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<p>PACT IGDS</p>	<p><i>Partnership in Automation and Control Training</i> Integrated Graduate Development Scheme Jonathan Love, Director of IGDS in Process Automation email: jon.love@ncl.ac.uk web: http://www.ncl.ac.uk/pact</p>

Copy of message emailed to the PACT community on 4th July 2003

Hello

Various bits of news on the PACT front.

The process control rigs (Dolly, Molly, et al) and equipment have now been transferred to Newcastle and we have now started the process of establishing a new process control lab. Space has been allocated and we are currently putting the infrastructure in place: benches, trays/trunking, cabling, compressed air etc. Then the rigs themselves will have to be re assembled, connected up to the control system, and the whole lot commissioned. The rigs should start coming on stream again towards the end of the year.

I am hopeful of having secured additional funding to build an additional couple of rigs and perhaps upgrade/extend the control systems themselves: should know about that in the autumn.

The Batch Process Control module (PA/88) the week after next has been substantially revised with an increased emphasis on/around the IEC standards 61131 and 61512 (S88) with an increased industrial input. Get back to me if you want any further info.

The Exam Board will be in October and there will be an intensive period of marking of outstanding exam papers and assignments over the summer. Provisional results will be distributed as they become available and formal results shortly after the Exam Board meeting.

The IGDS has now been running at Newcastle for one year. Although our accounts for the year are yet to be closed, it looks like the IGDS just about broke even overall. This was despite the number of delegates being lower than planned and a substantial investment in the lab facilities. It was achieved largely through a number of one-off savings that were made, a variety of economies and the increase in module fee. Given that we'd budgeted for a significant loss in the first year, I am well pleased with the outcome.

There are various other positive things going on in the background and I'll let you know of them as and when I'm able to.

Thanks