



Michael Faraday Institution e.V.

in association with the

Institution of Electrical Engineers

MFI GERMANY

Annual General Meeting, 16 December 2000

Executive Committee's Report,

September 1999 to December 2000

Meetings

The 1999 AGM was held on 06th November, in Stuttgart.

It was followed by lectures from Dr. G Branduardi Raymont (UCL) and Dr. E Kendziorra (Universität Tübingen) who jointly presented the European Space Agency's advanced X-ray satellite project, XMM. The mission objectives are to help solve mysteries ranging from black holes to the origin of the Universe itself. Ariane successfully launched the XMM telescope in December.

International lectures

Sandip Banerjee presented a series of 6 IEE/MFI co-sponsored lectures in India, during November and December 1999.

The subjects presented included:

- Laser warning Receiver with General and Commercial Application
- Phased Array Radar Optical Network
- Fibre Optic Application in Communication

Aachen Cross Border Meeting 27-28 October 2000

Around 70 members with their families met in Aachen on the last weekend of October for the pan-European meeting organised by the MFI and IEE Germany. Whilst those too young to appreciate technical things took a trip to the cinema, IEE members from 7 different European Centres heard Prof. Moses from University College, London talk on "The European Public and the Many Faces of Biotechnology" and Michael Bere from Sony present "GSM - The Future".

Younger Members' Papers Competition

One of the highlights of the Aachen weekend was the Younger Members' papers competition for which 7 entries had been selected for presentation at the event. These

were narrowed down to just 3 papers to be presented to the afternoon's meeting. The judges' task was not easy, such was the high quality of the entries but, after much

debate, Michael Winkler of the University of Hannover was declared the winner for his paper on "Equalisation Techniques for OFDM Transmission Systems". In just ten minutes, Michael was able to explain the principles involved and their use in future broadcast networks. The technical qualities of the second and third papers were no way inferior to the first paper and the second prize went to Jeroen Willekens of Ericsson EuroLab Netherlands for his paper on "Ad hoc routing in Bluetooth" and lastly the third prize was presented to Andreas Siamarou (Cyprus) of University of Glamorgan for his Paper on "Wireless Mobile and Personal Broadband Communications: From Myth to Reality".

After an excellent dinner and prize giving ceremony, those who had energy left investigated the Weißbier in the town centre followed. Sunday morning, by a guided tour of the spa town, steeped in medieval history. The meeting closed with a welcome lunch in a restaurant near the cathedral, before we said "Auf Wiedersehen, Bonne route, Tot ziens".

Activities

The activities since the AGM have been pared to a minimum due to lack of local volunteers, local events in all regions have virtually ceased except regular Stammtisch in München and Christmas Dinner in the regional centres.

The noted activities have been:

- Industrial Placement Scheme

Once again we were in a position to give advice to a few British and German Students about placement in Germany and U.K.

- Active participation in IEE/IEEE International Topical Meeting on Microwave Photonics 2000 at St John's College Oxford.

- Life Skill Seminar

Isobel Brown presented the Life Skill Seminar. In München: Team Building and Assertiveness.

In Hamburg: Time Management, Committee and Meeting Skills and lastly in Stuttgart: Time Management, Presentation Skills and Meeting Skills.

The Life Skill seminar was a great success in all the three regions and we hope to repeat the seminar in the same and other topics.

VDI and VDE connection

The MFI has taken steps to strengthen the connection with VDI and VDE, so that in future we can perform joint activities.

Special Interest Group

The Translator group did not meet during the Stuttgart meeting. New members have joined and contact is made via the Internet.

Internet Communication

We have been sending our members information via e-mail and snail mail in parallel to see how it is accepted

We found most members are in favour of receiving information by e-mail. We had a few comment about length of message and format used.

In general we can make the following statements:

At present the Industrial standard e-mail message is about one MB. In the past, due to storage limitation of the servers, this was restricted to 100 kB.

An analogue modem with 8kb/sec requires between 2 to 5 minutes to download a one MB message; the cost of download is about 20Pf maximum.

The large e-mails are only sent on a few occasions that is MFI news and Flyer for special events like the AGM.

We are capable of sending in PDF, Html, Win Zip and Word (in all formats).

Unfortunately we have some members with a capability of receiving only with Word 6 doc. In future we will be sending such documents only in PDF format.

It will take some time until we have a standard format for sending our messages, and it is impossible to provide each individual with their personal wishes. The committee welcomes further suggestions and comments in this matter.

Centre Organisation

In order to comply with our small income, meetings of full committee now takes only in conjunction with major meeting or the AGM, Executive meetings are held as necessary for the planning of such events. Cost reduction and rationalisation have been implemented in every respect.

At the end of this report ,I would like to thank all those who have helped to make our programmes a success .My special thanks are to our Secretary, our Treasurer ,Bob Slater and Peter Langheinrich for their work with the Newsletter, and lastly to Martin Wagner for his excellent contribution for MFI & IEE web side.

03.12.2000

S.K.Banerjee