



**BATON ROUGE
SECTION**

April Newsletter 2007

PRESENTATION

Tower & Storage Tank IHLA

**Speaker: Max Hohenberger
From: EXXONMOBIL**

**April 19, 2007
Time: 11:30-12:30pm**

**Location:
Holiday Inn
Gonzales, LA**

**Pricing with RSVP: \$12/person
Tickets at Door: \$15/person**

RSVP: isareservations@hotmail.com

President's Message

We have come towards the end of one more ISA year. As you all know ISA goes from 1st of July to 30th of June each year and we have our monthly meetings till May. When I look back towards the year, I have some very fond memories of the whole team making it work for this organization for one more year.

One thing I am really happy about is the membership increase. The number of active ISA Baton Rouge members has increased to about 230 right now. I hope we continue growing and grow at a faster pace. The April meeting is going to be the 7th meeting of the ISA year and after that we shall have our scholarship banquet.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my board members and all of you who helped us make this year one more successful year for the ISA local section. We are seeing some new enthusiastic people who have volunteered to steer this section next year. I wish them all luck and success.

Also, we are in the planning stages for next year's activities. If anybody is interested in doing something new for our section, plan some new activity or re-start some activity, you are welcome to approach us and we will be more than happy to assist you in that venture.

This month, we shall listen to Max Hohenberger from Exxon Mobil on High Level Alarm at Holiday Inn Gonzales. Next month, on the 17th of May, we shall have our Annual Scholarship Banquet at Drusilla Seafood Restaurant to recognize the academic merit of 4 young students from our local colleges/universities. In the same banquet, we shall hold election for our upcoming board members. It will be great to see overwhelming number of people attending both these events.

As always, we are looking forward to having more enthusiastic people join this society and take the maximum benefits from it. ISA has been growing and it's the biggest network of automation professionals worldwide. The prudence is in being a part of this huge automation community, give a bit and obtain a whole lot. The yearly membership is \$85, which includes 12 issues of Intech magazine and a lot of discounts on the ISA products.

We have started looking for presenters at our technical meeting next year. Please contact me at murtaza.gandhi@jacobs.com for any further info.

If you would like to send an article or advertisement, please email Crystal Barzare at crystal.barzare@jacobs.com.

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Upcoming Presentation...

May, 17th

"Ethics in Engineering"
by Dr. Aramando Carripio
Drusilla Seafood Restaurant, **Baton Rouge**

Bioplastic for Biodiesel

12 April 2007, InTech e-News for Automation Professionals

A new bioengineered fuel-latent plastic can fulfill its regular duties and then convert into a biodiesel fuel after its use.

The difference is the new bioplastic uses vegetable oils, said Professor Richard Gross, director of Polytechnic University's National Science Foundation Center for Biocatalysis and Bioprocessing of Macromolecules. He also partnered with DNA 2.0, a biotechnology company specializing in gene synthesis, to develop enzymes that can synthesize and break the fuel-latent plastic down into biodiesel after its use.

The Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) thought so much of the technology it awarded the researchers \$2.34 million to advance the technology and transfer it to industry. The commercialization of the technology could lead to a new source of green energy to households worldwide.

"We showed DARPA that we could make a new plastic from plant oils that has remarkable properties, which includes being tougher and more durable than typical polyethylenes. Additionally, the bioplastic can be placed in a simple container where it is safely broken down to liquid fuel," Gross said.

The process of converting biogengineered fuel-latent plastics into biodiesel is of interest to DARPA since the U.S. military can use this technology on the frontline.

"Military units generate substantial quantities of packaging waste when engaging in stationary field operations. If we can turn this waste into fuel, we will see a double benefit. We will reduce the amount of waste that we have to remove, and we will reduce the amount of new fuel that we must deliver to the units," said Khine Latt, program manager for DARPA's Mobile Integrated Sustainable Energy Recovery program. The next phase of the research will entail developing a more efficient low-cost process for manufacturing the bioplastic and converting it into biodiesel. The personal generation of biodiesel is an important step in developing green technologies and reducing waste.

For related information, go to www.isa.org/environment.

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Section/Division News

There is one group in the world that is never questioned, and that is the group of folks who “second guess”. You know them, the Monday morning quarterbacks who like to say and write what should have happened. Like, why didn’t he hit the right side of the line instead of the left side? Why didn’t that quarterback throw to the open guy instead of to the guy who was covered so closely? And, how come the center fielder didn’t throw the ball to the cut-off guy who was in great position to throw the runner out at the plate? These questions and many more can be answered. Maybe not by me, but someone who writes for a newspaper, someone who does a sports show on radio or television. Now, those guys and ladies are geniuses and you can bank on what they write or say.

If you believe that, I don’t have a chance! But the truth is that most journalists, whether they be male or female, retired sports figures, or those guys who “never made the team”, don’t have a clue just what it takes to be a great competitor. At least today they don’t! Today’s athletes aren’t like yesterday’s gridiron greats and diamond champions. Today, they are coddled, from the start of Little League and Fun Football to high school, then to college and on to the professional ranks. They get it all. The free room and board while they are “studying” and then the trip to some obscure bowl game to perform.

Now, if you are still reading, what does this have to do with the ISA and its role in our professional development? Well, it means that you can be more than a little part of the ISA just by your participation in one of the many Divisions of the Society. And, you don’t have to second guess, Monday morning quarterback, or any of the things that some of the other folks do in their jobs, because the road to more active participation has been paved for you by some of your peers, your friends and your business associates. I hope you don’t mind the metaphor, but it is really true. If you want to do more in your career, if you want to be more successful in your job, you need to do more for your Section and your Division. But a lot has been done for you already. Your Section and probably your Division has programs in place that are of benefit to you.

Now, if you are a member of the Analysis Division, you know that there is an annual shrimp boil and an annual symposium sponsored by the Analysis Division folks. And if you are an active member who happens to be in the pipeline business, you know that there is a Pipeline sub-section in one of the larger Sections, that has monthly meetings, an annual golf tournament, a shrimp boil at a local brewery, and a group of professionals that wants to help you with your career.

So, what can you do to both promote and develop ISA membership? You could ask your co-workers if they are ISA members, and if they are you could ask if they are Division members. Once that is established, you can encourage them to think about being more active in both, by attending meetings, by writing technical papers, and by inspiring others to be more active both technically and socially. Remember, ISA is only as good as you and I make it, and without your participation it is just like a blank page in the news articles of our instrument and control systems life. And, ISA starts with the Sections and is strengthened by Division activities, so don’t be a Monday morning quarterback, get in the game and be the one who carries the ball.

L.M.”Dutch” Keen, P.E.
Section/Division Liaison – Houston
Vice President, Strategic Planning Dept.

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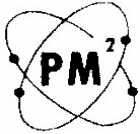
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525 Julie Rivers Dr., Ste. 185, Sugar Land, TX 77478, Phone: 281-295-5800,
or Tollfree: 1-800-862-0200, Fax: 281-295-5899, Email: info@servomex.com**History of Instrumentation Products****12 April 2007, InTech e-News for Automation Professionals****By Jim Pinto**

Since industrial automation is such a fragmented business, most new product ideas come from relatively small companies. All the large companies have a conglomeration of products, each with relatively small volume, but lumped together to form sizeable businesses. Indeed, many industrial mini-conglomerates, such as Spectris and Ametek, plan their continued growth through acquisition and combination of lots of small companies.

An exception to the small-company-innovation rule was distributed control systems (DCS), a mix of several important innovations developed in the early 1970s by a team of engineers at Honeywell. This generated a new category, which achieved \$100 million annual revenue within just a couple of years, and the segment has since expanded to several billions of dollars worldwide.

The other major automation segment to achieve significance, also in the 1970s, was the programmable logic controller (PLC). This breakthrough innovation was the brainchild of prolific inventor Dick Morley, who was with Bedford Associates, a small development company that worked for Modicon (now part of Schneider).

The first PLCs were for specific applications—reprogrammable test installations in the automobile manufacturing business replacing hard-wired relay-logic, which was hard to modify. PLCs evolved to encompass myriad of applications. This innovation resulted in a market segment that has also grown to several billions of dollars worldwide.

Another major industrial automation segment is supervisory control and data acquisition, or SCADA. This loose conglomeration of products have long been the realm of systems integrators, fragmented among several markets and applications. Networked personal computers (PCs) and Windows-based HMI, or human-machine interface, software arrived in the late 1980s and 1990s. After that, several innovative start-ups, like Wonderware and Intellution, grew fairly rapidly, offering HMI software with connections to remote PLCs and industrial input/output devices.

Sensors and actuators are major segments of industrial automation. Rosemount started with resistance temperature detectors but grew rapidly with the development of innovative capacitive differential pressure sensors, which overtook the traditional instrumentation leaders. Emerson eventually acquired Rosemount. It also went out and acquired other innovative sensor companies, among them Brooks (flow), Beckman (pH), and several others.

Fisher Controls started in Iowa by Bill Fisher, making innovative valves and actuators. Monsanto then acquired it, and then later Emerson picked it up. Interestingly, both Rosemount and Fisher tried to grow by branching out into DCS, but their offerings were relatively insignificant until Emerson put them together with PCs and software (Intellution and other ingredients) to generate leadership with DeltaV.

So, where will the next big surge of growth come from? If you listen to some of the major suppliers, wireless is a definite possibility, provided someone can introduce innovative wireless products rapidly, at a breakthrough price, without getting bogged down in prolonged standards negotiations. This could spark a new phase of growth that will re-energize industrial automation.

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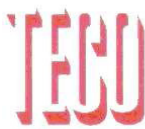


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Behind the byline

Jim Pinto is an industry analyst and founder of Action Instruments. You can e-mail him at jim@jimpinto.com or view his writings at www.JimPinto.com. Read the Table of Contents of his book, *Pinto's Points* at ww.jimpinto.com/writings/points.html.

Testing Windows for ISA Certification Electronic Exams

Beginning January 1, 2007, ISA electronic certification exams will be available during three testing windows. Each exam testing window will have a deadline for applications to be considered for testing in that window. Eligible candidates will only be able to test during the testing windows.

The candidate eligibility window is 9 months. Once your application is approved, testing must be completed within two exam testing windows. Your first exam testing date must be scheduled during the first available window after your application is approved. All rescheduling and retesting must be completed within the two consecutive exam testing windows within your 9 month eligibility period.

You may reschedule your exam once, and the rescheduled date must be during your first exam testing window. If you must retest, you must allow 30 days between your initial exam date and your retest date. If you are not able to schedule a retest in the same window you took the initial exam, you can retest in the next available window. A total of two retests are allowed within your two eligible exam testing windows with each retest scheduled at least 30 days apart.

If you do not successfully complete the exam within the two exam testing windows within your 9 month eligibility period, you must reapply submitting another application and fee.

In order to schedule an exam, you will need to send your completed application by the specified application deadline for the exam testing window.

The application deadlines and testing windows are as follows:

Exam Testing Window	Exam Application Postmark Deadline
Window 1: March 1 – April 30, 2007	Tuesday, January 16, 2007
Window 2: July 1 – August 31, 2007	Tuesday, May 15, 2007
Window 3: November 1 – December 31, 2007	Monday, September 17, 2007



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Page 7

ISA Certified Automation Professional (CAP) program

The following question comes from the CAP study guide, Performance Domain VI, Operations and Maintenance. Long-term support of the system

CAP question

Which of the following **MUST** be performed to reveal a normally undetected fault in a safety system?

- A. Proven-in-use
- B. Proof test
- C. System software test
- D. System validation

CAP answer

The correct answer is **B**, proof test. A *proof test* on a system may reveal faults that would otherwise not be mentioned by internal diagnostic measures and is therefore correct.

Proven-in-use is an assessment on suitability for use and not related to fault detection.

A *system software* test relates only to software and not to system faults.

System validation takes place to test requirements and specifications and may not reveal faults, which have not been refined by the requirements.

Reference: IEC, IEC 61511-1, 2002, Tomal, *Electronic Troubleshooting*, McGraw-Hill, 1998.

Professional Development Hours:

Continuing Education Requirements for Registered Professional Engineers

As of January 1, 1999, the State of Louisiana began requiring Licensed Professional Engineers to participate in a continuing education process as a condition for registration renewal. During each biennial registration renewal period, every engineer registrant, including those registered in two or more disciplines, is required to obtain 30 Professional Development Hours (PDH's) in engineering related activities. The local section can help. *Many of our section meetings qualify towards this requirements.*

Student Section News

There are no "work days" or other gatherings scheduled at this time.

READ-OUT is the newsletter of ISA Baton Rouge Section and is published 9 times a year. Business card ads by sponsors are \$150 per year, double ads are \$275. If you are interested in an ad, have an announcement, comment, question or suggestion; please contact us. **Deadline for ads, articles, etc. is noon on the last Friday of the month! Please provide the information to the editor by email to crystal.barzare@jacobs.com**