

FROM THE CHAIR

We are well into 2004 and your committee have been hard at work. Lim attended the FFEUAC meeting in New Orleans last week and I am sure has plenty of news, see his report later in this newsletter.

Training has been our focus over the past couple of months, with requests for quotation going out for 3 to 5 "hands on" training kits. We are now in the final stages of the selection process and down to two bids. This is an expensive exercise and with a final price tag of around \$16K is going to deplete our funds considerably. Mind you we are a non profit organisation and need to spend the money on our members, this certainly highlights that we are indeed doing that!

The web page on www.fieldbus.org.au is coming along as well, thanks to Allen Tighe. If there is anyone who would like a Fieldbus.org.au email account please contact Allen on 9243-0161 or via email at allen@fieldbus.org.au, these are available for \$20 per annum.

We have put our 2004 plan together and will be holding technical sessions on a bi-monthly basis, when good overseas and local speakers are available we will be utilising their services as often as possible (suppliers please note...we require about two weeks notice to set things up). In the plan is a rather unique training initiative which is going to assist training individuals at a very much reduced rate. This involves having technical sessions based on sections of the new FF engineering guide. This is planned to kick off in March with myself and Allen Tighe as facilitators.

In addition we are kicking off the Jump aboard 2004 committee with the theme "Jump into the deep end of Fieldbus- and learn to swim" The initial thoughts are a morning seminar stream, followed by a workshop in the afternoon with the "experts who will answer a number of set questions, along with any that you may have as well. At this time it is planned that this will be a Perth event only and likely to be in early September.

It is good to see more FF projects happening; however we are perturbed that very few of these projects seem to be setting in place what we would consider essential "checks, balances and training". I hope they do not come unstuck and do the usual thing of blaming the technology rather than taking the appropriate steps.

Once again I highlight that the Foundation Fieldbus System Engineering Guide is available for free on the web at www.fieldbus.org . This was prepared by the FFEUAC committee and is a great resource.

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LATEST INFORMATION VIA THE FFEUC-AUS WEBSITE

For the latest information on all FFEUC-Aus Inc activities and some great Foundation fieldbus technical data please visit our website <http://www.fieldbus.org.au>

The 2004 General Assembly was held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. The event commenced on 18th February with the afternoon end user case studies session. This was followed in the evening with the Member-sponsored Welcome Reception. Two leading industrial figures from the US, John Berra of Emerson Process Management and James Rhame of Shell Chemicals delivered keynote addresses to commemorate the 10 year anniversary of the Foundation.

The second day of the assembly began with two parallel streams of educational workshop facilitated by Chuck Carter from Lee College, Bay Town in Texas and Mike Clark from SAIT, Calgary in Southern Alberta. The members only General Assembly was also held in the same morning at an adjacent room. The event concluded with a second end user case studies session in the afternoon.



The quality of the papers presented in the end user case studies session was excellent. Speakers included Chris Towle from MTL who talked about the effect of lightning induced surges and surge protection on fieldbus circuit, Jonas Berge from Smar who presented Fieldbus Foundation's Open, Integrated Architecture for Information Integration, Stephen Mitschke from the Foundation who gave a status on the EDDL specification, Sven Seintsch on the results of the Interoperability Testing at Infracore, Dave Glanzer from the Foundation who gave an update on the Foundation Fieldbus Technology, Bob Sherven from Shell Deer Park enlightened the delegates with the 'Hot' Cutover of the cat cracker process control system and John Rezabek from BP who gave a run down of the Flexible Function Block Demo Project at BP Lima Ohio site.

The event was attended by no less than 120 delegates over the 2 days. Table top exhibition space was filled by some 10 or so fieldbus host and equipment suppliers all too keen to showcase their latest products. The big attendance at the event marked the wide acceptance of the technology along with increased adoption rate of the technology by industry.

All presentations at the General Assembly are now available for download from Fieldbus Foundation web site at <http://www.fieldbus.org>.

TÜV Approves Fieldbus Safety Instrumented Systems Concept

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http://www.fieldbus.org/News/default.asp?news_x_language_id=365

FF-SIS development team achieves first major project milestone

AUSTIN, Texas, February 5, 2004 — The Fieldbus Foundation (FF) today announced that TÜV Anlagentechnik GmbH, Automation, Software and Information Technology, a global, independent and accredited testing agency, has approved its Safety Instrumented Systems (FF-SIS) system concept. The FF-SIS project was initiated by end users and approved by the foundation's board of directors in October 2002. The TÜV approval clears the way for validation of the FF-SIS technical specifications during 2004.

FOUNDATION™ fieldbus, with its industry-proven distributed function blocks and open communications protocol, is an ideal platform for advancing standards-based safety instrumented systems technology. The foundation, in concert with leading device manufacturers and end users, is developing specifications and guidelines that comply with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) 61508 standard (functional safety of electrical/electronic/programmable electronic safety-related systems), and IEC 61511 (functional safety: safety instrumented systems for the process industry sector). IEC 61511 addresses the application of safety instrumented systems.

According to David A. Glanzer, Fieldbus Foundation director of technology development, the FF-SIS development team did an outstanding job of identifying system requirements and completing development of draft technical specifications on schedule.

"TÜV has independently verified that the system concept defined in the foundation's specifications meets the project requirements," said Glanzer. "The specifications will enable instrumentation suppliers to build a wide range of devices that comply with IEC 61508. Third-party certifiers, such as TÜV, will certify the Safety Integrity Level (SIL) capability of the instruments based on this standard. In addition, end users will evaluate the requirements for their safety instrumented systems according to the IEC 61511 standard."

Glanzer continued, "End users want an open solution such as FF-SIS so they can choose certified instruments from multiple suppliers instead of being restricted to devices specifically designed for a proprietary safety instrumented system. Suppliers want an open solution because it allows them to sell their products to more users, instead of only to users operating a proprietary system."

Under the direction of the Fieldbus Foundation's Technical Steering Committee, senior technologists and end users from foundation member companies collaborated on the FF-SIS project plan and developed a system architecture and draft specifications to meet the TÜV requirements. Companies on the FF-SIS development team include: ABB, DuPont, Emerson Process Management, ExxonMobil, HIMA, Honeywell, Invensys/Triconex, Metso Automation, Rockwell Automation, Rotork Control Systems, Saudi Aramco, Shell Global Solutions, Smar, Softing, TÜV and Yokogawa.

To meet the requirements of the IEC 61508 standard, FF-SIS specifies a special protocol layer between the standard fieldbus communications and the function block application process. The special layer adds error checking to ensure that if a device malfunctions and sends out a bad message, the bad message is detected and proper action is taken. The FF-SIS project also specifies a "Write Lock" which requires a special "key" to enable changes. Only authorized personnel who have access to the key can make changes.

About the Fieldbus Foundation™

The Fieldbus Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation consisting of over 200 leading process and manufacturing automation companies worldwide whose major purpose is to provide an open and neutral environment for the development of a single, international, interoperable fieldbus. In this environment, end users, manufacturers, universities and research organizations are working together to develop the technology, provide development tools, support and training, coordinate field trials and demonstrations, and enable product interoperability. Visit their web site at www.fieldbus.org.

Have you upgraded your PC and have licenced copies of WIN 2K just stuck in the cupboard?

A donation of this software would be much appreciated; we require 3-5 copies for our training kits. Any Companies or individuals who could help with this please contact please contact Allen on (08) 9243-0161 or via email at allen@fieldbus.org.au

Latest FF News

ARC REPORTS FIELDBUS ADOPTION SKYROCKETING

To read the full report, click [here](#).

NEW FIELDBUS TECHNICAL OVERVIEW NOW AVAILABLE

Includes latest updates to the technology. Click [here](#) to download pdf version of the new [Technical Overview](#).

INDEPENDENT TEST LAB PROVES FIELDBUS INTEROPERABILITY -Read the [White Paper](#)



FF Essentials Courses being held in April :- Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth

The *Essentials* training is aimed at personnel who are new to Foundation Fieldbus (FF) but are familiar with legacy Instrumentation concepts. Personnel who need to attend are staff who would have any technical involvement with the Engineering, Procurement & Construction (EPC) of a FF installation. Included with the course is a full-colour comprehensive FF reference manual (145 pages) complete with a CD-ROM containing a copy of the visual presentation material. The one-day workshop covers many aspects of Fieldbus technology, including the specialised networking terminology and FF segment installation issues.

The course content contains sections on : -

- **Foundation - Goals, Principles & Procedures**
- **Fieldbus Technology, OSI Model & Benefits**
- **Fieldbus Wiring & Installation**
- **Device Communications**
- **FB Communication Models**
- **User Layer Function Blocks**
- **Device Description & Common File Format**

The course is certified by the Fieldbus Foundation and was created by the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology (SAIT) in Calgary. This *Essentials* training is a pre-requisite to the higher levels of *Discovery* and *Systems Integrator* which are also offered by SAIT.

All the local Instructors are fully certified by both the Foundation and SAIT to present the training courses.

Brisbane
Tuesday
20 / Apr / 04

Melbourne
Thursday
22 / Apr / 04

Perth
Wednesday
28 / Apr / 04

Courses normally run from 09:00 to 17:00 - lunch and break refreshments are included with the course fee.

**For Course Registration or more details on custom onsite courses
call Allen on (041) 295-5656 or (08) 9243-0161
email: allen@fieldbus.org.au
[back to www.fieldbus.org.au](http://www.fieldbus.org.au)**

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Should you note any error/omission or an article offends please do not ignore it, contact the secretary tiong.lim@woodside.com.au and we will review, rectify and remove as necessary.