



The Fibreoptic Industry Association

www.fia-online.co.uk

NEWSLETTER

Issue 94

May 2010

THE FIBREOPTIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

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A warm welcome to the following NEW MEMBERS

Corporate

ADVANCED COMMUNICATIONS
 SPRING CONTRACTING LIMITED
 RIDGEMOUNT TECHNOLOGIES LIMITED
 CABLE AND SPLICING SERVICES LIMITED
 XTREME BUSINESS SOLUTIONS LIMITED
 WASHINGTON COMMS LIMITED

Overseas Corporate

DIAMOND SA

FIA Summer Seminar ... and members networking event

To celebrate Charles Kao being awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics for his work on fibre optics, the FIA is holding an event which combines a full schedule of seminars spread across two days and a mini-exhibition with the opportunity to network during the evening with a drinks reception and a 3-course dinner in a private room.

The event at the Barcelo Hotel, Oxford, on the 9th/10th June 2010, provides an excellent opportunity to update your knowledge, mingle with fellow FIA members, FIA Directors and enjoy the Oxfordshire countryside – all in one go. To make a reservation, fill out the application form at the back of this Newsletter and send it to the FIA Secretariat. The event, open to all FIA members and their guests, represents fantastic value - the cost for both the seminar and the dinner is just £99 + VAT per person and FIA has also negotiated a bed and breakfast rate at the hotel of just £89 inc VAT.

See the next page for full details.

700th FIA Member accepted

During May 2010, the FIA saw the acceptance of the 700th member since its inception in 1991.

FIA/TIA-B to organise Netcoms seminars

The FIA as co-hosts of the TIA-B are to organise the complete seminar schedule for Netcoms 10 exhibition, to be held at the Emirates Stadium on 13th/14th October 2010. Following an inspection of the proposed facilities for both the exhibition and the conference, Mike Gilmore, Technical Director of the FIA, confirmed that the event should be a great deal easier to access than the previous exhibitions held at Olympia and that the quality of the facilities was much superior.



the Network Infrastructure Event 2010



FIBREOPTIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The FIA is a Company Limited by Guarantee

Management Council

Paul Bateson - Chairman
(Optical Test and Calibration Ltd.)
 Lee Funnell - Vice Chairman
(The Siemon Company)
 John Marson - Commercial Director
(Twistnet Communications Ltd.)
 Mike Gilmore - Technical Director and Treasurer
(The Cabling Partnership e-Ready Building Limited)

Industry Sector Directors

Paul Bateson - Test & Measurement
 John Colton - Training
(Lucid Optical Services Ltd.)
 Lee Funnell - Qualifications
 Ken Jones - Installation
(EDS Systems (North Wales) Ltd.)
 Phil Whitehead - Cross-media promotion
(ACCL)
 Simon Comben - MoD Liaison
(TCM Communications (UK) Ltd.)

THE FIBROPTIC INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

FIA

in association with



9th June 2010

1.00 pm	Registration and Refreshments
1.45 pm	Introduction
2.00 pm	Cabling standards update
	Mike Gilmore, FIA Technical Director covering recent and planned changes to optical fibre cabling and component standards
2.45 pm	The changing face of optics in data centres
	Carrie Higbie, The Siemon Company reviewing the impact of MPO connectivity
	Break
4.00 pm	The FIA AIS - linking to national standards
	Ken Jones, FIA Installation Director supported by Mike Gilmore, FIA Technical Director
4.45 pm	Selling to the Ministry of Defence
	MoD Procurement Representative supported by Simon Comben, FIA MoD Liaison Director
5.30 pm	Open Forum
6.45 pm	Drinks reception
	Wine at dinner sponsored by The Networks Centre
7.30 pm	3-course dinner
	Wine at dinner sponsored by PFC Corofil

10th June 2010

9.15 am	H&S and Construction Products legislation update
	Phil Dickinson, HSE supported by Ken Jones, FIA Installation Director
10.15 am	Selection of "fit for purpose" fire-stop systems
	Duncan Alabaster, PFC Corofil
	Break
11.15 am	FIA QS and qualification developments
	John Colton, FIA Training Director
11.45 am	Expanding the role of the FIA
	Mike Daly, CMA and Mike Gilmore, FIA Technical Director describing the role of the TIA-B
1.00 pm	Close

FIA Summer Seminar 2010

Over 50 people have now registered to attend the **FIA** Summer Seminar. We know that many others are expecting to attend but there are limits on total attendance and others wishing to register need to do so now using the booking form on Page 6 of this Newsletter.

The event held over two days (9th/10th June 2010) at the Barcelo Hotel, Oxford, is sponsored by an **FIA** member **The Siemon Company** and will feature a series of important techno-commercial seminars together with a dinner (sponsored by **Haliburton** and **PFC Corofil**) and a pre-dinner drinks reception sponsored another **FIA** member - **The Networks Centre**.

Not only are the subjects of the individual presentations going to be topical, but by attending:

- those FIA members who have already been awarded MoD Approval using the FIA FastTrack approach will be able to listen to, and discuss with, the MoD speaker any next steps that they need to take to maximise their opportunities in this area (if you have not already applied for the FastTrack approach please use the MoD Application Form on Page 7 of this Newsletter and send it back to the **FIA Secretariat**);
- you will be able to obtain certain FIA services at substantially discounted rates (make sure you attend to see which services this applies to);
- individuals will be able to claim attendance as part of their Continuing Professional Development under the FIA Qualifications Scheme.

As part of the package supporting our members the event provides an area for table-top exhibits by the following companies:

- The Siemon Company etc
- PFC Corofil
- Haliburton
- EXFO/Optical Test and Calibration
- Ridgemount
- EDS.

In addition to representatives of all the organisations listed above, attendees already registered include: 3M, CNET, Inside Networks, Route 3, Hartwood Services, Blue Helix Ltd., FES Ltd., Cable & Splicing Services Ltd, Arden Photonics, Hampton Technical Services, SEC Datacom, Twistnet Communications, Utility Fibre Systems and Bailey Teswaine plc.

STOP PRESS:

There are now less than 20 places left for the seminars and the dinner event. If you are intending to attend but have not quite got round to booking please act as soon as possible

**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.
Articles, product information, news items etc. are always welcome.
Please send the information via email (jpg illustrations) to Jane Morrison via the **FIA Secretariat**

FIA Standards Forum

- **documents available for download and comment NOW**

The Standards Forum offers **FIA** Members the opportunity to comment on standards in development by the fibre optics and cabling committees in ISO/IEC, IEC, CENELEC and BSI. These standards cover a wide range of optical fibre products such as optical fibres, cables, connectors 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** web-site area, go to Standards Forum and follow the instructions. Why not bookmark this page for easy access - it is always easier to influence standards in development than fix them later.

FIA Extended Standards Service

The **FIA** funds involvement in a wide range of national and international standards activity, primarily to address the fibre optic aspects of data/telecommunications infrastructure design and implementation. However, by the very virtue of its presence on these standards bodies, the **FIA** also becomes involved in, and aware of, key issues in other technology areas. A new service from the **FIA**, the "**Extended Standards Service**", allows FIA members to benefit from this wider range of work by providing them with an independent source of information covering the background to the work of each of the standards groups that the FIA supports, together with an up-to-date review of progress in specific areas and indications of future plans. The **FIA** web-site shows a [list](#) of areas covered by the ESS together with demonstrations of the type of information provided based on specific [standard committees](#) and [standards](#) they produce.

This type of service is normally only available to organisations via private arrangements. The FIA believes that simultaneous provision of accurate, unbiased, information to multiple ESS members represents a useful service at a fraction of the costs of such private arrangements. The Extended Standards Service is an optional service available at additional cost to all UK Corporate Members of Category B (£300 + VAT per annum) and C (£500 + VAT per annum). The fees are separate from the FIA membership fees and are billed on an annual basis following application for ESS membership.

NOTE: The ESS is not available to Corporate A members or to Overseas Corporate members.

If you are interested in using the ESS please do not hesitate to contact the **FIA** [Secretariat](#) who will be pleased to assist with your application.

FIA at IFSEC 2010

... leading to new FIA activities

The **FIA** exhibited at IFSEC 2010 at the NEC in May 2010. The decision to have a presence at the exhibition reflected the increased use of optical fibre cabling as the medium of choice for surveillance and security systems. **FIA** publications such as Technical Support Documents have concentrated on LAN applications but it has been recognised that a wider range of applications need to be addressed by the FIA to encourage membership by companies supplying the relevant equipment. This was not really viable within the traditional LAN area since the transmission standards are defined internationally and the market leaders would see little benefit.

However, within the video transmission sector such market dominance does not exist and, despite the increasing use of IP to underpin such systems, there is still a great deal of solution-specific design knowledge which may assist clients and installers alike and which would benefit the suppliers of such solutions. Moreover, it is obvious from the IFSEC exhibitor list that there is a substantial impact of Far-East competition and it is critical to increase the profile of professional system suppliers in the UK.

During the exhibition the **FIA** Council members contacted a number of recognised UK specialists in the area of video transmission over optical fibre in order to determine what the **FIA** could offer them as an "independent" broker for the information they may wish to promote - both as a means to simplify procurement by their customers and to ensure risk-free installation by our other members. The information/guidance could take the form of **FIA** White Papers or more detailed Technical Support Documents - dependent on the objective.

FIA-online.co.uk – new members access details

Visit the site and familiarise yourselves with its content – to access member-only pages you will need both your FIA membership number and the membership password as issued in January 2010. If you do not know these then contact your FIA Principal Contact – failing that contact the **FIA** [Secretariat](#).

Sponsorship opportunities available on the **FIA** web-site

The annual sponsorship of both the entire **FIA** web-site and specific pages within it is currently up for renewal. FIA member organisations have recently been sent a letter detailing the commercial arrangements from 1st March 2010 to 28th February 2011. Based on the number of hits that the FIA web-site receives per day, the costs of sponsorship represent excellent value for money. If you are interested in discussing this opportunity in more detail please contact the Secretariat.

BS 6701: 2010 published

Following the publication of BS EN 50174-1 and BS EN 50174-2 in mid-2009, the principle British Standard for the installation, operation and maintenance of telecommunications cabling and equipment, **BS 6701** (last revised in 2004), has undergone a facelift and was published in March 2010. The main changes are to its structure, enabling a direct clause-to-clause correspondence between BS 6701 and both BS EN 50174-1 and BS EN 50174-2. However, there are some technical changes - the most obvious of which is the addition of requirements for the equipotential bonding of cabinets, frames and racks - a long-standing area of confusion, now clarified.

Remember, if you are buying standards, please use the BSi link on the home page of the FIA web-page – you receive all the usual discounts from BSi and the FIA get a little something as well.

Rapid uptake of FIA Approved Installer Scheme

The **FIA** Approved Installer Scheme has seen significant uptake in the last two months on two separate fronts.

By the end of May we hope to have five members that can proudly state their compliance with the scheme and we expect additional approvals in Q2 and Q3, 2010.

In addition, a number of major consultancies companies are now beginning to use the following text in their tender documents *“It is a requirement of this technical specification that the installation and testing of optical fibre cabling is undertaken by an FIA Approved Installer (a full list is available at www.fia-online.co.uk). This requirement seeks to minimise contractual risk by using a supplier employing experienced, competent and qualified staff using recognised techniques in accordance with published standards and applying suitably calibrated test and inspection equipment.”*

The revision of BS 6701, published in March 2010, is forcing an update of Online Assistance provided to the **FIA** Approved installers Scheme. The 300 separate installation risk elements contained in the online assistance pages were fully updated in July 2009 to take account of the publication of BS EN 50174-1 and BS EN 50174-2. Now they are being updated again to reflect the revision of BS 6701.

Mike Gilmore, **FIA** Technical Director, said “the update is a resource-intensive process but is a very necessary one”. Ken Jones, Installation Sector Director added “the level of support offered to Approved Installers and their clients by the **FIA** Approved Installer Scheme is unparalleled by any other organisation and the commitment to keeping the information current is critical in maintaining that leading position”.



A new FIA service – 3rd Party White Paper Pages

The **FIA** Council have received requests to establish a series of web-pages for specific members to insert their own White Papers. This is going to be supported on a trial basis over the next twelve months.

The **FIA** White Papers page will be modified to allow access to a series of 3rd Party pages allowing members to both sponsor their own pages and to list, on those pages, a limited number of their own White Papers. Each of these 3rd Party pages will include a disclaimer on each page to clearly differentiate them from the **FIA** White Papers.

The fee for such a page is to be set at £250 plus VAT per annum for up to 5 White Papers. This covers the cost of page sponsorship and the management fee for uploading and maintenance of the White Papers and other information on the page. If you are interested please contact Jane Morrison via the **FIA** [Secretariat](#).

Happy driving - FIA van stickers!

Recently every corporate member received two van stickers indicating that they were **FIA** members.

This resurrects a practice that, for reasons, unknown, had fallen into abeyance. Members wanting more can order them for £3.99 each (including VAT) The stickers have proved so popular that we may have to order a new batch.

... what else can we do to make you stand out in a crowd?

If you have any other ideas for corporate image improvement please contact the FIA Secretariat or John Marson the FIA Commercial Director via the web-site.



How about sponsoring a Newsletter?

As we have had enquiries from members regarding long-term sponsorship of the Newsletter, the **FIA** Council agreed that details of the fee structure should be announced both here and on the **FIA** web-site. Details are shown on the right.

Only one sponsor is allowed per issue so if you are interested please contact Jane Morrison via the **FIA Secretariat**.

Sponsorship rates are:

- Long-term sponsorship – limited to 3 issues per annum - £500 plus VAT
- Single issue - £200 plus VAT

Reference Grade Terminations ... work continues

As has been reported previously, the correct procedures for testing installed multimode optical fibre cabling requires both the correct launch conditions and the use of "reference grade terminations" on the all the test cords used.

However the definition of a reference grade termination is somewhat unclear due to a lack of detail, and some contradictions, between the various standards. In order to fully support the latest test standards, such as BS ISO/IEC 14763-2 and BS EN 61280-4-1, the **FIA** has a responsibility to provide unambiguous information as to their use to its members. A Project Team has been established under the direction of the **FIA** Technical and Standards Director, Mike Gilmore.

Project Team RGT comprises representatives from **FIA** members with a wide range of skills covering connector manufacture and standardisation, optical fibre supply, termination and installation. The objective is to produce a number of **FIA** publications both for our members and for submission to the various standards bodies, encouraging them to "clean up their act" in this area. This eventually allow the **FIA** to revise their own testing documents TSD-2000-4-2-1 and 2000-4-2-2, simplifying them and using the recognised standards as the primary test methods.

If you wish to be involved in this work please contact the FIA Technical Director on technical@fia-online.co.uk.

Inside Networks

The **FIA** always like to see new developments in the market and the online magazine Inside Networks established by Rob Shepherd, ex-editor of NCN, is a welcome example of just such a development.

FIA members should take the opportunity to subscribe to the e-zine by clicking on the logo above.

We are sure that the **FIA** will have opportunities to showcase the skills and services offered by its members in the coming months.

Good luck Rob

IANs and SIDs from the TIA-B

TIA-B, the Telecommunication Infrastructure Advisory Board has released its first Infrastructure Advisory Note (**IAN 001**) covering "FIRE PERFORMANCE SPECIFICATIONS FOR TELECOMMUNICATIONS CABLING AND EQUIPMENT".

In addition, they are in the final stages of preparing two Standards Interpretation Documents (or SIDs). These are **SID 001** "CLARIFICATION OF THE CURRENT REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING THE SEGREGATION OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND POWER SUPPLY CABLING" and **SID 002** "EARTHING OF CABINETS, FRAMES AND RACKS". The documents are free-to-members via the "members-only" side of the TIA-B web-site (using the **FIA** username and password system).



SUMMER SEMINAR and MEMBERS NETWORKING EVENT
BOOKING FORM

Please complete the details below and fax/post/e-mail to the FIA Secretariat (details above).
(Telephone bookings can be accepted when paying via credit card)

SEMINAR AND DINNER
<i>Please contact the FIA Secretariat to advise of special dietary requirements (e.g. vegetarianism, veganism. etc)</i>
I wish to reserve places @ £116.33 (£99 + VAT) = TOTAL £

ACCOMMODATION for the night of 9th June 2010
I wish to reserve places @ £89 inc vat = TOTAL £

SEMINAR ONLY
I wish to reserve places @ £88.13 (£75 + VAT) = TOTAL £

NAME	Signature	Date

E-mail address	
Contact telephone	

COMPANY	
FIA MEMBERSHIP NO	

INVOICE ADDRESS	
------------------------	--

Method of payment	
(full payment is required with booking unless a Company Purchase Order is provided)	
All bookings will be acknowledged and a VAT invoice will be issued	
1	I/We enclose a cheque for £ (made payable to FIA Limited)
2	If paying by credit card, state: VISA <input type="checkbox"/> Mastercard <input type="checkbox"/> Debit <input type="checkbox"/> (please tick appropriate box) Cardholder name Transaction amount £ Card Number ____/____/____/____ 3 digit Security No. ____ Expiry date ____/____and for Debit cards: Card Issue No (Solo/Switch) Start date ____/____



**UNITED KINGDOM
 MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**
 -
**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST
 QUESTIONNAIRE**

Yes	No

Question 1: Has your organisation ever supplied fibre optic products and/or services to the UK MoD?

Question 1a: If so, in which of the following categories have you supplied products and/or services?

PRODUCTS	
Active components	
Passive components	
Optical fibre	
Cables	
Connectors	
Sensors	
Installation tools	
Production equipment	
IT/networking equipment	
Test equipment	
Video equipment	

SERVICES	
Marketing	
Project management	
CATV infrastructure	
Surveillance systems	
System maintenance	
System management	
System design	
Cable assemblies	
Joining	
Testing	
Training	
Calibration	

Yes	No

Question 2: Does your organisation subscribe to Defence Contractors Bulletin (DCB)?

Question 3: Does your organisation subscribe to British Contracts for International Procurement (BCIP)?

Question 4: Has your organisation ever applied to register as an MoD supplier?

Question 5: Do you wish to supply fibre optic products and/or services to the UK MoD?

Question 5a: If so, in which of the following products and/or services can you supply?

PRODUCTS	
Active components	
Passive components	
Optical fibre	
Cables	
Connectors	
Sensors	
Installation tools	
Production equipment	
IT/networking equipment	
Test equipment	
Video equipment	

SERVICES	
Marketing	
Project management	
CATV infrastructure	
Surveillance systems	
System maintenance	
System management	
System design	
Cable assemblies	
Joining	
Testing	
Training	
Calibration	

Signed
 Contact
 Date

on behalf of FIA member
 e-mail address