that are positioned at different heights above ground, it is refreshing to carry out each installation without any concerns.”

For further information contact: Jonathan Hunt, Sales & Marketing Manager, Tel: 01925 220466, sales@tritec.biz

Lucid announces LASER Safety Qualification

Fibreoptic Industry Association member, Lucid Optical Services, whose Technical Director, John Colton, serves on the FIA Council as Director of Training, has gained accreditation for its 'Laser Safety Introduction' course. Aimed at all users of laser equipment, the course is believed to be the UK's first nationally recognised laser safety qualification. It has been accredited by the Open College Network (OCN), an awarding body licensed by the UK Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA), at level 2 of the national qualifications framework (NQF), roughly equivalent to an O' level pass at grade A, B or C. Lucid is now planning to submit further laser safety courses, including a higher level course on the management and implementation of laser safety, for accreditation as national qualifications.

Lucid, a training company specialising in fibre optics, photonics and related technologies, believe that this accreditation makes it the first organisation in the UK to gain nationally recognised status for a laser safety course. Further, it is highly probable that Lucid has gained a world first as it knows of no other organisation worldwide that has achieved national recognition for a laser safety qualification. Lucid is a City & Guilds approved training centre, a founder member of the UK Photonics Cluster, a member of FOToN UK, a member of TROCN (Regional Open College Network) and a member of the FIA. Senior Lucid staff are very active in the fibre world: John Colton, in addition to his role within the FIA, is an invited member of the UK National Advisory Council for ICT, and Dr Neil Haigh, Senior Consultant at Lucid, is chairman of the UK Fibre Optic Technology Network (FOToN), run in the UK by the National Physical Laboratory (NPL).

UK to host ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 in September 2005

ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 delegates have been invited to hold their Working Group and Plenary meetings in September 2005 in the United Kingdom. The Fibreoptic Industry Association, along with industry associations and corporate sponsors, will be involved in the arrangements for the event which is expected to draw over 100 experts in telecommunications cabling standardisation from around the world.

Mike Gilmore, FIA Technical Director and convenor of one of the groups which operate under the SC25 umbrella, explained “At least two big issues will be debated at this meeting. The first is the specification of cabling in support of 10GBASE-T, which albeit copper, has a direct impact on FIA activities as a competitor in the data centre area. The other is the review of more accurate test methods for the testing of installed optical fibre cabling (within a new ISO/IEC 14763-3).”

As potential sponsors of the event, FIA members have the opportunity to observe the proceedings of the Working Groups at first hand. If anyone would like to take this opportunity please contact Mike Gilmore at mike.gilmore@btinternet.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 Jane Morrison via jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk

**Are you an FIA member?
Are you a Training
Provider?**

If so, please ensure that you update your details in the “Training Providers Guide”, held on the FIA Web Site, as regularly as possible.

It is a valuable resource on the site that is accessed many times each day. Both Approved and Non-Approved Training Providers are featured.

FIA Commercial Awareness Seminars

The dates, locations and agenda for the FIA Commercial Awareness Seminars have been finalised for September 2004. This year the FIA has decided to concentrate on key technical issues that have direct commercial implications and/or carry risks to those involved.

Where commercial factors are involved a detailed understanding and assessment of the underlying issues is not only desirable but absolutely vital. To that end the FIA have organised full-day seminars covering just three topics each. Each topic is discussed for 90 minutes - the FIA believe that shorter presentations are only capable of providing a "taster" and we want attendees to leave the session feeling that they have received enough information to enable and justify further study and analysis.

Time	Item
0900 hrs	Registration
0915 hrs	Opening Address by Mike Phillips, FIA Chairman <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief review of FIA Services Overview of the FIA Qualifications Scheme
0945 hrs	Gigabit Ethernet over Plastic Optical Fibre David Hess, VP Standardization and Technology, Nexans/Berk-Tek
1115 hrs	Break
1130 hrs	Wi-Fi and Cellular Telephony over Multimode Optical Fibre Professor Alwyn Seeds, University College London
1300 hrs	Lunch
1400 hrs	Testing installed cabling – we know not what we do! Mike Gilmore, FIA Technical Director Managing Director, e-Ready Building Limited
1530 hrs	Questions
1545 hrs	Conclusions
1600 hrs	Close

FIA CAW Seminars 2004

The first is in **London** on
21st September.

The second in **Manchester** on
23rd September.

To learn by experience may cost considerably more than the seminar fee (£75 for members and their guests or £125 for non-members).

Please consider inviting your clients along to these seminars. They can attend as your guests at the members rate and will benefit every bit as much as you will.

Gigabit Ethernet over Plastic Optical Fibre! - The new IEC 60793-2-40 contains new type of plastic optical fibres that offer bandwidth performance in line with conventional silica products. They herald the delivery of Gigabit Ethernet over viable distances in environments where traditional installation skills may not be applicable. David Hess outlines these developments and reviews the application of this technology in the real-world.

Wi-Fi and Cellular Telephony over Multimode Optical Fibre! - The delivery of cellular telephony and wireless data networks such as IEEE802.11x within large buildings and privately owned areas has raised the spectre of multiple proprietary cabling systems – something we thought we had got rid of during the 1990's. Alwyn Seeds will introduce the concepts behind a revolutionary solution which simultaneously delivers wireless telephony and data networks over legacy multimode optical fibre - producing massive savings for premises owners and telecomms managers alike.

Testing installed cabling - we know not what we do? - Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA, takes this opportunity to delve into the testing of installed optical fibre cabling (whether for installation quality assurance or trouble-shooting) and asks a number of fundamental questions including:

- what are we trying to measure and why are we measuring it?
- how do we measure?
- how accurate is the measurement?
- can the result be repeated and under what circumstances?

Failure to recognise the questions and/or understand the answers can have a direct and unwelcome impact on the profitability of any installation task. The FIA hopes to announce significant developments in answer to these questions – if you are involved in testing **make sure you are at this seminar.**

FIA
Skillsmatch
Update

The Skillsmatch application form has been updated with C&G 3666 series qualifications

FIA TRAINING PROVIDERS – DOWNLOAD THE APPLICATION FORM FROM
www.fibreoptic.org.uk/efiasvrq.htm

Partnership at Work in Scotland

'Partnership at Work' will provide an average of ten days consultancy support to a **select** number of Scottish manufacturing, engineering and tourism businesses with between 20 and 250 employees.

If you feel that your company's performance could be improved and enhanced by greater engagement between management and workforce we'd like to hear from you now.

'Partnership at Work' is not prescriptive, but will be tailored to the needs and challenges of each individual business. The benefits for each business will vary, but the aims are likely to include: improved turnover and profitability, increased productivity, identification of new business opportunities and improved job satisfaction and job security.

A suitably experienced facilitator will be selected for each business, and will work to achieve commitment to the process from management and employees alike, develop a strategy to introduce partnership working tailored to that business, then facilitate and monitor the implementation of the strategy.

Basically, partnership working is about striving to improve business performance in the interests of all parties. It involves joint approaches to solving business problems, implementing positive change through consulting, involving employees and emphasising shared culture and shared learning and finally improving the balance between work and home

If you feel your business would benefit from this DTI funded programme, and you would be prepared to match our input with your own (time, materials etc) then please contact Jim MacNeill on 0141 847 5450 to discuss the eligibility of your company.

Alternatively you can email 'Partnership at Work' at paw@renfrewshirechamber.com.

The Partnership at Work SME Sectoral Programme is a DTI sponsored programme from Scottish Chambers of Commerce led by Renfrewshire Chamber of Commerce.

Trade Fair Support

Trade Fair Support co-ordinates national pavilions at international technology tradeshows. First established in 1989, they now assist more than 700 companies to exhibit abroad each year. The programme offers 40 major shows and spans 15 countries.

In addition to the major technology shows, they now offer support to software and systems firms to attend a number of vertical shows for the healthcare, finance and defence sectors.

All the events in the programme are recognised by UK Trade & Investment for trade development support. This means that they are able to provide a grant of up to £2,500 to eligible UK firms towards the cost of their stand. They also offer a programme of targeted Overseas Business Visits assisting small groups of UK firms investigate specific opportunities. Grants are also available towards travel costs. See under the 'Missions' heading on the web-site at www.tradefair.co.uk.

Contact Steve Lindsey for more information - Tel: 01622 754200 - steve.lindsey@tradefair.co.uk.

OPTO 2004 Exhibition/Conference

Said to showcase all optical solutions for Industry, Networks and Telecommunications, the OPTO 2004 Exhibition/Conference will be held from 19th/21st October 2004 in Paris.

Information/Applications/Early registration: +33 (0)1 49 68 51 53
E-mail: optoexpo@exposium.fr Website: www.optoexpo.com

