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See last page for biographical details



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Next generation IT infrastructures

CALLING ALL DATA CENTRE EXPERTS!!

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

There are many different activities addressing the design and construction of data centres. In the US BICSI is producing a comprehensive document in support of ANSI/TIA-942 - it is indeed a mammoth tome, currently containing 498 pages. Unfortunately only four of those pages address energy efficiency which is the name of the game in Europe and more recently at international level.

In Europe the energy efficiency of data centres has been of increasing importance over the last two years. We already have an EU Code of Conduct in place, which is moving towards its second edition, and ETSI have already published a standard (ETSI TS 105174-2-2) covering the same ground.

This year, CENELEC constituted a new Working Group with the title "Facilities and infrastructures" with the role of producing standards to define the requirements and recommendations for building infrastructures related to the effective installation and operation of associated telecommunication equipment. Its first task is to produce a set of standards in the series EN 50600 covering data centres.

While these standards will cover all the primary areas of infrastructure support based on desired levels of service availability and physical security, they will concentrate on building into data centres the infrastructures necessary to measure and if necessary deliver energy efficiency. Such infrastructures will cover the obvious areas of environmental control and power distribution but may extend into other areas as required.

This work will have high visibility at all levels not only within the standards community but also in regulatory bodies in the EU and at national level.

To support this work, the UK has restructured its standards activity to allow experts to focus on this work and the newly formed BSI panel TCT7/-/3 is seeking data centre experts in the field of data centre construction (building, environmental control and power distribution - and others as seen fit) to contribute to the work at European level.

It is very easy to sit back and let others do the work - and then complain when the results are published. This call to action allows you to directly contribute to the development of standards in your area of interest. Take this opportunity to get involved so if you think you may be able to help, please contact myself (mike.gilmore@btinternet.com), current convenor of TCT7/-/3, or contact the FIA Secretariat on 01763 273039 who will pass your details on to me.

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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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