

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTRUMENT USERS' ASSOCIATION

(Trading as Evaluation International)

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2010****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 1,500 reports produced by EI and its sister organisations, WIB and EXERA.

Finances

Turnover for the year was £171k compared with £146k for 2008-9. The amount spent on project work was £136k compared with £119k in 2008-9. Administrative costs remained at £32k in spite of increased financial activity overall. A year-end operating surplus of about £3,500 was generated compared with a similar small loss the year before and EI continues to hold sufficient funds to enable it to operate from a secure base.

Reports Produced in 2009-10

In 2009-10, EI produced 11 reports and most member requests were met and the programme for the year included seven major evaluation projects covering flowmeter technology and alarm annunciators. Any work not commissioned in 2009-10 was carried over for consideration as part of the 2010-11 programme of work.

The Selection Guides and Miscellaneous Reports included coverage of exhaust monitors, software templates for IEC 61508, hydrocarbon leak detectors and liquid level monitors at fuel storage sites. The latter two reports were prepared in the wake of the Buncefield oil storage incident.

In addition to the 11 reports produced in the year by EI, members have also received 6 reports published by WIB and 16 French language reports by EXERA making a total of 33 reports as a principal benefit of membership. In addition, 9 of the EXERA reports in French were translated into English for the benefit of EI and WIB Members.

Exchange of Technical Information

The autumn 2009 Technical Panel Meeting was hosted by Siemens in Manchester and included a presentation about Siemens' new flow meter instrumentation. Linked to this collaboration, an agreement was made for Siemens to sponsor the evaluation of its SITRANS flowmeter. The spring 2010 meeting was held at the Institute for Manufacturing at Cambridge University. Professor Roger Baker gave a presentation on non-invasive flow measurements and arranged demonstrations and discussions about the work of his Department.

Much of the 2010-11 Evaluation Programme was defined in lively discussions at the Cambridge meeting but there were unresolved issues on non-invasive flow, wireless instruments and guided

radar measurement of level. A further meeting involving a subset of members was held near Derby and these three topics are now also covered in the 2010-11 Programme.

The autumn 2010 meeting will be hosted by the National Physical Laboratory in Teddington.

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 EI and took place at the offices of EI in East Malling, Kent. Collaboration between the three organisations continues to give added value to EI members through the free exchange of reports.

The 2010 LMC Meeting will be hosted in Paris by EXERA.

The arrangement to translate selected EXERA reports from French into English continues to work well.

Membership and Administration

There were no membership resignations in 2009-10 and I am pleased to report that Urenco ChemPlants was recruited thus boosting the membership numbers and also increasing the funds available for evaluations.

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 company secretary, Derek Cornish, for their continuing commitment and support.

C D Barr
Chairman
May 2010.