

The Fibreoptic Industry Association

www.fia-online.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

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THE FIBREOPTIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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A warm welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

- 578 - BLUE ROCK COMMUNICATIONS LTD
- 576 - FIRST TOUCH SOLUTIONS LTD
- 575 - FIBRENET LIMITED
- 574 - AVENTE LIMITED
- 573 - LIGHTGUIDE TECHNOLOGIES LTD

Overseas Corporate

- 577 - VTI SERVICES

Personal

- 572 - Mr. David Howard
- 571 - Mr. Kenneth Kirkman

FIA-online.co.uk

Visitors to the old FIA web-site will find a re-direct page to our new web-site. The new site at www.fia-online.co.uk will provide both improved membership management and an opportunity for enhanced services via a series of Members Forums.

Members will be advised as new features become effective but an overview of the new site is provided on page 2 of this Newsletter.

Please take time out to visit the site and familiarise yourselves with its content. To access member-only services you will need your existing membership password.

FIA Seminars (December 2005 – January 2006)

The new financial year sees the re-emergence of one of the FIA's most cherished institutions – the Commercial Awareness Seminars. Once again we are trying to present topics in a new way to attract more of our members to attend. See the following pages for more details.

**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)
- John Colton - Training
(Lucid Optical Services Ltd.)
- Lee Funnell - Qualifications
(Astro Communications Limited)
- Sydney Hogg - Passive Components
(Schneider Electric UK Limited)

The End of an FIA Era

Mike Philips, Chairman of the Fibreoptic Industry Association, for as long as anyone can remember is standing down at the Annual General Meeting in December 2005. Mike has decided not to seek re-election as a FIA Council Member and wishes to pass the mantle of Chairmanship over to other willing hands.

The same is true for Peter Thompsett who has served the FIA in a number of roles over the past ten years.

In the next Newsletter, we will advise you of the new appointments and also take time out to look at the changes in our industry since Mike Phillips took over as Chairman in December 1991.

In the meantime, the rest of the FIA Council would like to extend its thanks and appreciation to two directors who have made an outstanding contribution to our organisation over so many years.



If you already receive **networking+** magazine you will already have seen that the FIA produces a half-page editorial in each issue. In order to save space in this Newsletter we have arranged for all recipients of this e-mail to also receive a free-copy of **networking+**. So - you can keep in touch with the FIA and the other contributors to this broad-based, well balanced networking magazine.

If you want to download the text of earlier **FIA** articles go to <http://www.fia-online.co.uk/earticles.htm>.

FIA Seminar Programme 2005-2006

Although many FIA members request the FIA Council to develop and deliver subsidised seminars, it is a sad fact that the general levels of attendance in recent years have been quite poor - particularly outside London. We have tried a variety of different strategies - starting early for the "Breakfast Seminars", changing the focus to commercial rather than technical matters etc.

This year we thought we would try "The Christmas Lectures" and "The Robert Burns" approach. We have scheduled two days of technical and commercial seminars giving attendees plenty of time to chat and network in between. The first is 1st December 2005 (not exactly Christmas but certainly in the "Christmas Party" season) and the other is on 31st January 2006 - close to the great bards anniversary. Both are to be held in the London area and mailers will be sent out in the next week or so - so keep an eye open.

As usual they are excellent value for money at £79 + VAT for members and their guests.

The topics for these seminars include:

- An FIA Overview 2005/2006 - New Products and Services
- Project Management - A Dying Art (and what to do about it?)
 - Flood Damage - Does it really affect optical fibre?
- 10GBase-T vs. Optical Fibre - A Fair Fight (and who is winning?)
 - Testing of Installed Cabling - Update

If you have any other ideas for topics of interest then let us know and we can try to get them into the programme (by squeezing lunches and coffee breaks) - contact the Secretariat on 01763 273039 or by e-mail at jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk.

Haringey tackles skills shortage

Haringey Council, on behalf of their ICT cluster, Haringey Logik, have awarded a contract to Optical Technology Training Ltd to run a programme to provide top quality training in communications cabling in the borough. Haringey Logik has been established as part of the City Growth Strategy to support development of the ICT sector in the borough.

In January 2006 twelve candidates will start the pilot scheme which provides them with three weeks of training leading to the full "City & Guilds 3666 Certificate in Communications Cabling", including 3666-01: Basic Communications Principles & Safe Working Practices, 3666-04: Copper data cabling and 3666-02: Fibre optic data cabling. They will also take the Electrotechnical Certification Scheme (CSCS Affiliated) Health & Safety assessment and this combination will qualify the successful candidates as data cabling technicians under the ECS scheme.

The pilot scheme is a partnership between the Council, Haringey Logik, OTT and recruitment and placement specialists At Work. At Work will be responsible for selecting the candidates and supporting them through the programme and mentoring them through their initial work experience. So if you need to recruit highly trained and qualified data cabling personnel in the London area then contact richard.ednay@ott.co.uk at OTT or lisa.quinn@atwork.co.uk at 'At Work' for more information, or to arrange to attend the launch day in December to meet potential candidates.

Electrastar Help Manchester United

Electrastar have now completed a fibre optic termination project for Manchester United Football Club. A number of 4-core fibre optical cables have been terminated and tested for the running of the digital scoreboards throughout the stadium.



Electrastar worked in partnership with the main contractor, JDC Cabling who work with various Football Grounds throughout the country.

The project was carried out within a tight deadline in order to be completed before the crucial UEFA Champions

League game on the evening of 9th August 2005.

The project formed part of the current plans to fill in the corners at the North-West and North-East part of the ground, making a 75,000 capacity and thus creating a bowl effect on two thirds of the ground. Long-term plans for the stadium are in place to rebuild the South stand in a similar style to the North and with filled corners, with a potential 92,000 all-seater capacity.



To find out more visit <http://www.electrastar.co.uk>.

When is OM3 not OM3?

Category OM3 optical fibre cables are one of the few components where decent profit margins can be attained. Unfortunately, there are a growing number of reports and allegations of sub-standard material being re-badged. There is little that an installer or user can do to determine the accuracy of the claims made by suppliers because the defining feature of OM3 - its bandwidth - is difficult to measure outside the test laboratory.

However, as a starting point, purchasers should at least correctly specify what they are asking for. The OM1, OM2, OM3 and OS1 specifications are for "cabled fibre" which means the performance values specified have to be delivered in cable form not simply as optical fibre on its own. They are called up in both ISO/IEC 11801 and BS EN 50173-1 which in turn reference a series of published standards for the detailed product specifications - these product standards are listed below.

Outdoor cables:

BS EN 60794-3-12:2005 - Duct and directly buried cables
BS EN 60794-3-21:2005 - Aerial self-supporting cables

Indoor cables:

BS EN 60794-2-11:2005 - Simplex and duplex cables
BS EN 60794-2-21:2005 - Multi-fibre distribution cables
BS EN 60794-2-31:2005 - Ribbon cables

So if you want OM3 cables then choose the cable design you want and then quote that you want OM3 optical fibre cable according to the relevant specification. It may not stop fraudulent practice but at least it means that you have accurately defined what you need and there are no loopholes at your end.

FIA Web-Site Advertising

As you may have seen, Mayflex and Cablelines (Cablenet TrackMaster) have sponsored the entire web-site until March 2006 and CTTS has taken the opportunity to sponsor the Approved Training Providers Scheme page. But there are plenty more opportunities for FIA members to "get their name in lights".

To sponsor a page until 1st March 2006 with a logo of up to 150(H) x 100 (V) pixels costs only £175 + VAT. Full details are shown at <http://www.fia-online.co.uk/esponsor.htm> but to summarise there are just two basic designs of web-page on the **FIA** site - which we call Template and List. The way in which your sponsorship logo is positioned on the page depends upon the page design. The list of available pages is shown on the right. If you want to advertise in this way please contact Jane Morrison at the FIA Secretariat on 01763 273039 or by e-mail at jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk.

Template Pages

Open Pages

About the FIA
Approved Installer Scheme
Audit Scheme
Arbitration Scheme
e-solutions
Insurance Scheme
Jobs in our Industry
Links
Product Reviews
Qualification Scheme
Skillsmatch
Standards Forum

List Pages

Open Pages

Approved Installers
Approved Training Providers
Articles
Events
FAQs
Newsletters
Presentations of past events
Press Releases
Stolen Equipment Register
Technical Support Documents
White Papers

Members Only Pages

Cost Modelling
Skillsmatch
Standards Forum
Technical Support Documents

**Are you an FIA member?
Have you got any NEWS?**

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

CableNet 'lens' a hand

Independent training provider CableNet Training has been named sole 'UK Accredited Training Partner' to German network surveillance camera manufacturer Mobotix. From its UK headquarters, CableNet will deliver a series of 2 and 3 day 'Certified Secure Partner' courses for Mobotix distributors and installers, enabling them to become proficient in Mobotix's suite of camera systems that deliver images via ISDN over the Internet.

"We chose CableNet as our UK training partner because of their excellent training facilities and proven record in delivering effective training in highly complex and technical areas that require the combined expertise of data, voice and video. We believe the availability of this qualified training in the UK will further enhance the deployment of Mobotix equipment here" said Carl Stewart, UK Sales Manager at Mobotix.

The course is aimed at professionals already working in the TCP/IP arena and on completion provides the knowledge and experience for designing, supervising, installing, integrating into IP networks and managing support programmes involving the wide ranging surveillance network systems from Mobotix.

Based in South West Germany, Mobotix develops and manufactures specialist network cameras for security systems, production monitoring and Internet applications. The company was the first to develop an IP-based camera system capable of delivering high quality images and sound over the Internet via LANs, ISDN, broadband and any other Wide Area Network (WAN) system, easily without the need for a PC - effectively turning 60 years of analogue video surveillance on its head. Mobotix has a worldwide operation through its subsidiaries, qualified speciality distributors and retail partners and exports more than forty five percent of its products.

FIA Qualification Scheme - Up and Running

The FIA Qualification Scheme announced in detail in the last Newsletter is up and running with Approved Training Providers and Certified Trainers appointed. Equally importantly we are beginning to see "learners" signing up to the scheme and being given FIA Awards for the qualifications they have already obtained and recognised for the Continuing Professional Development they are currently undergoing.

Both CTTS and Lucid Optical Services have been approved as **FIA** Training Providers under the scheme and have nominated a total of seven Certified Trainers (see them on the **FIA** web-site). As the deadline for grandfathering rights for trainers under the scheme approaches, we expect more to follow.

	<p>Certified Design Technician</p> <p>Ingemar Watson</p> 		<p>Certified Design Specialist</p> <p>Grant Sauls</p> 	<p>The scheme has already spread beyond the United Kingdom.</p> <p>We have two learners from South Africa, Grant Sauls (of FIA member Falcon Electronics) and Ingemar Watson (CTC Corona), who have undertaken City & Guilds qualifications (the minimum criteria for Level I status) and have also obtained the necessary additional credits to get them to a Level II Award.</p>
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At the upper end the scheme has Level V qualifications including those of Certified (Optical Fibre) Expert and Certified Design Expert. The qualifications are generally achieved by submission of a thesis and peer review. The first such thesis has been commissioned from Mike Gilmore, **FIA** Technical Director.

This is of immediate benefit to all **FIA** members since the full text of each thesis, once approved, is to be made available on the FIA web-site. Hopefully this will encourage others to get their due recognition at the highest possible level.

For more information on the Qualification Scheme go to the scheme home page at www.fia-online.co.uk/equals01.htm, read the last **FIA** Newsletter or the Qualification Scheme article (both directly hyperlinked linked from the www.fia-online.co.uk home page).

FIA Standards Forum – documents available for download and comment

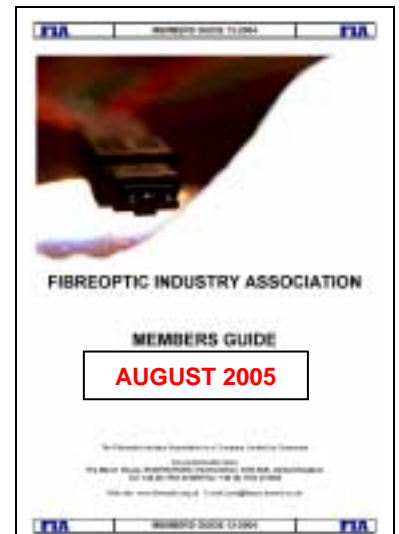
The Standards Forum now offers **FIA** Members the opportunity to comment the standards in development by the fibre optics and cabling committees in ISO/IEC, IEC, CENELEC and BSI. These cover a range of optical fibre products such as optical fibres, cables and system components together with the design, installation and commissioning standards for cabling. To get involved - go to the members-only area of the **FIA** site area, type in your password, go to Standards Forum and follow the instructions.

FIA Members e-Guide

The third electronic version of the **FIA** Members Guide is available for download via the hyperlink on the home page at www.fia-online.co.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 is updated on a regular basis, to keep pace with changes in membership and 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 e-Guide. 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. If you to advertise in this way please contact Jane Morrison at the FIA Secretariat on 01763 273039 or by e-mail at jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk.

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.



Version 1.02 of BIP0007 now available for download from www.fia-online.co.uk MEMBERS ONLY

Telecommunication cabling and equipment installations

A guide to requirements and responsibilities

ISO/IEC adopts E_A, F_A for new channels

The meeting of ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 took place in Edinburgh during the last week of September. Significant progress was made across a wide range of standardisation projects including generic cabling for industrial premises (using plastic as well as all-silica fibres) and improved accuracy for testing of optical fibre cabling.

However, the moment of mad-cap humour came late in the week when the time came to name the new channel Classes for copper cabling up to 500 MHz and 1000 MHz. Many choices were offered and discarded. The winners were Class E_A and Class F_A respectively. So our future copper cabling will be selected from Classes D, E, E_A, F and F_A.

So what's next, I hear you cry: I proposed "sweet F_A" – because that's about as much as they will sell of it – but it does not translate into other languages.

Mike Gilmore, **FIA** Technical Director

FIA thanked for standards innovation

The work by the FIA to promote standards in a wide range of technical areas received recognition, both informal and formal, in the last few weeks.

The work to radically change the way testing is carried out on installed optical fibre cabling, initiated by our Technical Support Documents 2000-4-2-1 and 4-2-2, has been reflected in the rapid development of the forthcoming International Standard ISO/IEC 14763-3. The specification of standard launch conditions (the subject of last years Product Sponsorship Scheme) and the use of reference connections are both included in the revised draft which now is at FDIS (Final Draft IS) status. The contents of this document will be discussed the FIA Seminars detailed on page 2.

The **FIA** Polarity Maintenance document is also to be the subject of new work in Europe via CENELEC TC215 WG1.

In early October, the BSI Technical Committee GEL/86, formally thanked the FIA for its part in the standardisation effort and welcomed any new ideas the FIA Council and our members might have.