



CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

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New IECEx Chairman attends 2009 PCIC Europe conference

Kerry McManama, the recently named Chairman of IECEx, the IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres, represented IECEx at the sixth annual PCIC Europe (Petroleum and Chemical Industry Committee) conference 26-28 May 2009 in Barcelona, Spain. McManama is General Manager of HazLoc (Hazardous Locations) Services at [UL](#) (Underwriters Laboratories).

Heinz Berger, of [Certiconsult](#), Switzerland, who serves as Treasurer for both IECEx and PCIC, also attended.

The PCIC Europe conferences have met with growing success. The sixth conference was no exception, providing attendees from the oil and gas, chemical and pharmaceutical industries with a forum where end-users, engineering companies, manufacturers and regulatory bodies could meet and discuss issues of major importance.

The main topics were:

- Energy efficiency and sustainable development;
- Safety in the workplace;
- User experiences of regulations and standards;
- E&I (Electrical and Instrumentation) engineering practices;
- Equipment, systems and components;

Operation, maintenance, repair, asset management and qualification of personnel.

Last year's programme at Weimar, Germany, included for the first time a tutorial session, a concept that was repeated this year. The themes of the 2009 tutorial session, which took place on the first day of the conference, were *Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy for 21st Century and Beyond* and *Power Management Systems in Large Industrial Sites*.

The programme of the following two days was broken down into several modules focusing on specific issues of interest: power, control, standards, systems, VFDs (Variable Frequency Drives), safety, equipment and engineering.

As IECEx has the sole international certification system for equipment used in hazardous areas, its participation in such an event is virtually guaranteed. The scope of its activities makes IECEx's presence relevant at all levels of the conference programme. In his presentation and update on IECEx activities, McManama explained that the continued focus is to provide the international Ex community with a credible and transparent international certification system that meets the needs of the many Ex stakeholders, including in both industry and government.

“IECEx success is based on the high level of direct industry involvement .”

IECEx Chairman
Kerry McManama



IECEx Chairman Kerry McManama attended the 2009 PCIC EU Conference in Barcelona, Spain

McManama then outlined the current IECEx Schemes, namely the IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme and IECEx Certified Service Facility Scheme. He also provided an update of the new IECEx Certified Persons Scheme, set to commence later in 2009.

McManama further advised that the high level of direct industry involvement in the management of the IECEx System – specifically, in the IECEx Management Committee and at the Officers level – remains the foundation of IECEx’s strength and impressive annual growth rates.

This, coupled with the state-of-the-art full on-line certificate system generating electronic master certificates, provides industry and government with instant information on the status of any of the thousands of certificates and reports issued under the IECEx System.

He concluded by saying how much IECEx enjoys its cooperative relationship with PCIC Europe and that it looks forward to continuing this fruitful cooperation, as both organizations serve the needs of the international community.

PCIC EU

[PCIC Europe](#) is the European forum for exchanging experience about the practical applications of electrical and instrumentation technology in the petroleum (oil and gas), chemical and pharmaceutical industries. Experts from users, engineering companies, manufacturers, regulators, certifying bodies and international standardization organizations present papers at PCIC Europe conferences with the aim of informing attendees about their experience and recent progress. PCIC Europe is part of [PCIC](#), an affiliation of [IEEE](#) (Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers) in the United States of America.

For more information about PCIC Europe visit: <http://www.pcic-europe.eu>.

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