



# March

## Newsletter 2006

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## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

**Since the last newsletter your local ISA Section Executive Committee has had a very busy time.**

The DLC planning is going well, we have been granted a reception on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> May by the Manchester Lord Mayor's Office in recognition of the international status of the conference. The logistics for the event are in an advanced planning stage thanks to the hard work of Jennie Norton, Russell Hobbs and Ron Migliorini.

The ISA England Section seminars at MTEC, at the Birmingham NEC, were well attended and received this year, and we would like to extend our thanks to Moore Industries, Westermo Data Communications and PACSCOM Ltd for presenting the seminars.

The April technical meeting will be at the **Catalyst Museum in Widnes** on **4<sup>th</sup> April**. Details are given at the back of this newsletter, and we hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend.

As far as our industry is concerned it looks to be a busy time. The employment market, according to recruitment consultants, is buoyant in engineering and sales, and the prospects for engineers of our discipline look good. The price of oil is high, so oil and gas projects are abundant; we are approaching an energy crisis which may result in an increase in major build projects and the government, through their agencies, have set tough timescales for the clean up of our nuclear legacy.

You know what they say: "Every silver lining has a cloud around it!" and in this case it is the fact that there is a continuing skills shortage which could soon become a crisis. Whilst the demand for contract engineers is high, where are they expected to come from? British manufacturing industry, the life blood of our skills base, has been in decline and has had to tighten its belt to remain competitive with our State-subsidised competitors. The ability to take on and train apprentices and graduates has become a bigger challenge and there has been as steady decline in the number of people wanting to study engineering at universities, and those that do are often persuaded into different fields such as accountancy. We are told that many that Staff engineers are enticed into contracting by the high rates of pay and employers are seeing the overhead benefits of a non-permanent workforce. BUT, who is replenishing the skills pool? Answers on a postcard to the DTI!

If anybody else feels that they would like to let off some steam about our industry please feel free to contact our Secretariat with an article and we may publish it, but keep it clean and free of slanderous expression please!

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# REPORT ON MTEC

There was a high level of interest shown in the ISA at the MTEC Exhibition held at the NEC last month.

Over the two days of the exhibition, a steady stream of people stopped by our stand, both current members and those looking to find out more about the ISA, stopped to have a chat or attend one of the Seminars. The relaxed, open atmosphere on the stand, the array of literature and the presence of members such as David Norman (who was veritable magnet in attracting visitors!) able to provide information and insight into the ISA, all added to the attraction.



Such was the appeal that there were a good number of potential members who took away application forms and other material.

The forthcoming District Leaders Conference, to be held in Manchester, in May was announced and the opportunity taken to enlist support. (For more details see page 3)

In addition to the stand, the Section also organised a workshop programme of Seminars on the theme of Safety and Communication. These were presented in a small theatre area immediately opposite the ISA Stand, enabling us to direct visits to the seminars, and more importantly, introduce them to the ISA.

Presented by eminent people in their respective fields, the topics covered Fieldbus Installations, Wireless Ethernet, HART Monitoring and Telemetry Applications. The seminars were well supported and highly appreciated by those who attended. Our thanks go to the presenters for supporting the ISA and the England Section in this venture.

(Slides from some of the seminars will be available on our website).



The success of MTEC underlines the benefit of participating in such exhibitions, not only for promoting the ISA and attracting new members, but also for providing a focal point where existing members can meet the committee and find out about anything new.

The next exhibition at which ISA England Section will have a stand is Instrumentation North at Rotherham on 24 & 25 May. Please drop by our stand for a chat if you are attending.

Gordon Childs  
March 2006

## Thanks to our Presenters



A very special **THANK YOU**

to the companies and speakers for presenting the ISA England Section Seminars at MTEC

Mike O'Neill,  
Moore Hawke Fieldbus

Ian Poulett  
Westermo Data Communications

John Emmett  
Moore Industries

Mike Vaughan  
PACSCOM Ltd

*Don't forget*

*- Instrumentation North, Rotherham 24 & 25 May  
- Instrumentation Scotland, Aberdeen 6 & 7 September*

# DISTRICT 12 DLC CONFERENCE

12-13 May 2006

The ISA England Section are delighted to host this year's District 12 District Leadership Conference, taking place on Friday and Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> May at The Palace Hotel, in Greater Manchester,

District 12 covers Europe, Russia, Middle East and Africa, and delegates from all regions will be arriving to take part in what promises to be an enjoyable and informative event. Delegates from all regions will be joined by Ken Baker, current ISA President and Laura Crumpler, Senior Administrator and District 12 Liaison from ISA Head Office in Research Triangle Park in the US, along with Billy Walsh, VP for District 12.

A programme covering a diverse range of subjects, and designed to provide benefit to the membership together with help and focus for volunteer leaders will be covered during the two days. By the end of the conference it is intended that leaders and members will go away with more information on the future of ISA and how to achieve the best for our members.

The hard work will be supplemented on Friday evening by a Lord Mayor's Reception at Manchester Town Hall, and on Saturday by a formal Dinner at which members, sponsors and delegates will have the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas.

The meeting is open to all members of the ISA. If you would like more information, would like to attend, or would like to add your support in the form of sponsorship please contact the Secretariat (see front page for details).



## MEET THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR



Ian Parry of Hima-Sella Ltd has worked in the field of ESD system supply for over 30 years following the technology from pneumatics to the latest IEC 61508 technologies. He therefore has a wide knowledge of ESD applications and is a keen member of the Safety Division.

Ian has joined the committee to take over the Membership chair, so look out for reminders to renew your fees and our membership drive.

## NEW MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

*On January 1, 2006, ISA introduced three new member benefits. The benefits enhance the membership experience of thousands of automation professionals. Each full dues paying Member now receives a **free standard each year of their membership**. Each Member also has **free access to a library of web seminars and free downloads of technical papers from past ISA Conferences**.*

*There have been some difficulties downloading the free standard but it is believed these have now been sorted.*

# YOU ARE INVITED TO APRIL'S TECHNICAL PRESENTATION

To be held on Tuesday April 4<sup>th</sup> 2006 at the Catalyst Museum, Widnes.

This will be a **SAFETY SEMINAR** with presentations on

61508/61511 – The Questions to Ask  
Who's Afraid of IEC 61508  
EMPHASIS In Smart Instruments in Safety

Presentations will start at 7.00pm with anticipated finish 8.30pm  
Refreshments available between 6.30-7.00pm.

The event is supported by Hima-Sella Ltd, Moore Industries and the 61508 Association and is free of charge to members and non-members alike.

If you, your colleagues or your customers would like to know more about a subject that is integral to our industry, in an environment where you can question or exchange Ideas, then this event is not to be missed. Further details can be found on the enclosed flyer.

Places will be limited, so if you wish to attend please contact  
Gordon Childs, Secretariat at [GordonChilds@compuserve.com](mailto:GordonChilds@compuserve.com) or 01322 550409

## Welcome to New Members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members to the ISA England Section

**Nick Baker**  
**Michael Vaughan**  
**Paul Wade**

Anyone wishing to learn more about the ISA and the benefits it brings should contact either

Ian Parry, Membership Chair  
or  
Gordon Childs, Secretariat  
Contact details given on front page

## Stop Press .....

1. *Following notification in January's Newsletter and with no further nominations received, Rob Stockham's appointment as Honorary Secretary of the ISA England Section, was formalised at the Committee Meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> March 2006.*

2. *We would like to be able to include letters from members in the Newsletter. If you would like to air an opinion on a particular topic relating to our industry Sectors please send letter by email to the Newsletter Editor at [jennie\\_norton@hotmail.com](mailto:jennie_norton@hotmail.com)*