



Michael Faraday Institution e.V.

Annual General Meeting, 4 October 2008

Chairman's Report

June 2007 to September 2008

Meetings

The 2007 MFI AGM was held on Saturday 23rd June at the Dorint Novotel, Würzburg. The AGM was conducted in the morning session, 16 MFI members were present in the meeting. The Report of the Executive for the year 2006/7 and the Treasurer's Report for the financial year ending December 2007 were presented and ratified by the members.

The following points result from actions decided at the meeting:

1) MFI/IET stand in Munich Newcomer's Festival as in previous year. We were willing to participate but due to lack of volunteers, it was decided not to participate in the Newcomer's Festival.

2) The MFI e.V. was ready to host a 1-day Seminar in partnership with the BeOne Group on the topic of "Mission Critical Applications" on 21 October. It is with great regret we have to inform you that we decided on 29th September to cancel the Event, as there were simply not enough registered attendees to make the event viable.

3) To hold a Student Paper's competition in Ulm. We were successful in holding this event and it is described in full in the chapter activities in 2007/2008. The participants in the meeting considered it very enjoyable.

After the close of formal business the afternoon session continued with the MFI Kelvin Lecture by Professor Dieter Gollmann of the Technical University, Hamburg-Harburg, and the theme was "Crime and the Internet". Prof. Gollmann presented a fascinating picture of the many possibilities, from the old Nigerian money transfer, to phishing and identity theft. After many questions and interesting answers, Prof. Gollmann was presented with a certificate and a small sample of the local produce, to great applause. A short break for refreshments and then came the IET Prestige Lecture. This was a presentation by Adrian Pais, winner of the Younger Members "Write around the World" prize in 2005. Entitled "The 21st Century Engineer" this was a very thoughtful assessment of the characteristics needed for the current times. Adrian proposed six essential values in today's global environment:- holism, leadership, continuous learning, creativity, entrepreneurship and social responsibility. We were fortunate that in his tour around the world, Adrian who comes from New Zealand, had decided to stop in Germany. He too received a certificate and a small token of recognition.

The buffet dinner afterwards was enjoyed by 58 persons. The after dinner speech was presented by our Founding Chairman, Keith Wilkinson. He was able to tell us how the IEE German Centre (that was the name then) began, and why the name 'Michael Faraday Institution' had been chosen. Mr. Penny and Dr. Wrigley also contributed to the evening's entertainment.

On Sunday morning some 50 people in 2 groups, each with a guide, undertook the exploration on foot of the old town of Würzburg. Finally we reassembled and went to the "Ratskeller", where we were accommodated in the area called "Kapelle" and where we could talk and enjoy the local dishes and local wines. That was the end of the tour and of our meeting.

Activities in 2007/08

MFI/IET Technical presentations:

“The latest Motion Control applications used in space programmes”, technical talk by Ted Hopper of MACCON GmbH, 9th of September 2007 at the company’s new location at Aschauer Strasse 21, Munich.

Ted presented basic Control Theory with an excellent practical demonstration by means of his in-house developed software and practical applications of Feedback loops and Laplace. The presentation was a great success, twenty members of the Munich group participated in the event. A big thank-you goes to MACCON GmbH not only for the time and effort needed to hold the talk but also for the refreshments and food laid on for the attendees.

Short Paper Competition, Technical Meeting and Social event in Ulm 13-14 October 2007

A new and unusual type of meeting, a Short Papers Competition, followed by a Lecture and a barbecue was successfully tried out in ULM. It commenced in the afternoon of Saturday at the youth hostel on the Kuhberg. Contrary to widely held opinion, the hostel was not a dark untidy huddle of rooms, but a light airy conference centre, with dining room and bedrooms. Twenty five persons attended the event.

After a welcome by the MFI Chairman, the Competition presentation of Short Papers for students began. First was Jamie Banford, who had come all the way from the University of Strathclyde. He described his summer project in Switzerland, the simulation of "PIN Diode Limiters for S-Band receivers".

Next came Christian Fuchs, of the Microwave Engineering Dept, University of Ulm, who spoke about "Slit Antennas" and how to obtain minimal radar reflection.

The final competitor was Dimitry Zaykovsky from the Institute of Information Technology, University of Ulm, with his paper "Speech enabled Public Transportation Information system for mobile phones".

All the papers generated interesting questions. The results of the competition were First Prize of € 200 to Dimitry Zaykovsky, Second Prize of € 100 to Jamie Banford, Third Prize of € 50 to Christian Fuchs. The prize money were donated by the MFI eV. All three received Certificates to mark the event.

Then came the Main Talk on "Hydrogen Cell Technology and its applications" by Dipl.-Ing. Thomas Aigle of the Weiterbildungszentrum Brennstoffzelle Ulm e.V. (Fuel cell Education and Training Centre). The subject was very topical, and it was interesting to learn that fuel cell stacks of up to 20MW are now possible. Part Two of the meeting was an evening Barbecue. It started just after 6 p.m., and continued until the fire had cooled at 11 p.m. On Sunday, a group of twelve was given a guided tour of the town of Ulm. They saw the most notable of the town's landmarks, including the Munster, the tower of which is the highest in Germany. The meeting ended with lunch at a local restaurant, the "LochMühle".

The Messerschmitt 109 T – a famous plane in the Second World War technical presentation by Francis Marshall, 9th of November 2007 at Munich.

This talk was presented by the Author of a book dedicated to the Messerschmitt Bf109. It was the sea-borne version of the successful WWII German war plane, ME109T. The talk gave a valuable insight into the development of the aircraft.

Pre-Christmas Dinner and Technical Talk by Mr Peter Trautmann, Chief Operating Officer, Munich Airport , 1st of December 2007

A talk presented by the COO of Munich Airport about the development of Munich airport, "Munich Airport, from a city airport to an airport city". The dinner was held in one of the Airport restaurants. "IL Mondo". 39 attended, including members from non IET/MFI organisations.

Baden-Württemberg Region Pre-Christmas Dinner, 15th of December 2007

A Christmas dinner was held on the 15th December at the Dachswald Hotel near Vaihingen-Stuttgart and was well attended with a total of 9 guests.

MFI e.V. and IET Germany Network technical event, 10th February 2008 at the Youth Hostel in Dachau.

A technical talk was presented by Professor Paul Thomas of Loughborough University on "The Sensing of Volatile Organic Compounds. The event was attended by 17 members and was a great success.

"Investing for engineers ", Presentation by Ulrich Skowronek, 11 April in Munich April 2007 at the Unionsbräu, Einsteinstraße, Munich.

The lecture was targeted at engineers who wished to gain a greater insight into equity investment. The Speaker's investment advice was based on his personal experience gained over the years and the lessons he has learned. Ten members attended the event.

Summer Barbecue, Baden-Württemberg region 27th July 2008,

Summer barbecue took place as planned on Sunday 27th July using the same venue (Busnau, Stuttgart) as in previous years. In total 8 persons attended the event.

"Overview of challenge of founding a high tech innovation software Company" Technical talk by Paul Cullen, 19th September 2008 at Garderos Software Innovation GmbH, Munich

Paul Cullen, IET member and one of the founders of Garderos Software Innovation GmbH, described how the company was founded and gave an insight into the public-access WLAN systems for which the company provides the software. The company's projects in Canada, Belgium, Germany and France were discussed. Around twenty members attended. Many thanks are due to Paul Cullen and Garderos for hosting the talk and providing refreshments afterwards.

Technical Visit:

Summer Event Munich 20 July Technical visit to the 'BMW Welt'

The annual family event for the IET was combined with a technical visit to the 'BMW Welt'. Eighteen members, partners and children came for the tour, which lasted 1½ hours. The day proved successful with the very young members and it concluded with meeting 7 more members in a neighbouring Biergarten.

Further planned activities 2008/09

Annual General Meeting 4th of October at Fulda.
See announced programme for details.

Regional technical and social events will be organised in Düsseldorf, Hamburg, Munich and Stuttgart. Please see the MFI website at www.mfi-ev.de.

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

VDE connection

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 postal 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 Stephan Norton for the organisation of Mission Critical Seminar.

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