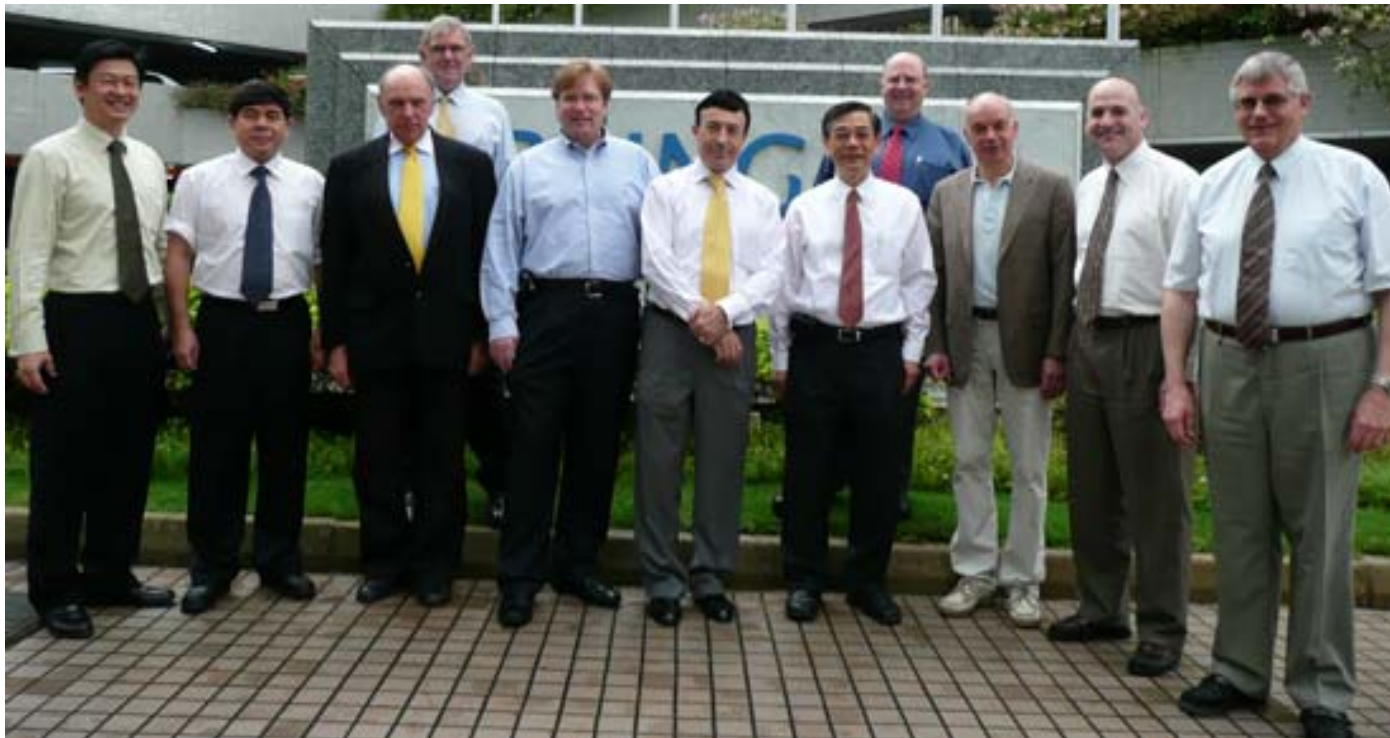


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Singapore hosts IECEx "first" meetings

Following the launch of the IECEx Conformity Mark in February, the IECEx Conformity Mark Committee (ExMarkCo) held its first meeting in Singapore on 12 March 2008. Hosted by the IEC Regional Centre for Asia-Pacific ([IEC APRC](#)), the newly-established committee had a full agenda, with discussions centering on the various operational issues linked to the new IECEx Conformity Mark License System.



The ExMarkCo meeting in Singapore from left to right: Dennis Chew, Liu Weijun, Ron Collins, Wal Robson, Kerry McManama, Chris Agius, Teo Nam Kuan, Ralph Wigg, Uwe Klausmeyer, Tim Duffy and Heinz Berger

Dennis Chew, IEC-APRC Officer in Charge, and Teo Nam Kuan, Group Director of Quality & Standards Group, [SPRING Singapore](#) and Deputy Chairman of the Singapore National Committee of the IEC, warmly welcomed the delegates. In his speech, Teo also stressed the importance of the IECEx to local users of Ex equipment.

First on the agenda were issues directly related to the ExMarkCo, such as procedures for the constitution of the committee. The formation of the ExMarkCo, with Timothy Duffy, [Rockwell Automation](#) (USA) as its Chairman, had been ratified by the IEC Conformity Assessment Board

(CAB) at its Paris meeting in October 2007, when CAB approved the new IECEx 01 Basic Rules. The revised version of the IECEx Basic Rules makes provisions for the new Marks Committee.

The meeting resolved that a balance of interests from Ex equipment manufacturers, equipment users (e.g. oil and gas companies), regulators and certification bodies is paramount and will submit a recommendation along these lines for consideration by the IECEx Management Committee, during their September 2008 meeting, hosted by France.

The committee then tackled issues that are crucial to the good functioning of the ExMarkCo and to the development and promotion of the IECEx Conformity Mark License System, stressing the need to ensure broad representation from all Ex stakeholders, and establishing a series of mechanisms that will help to achieve this objective.

Participants also went over the finalisation of a new IECEx Conformity Mark "Guide on use of the Mark", an essential tool in the promotion of the Ex Mark that is expected to be published later in the spring.

Last but not least, the financing of the Mark System was under scrutiny to guarantee a smooth functioning of the system.

The Ex safety mark is granted by approved IECEx certifiers (ExCBs) located in IECEx participating countries for equipment that is covered by an IECEx Certificate of Conformity and hence has been tested and manufactured under systems that are undergoing surveillance by ExCBs. It will help governments, safety regulators and industry have greater assurance that the equipment being operated or supplied for use in areas with flammable gases and vapours and combustible dusts (termed explosive atmospheres) meets the world's most respected and vigorous safety standards as established by the IEC.

IECEx Business Development Group

The day after the ExMarkCo meeting, the IECEx Business Development Group, or ExMC WG13, met for the first time, also in Singapore with the IEC-APRC as host. The Chairman of ExMC WG13 is Mr Kerry McManama, of [Underwriters Laboratories](#) Inc. (USA), who is also Chairman of the IECEx Technical Group, ExTAG.

The meeting focused on key issues for the development of IECEx, stressing that the group plays a major role in ensuring that the IECEx maintains a structured approach to the development and delivery of the IECEx Services.

The meeting also addressed the question of costs and benefits to industry surrounding the development work on the new IECEx Competent Persons programme, an issue that is expected to be considered by the IECEx Management Committee at its meeting in Paris next September.

For more information, please go to the [IECEX website](#).

Related information:

[IECEX website](#), International Electrotechnical Commission Scheme for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEX Scheme)
email to [Chris Agius](#), IECEx Executive Secretary



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