

# eye-Contact

Issue 7 10 November 2003

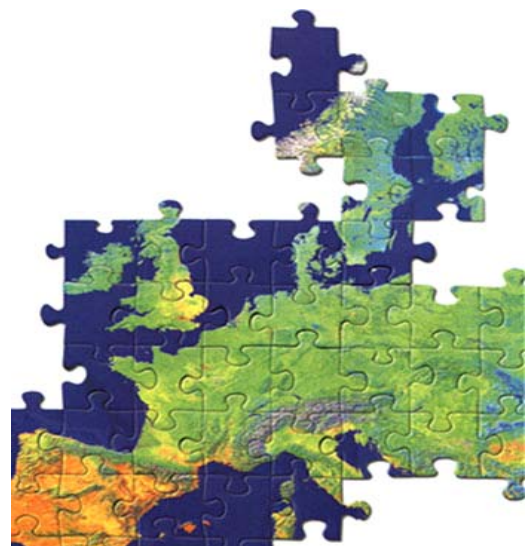
The Journal of the European Young Engineers

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*Danfoss*

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## Insight EYE

### Welcome to Cologne, welcome to the EYE Fall 2003 Conference!

On behalf of the German VDI Students and Young Engineers (suj) and the EYE Cologne Team I would like to give you a warm welcome to our Fall Meeting in the city of the "Kölner Dom". This time we have combined the EYE Conference with the suj Fall Meeting, so we have a really big event with more than 150 participants.

For the information and orientation of the more than 170 participants we have prepared a "Survival Guide" which has been send out to everybody early November. It should help you to find your way through the weekend – day and night – as well as in case you should need further help.

|    | Friday                                | Saturday                                | Sunday  |
|----|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| 8  |                                       | ● Breakfast 08:00-09:00                 | ● Breakfast 08:00-10:00   |
| 9  |                                       | ● 09:00-12:00                           | ● 09:00-12:00 EYE Council<br>● VDI suj<br>● Bereichs-vertretung             |
| 10 |                                       | ● Seminars (1)                          | ● 10:00-12:00 Cultural Tour Cologne   |
| 11 | ● 17:00-18:30 Company visits          | ● Lunch 12:00-14:00                     | → Farewell + Lunch 12:30-13:30  |
| 12 | ● 11:00-12:30 Check in + Spare Time   | ● 14:00-17:00 Seminars (2)              |   |
| 13 | ● 15:30-17:30 EYE Council Meeting (1) | ● 17:00-20:00 Follow-up EYE Action Plan | ● Places of the Event:<br>● Youth Hostel (rooms are labeled)<br>● Companies |
| 14 | ● 18:00-19:30 Reception               | ● 17:00-20:00 Spare Time                | ● Ancient Town Hall<br>● Kolping Haus<br>● Cologne<br>● Paffgen             |
| 15 | ● 20:00-22:00 Lectures + Dinner       | ● Dinner 20:00-21:30                    |   |
| 16 | ● 22:00... Pub Crawl                  | ● Party 21:30...                        |   |

For your permanent update we install an information board in the Foyer of the Youth Hostel. Please check it from time to time through the weekend for latest news.

Company visitors: Please bring your Identity Card (or passport) with you since at some company visits you will need it!

Party: Do not forget to bring a nice, funny or weird costume with you – it is Carnival time in Cologne and we want to celebrate it Saturday night!

So enjoy the weekend and your stay, we are happy to have you with us in Cologne!

For the team, Philipp

*Philipp Brzenczek*

Speaking at the annual congress of the International Federation of Consulting Engineers (FIDIC) in Paris last week, Progress Network chairman and Train and Kemp engineer, Roger McLaughlin, spoke of the need for businesses to safeguard their futures by ensuring that young engineers were given the chance to play a key role in their organisations.

"Involving young engineers is not merely lip service," said McLaughlin. "It is crucial to the vitality and dynamism of all of our organisations. How can we truly talk about building sustainable businesses if young professionals are not a key part of those businesses and their representative groups?" he asked delegates at the conference.

The FIDIC conference gathered delegates from over 60 countries worldwide to debate key issues facing the engineering and consultancy business. At the conference FIDIC agreed to step up the activities of its Young Professionals Forum (YPF) and pledged to make the forum a key part of its 2004 congress in Copenhagen, Denmark. "The Progress Network looks forward to playing a significant role in the development of the FIDIC YPF over the coming months," said McLaughlin.

Progress Network's latest initiative was on the weekend 19-20 September 2003, when it has been working with London Open House on an initiative called 'OpenSite'. This saw two major construction sites, Wembley Stadium and St Pancras International, open to the public for the first time as part of the capital's annual architecture and building showcase event.

*ACE press release*

## Europe EYE

### Heated debate on the patentability of computer-implemented inventions

On 24 September 2003, the EU-Parliament had to debate an EU-Commission's proposal on the patentability of computer-implemented inventions in the first-reading. The run-up was accompanied by a demonstration, a petition with 250.000 signatures, several letters of scientist, entrepreneurs and lobby groups. But the parliamentarians were not in agreement either. The contentious point was whether computer-software should be patentable or not.

The EU-Commission aims at eliminating a significant barrier to trade in patented products within the internal market resulting from the fact that certain inventions can be protected by patent in some Member States but not others. In addition, the European Patent Office (EPO), which has had to act under the rulings of European Patent Convention (EPC) of 1978, when the potential of the development of computer technology could not be anticipated, has granted a high number of 30.000 software-related patents of which several are controversial. On the one side, the new directive wants to

## EYE Family

### Progress Network takes sustainable business message to the world

Engineering and consultancy business associations worldwide were urged last week to follow the example of the Progress Network, the Association of Consulting Engineers (ACE) young engineers' group, by making their young professionals' groups a key priority over the coming months.

reduce the number of granted patents. On the other side, it wants to make clear what is patentable and what is not.

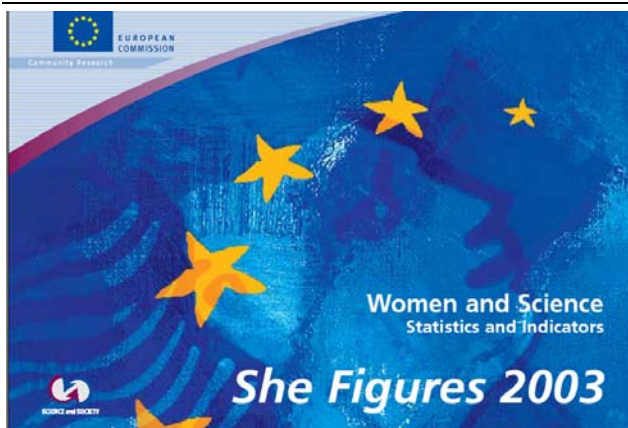
According to the Directive, only inventions that include a "technical contribution" are patentable. That means "a contribution to the state of the art in a technical field which is not obvious to a person skilled in the art". On the other hand, computer programs as such and "pure" business methods (that is, methods which have no technical character) shall be not patentable.

However, those opposing the proposal, like the "Foundation for a Free Information Infrastructure" fear that it might lead to expansive patent warfare of the kind found in the US, shutting smaller software firms out of the competition and endangering open-source development such as Linux.

Facing the critics, the EU-Parliamentarians had brought up 120 amendments, of which several were added to the Commission's proposal in the first-reading on 24 September 2003. Now, the EU-Council (representatives of the EU-member states' governments) has to deliberate on the matter. Then, the EU-Parliament can finally decide on the proposal in the second reading. Afterwards, the member states have 18 months to transpose the Directive in their own national laws.

*Alexander Renz*

### Where are the Women in Industrial Research?



Just recently the European Commission has released a brochure called "She Figures 2003". It presents descriptive statistics and indicators for EU Member States and Associated Countries as well as explanatory texts and methodological notes. As such, the document signals a new era in the availability of sex-disaggregated data on human resources in the European Research Area and marks the beginning of a comprehensive collection of sex-disaggregated data on women in science. It is a reference tool that will enable policy-makers to review the latest European and national trends for both highly qualified women and men.

Although the number of women researchers in universities and businesses across Europe is on the increase only 15% of women represent researchers in enterprises. In contrast one third of the researchers in government and higher education research institutions are

female and women represent 40% of today's Ph.D. graduates in Europe.

Monitoring of relevant indicators will be continued, in order to measure the rapid change occurring in the gender dynamics of the European Research Area.

The full report can be found at:

[http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/women/wssi/publications\\_en.html](http://europa.eu.int/comm/research/science-society/women/wssi/publications_en.html)

*Britta Sadoun*

### Standards for services

Help is on the way for service providers and firms that find it hard to compare offers from business service suppliers. The European Commission, backed by EU Member States, has asked European standards bodies to help enterprises develop common standards for business services, to improve their compatibility and comparability.

Services now account for an estimated 70% of jobs across the EU. Standards for some business-to-business (B2B) services are already being developed, but this could be a large new area of work for Europe's standardisers, who have traditionally concentrated on product specifications. Compliance with service standards would be voluntary, as it is for goods.

Standards for services should boost competition within the EU single market, by making it easier for firms to compare, choose and change service suppliers within and across borders. Service providers would be better placed to address the entire EU marketplace. The need for them was confirmed by a recent explorative study, done for the Commission by the Fraunhofer Institute in Germany. The standardisation bodies - European Committee for Standardisation, European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation, and European Telecommunications Standards Institute - have also been asked to consider whether standardisation work could help to improve the safety of services for consumers.

Because service standards are a relatively new area, a key part of the work will be to promote their benefits to service providers and users. Once this has been done, the standards bodies will present the Commission with a work programme listing those standards thought to be most needed.

*Ronald Mackay*

## EYE Opener

### SEF Annual Conference Deadline




**2004 SEFI Annual Conference**  
 THE GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY FOR ENGINEERING EDUCATION

8th, 9th, 10th September 2004

**CALL FOR PROPOSALS**  
 Deadline: 9th January 2004

[www.sefi2004.com](http://www.sefi2004.com)

### Conference in Brussels, 14th November 2003: Leaders of Industry

The International Club of Engineers and Industrialists (CIII) organizes the conference "Leaders of Industry" at 14th November 2003 in Brussels that expects about 100 senior level executives of manufacturing and technology companies.

The International Club of Engineers and Industrialists (CIII) was founded in 2001 by the Société Royale Belge des Ingénieurs et des Industriels (SRBII), the Benelux Branch of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers of the UK, MIT (Alumni) Club of Belgium and the Belgian Section of the "Société des Ingénieurs et Scientifiques de France". A combination of business and leadership skills, a thorough appreciation of the cultural necessities for doing business across Europe and a sound understanding of technology and its economic imperatives is necessary for the success of future Chairmen and Chief Executive Officers (CEOs).

In the United States, in Japan, China and Korea the greatest proportion of CEOs have majored in engineering as a first degree. Not so in Europe. The CIII believes that the engineering profession has not only a great approach to assimilating data to cause conclusive and appropriate action but also a rich talent to meet the multiple skill requirements. For enhancing these capabilities engineers should have access to appropriate, focused, post-graduate and post-experience training.

Therefore the CIII is supporting a project that aims to establish a Business School for engineers and technologists aspiring to become Europe's top industrialists: the European Institute for Industrial Leadership.

The key-note speech will be given by Dr Boris Cizelj, former Slovenian Ambassador to the EU and NATO, on the subject Leading Growth in the post-Lisbon Europe.

Various high-level speakers will then talk about different aspects of leaders' skills for the future.

*Britta Sadoun*

### Optical Technologies – A HighLight for Europe

The VDI organizes in co-operation with more than 50 organisations from 15 member states an event on Optical Technologies in Brussels from the 9-11 November.

#### The way into the photon century

Light has made life on earth possible. Modern science has unravelled the mystery of light, igniting a firework of practically unlimited technological possibilities. The significance of photons will shortly surpass that of pure electronics.

The application of Optical Technologies plays already an important role in European society. Light offers astonishing possibilities such as the prevention of diseases formerly considered to be incurable, the production of tiny structures in future generation of chips or optical screening methods for food testing.



Within the next ten years the overall market volume of Optical Technologies is expected to increase from today 80 billion € to 800 billion € per year. They secure the competitiveness of existing industries and can establish a European leadership in important technological areas.

Though we still have only a mere notion of the astonishing possibilities Optical Technologies bear - one thing is certain - the 21st century will be the century of the photon.

The event encompasses an evening debate with high-level speakers including Mr Erkki Liikanen, Member of the European Commission responsible for Enterprise and Information Society. During three days the travelling exhibition "Fascination of Light" takes you on a journey to Optical Technologies. The exhibition is part of a German campaign "Fascination of Light" which started in February, 2003 in Berlin and is sponsored by the Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). Since February 2003 the exhibition has attracted more than 30.000 visitors with an enormous resonance in media.

*Jörg Niehoff*

**EYE Forecast**

**EYE@London: Managing People for Business Success**

Managing people is generally difficult for engineers. We spend several years at university learning a wide range of technical skills but very few engineering courses include in depth teaching of management. So, why is managing people important? Managing people is critical to business success as people are the greatest asset of any company. It has a great impact on productivity, staffing costs, staff retention and also the reputation of the company. The management challenge for engineers is becoming ever more difficult. Employment legislation is constantly changing, technology is evolving and employees are becoming ever more demanding at the same time as margins are reducing and clients are expecting increased quality.

This challenge will be addressed by the EYE London conference, *“Managing People – Engineering The Business”*, from 25<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> June 2004. A mini-symposium with speakers from government, industry and academia will address the challenges of good management. This will be followed by a choice of interactive workshops to help improve your management skills. Finally, a choice of industrial visits will enable you to see innovative management in practice at some of the UK’s leading engineering companies.



No EYE conference would be complete without a cultural programme. EYE London will give you the chance to see the spectacular views of London from the London Eye, experience a traditional English dinner and visit some of London’s world famous museums and galleries. If you have any energy left, the pubs and clubs in London are second to none.



For more details on EYE London, pick up a flyer at the conference in Cologne or visit our website at [www.eyelondon.org](http://www.eyelondon.org) "EYE London is supported by The Institution of Electrical Engineers ([www.iece.org](http://www.iece.org)) and The Institution of Civil Engineers ([www.ice.org.uk](http://www.ice.org.uk))"

*Lisa Kelvey*

**Imprint**

The eye-contact is compiled by the EYE Task Force and puts together articles about EYE activities like the EYE-conferences, the member organisations as well as EU activities relevant for young engineers. EYE takes no responsibility for the content of the articles send in by the authors.

The circulation of eye-contact is strongly encouraged. Please send any comments or articles to the EYE Office in Brussels:

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