

Index

FIA Annual General Meeting	1
FIA Members e-Guide	2
BIP 0007 v1.02	2
FIA Qualifications Scheme	2
C&G Answers its Critics	2
FIA Skillsmatch Update	2
Advertising Opportunities on a new FIA Web-Site ..	3
New FIA Council Members	3
Affiliate Membership	3
Red Tape Hell	4
Lucid Gains Approved Training Provider Status	4
The Latest LIGHTCRIMP PLUS from Auriga	4
UK to host ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 in September 2005 ...	5
Seminar Review – September 2004	5
FIA Technical Support Document Update	5

A warm welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

561- Megger Limited

Overseas Associate

559 - Comzone

Personal

562 - Mr. James Stubberfield

560 - Mr. Campbell McIntyre

Affiliate

558 - Royal School of Signals

FIA Annual General Meeting

The FIA Annual General Meeting was held in Towcester on the 9th December 2004. Following the usual Chairman's and Treasurer's Reports provided by Mike Phillips and Mike Gilmore respectively, it was time to elect two new Council members for the coming year. Not only did we have a record number of candidates but we even had to have a second round of voting to determine the winners.

Mike Phillips said afterwards "The record number of candidates is a tribute to the volume and diversity of the activities undertaken by the Council on behalf of our members. We are pleased to welcome the victors, namely Nick Channon and Sydney Hogg, on to the Council and hope that they are able to contribute effectively during 2005".

Further details of the Annual General Meeting and biographies of Nick Channon and Sydney Hogg are included later in this Newsletter.

STOP PRESS
Version 1.02 of BIP0007 now available
for download

Telecommunication cabling and equipment installations

A guide to requirements and responsibilities



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 Director

Peter Lythgoe - (Lythgoes)

Industry Sector Directors

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

Nick Channon - Test & Measurement
(Megger)

John Colton - Training
(Lucid Optical Services Ltd.)

Lee Funnell - Qualifications

(Active Communication Company Limited)

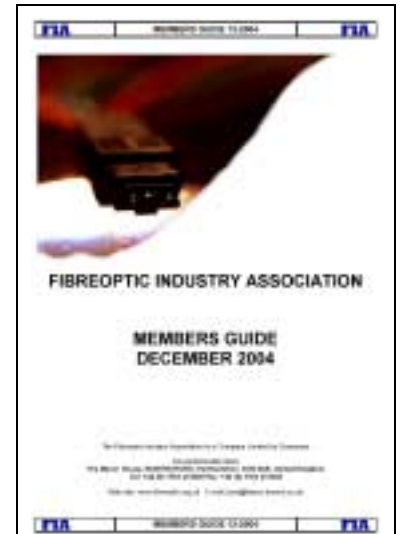
Sydney Hogg – Passive components
(Schneider Electric UK Limited)

FIA Members e-Guide

The second electronic version of the **FIA** Members Guide is now available for download from www.fibreoptic.org.uk/pdf/eGuide1204.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 December 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 (jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk).



BIP 0007 v1.02

Following comments from FIA members, BSI has upgraded its "guide to requirements and responsibilities for telecommunication cabling and equipment installations". An editorial error, identified by our new **FIA** Affiliate Member "The Royal School of Signals", led to an overall review allowing further changes to be made. If you have already downloaded v1.01 then make sure you bring your copy up-to-date by visiting the "document download" section in the Members Only area of www.fibreoptic.org.uk.

FIA Qualifications Scheme

Those attending the FIA AGM received an impromptu presentation of proposals to generate a FIA Qualifications Scheme. The presentation can be found direct from the link on the **FIA** home page or at <http://www.fibreoptic.org.uk/pdf/L4382qual.pdf>.

It describes a scheme of professional qualifications that can be attained by members of the fibreoptic industry. It encompasses existing training elements such as C&G 3466/3666 but is extended to much higher levels of attainment - leading ultimately to a Level V qualification of "Certified Fibre Expert".

FIA Qualification Proposals	
Level II - Certified Data Cabling Engineer	
Level III - Certified Fibre Installation Engineer	
Level III - Certified Fibre Test Engineer	
Level III - Certified Technical Test Engineer	
Level IV - Certified Fibre Design Engineer	
Level V - Certified Fibre Expert	
Level V - Certified Design Expert	

The scheme is receiving strong support from all quarters including City & Guilds, suppliers such as Krone and Ortronics and training organizations including Total Communications Training and CTTS. As the proposals are developed it is expected that installers will embrace the scheme due to its inherently low cost - leading to its adoption by end-users and their consultants within tenders.

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

C&G Answers its Critics

It is pleasing to report that, following the criticisms of some of the questions within the 3666 examinations as reported in Issue 76 of this Newsletter, City & Guilds acted promptly to arrange a review and amended the problem areas. It is hoped that all trainees can now depend upon a common and relevant foundation for assessing their ability.

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

Advertising Opportunities on a new FIA Web-Site

Earlier this year the FIA Council took the decision to make some major changes relating to the FIA web-site. We are aware that some members have had difficulty in gaining access to the 'members only area' and we want to make navigation of the site easier and clearer for members and non-members alike.

So, we are changing to a new host, completely redesigning the look of the site and changing the web-site address. The new web host will provide a complete professional service with full technical support. The new design will provide the additional ability for members to have individual passwords (which they may change as they wish) to access the 'members only area'. This new system will also allow us the ability to remove access at any time, which will be very useful for departing members.

Work is almost completed and the new site should go live in the next few weeks, definitely by **1st January 2005**.

A full programme of PR is planned to coincide with the launch and a new advertising initiative for members has been agreed. All advertising space can be booked **now** and as soon as adverts are received and payment made they will go on the new site. Advertising rates are for one year - 1st January 2005 to 31st December 2005.

The fees for FIA members are low compared to other schemes so it pays to take advantage. The main site sponsors have already agreed their advertising contracts but there are almost twenty advertising spaces still available. The Secretariat has already circulated details of the spaces available and the applicable price lists but if you need to receive the information again or wish to discuss the matter further please contact the Secretariat (jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk) as soon as possible.

**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.**

New FIA Council Members

Nick Channon

Nick Channon has worked for Megger Limited (Old AVO company) in Dover for the last four years developing fibre optic and copper instrumentation specifically suited to LAN installation. He manages all aspects of the Megger's Datacom and Telecom product development in Europe.

Nick has developed fibre optic instrumentation and tools for over twenty years as the Engineering Director of York Technology (that became PK Technology), a company that contributed to many of the measurement techniques used in fibre production today. He has actively contributed to the development of several IEC and TIA fibre standards and is named on several patents relating to fibre instrumentation.

After a short spell as Operations Manager at Marconi Infrared, the move to Megger enabled him to get back to hands-on design and recent projects have included an OTDR specifically designed for the LAN installer and fibre optic Loss/Length Certification equipment.

Sydney Hogg

General Manager for the Voice, Data and Image Solutions offer from Schneider Electric Limited.

At Schneider since January 2003, Syd has managed the development of a standards-based solution that provides a fully integrated fibre and copper platform for the management, control and operation of all IT-based services, including an Open-Systems approach for simple and cost-effective building management control and resource monitoring.

With 25 years experience in the communication industry, Syd has had direct involvement in either the design or the delivery of the majority of leading technological developments in the cabling industry - both copper and fibre.

Most recently this has included Small Form Factor Connector evaluation and development, Gigabit technology such as mode conditioning patch cords as well as 10Gigabit connectivity solutions.

Affiliate Membership

The FIA has created a new category of membership – that of **FIA** Affiliate Member. An Affiliate Membership is open to organizations that offer a unique opportunity for the promotion of FIA products and services rather than to be a direct supplier or user of them. Unlike other categories of membership, applications for affiliate membership are considered and approved by the FIA Council. As a result the FIA Council are pleased to announce the acceptance of the Royal School of Signals at Blandford as our first **FIA** Affiliate Member. It is hoped that the FIA will be able to work together with the School in support of future FIA activities.

Red Tape Hell

A study by Peninsula found that over 8 in 10 Employers are struggling to deal with the influx of government red tape and in turn are failing to give enough attention to their business

In a survey compiled by the employment law and health and safety experts Peninsula Business Services, 82% of businesses polled feel they are failing to give enough attention to their business and feel that red tape is holding back their businesses commercial growth. It is believed that the cost of red tape is set to cost businesses up to £1.5 billion and with the compensation culture hitting a high in the UK, understanding and implementing change within a business is now more critical than ever before.

To combat this problem, the Fibreoptic Industry Association (FIA) in conjunction with Peninsula are to offer a consultation which is **completely free of charge to all FIA members**. The purpose of this meeting is to enable you, the employer, to develop an awareness of the new regulations being introduced and to understand the implications on your business. This would be an ideal opportunity for you to ask any questions you may have regarding recent legislation changes, how they will effect your business practices, and for Peninsula to demonstrate how their services can be of benefit.

Peninsula has over 20 years' experience and is the UK's leading personnel/employment law and health and safety consultancy. They assist several over 13,000 employers on personnel documentation and deal with over 2,500 tribunals per annum. Their services are supported by a 24-hour Advice Line, and also provide Employment Tribunal Indemnity.

Should you wish to take advantage of this consultation, which is of course free of charge and without obligation, or you require any further information regarding Peninsula Business Services, please do not hesitate to contact Simon Shakespeare on 0161 834 2774 (Ext 8790)

Lucid Gains Approved Training Provider Status

Lucid Optical Services Ltd has been awarded approval as a FIA Approved Training Provider - Level 1 & Level 2.

The Approved Training Provider scheme logos have been updated and any existing training providers wishing copies of the new logos should contact the FIA Secretariat.

If you are considering applying for Approved Training Provider status then check out the requirements at <http://www.fibreoptic.org.uk/pdf/atps.pdf>. If you think you make the grade for either Level 1, Level 2 or both then simply contact the FIA Secretariat (jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk) and they will arrange for an inspection of your facilities to be undertaken.



The Latest LIGHTCRIMP PLUS from Auriga

Auriga Europe Plc, the Milton Keynes-based distributor of structured cabling, networking systems and accessories has announced the introduction of new multimode and singlemode LC versions of Tyco Amp's LightCrimp Plus connector range.

Complementing the existing range of LightCrimp Plus connectors, the no-epoxy/no polish singlemode connectors feature factory-polished ferrules, enabling installers to terminate fibre quickly and easily. The termination process becomes a matter of stripping the fibre cable, cleaving the fibre and finally crimping the connector.



The introduction of the LC-style LightCrimp Plus connector capitalizes on the increasing popularity of small form factor (SFF) designs. Already available in singlemode SC and multimode SC & ST versions, LightCrimp Plus uses proven Tyco Electronics crimping technology and does away with the need for epoxy, curing ovens, heat or power to achieve high quality connections. All LightCrimp Plus connectors meet the relevant TIA/EIA, IEC, CECC and EN standards. A full range of upgrade termination kits for existing LightCrimp users and adaptive tool kits sold by manufacturers for use with their pre-polished connectors.

"The addition of the LC-style LightCrimp Plus connector is a welcome addition" said Auriga's Managing Director Graham Lipson. "The technology required to deliver an epoxy-less singlemode connection is remarkable but nonetheless has been well proven in the market."

For further sales information call 0870 121 9990.

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 that 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 (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

Seminar Review – September 2004

The September 2004 series of Commercial Awareness seminars brought together an unlikely combination of speakers and topics.

David Hess, from Nexans in the USA talked about Gigabit and 10 Gigabit Ethernet over new types of Plastic Optical Fibre. Professors Alwyn Seeds (UCL) and Richard Penty (University of Cambridge) introduced the breathtaking 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. The two juxtaposed presentations produced more questions and off-line discussion than ever before.

Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA said afterwards that "it was quite a privilege to watch FIA installers asking searching questions of professors with the reputations of Alwyn and Richard - particularly as the true opportunities offered by this technology began to dawn on them". Mike Gilmore ended the day with a presentation which delved into the testing of installed optical fibre cabling (whether for installation quality assurance or trouble-shooting) - asking 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?

The only disappointing aspect of the whole process was the relatively poor attendance. The entry price for members of £75 was a bargain with delegates receiving information of a type, quality and delivery that is unlikely to be repeated. The FIA Council is committed to providing members with leading-edge information. Although a seminar schedule has not yet been determined for 2005, FIA members who have particular topics that they wish to have addressed they should contact the Secretariat as soon as possible.

FIA Technical Support Document Update

Members are reminded that the Technical Support Documents, which are downloadable free-of-charge by visiting the "document download" section in the Members Only area of www.fibreoptic.org.uk, are in a continuous process of upgrade and revision. Since the last Newsletter a number of changes have been made to TSD-2000-4-1-1: Installation Practice: Splicing. This resulted in an upgrade to Issue 2.

The revision was initiated by FIA member comments - each of which being carefully considered before the final changes were made. If you visit the web-site, you will find the new version as both a clean copy and with revision marks (so you know what has changed).

Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA said "the simplicity of making such changes in response to member demand fully justifies the use of electronic documentation". Make sure you visit the download page regularly to ensure that all your documents are up-to-date.