

Successful week for IECEx annual meetings in Paris



Over 140 delegates and observers participated in a week-long series of management and technical meetings at the IECEx 2008 annual series of meetings, which included the UTE/IECEx 2008 Industry Symposium

IECEx, the IEC system for certification to standards relating to equipment for use in explosive atmospheres, held its inaugural meeting back in 1996 in London and last organized meetings in the Paris, France during 1998. IECEx returned to Paris last month, for its annual series of meetings, a very different operation compared to what it was when it met there 10 years ago.

Back in 1998, some 40 delegates and observers met. Last month, more than 140 delegates and observers participated in a week-long series of management and technical meetings, which included the UTE/IECEx 2008 Industry Symposium. Almost half of the participants came from industry, representing manufacturers, end-users (e.g. oil and gas, pharmaceutical) and regulators.

The week started early with the following specialist IECEx WGs (Working Groups) meeting on Sunday, 28 September at the UTE (Union Technique de l'Electricité) in Paris:

- **ExTAG AHG** – Specialist Group for dealing with conformity assessment issues of materials associated with Ex equipment
- **ExMC WG1** – Specialist Group for maintenance of the IECEx System rules and procedure
- **ExMC WG5** – Specialist Group for quality management systems associated with Ex equipment manufacturers and Ex equipment repairers.

Beginning on Monday, 29 September, the following technical and management meetings took place:

- IECEx Training Workshop for IECEx Certification Bodies + Test Laboratories
- IECEx Assessor Training Workshop
- IECEx ExTAG Technical Meeting
- UTE/IECEx Industry Symposium
- IECEx Management Committee (ExMC).

Many significant issues were addressed during the week, among them:

- Further enhancements to the very popular IECEx “On-Line” Certificate System
- Further discussion on the issues surrounding testing at locations other than the ExTL

- Full agreement to proceed with work on introduction of the new IECEx Certified Persons Scheme and its submission for CAB (Conformity Assessment Board) approval at the IEC General Meeting in São Paulo in November 2008
- Appointment for nomination of Kerry McManama from Underwriters Laboratories, USA, as the new IECEx Chairman, following the completion of two very successful terms by Uwe Klausmeyer of PTB Germany
- First report from the newly-formed IECEx Business Development WG and acceptance of many of their recommendations
- First report from the newly-constituted IECEx Conformity Mark Committee, ExMarkCo, and acceptance of all their recommendations.

Perhaps one of the most significant events of the week was the [UTE/IECEX 2008 Industry Symposium](#) and the excellent panel of presenters organized by UTE and the French Host Committee. These included:

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| Eric Meyer | International IECEx Certification Scheme as seen by an Oil & Gas Operator. The TOTAL E&P company viewpoint |
| Lorenza Jachia | United Nations Economic Commission for Europe |
| Jean-François Gruson | Oil and Gas projects in the next decades |
| John Allen | IECEX 03 Service Facilities Program |
| Rudolf Pommé & Karel Neleman | The IECEx - Ticket to Global Markets |
| Toshi Hayashi | The IECEx Scheme in Japan - Requirements and access to the Japanese market |
| Dave Adams | The IECEx Scheme in Canada - Canadian Regulations and Access to the Market |
| L. Witrant & M. Spellemaeker | Approved IECEx Gas Detection Equipment. The benefits and advantages for the installation and maintenance in France, in conjunction with ATEX certified personnel |
| Jussi Rautee | Benefits for manufacturers in using the IECEx Scheme - from certification to repair |
| Chris Agius | 2008 IECEx – responding to industry needs |

The continued success and sustained growth of IECEx is attributed largely to the increasing level of participation in the day-to-day management of IECEx from all Ex stakeholders including, manufacturers of Ex equipment, end-users (especially oil and gas) and regulators from a broad spectrum such as coal mining, petrochemical and aviation.

For the 2008 series of IECEx meetings, Klausmeyer, speaking on behalf of the delegates, acknowledged with thanks the excellent hosting by UTE and the support from their sponsors, such as:

- INERIS
- TOTAL
- ABB
- Industrial Scientific
- Konica Minolta
- LCIE, BV.

For more information on IECEx visit: www.iecex.com.

RELATED INFORMATION

IEC links

IECEX
System for certification to standards for equipment for explosive atmospheres

External links

[UTE](#): Union technique de l'électricité

[UTE/IECEX Industry Symposium](#):
2008 Paris

