

The Telecommunications Industry Advisory Board (TIAB)

Comm Together

By Eur Ing David Stefanowicz , Director, TIAB



From its first conception, the telecommunications industry has seen many changes. Ever since the telephone was invented by Alexander Graham Bell in 1876, the progress of change and development in telecommunications has been impressive. It is a continuously evolving industry in every respect. Technology, techniques, facilities, systems, standards, equipment and working practices are all part of this evolution process.

Since its formation in 1996, the Fibre Optic Industry Association (FIA) and the Electrical Contractors Association (ECA) have worked together on various projects. In 2007 the FIA approached the ECA and suggested that they form a joint industry association for the telecommunications Industry and thus the Telecommunications Advisory (TIAB) board was formed. Shortly after forming the association, they chose to be inclusive and asked the Computer Management Association (CMA) which is part of the British Computer Society (BCS) to join them and also asked Bicsi to be involved as one of the most influential training organisations in the world.

The TIAB agreement is that to be a member of the TIAB, a member had to be a member of one of the three host organisations – either the CMA, ECA ITEC or the FIA.

The TIAB objectives

1. Promoting quality assurance within installations of physical infrastructure to the benefit of the members of all TIAB co-hosts and the industry in general.
2. Defining proven measures of corporate and personal competence in the design, installation and operation of telecommunication infrastructures.
3. Ensuring that telecommunications networking strategies developed by CMA members are supportable over the specified physical infrastructures.
4. Providing interpretation of, and easy access to, the physical infrastructure design standards, regulation and legislation with which ECA-ITEC and FIA are directly involved.

5. Promoting safe working and legal compliance within the telecommunications industry.

Working on standards

Tasks in the field of infrastructure design, installation and maintenance of telecommunications are normally undertaken according to the requirements of a contract which specifies the application of a combination of the following:

- Manufacturers/suppliers instructions;
- Industry recommendations;
- National, European or international standards.

The TIAB, in conjunction with its hosts, is in a position to provide industry recommendations and guidance to meet the rapidly changing demands of telecommunications infrastructure. However, longer term stability is provided by standardisation, and the TIAB is directly involved with standards bodies in the UK which shape the national, European or international standards.

Working on projects

Since the start of the TIAB in 2007, much work has been done to establish the identity of the TIAB in creating a logo, website, documentation and working with external organisations to service the telecommunications industry. The TIAB have a members only area which provides valuable information for their members to supplement the information that the members get from their host association. Further information regarding current and past projects may be obtained from the TIAB website.

For the future

We plan to substantially increase the material available on the TIAB website, on both the public and members areas. We intend to continue to tackle the areas that are ignored by others in a bid to resolve old and new issues. As we grow closer together we also grow in strength and resolve.

The co-hosts

The TIAB is hosted by the following organisations. Should you wish to be a member of the TIAB then please join one or more of these host organisations:

The Computer Management Association

CMA is the UK's premier membership organisation for ICT professionals and enterprises using communications, networking and ICT for business advantage.

We are the definitive voice of business users on ICT issues to government and regulatory authorities. We also work closely with suppliers to ensure best practice for our user members.

Our goal is to ensure that CMA members, who spend £15 billion in the comms market annually, are the best informed professionals in the industry.

The Electrical Contractors Association

Founded over 100 years ago, the Electrical Contractors' Association (ECA) is the UK's largest and leading trade association representing electrical, electronic, installation engineering and building services companies.

We work closely with government and key national bodies to improve industry standards and procedures. Our comprehensive, progressive and innovative services are highly respected and renowned throughout the industry.

The Fibreoptic Industry Association

The FIA aims to promote high standards of service within the fibreoptic industry and to represent its members at a national and international level.

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The TIAB is supported by

Bicsi

Bicsi's mission is to lead the information technology systems industry with excellence in publications, education and knowledge assessment.

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