

IECEX emphasizes benefits to industry at petroleum and chemical conference

In a presentation titled "IECEX* - A Global Solution for the Ex Industry", [IECEX](#) Secretary Chris Agius introduced the new IECEX Certified Service Facilities Scheme for the assessment and certification of Ex (explosive) repair facilities that provide real and practical solutions to worldwide Ex industries.



Agius spoke during the third [Petroleum and Chemical Industry Committee of Europe \(PCIC EU\) 2006 Conference](#) which brought together some 150 experts in June in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

PCIC Europe is the European forum for exchanging experience about the practical applications of electrical and instrumentation technology in the petroleum (oil, gas), chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Another important objective of the conference is to enable senior engineers to give helpful information to younger engineers to stimulate the transfer of knowledge from generation to generation.

Apart from speaking about other recent changes to the Ex field concerning certification, Agius also described the factors behind the success of the IECEX Scheme, future initiatives and work related to [IEC 60079-19: Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres - Part 19: Repair and overhaul for apparatus used in explosive atmospheres \(other than mines or explosives\)](#).

Regarding the main differences between ATEX and IECEX, Agius said that "While the ATEX is the mandatory European Directive for equipment used in potentially explosive atmospheres, IECEX's strong technical particularity is its focus on compliance with IEC International Standards. The use of IEC publications in this area as harmonized standards under the ATEX Directive also further strengthens IECEX certification as an essential platform for demonstrating product conformity to standards."



PCIC EU 2006 also included a series of presentations by other experts who discussed technical, safety and management matters as well as infrastructure, electrical and instrumentation technology, cost and compliance issues that influence Ex industries today.

PCIC EU is affiliated with PCIC, an affiliation of [IEEE](#) in the United States. More information on PCIC US can be found on <http://www.ieee-pcic.org/>.

*IECEX is IEC's system for certification of equipment used in explosive atmospheres.

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Workshop on safety standards helps to initiate dialogue between regulators and standard developers

With the increasing use of IEC safety standards in technical regulations by governments in industrialized and developing countries, [IEC's Advisory Committee on Safety](#), also known as ACOS, initiated a workshop on "IEC safety standards in support of regulatory requirements", which was held from 22-23 May 2006 in Beijing, China. The event which brought together over 150 delegates from 14 countries (mostly from Asian countries, especially China) was hosted by the [Chinese National Committee of the IEC](#) (the [Standardization Administration of China – SAC](#)) and proficiently organized by the [China Electrical Equipment Industry Association \(CEEIA\)](#) and [CHINT Group Corp.](#)



From left to right: Don Gray, IEC Vice President and CAB Chairman; Friedrich Harless, ACOS Chairman; Liu Pinguin, SAC Director; Michael Casson, ACOS Secretary.

This was ACOS' s first attempt to reunite regulators and standard developers so that they could engage in a dialogue and be regularly informed of current developments and future needs.

Following SAC Director Liu Pinguin and ACOS Chairman Friedrich Harless' opening remarks, the first session (the workshop was divided into four sessions) enabled participants to listen to several presentations on IEC's main activities given by Harless and IEC Vice President and [Conformity Assessment Board](#) Chairman Don Gray.

During the second session devoted to regulators, Christer Arvius who is the Chairman of the [UN Economic Commission for Europe Working Party 6](#) (Technical Harmonization and Standardization