



England Section

Setting the Standard for Automation

March Newsletter 2009

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*The ISA England Section acknowledge,
with gratitude, the sponsorship of this
newsletter by Pepperl+Fuchs and
Eurospan*

PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

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Dear ISA members
Your ISA committee are committed to giving you enhanced value to your membership, by organizing technical seminars, exhibitions and social events. This is all possible with the help of an enthusiastic team of dyed-in-the-wool committee members. With this in mind I would like to call upon our membership to consider joining our committee, we have a number of vacancies we would like to fill at some point in the next few months. It is certainly not a daunting task; we all would be most supportive in easing you into the role. The ISA do not insist on academic qualifications just an eagerness to put something back to our instrumentation and automation industry. Please think about joining us for a worthwhile experience with the ISA England section committee. Do not hesitate in contacting me or any committee member for further details. A date for your diary, we will be at MTEC on the 25th and 26th of March, so take some time out to visit our stand

– **Russell Hobbs**



Appointed UK distributor of ISA Publications



Events News

The ISA England Section is proud to be associated with a number of upcoming event and we hope that you will be able to attend some of them.



ISA England Section Supports MTEC 09 – Birmingham NEC March 25 – 26
See enclosed literature



This conference will examine and discuss the latest local and international practices and standards in process and machine safety. It will focus on the technology and application of safety-related control and instrumentation systems in the chemicals, energy, mining and manufacturing industries. It will also examine the complex and challenging issues of using control systems technology to maintain and improve the safety of people and plant whilst ensuring profitability. To view the event brochure and register for the event visit our website today!

For More Information Call: (020) 8335 4014

www.idc-online.com

For further information on this event contact Sarah Montgomery: sarah.montgomery@idc-online.com



What's New in MPC? – Sackville Building, University of Manchester, March 26th 2009

Model predictive control (MPC) is a common tool used throughout the chemical and process industries. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss many of the latest developments in the technology

For more information, contact Gemma Jones

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Long Serving Committee Member Retires

We have to announce the retirement from the committee of Gordon Childs. Gordon, it seems, has been on the committee forever. We thought it would be appropriate for Gordon to tell us his ISA story in his own words

"I joined the ISA in 1993 at the invitation of Past President Dave Curtis who had the idea of forming an Environmental Division of the England Section. I was then at National Power with a responsibility for environmental testing and had been working on a national certification scheme with Dave and others from the environmental scene, so it seemed like a good opportunity to join forces under the established umbrella of the ISA with the aim of advancing our project. Thus, the Environmental Division was formed, and I became one of its founder committee members (portfolio of Area Coordinator for the South West!).



The thriving Environmental Division held regular technical meetings and took part in exhibitions, conferences, etc, and usually aligned its committee meetings to coincide with the monthly (!) main committee meetings. It was at a committee meeting in late 1993 that I first met the likes of David Norman, Michael Scott, Alan Palmer, Tony Foster, Janet Critchley and their contemporaries. In 1995, the Nominations sub-committee eyed the Environmental Division for its potential in getting new blood onto the main committee! So, at the AGM in 1995, the Environmental Division committee merged with the main Section committee, and I was voted in as Hon Secretary; a post I held for 3 years until 1998. This was immediately followed by 4 years as Hon Treasurer until I was relived by Russell Hobbs 2002. I then spent a year on the Steering Committee until taking up the Education Chair which Simon Keeble vacated in 2003. One of the duties in this position was representing the Section on the Local Management Committee (LMC) of the Partnership In Automation and Control Training (PACT) run by the University of Newcastle, a position I held until I retired this year. In parallel with this, I took over the running of the Secretariat from Jennie Norton at the end of 2005; a service I have enjoyed providing over the last 3 years."

We are sure that you will all join us in wishing Gordon all the best for the future

ISA Student Award 2008



The ISA Student Award winner for 2008 was Gerard Stephens who is a Knowledge Group Leader at Corus Technology Centre, Rotherham.

Gerard was selected as he had achieved the MSc in Process Automation with Distinction through part-time study on the IGDS (Integrated Graduate Development Scheme) at Newcastle University. The Scheme is offered through PACT (Partnership in Automation and Control Training) which consists of the University and a consortium of companies in the sector, supported by the ISA England Section. The modular structure of the course gives engineers the flexibility of choosing the subjects applicable to advance their careers and studying at their own pace whilst still employed.

In addition, bursaries are available to help those from SME's or the self-employed. Visit the PACT website at www.ncl.ac.uk/pact for further details.

Part of the Student Award was a book voucher kindly donated by the Eurospan Bookstore, the appointed UK distributor of ISA publications (see front page for website). Gerard was presented with his Award by our Education Chair, Gordon Childs, during a PACT meeting on 12th February at Newcastle University. The photo shows Gerard with Gordon (left) and IGDS Course Director Jon Love (right). We wish Gerard every success in his career.

Coming ISA England Events

•**Wednesday 1st April 2009**
Technical Seminar & Visit to Owlstone Ltd

Its gas analysis, Jim.... but not as we know it!

Finalists in the 2008 Royal Academy of Engineering MacRobert awards for innovation

See the enclosed flyer

•**ITS BACK! We intend to have a Presidents Dinner Dance in Nov/Dec 2010.**
Due to the economic climate, we have had to look at ways that the dance can be funded – so watch this space for further news

Welcome to New Members

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

January

Mutaz Adil Abbu

Phil Garside

Dimitrios Christos Papafragos

February

Idar Pe Ingebrigtsen

Brian Ronald Cole

Reminder – Please ensure that you keep your contact details up to date to ensure that you receive the mailed version of the Newsletter

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

Ian Parry, Membership Chair

or

The Secretariat

Contact details given on front page

ATTENTION!

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 :

editor@isa-england.org.uk



**England
Section**