

# IECEX Delegates' Australian Visit, Successful Melbourne Meetings and Educational Seminar to Australian Manufacturers

## IECEX Delegates Australian Visit

The last IECEX (International Electrotechnical Commission Explosion Protected Equipment) meetings were held in 1999, and TestSafe had hosted a visit for delegates which was highly appreciated.

The IECEX certifying and testing scheme relies on 'peer-review' and free exchange of information amongst the top technical experts in the Ex industry. Such technical visits are an important forum where our world class facilities are shown, explained and tests are conducted so that the experts increase their knowledge and add to the pool of Ex expertise world-wide.



*International IECEX Delegates*

This year, 13 delegates attended. They were shown the TestSafe video, and taken for a walk through the calibration facilities, intrinsic safety testing laboratory, Ingress Protection testing, environmental conditioning, temperature rise testing, flameproof testing, mechanical testing, and finally to the most interesting part, the combustible dust testing. A fiery explosion was shown to the visitors, and emphasized the amount of energy

contained in a small quantity of combustible dust. It is with such demonstrations that industry can truly appreciate the magnitude of the explosion that may arise in areas where explosive materials exist, and how important it is to get the design and assessment of such Ex equipment in compliance with relevant Standards.

Finally the delegates enjoyed afternoon tea, with a question and answer session where the delegates could freely question the TestSafe experts on technical and administrative matters.

## Attendance at IECEx Meetings in Melbourne

TestSafe is an accepted Certification Body and Testing Laboratory within the IECEx System and issues IECEx certificates and audits clients under this Scheme. Attendance at the meetings which were held in Melbourne was important to TestSafe in order to keep closely involved with developments within the IECEx, as well as to contribute to policy and standards developments in the Scheme.



*Ajay Maira, TestSafe staff member  
presenting his paper*

The meeting had more than 70 delegates from many countries around the world. The IECEx is an internationally accepted scheme which is increasing its dominance every year.

Ajay Maira presented a technical discussion on Intrinsic Safety, with information and examples of the results when testing circuits with combinations of inductance and capacitance. The presentation was very well received and the discussion paper was released for world wide use to cover such testing.

There were several discussions on many other areas of interest, including the uniformity required in the application of the Ex area Standards when considering compliance of the design of Ex equipment.

Within the IECEx system, 'peer-review' requires IECEx auditors drawn from IECEx laboratories and certifying bodies to audit other IECEx laboratories for initial entry to the IECEx scheme, and to provide surveillance audits every 5 years. The IECEx meeting provided a training session for such IECEx auditors. TestSafe has nominated Ajay Maira and Gordana Manojlovic as IECEx auditors, and both of them benefited from the latest problems and issues that were discussed at the meeting.

## Educational Seminar to Australian Manufacturers

An educational seminar on 'Pathways to North America Ex Certification' was presented by Underwriters Laboratories (UL), a leading product certifier from North America. The audience was mainly Australian manufacturers.

Manufacturers in Australia would like to market their technologies and products in North America but find it difficult to do so because of the lack of information on how to achieve certification that is acceptable there. UL had several experts, including Mr McManama and Mr Malohn who presented details to the Australian manufacturers on how to achieve certification through UL.

The information was invaluable, and possible 'show-stoppers' and methods to move around them were presented in detail. The role of TestSafe in providing IECEx reports to cover the Ex requirements was emphasized, as that takes care of one important aspect of the design and testing considerations, leaving UL to conduct the 'ordinary location' test requirements. It also provides TestSafe with local audits to conduct that will be easier and less expensive than having UL personnel who are based in North America conduct the audits.

In the afternoon, TestSafe experts Ajay Maira and Gordana Manojlovic gave technical presentations to the attending delegates on the changes in the next editions of the General Requirements, Intrinsic Safety and Flameproof Standards. These were well received, as the experts ga  
anges would be applied.



*David Pearson, Acting Director of TestSafe, welcoming the Australian Manufacturers to the seminar*