

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT USERS' ASSOCIATION

(Trading as Evaluation International)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2009****Members' Benefits**

Evaluation International (EI) has continued to provide members with significant benefits including reports on evaluations, selection guides and product surveys that enable economic selection, purchasing and maintenance decisions for instrumentation to be made. In addition, members have been able to exchange views and technical information at Technical Panel Meetings, receive regular newsletters and make use of the EI Web Site. The members' section of the website, contains a searchable database of over 2,000 reports produced by EI and its sister organisations, WIB and EXERA.

Finances

Turnover for the year was £146k compared with £154k for 2007-8. The amount spent on project work was £119k compared with £130k in 2007-8. Administrative costs amounted to £32k compared with £30k in the previous year. A small year-end operating deficit of around £3,859 was recorded but EI continues to hold sufficient funds to enable it to operate from a secure base.

Reports Produced in 2008-9

In 2008-9, EI produced 14 reports and all member requests were met and the programme for the year included five major evaluation projects covering pressure and flowmeter technology.

The Selection Guides and Miscellaneous Reports included coverage of alarm annunciators, basic process control systems, FTIR and MS gas monitors, monitors for local exhaust ventilation, functional safety and software and hardware templates for IEC 61508.

In addition to the 14 reports produced in the year by EI, members have also received 6 reports published by WIB and 31 French language reports by EXERA making a total of 51 reports as a principal benefit of membership. In addition, 8 of the EXERA reports in French were translated into English for the benefit of EI and WIB Members.

Exchange of Technical Information

Technical Panel meetings were held at Endress & Hauser in Manchester and Rolls-Royce in Derby and both were followed by interesting presentations about the work of our hosts. The autumn 2009 meeting will be hosted by Siemens in Manchester.

Liaison between EI, WIB and EXERA (EWE)

The EWE Liaison Management Committee (LMC) Meeting held with the collaborating organisations WIB and EXERA was organised by WIB and took place at the offices of the WIB member company, Heineken in the Netherlands. Collaboration between the three organisations continues to give added value to EI members through the free exchange of reports.

The 2009 LMC Meeting will be hosted in the UK by Evaluation International.

The arrangement to translate selected EXERA reports from French into English is working well.

Marketing

There were no membership changes in 2008-9. New members are continually being sought and, at the time of writing, discussions are taking place with several large UK instrument user companies. In 2009-10, arrangements are being made to promote EI to companies in the Middle East.

In the current recession, it is not easy to recruit new EI members and it is pleasing to note that none has been lost. However, it is very important that we continue to promote the benefits of membership to potential members and to seek to sell survey publications to non-members and to obtain financial contributions and other involvement from instrument makers.

In concluding I would like to thank the staff of Abacus Events & Business Support who have very effectively managed the day to day operations of EI. Your Directors have remained in strategic control and have held five Board meetings during the year, in conjunction with detailed management meetings with Abacus. Finally I would also like to thank my fellow directors and Derek Cornish for their continuing commitment and support.

C D Barr
Chairman
May 2009.