

European IEC 61508 project's successful start

The European Community Framework V funded project, Guiding Principals to the Implementation of IEC 61508, SIPI61508, held the first of its twelve European workshops, in Oslo during September. The workshop hosted by ABB was attended by twenty-five safety practitioners drawn from a wide range of process industry organizations within Norway and Denmark. These organizations spanned the complete supply chain.

The varied workshop programme enabled attendees to discuss the current issues implementing IEC 61508, the international functional safety standard, and compare and contrast successful implementation methods and programmes. During the first day, Thorleif Husebo from the Norwegian Petroleum Directorate delivered a keynote presentation on the current status of the NPD's Guidelines for Offshore Implementation, OLF 070 and on day two, a keynote presentation by Bente Skari from Aker Kvaerner covered implementation of IEC 61508 in the Kristin project. In addition Farhad Pakshad, ABB OS-Div; Ritari Esa, Metso and Stian Ruud, of DNV focused on their specific experiences with modifications to existing safety systems, benefits in using smart valves and functional safety assessments.

Many topics were discussed reflecting the importance and status of the standard. Amongst the issues identified were the need to integrate the standard's life cycle within an organizations project life cycle; establish safety requirements in a timely manner; difficulties in implementing the standard for safety functions with multiple safe states; confusion and often duplication in verification, validation, assessment and audit activities; difficulties in calibrating risk graphs and availability of up-to-date reliability data for wetted end equipment.

The significant experiences of the attendees at this first workshop and their willingness to share experiences and material put the project on a firm footing.

The key objective of the project, spanning 2 years, led by ABB, supported by partners Hima and Aston Dane, is to provide the EU Process and Allied industries with a set of Guiding Principles for the achievement of safe industrial processes through a unified approach to the implementation of IEC-61508. These Guiding Principles will accelerate the understanding and facilitate uniform interpretation and implementation of the international functional safety standard 61508.

For further information and to express an interest in participating in the workshops please contact the project co-coordinator Stuart Nunns Email: stuart.nunns@gb.abb.com or partners Tino Vande Capelle Email: tino.vdc@hima.com and Chris Birtles Email: [chris.birtles @astondane.com](mailto:chris.birtles@astondane.com)

Or visit our web site

www.SIPI61508.com