



Michael Faraday Institution e.V.

Annual General Meeting, 23 June 2007

Chairman's Report

October 2006 to June 2007

Meetings

The 2006 AGM was held on 21st October at the Hotel Stadt Tübingen, Tübingen. In the podium discussion it was decided to hold a brainstorming session, in order to find ways to increase the attendances at local meetings. This session was held on 10th February 2007 and was led by Alistair Gill, a report of this event was drawn up by Derek Mullinger. Since the last meeting, there has been positive response in our campaign to recruit new members and the number of members have increased from 45 to 51 at present with one resignation.

The technical lecture "Biometric Identification of Persons: what now is possible and issues raised" was presented by Dr. John Daugman OBE. It was very interesting talk concerning the application of retina scanning for personal identification.

The MFI Kelvin Lecture "The practical aspects of the biometric passports to be issued by Her Majesty Government" was to be presented by the representative of the British Consulate-General, the presentation was cancelled due to sudden illness of the Consul-General.

Activities in 2006/07

MFI/IET Technical presentations:

"The interrogation of fibre optic sensors", technical talk by Dr. David Norman IET on Friday 17th November at 7pm at the Unionsbräu, Einsteinstraße, Munich.

David Norman's talk and PowerPoint presentation was a great success, attracting 13 participants, including 5 new faces.

MFI/IET Germany meeting on 10.02.2007 at 1pm at the Novotel, Neuperlach Munich.

The Brainstorming session was led by Alistair Gill, it was entitled "Increasing participation at MFI/IET technical events"

It was followed by a technical talk on Terrestrial Trunked Radio (TETRA), given by Thomas Kennedy, of Sepura Germany, which supplies TETRA terminals world-wide.

Both these events were attended by 15 members and were a great success. Reports appeared in the IET newsletter of March 2007.

"Alternatives to Microsoft" technical talk by Julian H. Stacey, Vector Systems Ltd, on Friday 20th April at 7pm at the Unionsbräu, Einsteinstraße, Munich.

20 members were present and the talks by Julian and his associates were well appreciated.

A technical lecture on the sensing of volatile organics and their importance in some very interesting diagnostic methods by Dr. Paul Adams was planned for Saturday 21st of April at Düsseldorf. Unfortunately, the meeting was postponed due to poor response, only three members replied to attend the meeting. The presentation will be re-announced at a later date.

Exhibition: Munich's Newcomers Festival on Sunday 6th of May

This was the first time that the MFI/IET Germany Network has presented itself publicly, and our first attempt succeeded very well indeed, all 30 of the MFI leaflets disappeared quickly.

Technical Visit:

A tour of Munich airport was made on Saturday 2nd of June. A total of 24 persons participated including 10 IET members.

The tour was 1 hour long and started with an introduction, highlighting that the airport has its own power plant that can generate sufficient energy for 80,000 homes. The airport employs 27,000 people, and boasts the longest building in Germany, Terminal 1, and Europe's largest hanger that can accommodate 6 jumbo jets.

The tour was followed by the group going either to the Air Braü (the only brewery in an airport) for food or with the families and children taking additional time at the Besucherplatz.

Further planned activities 2006/07

Annual General Meeting 23rd of June at Würzburg

See announced program for details.

Technical Presentations:

September in Stuttgart, Chris Copplestone will present a talk on '802.1X and RADIUS - Controlling access to LANs'.

September in Munich, Ted Hopper will present a talk on the applications of miniature motors which are used in space.

Two technical meetings are planned to be held in Hamburg for the North West Region the date and the venue will be announced shortly.

The other notable activities are the regular Stammtisch in Munich and Christmas Dinner in the regional centres.

Training Courses

The IET Lifeskills Seminars were not offered during the half term of 2006/2007 period as we have received very poor response from our members in our local membership survey.

Younger Members' Papers Competition

One of the highlights of our national joint weekends has been the Younger Members' papers competition. Unfortunately, due to organisational problems we were unable to present this popular event in 2005 and 2006. In the near future we hope to organise this Papers Competition again to promote Younger Members.

VDE connection

Due to personnel changes in the middle management levels of VDE we have lost the old contacts. We were successful in making some contact with the younger members section of VDE and efforts are being undertaken to re-establish some more local contacts.

Internet Communication

We have been sending our members information via e-mail and use snail mail only to one member as the person concerned does not possess an e-mail address. We have found most members are in favour of receiving information by e-mail.

Centre Organisation

In order to fit our small income, meetings of the Committee (Vorstand) take place only in conjunction with major meetings or the AGM, or as necessary for the planning of events. Cost reduction and rationalisation have been implemented in every respect.

Thanks

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 go to our Secretary Bernadette Faulkner, our Treasurer Paul Szucs, our Vice Chairman Peter Langheinrich for the MFI News and to our Beirat members, Dr. Peter Nüchter and Martin Wagner, for their excellent contribution of auditing the MFI accounts and to our Events Organisers Alan Teale, Chris Copplestone, Derek Mullinger, Philip Walters, Gareth Kerr, Kenneth Parkin and to Alistair Gill for leading the brainstorming session .

18.06.2007

S. K. Banerjee