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The IT cabling infrastructure
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The IT cabling consultants

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Next generation IT infrastructures

FIA TECHNICAL SUPPORT DOCUMENTS - RESPONDING TO USERS NEEDS!

by
**Mike Gilmore, FIA Technical Director
for Networking+ (October 2009)**

The recent publication of IEC 61280-4-1 and the approval of ISO/IEC 14763-3 A1 may have gone unnoticed by the majority of the IT community but they represent the completion of a cycle of technical development and standardisation that was initiated by the FIA as long ago as 2002. The two standards introduce strict new requirements for testing of multimode optical fibre cabling which place demands on equipment suppliers, test cord manufacturers and installers - ignorance of which may render test results invalid.

However, the purpose of this article is not to explain the minutiae of standards but to illustrate of the work of the Fibreoptic Industry Association in addressing the needs of the marketplace - members and their clients alike.

The FIA has an important responsibility to react to changes in fibre optic technology. Our reaction may be in response to specific technical challenges identified by the FIA Technical Directorate or to the impacts of such changes on, as highlighted by, the user and/or supplier community.

The FIA encourages input from the user community (members or non-members) which could lead to the production of either a Technical Support Document or a White Paper. A TSD generally addresses issues of major significance which would typically be developed to a quality capable of submission to international, European or British standards bodies as appropriate. Once standardisation has taken place (which can take more than five years, as in the example above) the TSD is amended or withdrawn.

The FIA offers users of cabling infrastructure, such as network managers, the opportunity to raise technical or commercial issues and to have them responded to swiftly and within their direct involvement. To get noticed and get results, e-mail jane@fiasec.demon.co.uk or contact the FIA Secretariat on 01763 273039.

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The Cabling Partnership is a division of e-Ready Building Limited
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Biography

As the Technical and Standards Director of the UK Fibreoptic Industry Association, Mike is heavily involved in the development of training and competence standards for the fibre installation industry and sets down policy in this area. In addition he chairs the audit and arbitration committees for the FIA. His book "Fibre optic cabling; theory design and installation practice" published in 1991 remains a reference for both experts and entrants into this field.

Mike also initiated the establishment of the Telecommunications Infrastructure Advisory Board (TIA-B) along with the relevant directors of its other host organisations CMA and ECA-ITEC.

In the UK, Mike is Chairman of TCT7, the BSI Technical Committee responsible for the three panels on telecommunication cabling. He also chairs two of these panels (TCT7/-1 and TCT7/-3) and is Secretary of TCT7/-2. TCT7/-1 and TCT7/-2 act to assist development of European and international standards for the design and installation of telecommunications cabling respectively. TCT7/-2 also manages the implementation of these standards in the UK, where necessary producing supporting national standards.

Mike is involved in CENELEC TC215 - as Convenor of Working Group 1 and Secretary of Working Group 2. These committees are responsible for the development of an integrated series of standards for the design and installation of telecommunications cabling in a range of premises. In 2008 he led the ETSI STF362 on energy efficiency in broadband deployment resulting in the ETSI TS 105174 series documents, allowing Mike to assist in a new TC215 activity covering data centre facilities and infrastructures (monitored in the UK by BSI TCT7/-3).

At international level, Mike is Convenor of the Cabling Implementation Task Group (CITG) within ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3. This group is responsible for the strategic management of the international standards covering the specification, QA, installation, administration, operation, maintenance and repair of generic cabling. This work supports all the cabling design standards produced by ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3 including ISO/IEC 11801, ISO/IEC 15018, ISO/IEC 24764 and ISO/IEC 24702 for industrial premises produced by ISO/IEC JTC1 SC25 WG3 IPTG (also convened by Mike Gilmore).

Mike is a regular speaker at seminars and conferences in all five continents. He has provided the keynote address and opening presentation in many conferences in the UK, Germany and the Netherlands. His seminars, providing regular updates on the progression of cabling standards are particularly well attended and are operating in the UK and continental Europe.



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