

INCON

INCON-the newsletter of the Ireland Section of ISA.

2006 HONOURS AND AWARDS PRESENTATION

This year's Honours & Awards presentation was held on Monday December 4th in The Common Room University College Cork.

Michael Martin TD Minister for Trade Enterprise and Employment opened the proceedings.



Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Michael Martin TD, at the Honours and Awards in UCC

He said he is delighted to be present here tonight to present these awards in this historical centre of education dating back to 1845. Previously in 1998 as Minister for Education and Science he presented the awards in the same location.

Today's announcement from Eli Lilly of a new €400 million Biopharmaceutical plant at Dunderrow Kinsale further strengthens Ireland's, and in particular Cork's, position as the number one location of choice for major biopharmaceutical activity outside the US.

We also have Amgen and Centecor with plants in the construction phase.

It is a major achievement for IDA Ireland to have won these investments against intense global competition.

These wins for Ireland illustrates the fact that due to investments made by this Government in the Biotechnology

"ISA, the international society for measurement and control, advances the technology and the competence and the careers of practitioners for the benefit of industry and humanity."

industry in recent years we now have the infrastructure, the people and the skills to attract this type of investment.

Cork is poised to become the centre of excellence in Biopharmaceutical manufacturing technology which will represent an increasing percentage of the worlds medicines of the future”.

Much of that success has been built on the enviable reputation that Ireland has for its high standard of education and manufacturing. ISA in Ireland, with over 300 members, plays an important part in meeting demonstrably high standards that are attractive the investors and consumers.

Minister Martin also referred to a colleague of his Ger Dullea (former President of Ireland Section) who passed away at a young age and in who's honour one of tonight's awards is named after.

He then spoke about the role FAS has played in the development of Craft Apprentices and also re training existing work force to adapt to new technology companies.

He also complemented the institute of technologies and universities on increasing the standard of graduates for a new generation as Ireland continues its climb up the economic value chain.

When people involved in such diverse

areas of technology achieve excellence and in the process produce quality work, it is only right that we should publicly acknowledge such success.

I would like to wish the award recipients, their families, sponsors and all present a joyful and peaceful Christmas as we approach the season's festivities.



ISA Ireland Section President Brian Nolan addressing the attendees at the Honours and Awards in UCC.

ISA PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Micháel Martin TD, recipients, ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the ISA Ireland Section, I would like to welcome you all here this evening, to our 27th Annual Honours and

Awards Ceremony. We hold this annual ceremony to acknowledge and encourage excellence amongst practitioners and those presently training for careers in the fields of Automation, Control and Instrumentation.

I know that some of you here tonight are familiar with the ISA, but for those of you that are not I would like to give you a brief insight into the organisation. ISA, the Instrumentation Systems and Automation Society, is a global society, founded in the USA in 1945.

It is a non-profit making organisation whose purpose is to serve the educational needs of people working in instrumentation, control and related areas of technology. Since 1945 the society has expanded to become truly global with sections in 110 countries and a global membership in excess of 30,000.



John Loughnane, Billy Walsh, John Farrell, Barry Nugent, Brian Curtis, Tony Donnelly at the ISAHonours and Awards in UCC

required the Society to change over the years and to embrace Automation in addition to traditional instrumentation.

The members of ISA now come from all disciplines associated with Instrumentation, Systems and Automation.

The mission statement of the society is to advance the technology and the competence and careers of practitioners for the benefit of industry and humanity. Those goals have never been more necessary than they are today in the twenty first century.

The Ireland section of the ISA was chartered in June 1978 and is also a voluntary, non-profit making organisation. It has since grown to become a nationally recognised organisation and currently has a membership base of 300.

The Ireland section has also participated strongly on the society's global stage. One of the Ireland Section members, Billy Walsh, is currently serving as District 12 Vice President representing Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Billy is also a member of the ISA Executive Committee, a group of six people currently at the helm of the Society.

At District level we also have Declan Lordan – Treasurer, Eoin O'Riain – Nominator, and Kevin Dignam as District VP Elect.

We have two student sections in the ISA Ireland section, FAS and CIT. Both of these sections are sites for Knowledge Centres.

The society has a total of four knowledge centres countrywide which are part of our commitment to the enhancement of the knowledge base of practitioners.

All of the Society's events are sponsored by Industry and our Honours and Awards Ceremony is no exception. I would now like to say a special word of thanks to this evening's sponsors:

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We are delighted that a representative of each sponsor is with us this evening and clearly shows the industry's awareness of the necessity to support, promote and award excellence.

It is also very telling that the majority of these sponsors have been supporting the awards many years now. I extend a very warm welcome to all of our sponsors here this evening.

All of us here in this room this evening are aware of the tremendous changes and advancement in Ireland over the last few decades and particularly the last number of years. From an inward-looking largely agricultural-based country in the fifties we have emerged to become one of the most dynamic economies in the world today.



Colm Fitzgerald, Pat Mc Carthy, Declan Lordan at the ISAHonours and Awards in UCC

We have growth figures which are the envy of our colleagues in the other European Union countries.

This did not happen by accident. It has been acknowledged by international experts that this is largely due to the excellent, forward-thinking educational policies followed by our governments and implemented by our colleges and universities.

The awardees gathered here tonight represent the excellent results of those policies. When you appreciate the calibre of the students here this evening you will realise that our educational institutions have risen admirably to the challenges presented.

They have contributed to the success of Ireland in very large measure by supplying graduates and technologists who are the equal and better of any others being produced anywhere in the world today.

When you are involved in instrumentation you appreciate the recognition that peers and pioneers have achieved within the industry. The Honour and Awards Ceremony here tonight is the ISA Ireland Section's opportunity to recognise the achievements of those who are either starting out in the industry or have spent their lives in the development of the industry.

It is certainly an honour for us to present these awards here tonight.

This year we have five awards, four of which have been nominated by the third levels institutions and one is by membership of our section.

We, in the ISA Ireland section, are very honoured that the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Mr. Micháel Martin TD is in attendance this evening to present these very special awards to the deserving recipients this evening.

In conclusion I would like to say a special thanks to our organising committee and to UCC for allowing use of this very elegant and historic Common Room.

I hope you all have a very relaxed and enjoyable evening as tonight we celebrate excellence in our industry.

Thank you.

Brian Nolan
President ISA Ireland



Tony Mahon, Donal Grogan, Gerry Creaner at the ISA Honours and Awards in UCC



ISA-The Instrumentation, Systems and Automation Society

Craft Apprentice award

Criteria: to be awarded, on the nomination of FAS training Centers and/or the Institute of Technology, Carlow, to the best final year instrumentation Apprentice for notable academic and practical achievements in instrumentation.

Recipient:

Mr. Brendan Byon

Enniscrone, Co. Sligo.

Nominations: :

Mr. Robert Lytle

FAS Training Centre, Sligo

Profile of the Recipient:

The contributions for which the above named nominee should be recognised are as follows:

Consistently throughout his apprenticeship, displaying a very high degree of ability (both practical and academic), motivation and interest in the Instrumentation trade, as indicated by the number of extra curricular activities he has undertaken, and also having an exemplary record with regard to attendance, timekeeping and general manner.

During this period I have followed his results with interest from phase 2, 4 and 6 of his apprenticeship and he achieved merits in every module completed.



Craft Apprentice Award Winner: Brendan Byon and his family with Minister Michael Martin and President ISA Ireland Brian Nolan

He also completed other studies, PLC Night Class in FAS training Centre, Sligo, and Level 1 of The Certified Control System Technicians program (this is an ISA Program).

Brendan is currently attending Sligo IT fulltime course in Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronics, having completed his first year.

I am delighted to nominate Brendan for the 2006 ISA Craft Apprentice Award in recognition of his accomplishments.

We look forward to publishing articles by members of the society. For those Interested

Please contact: Editor, INCON,
ISA Ireland, PO Box 203, Toghher Cork

Talented Building Blocks



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Technician Award

Criteria: to be awarded, on a nomination, to the best final year certificate student specialising in any area of instrumentation and control.

Recipient:

Mr. Conor Fahy

C/o School of Science, GMIT,

Nomination:

Mr. Gareth Roe.

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology

Profile of the recipient:

Conor Fahy's nomination for this award is based on his outstanding achievement on the Certificate course in Physics & Instrumentation at GMIT in gaining a Distinction with an average mark of 91.6%.

This average mark is the highest ever achieved by a student on our Certificate course and in addition to this, Conor was consistently excellent across the entire range of subjects he took from Instrumentation & Control through to Physics.

Conor has also demonstrated an impressive aptitude (at this early stage) for applying his skills to real world instrumentation problems – his work for his technical project module culminated in the successful construction and testing of a working PI level control system, with the work being carried out within a very constrained time frame.

Conor's highest results were 98% in Physics, 97% in Mathematics, 95% in Control Systems and also in Computer Programming.

In addition to all this Conor must also be complimented for his enthusiastic, enquiring and cheerful engagement with the course, his fellow students and his lecturing staff throughout the duration of his studies.



Technician Award Winner: Mr. James Spillane and his parents with Deputy Lord Mayor Cllr. Darragh Murphy and President ISA Ireland Kevin Dignam

Technologist award

Criteria: to be awarded on any nomination, to the best final year diploma student specialising in any area on instrumentation and control.

Recipient:

Mr. Sean O'Mahony

Blackrock Road, Bantry, Co Cork

Nomination:

Dr. Liam McDonnell.

Cork Institute of Technology

Profile of Recipient:

Sean obtained a BSc (Honours) in Computerised Instrument Systems at Cork

Institute of Technology in June 2006. With an average mark of 86.90% in his final year, Sean was awarded a First Class Honours grade. No subject result in Sean's final year was less than 78% with four of his subject results being 90% or higher. Whilst an exceptional result by any standard, Sean's final year performance was not surprising given his First Class performance in the earlier years of his course: Year 1 (81.26%); Year 2 (77.80%); and Year 3 (86.69%).

For his final year project, Sean developed a Virtual Network Computing (VNC) system for efficient network control of remote instrumentation. Many VNC systems exist to allow users gain access to, for example, the desktop of a remote PC. Desktop mirroring VNC systems are very bandwidth intensive since they use bitmap caching, etc., to achieve an accurate representation of a remote desktop. In many cases, a user simply wants to run a specific application on the remote machine and may not require a full-colour representation of a remote desktop.

In his project Sean networked two PCs to create a client/server system and developed an application specific VNC system to control a programmable DC power supply unit. His approach reduced the strain imposed on the network that bitmap caching imposes. In this project, Sean became very experienced in networking and gained knowledge of a new language VB.Net. Sean is now

working for a Cork company that develops vision and imaging systems for industrial applications.

Ger Dullea Award



Ger Dullea Award Winner: Damien Howard and family members with Minister Michael Martin and President ISA Ireland Brian Nolan

Criteria: to be awarded, on the nomination of any third-level institution, to the best forth-year student studying instrumentation/ applied physics in Ireland. The award comprises a medallion and bursary of €750.00 which is to be used to assist in postgraduate studies.

Recipient:

Mr. Damien Howat
Ennis Road, Limerick.

Nomination: :

Dr. Jim Mc Comb,
Galway Mayo Institute of Technology

Profile of the recipient:

The contributions for which the above named nominee should be recognised are:

Outstanding performance in final year of Hons. BSc Applied Physics & Instrumentation. Damien came into the final year of the Hons. BSc Physics & Instrumentation from a general degree in NUIG.

As such he was at a significant disadvantage as there was a lot of totally new material and in particular laboratory equipment and techniques that he had not met previously. He displayed tremendous enthusiasm and aptitude in not only catching up with but surpassing the rest of the class in just one year.

He achieved 1st place in the class with an average mark of 80%. But even more impressively his laboratory work was outstanding earning a mark of 87%. He undertook a very difficult project in attempting to measure stress by examining interference of light through optical fibers.

He achieved remarkable results earning a mark of 85%. In fact his performance was outstanding across all subjects displaying no weaknesses. Additionally Damien carried out all his tasks in a quite and unassuming manner and displayed an inquiring mind and a keen interest in the subject matter.

Damien has just been accepted into a research program in Waste Power Engineering in Queens University Belfast.

Instrument Pioneer Award



Pioneer Award Winner: Michael Riordan receiving his award from Minister Michael Martin and President ISA Ireland Brian Nolan

Criteria: To be awarded, on the nomination of two or more society members, in recognition of a lifetime devoted to instrumentation in Ireland.

Recipient:

Mr. Michael Riordan,
Hettyfield, Well Road, Cork
Nominated by: Mr.

Brian Cutis
and Mr. John Reidy

Profile of the Recipient:

Michael served his electrical apprenticeship in the textile and cotton industry with Seafield Fabrics and Blackwater Cotton in Youghal. This was a six year period learning the basis of electrical maintenance and installation in the early fifties.

He then applied for and gained employment as a member of a team with

Irish Refining Company at the newly constructed oil refinery in Whitegate, Co. Cork, to be trained as an instrument craftsman.

Following on site classroom lectures, the members of the team were assigned to individual qualified instrument craftsmen who were on secondment to the Irish Refinery from Esso Oil refineries in the UK to commission the instrumentation facilities at the Whitegate Refinery.

Having completed this phase the Irish Team took over the maintenance function including scheduled 24 hour on-call duty. Four years later Michael applied and was selected for secondment to Standard Oil Libya, where oil resources had been discovered.

As one of a team of instrument craftsmen from Esso Refineries in UK and Ireland to commission a new oil refinery and a power generating plant which had been constructed on barges in Spain and installed on the Mediterranean coast of Libya.

Following this assignment Michael returned to Whitegate refinery and worked as an instrument craftsman specialising in on-line continuous analysers and developed temperature scanning equipment which at the time was not commercially available.

In these years the PC was in its infancy and its unreliability was a significant deterrent to its use in critical control applications.



President ISA Ireland Brian Nolan, Honours and Awards chairman Kevin Dignam and President elect Ireland section Jim Long at the ISA Honours and Awards in UCC

After ten years in oil refinery and power generating industries, during which Michael had gained a lot of knowledge and worked with very competent people.

The Irish Refinery company advertised a voluntary redundancy scheme which he availed of after securing other employment.

Later Michael worked with ANCO (now FAS) as an instrument instructor for one year. When he was offered the position of Electrical/Instrument foreman by Mitsui Denman, who were constructing a manganese processing plant in Little Island, where he stayed until construction was completed, the plant commissioning and in full operation, two years later.

At that time Nitrogen Eireann Teoranta (NET) later Irish Fertilisers Limited (IFI)

were constructing an Ammonia and Urea plant at Marino point near Cobh.

They advertised for an Electrical /Instrument Supervisor which Michael applied for and was selected in 1977.



President ISA Ireland Brian Nolan, Honours and Awards chairman Kevin Dignam and President elect Ireland section Jim Long at the ISAHonours and Awards in UCC

Responsibilities there included jointly recruitment of staff, witnessing and acceptance of instrumentation on behalf of NET, commissioning of control and monitoring equipment and plant start up. In 1983 Michael was promoted to a positions instrument and electrical project engineer, which he fulfilled until his retirement in 2002. During these years NET/IFI made substantial investment in necessary projects, e.g. plant efficiencies, natural gas pressure boosting station. Installation of S.C.A.D.A. and D.C.S. control systems.

Looking back over the 25 years working for NET/IFI Michael recalls the variety and scope of the job and most

importantly the memory of all his colleagues who worked there.

We know that IFI was closed in 2003 and the Ammonia plant has been dismantled and shipped to South America to be rebuilt.

Michael has not applied for the position of commissioning engineer on the construction of this plant, he has retired his boots and his 4-20mA meter for the quieter environs of Douglas.

Michael is married to Frances and they have four children, Jim, Catherine, Fiona, and Caroline.

Tonight we honour Michael Riordan with the Pioneer Award. He really has been a pioneer in the development of the instrumentation industry in Ireland over the last 40 years.



Gerry Creaner, Declan Lordan, John Downey, Minister Michael Martin at the ISAHonours and Awards in UCC.



*Winners of the 2004 Honours and Awards. Back row: Connor Fahy, Brendan Byron, Michael Riordan, Sean O'Mahony, Damien Howard
Front row: Brian Curtis ISA, President ISA Ireland Brian Nolan, Minister Michael Martin TD, and Kevin Dignam ISA,*



President ISA Ireland Brian Nolan, Gareth Roe Lecturer in GMT, Damien Howard Ger Dullea Award Winner and Minister Michael Martin

Honours & Awards Sponsors for 2006

We would like to thank our sponsors for their support in organizing these annual awards. The support of our sponsors is vital to the success of many ISA events.



*Sponsors of Honours and Awards 2006. Back row: John Downey RPS Engineering, Colm Fitzgerald Kirby Group, Donal Grogan Valve Services, Gerry Creaner DPS Engineering, Tony Donnelly Endress+Hauser, John Farrell Proscion,
Front row: Brian Curtis ISA, President ISA Ireland Brian Nolan, Minister Michael Martin TD, and Kevin Dignam ISA,*

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ISA TECHNICAL MEETING

20 FEBRUARY 2007

Topic: OVERALL
EQUIPMENT EFFICINCIES

To be held in Rochestown Park Hotel,
Cork at 20.00hrs.
Contact Marc Roosli for info:
Tel 051-878555

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

In order that the ISA Ireland section records are accurate and up-to-date concerning our members throughout the country, it is important to let me know if you have:

1. Moved house
2. Moved to a new employer
3. A new telephone number
4. A new fax number
5. A new e-mail address

This will enable us to make sure that all correspondence from the Ireland section and the USA will reach you at the proper destination in time.



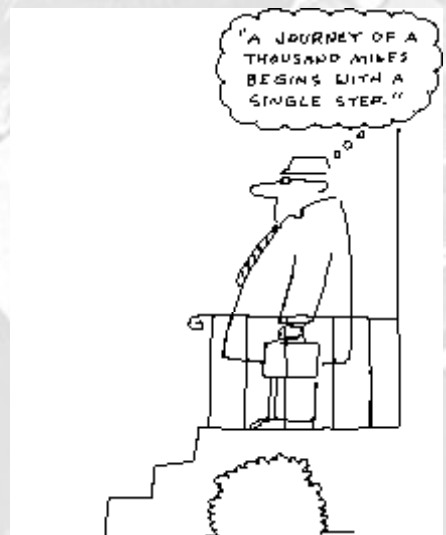
**ISA-The Instrumentation,
Systems and
Automation Society**

Euro Rates for ISA Membership:

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Regular Membership | €85.00 |
| 2. Senior Membership | €85.00 |
| 3. Student Membership | €10.00 |
| 4. Two year regular / senior membership | €158.00
(save €12.00) |
| 5. Three year regular / senior membership | €225.00
(save €30.00) |
| 5. Three year student membership | €15.00 |

Membership Contact:

Mr. Declan Lordan
Douglas Control & Automation
Membership Chair
ISA Ireland Section
Tel: (021) 4317001
Fax: (021) 4313603
E-mail: dlordan@douglas-esl.ie





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ISA Ireland Section
2006/07**

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(Treasurer)*

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F E E D B A C K

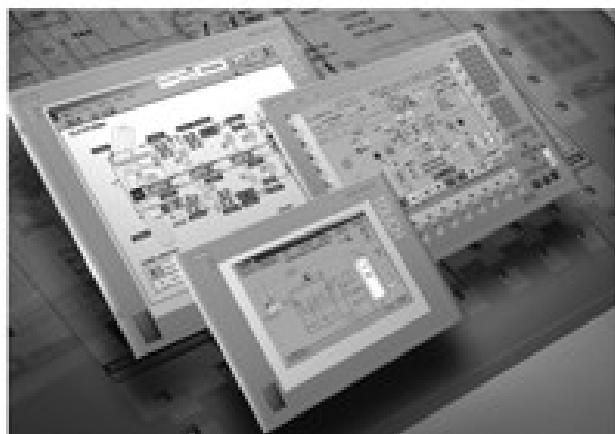
Section Committee Members can be contacted at:

ISA Ireland Section P.O.Box 203 Eglinton St.Cork
<http://www.iol.ie/~isaire> Info@isa.ie Membership@isa.ie

The views expressed in INCON are not necessarily those of ISA or ISA Ireland

Siemens Panel PCs for harsh industrial use

Siemens Automation and Drives (A&D) has developed two new Panel PCs for harsh industrial use: the especially compact Simatic Panel PC 677, and the flexibly expandable Simatic Panel PC 877. There are several front



designs available for both device types, offering 12" and 15" touch or key operation as well as a 19" touch version. The PC 677 replaces the predecessor model PC 670, and the PC 877 replaces the PC 870.

The new Panel PCs are equipped with powerful processors and are suitable for demanding visualisation tasks and for processing large volumes of data. Intel Pentium M processor is available for PC 677 and Intel Pentium 4 processor for PC 877. The remaining setup is scalable with a main memory configuration up to 2GB, hard disk drives up to 80GB and optical drives, 110-230V AC or 24 V DC power supplies, and the Windows 2000 or XP Professional operating systems. For higher system availability and data security, there is an optional RAID1 mirror disk system, supported by the onboard RAID controller on the PC 677, and the integral vibration-suppressed double hard disk module.

douglas

Neptune House, Victoria Road, Cork.
Tel: 021-4317001 email: info@douglas-est.ie
www.douglas-est.ie

SIEMENS

Fitzwilliam Court, Leeson Close, Dublin 2
Tel: 01 - 2162000
www.siemens.ie