



## University of Newcastle

School of Chemical Engineering and Advanced Materials

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**PACT**

*Partnership in Automation and Control Training*

**IGDS**

**Integrated Graduate Development Scheme**

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### Copy of message emailed to the PACT community on 5th August 2005

Hello

Sorry about the delay in sending out the newsletter: was meant to be the summer issue but it will soon be autumn.

- **Peter Burton.** Peter retired as Scheme Manager at the end of July. Formerly Technical Director of ABB Kent Process Control, he has been associated with the IGDS since its inception in the late 1980s, the development of the trial modules, the bid for EPSRC funding and the development of the IGDS. Following the formation of the PACT, Peter was the first Chairman of the Management Committee (LMC).

In recognition of his contribution, Peter was presented with a silver salver at the LMC meeting in May. Although he's retired as Scheme Manager, he hasn't escaped entirely as his involvement in teaching on some of the modules will continue.

- **Pfizer**, the pharmaceuticals company, has recently agreed to become a full Partner in PACT and Neil Winkcup will be Pfizer's representative on the LMC. Welcome to both Pfizer and Neil.
- **CEAM.** The School of Chemical Engineering and Advanced Materials has a new Head. Prof Julian Morris has been Head of School for the last three years. His period of office has now lapsed and he will be devoting his energies to other things. The new Head is Prof Steve Bull who is from the Materials wing of the School and has had no prior involvement with the IGDS. He is supportive of the Scheme and intends to take an active part in the LMC.
- **Questionnaires.** For every module there is a pre and post module questionnaire which delegates are asked to complete. There is almost a 100% completion rate. The information gathered is collated into summary statistics and comments which are subsequently used in relation to the Scheme's quality procedures. This feedback is essential for closing the loop in terms of improving quality of delivery, refining procedures, updating materials, and so on. So far that information has only been used for internal purposes.

The summary statistics have been aggregated for Modules PA/82 to PA/107 and, in the interest of providing feedback to yourselves, are attached as a separate document.

- **Accreditation.** In the last newsletter I informed you about accreditation of the MSc degree by the IChemE for CEng purposes. Since then there has been an accreditation visit carried out by the InstMC. It would appear that the IGDS is

going to be accredited for all delegates who obtain the MSc degree irrespective of the discipline of their first degree. Confirmation of this, and the detail of the approval, should materialise in September.

- **Marketing.** It is no secret that the market for CPD has been pretty flat of late. Companies have cut back on training budgets, people have less time available for being trained, and so on. This has obviously been reflected in bookings for IGDS modules. By a combination of hard work and keeping costs down the PACT has managed to keep its head above the water. One of the marketing tactics has been to package parts of modules as separate 2-day short courses. Several of these are looming up:

13/14 Sept	Statistical Process Control
11/13 Oct	Distillation Control Schemes and Strategies.
12/13 Dec	Process Measurements
14 Dec	Valve Characteristics and Sizing.

Please, can you help by drawing potential delegates' attention to these short courses, and indeed to the modules themselves. I would also be keen to follow up any opportunities for in-company training.

- **Results.** The next meeting of the Exam Board for the MSc/Diploma in Process automation will be 22nd September 2005. Results for exams, assignments and projects will be available shortly thereafter.
- **Handbook.** Yes, the end is in sight. I have a contract with Springer-Verlag and a deadline of the end of September to hand over the manuscript. Publication should be approx Easter 2006. There's going to be much burning of the midnight oil over the remains of the summer.
- **Welcome.** Welcome to the following delegates who have all done their first module in the Scheme since the last PACT News: Helen Dart (Imerys), Shane Doyle (Wyeth Medica), Chris Gilmour (GSK), Perry Hailey (Pfizer), Martin Lacey (Mott McDermott) and Nick Westhuizen (Cemex). Hopefully the first module won't be the last!

Hope you manage to have a good holiday.

Cheerio, Jon