

Panasonic Trust News

Issue 11 April 2002



ROYAL
ACADEMY
of
ENGINEERING

Trust seeks Charity Commissioners approval to amend its Deed

The Panasonic Trust is currently seeking Charity Commission approval for a Scheme to amend its operating document, the Trust Deed. The Deed, which has remained unchanged since the Trust was launched in 1984, now no longer reflects the new proposed Trustee profile. This has been brought about by plans for a more focussed involvement in the Trust's affairs by employees of the Panasonic companies. Andrew Clack, Associate Director at Panasonic UK Ltd and Lead Company Trustee, commented "Panasonic takes very seriously its Corporate Citizenship Programme which is the umbrella for our worldwide philanthropic activities, including the Panasonic Trust. Up to now two Panasonic companies operating in the UK have been involved in the Panasonic Trust. However, following an internal review, I am pleased to say that Panasonic UK Ltd will now have sole responsibility for relations with the Panasonic Trust subject to the Charity Commissioners approval".

The application for a Scheme is currently at the public consultation stage. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at: The Royal Academy of Engineering, 29 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3LW or on the Charity Commission website at: www.charity-commission.gov.uk.



Pictured left to right are: Mr Phil Otsuki, Ryan Sweetman, Angela Curry, Anthony Sims, Tim Marshall, Andrew Crosby and Robin Bond FREng

2000 Awardees inducted as Panasonic Trust Fellows

The most recent group of graduating Fellowship scheme awardees were inducted as Panasonic Trust Fellows at a recent reception held at Panasonic House in Bracknell, the headquarters of Panasonic UK Ltd. For the second year running The Trust was honoured to have as its principle guest for the event Mr Phil Otsuki, Managing Director of Panasonic UK Ltd. Mr Otsuki performed the ceremony, welcoming the graduates to the Panasonic Trust Fellowship and presenting each with their Fellowship certificate.

The group were also congratulated by Chairman of Trustees Robin Bond FREng who said "This is our third tranche of Fellowship scheme awardees to graduate successfully bringing our total number of Panasonic Trust Fellows to 18. Five others are currently studying at university. The Trustees hope that the new Panasonic Trust Fellows will realise the significance and benefits of belonging to a distinguished likeminded group, and use every opportunity to network with each other for mutual benefit".

The Trust Approaches Its First Millennium!

The burning question at the moment for all those involved in the Panasonic Trust is when will it confirm an award to its 1000th recipient and who will be the unique recipient. With the total number of industrial engineers who have been supported for part-time study through the Panasonic Trust Awards standing at 948, and a further 23 graduate engineers who have been awarded Panasonic Trust Fellowships to pursue full-time study, the event is almost imminent. Trust Secretary Ian Bowbrick commented on the situation by saying "I have no doubt that the Trust will support its 1000th engineer in 2002, although I think we will have to wait until next year for the Panasonic Trust Awards scheme to reach the magic figure by itself. However regardless of the method used to calculate the final figure, this record of support for UK engineers and UK industry is one which Panasonic UK Ltd, its holding company Matsushita Electric Industrial Company Ltd and The Royal Academy of engineering can take great pride in".

Plans for a celebration event to mark this milestone in the Trust's history are already being made. Full details will be published in forthcoming editions of *Panasonic Trust News*.

Royce Bursars honoured at Dinner

In addition to its core activities, the Panasonic Trust is actively involved with several other prestigious award schemes with similar objectives to its own. One such initiative, the Sir



Henry Royce Bursary Scheme, is awarded annually by the Trustees and representatives of the Sir Henry Royce Memorial Foundation. The three 2001 awardees were recently honoured at a dinner held at the University of Hertfordshire, where they are all studying the part-time Automotive IGDS MSc course. Pictured in the front row from left to right are: Mark Goody, Claire Webb and Bryan Arber.

Congratulations!

To the following Trust awardees who have recently completed part-time courses and successfully graduated:

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|-------------------------|---|
| Andrew Barber | Diploma in Welding Engineering and International & European Welding Technologist Diploma from The Welding Institute |
| Robert Bateman | Diploma in Arbitration from the College of Estate Management |
| Darren Bench | <i>MSc with distinction</i> in Geotechnical Engineering Design & Management from Nottingham Trent University |
| Steven Birnie | MSc in Management of Competitive Manufacture from The University of Strathclyde |
| Patrick Eaton | <i>MSc with merit</i> in Global Product Development Management from the University of Derby |
| Tamer Gamali | <i>MSc with distinction</i> in Advanced Manufacturing Systems from Kingston University |
| Barry Mason | MSc in Process Safety & Loss Prevention from the University of Sheffield |
| Gordon McCartney | MSc in Management of Competitive Manufacture from the University of Strathclyde |
| Derek McNab | MSc in Process Technology & Management from the University of Strathclyde |
| Steven Plant | <i>MSc with distinction</i> in Corrosion Science & Engineering from UMIST |
| Mark Potter | <i>MSc with distinction</i> in Engineering Product Design from South Bank University |
| Alan Shepherd | MSt in Interdisciplinary Design for the Built Environment from the University of Cambridge |
| Gary Whyte | MSc in Building Services Engineering from Heriot-Watt University |
| Andrew Willcocks | International & European Welding Technologist Diploma from The Welding Institute |

Being Your Own Boss!

With the introduction of more flexible working patterns in industry, an increasing number of engineers find themselves working on fixed term contracts or on a consultancy basis, providing their technical services to more than one company. Some take the plunge completely and become self-employed operating their own consultancy businesses. This group of individuals find it extremely difficult to fit any organised



Adrian Wright

professional development activities into their demanding and busy work schedules. In the latest in our series of case studies we feature Adrian Wright, who gives a very candid account of why he started his own consultancy and undertook a part-time technical updating course at the same time.

I run a small but successful international process safety consultancy, Wright Technical Services ([HYPERLINK "http://www.process-safety.co.uk/"](http://www.process-safety.co.uk/) www.process-safety.co.uk). The company is geared to supply both small companies and large international organisations with a resource to help them maintain a high level of process safety, both in design and in safety management systems, during a lack of their internal capabilities. This could be due to workload, long-term absence of personnel or not having enough safety work to make it worth training and occupy a staff member full time. It can also be beneficial to have a fresh pair of eyes look at the technical content of a hazardous process or a safety management system from a different perspective, and audits are available for both of these.

I graduated in 1982 from what was then South Bank Polytechnic in London with an upper second class honours degree in Chemical Engineering. This was during a recession and jobs were so scarce that the annual Milk Round didn't bother visiting Polytechnics, preferring to just skim the cream off Imperial and UCL. I was lucky enough to be offered a job at the company where I had done my sandwich year industrial placement, Magnesium Elektron, in Swinton. I worked for four years as an Assistant Process Engineer. This proved a good all-round grounding for process engineering in the fine chemicals and metal alloys field and there was plenty of practical design and commissioning experience to be gained, usually in the North Manchester drizzle.

After a brief spell of refusing to lie to customers in a sales position for a company who didn't know the meaning of delivery promises, I joined what was then Matthew Hall in Sale on a Nuclear Waste disposal project. I worked closely with a lot of experienced design engineers from many disciplines, both staff and contractors. After six months the project was put on hold pending a review and I learnt an important lesson. The difference

between being staff and being a contractor doing the same job was three weeks extra notice for the staff - but double salary for the contractor! From then on it was a contractor's life for me, working as a Process Engineer for a number of large contractors in the North West of England. Curiously, wherever I went, road works seemed to appear on the route, doubling the journey time. Is it only me this happens to?

In 1990, I was getting divorced from my first wife when an old friend and ex-colleague rang me. "Do you know any engineers who might want to work as a contractor in Belgium for a large blue chip multi-national? No? But you would? Oh I never thought of you. Well OK, here's the details..." That phone call got me out of a messy domestic situation and changed my life. I flew to Brussels, got the position and Procter and Gamble sent me on all their internal process safety courses. I was their resource for sending to new European production acquisitions to make safety studies and pressure vessel and process safety management systems on each site. The work was very enjoyable and pretty steady and I got to see some lovely parts of Europe and work with great people, many of who are still friends today. I also met my wife there, which was a pleasant bonus.

In the late 1990s came a recession and a dip in demand and I had to look elsewhere for clients. But I had a problem. I was only qualified internally by P&G as a Process Safety Expert. I had no formal qualification recognised by industry in general. So I enrolled to do a MSc in Process Safety and Loss Prevention at the University of Sheffield. At the time I had re-married and had a young family. I was working in Warrington as an Independent Process Safety Consultant - mainly for P&G - so cash was tight. The course tutor suggested I apply to the Panasonic Trust for a grant, which I gratefully received. Without the award I would have had serious cash problems due to taking a large amount of time off to attend the modules and do the course assignments and dissertation.

Was it worth the effort to do the course? Although my wife may argue that it was very difficult managing the kids by herself while I attended modules or did course work, I would still say that, yes, it was worth the sacrifice from both of us. Although the course content and quality of teaching was not always of a high standard, the modules did provide a large "toolbox" of skills and techniques, such as Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment (including QRA), Safety Management Systems, Major Hazards (COMAH) and Emergency Planning, Human Behaviour, Reliability and HAZOP. These come in useful from time to time working for clients. It also put me in touch with a large number of course delegates and lecturers from a wide range of processing industries. This is a useful network to have at your disposal. It was also worth it because I achieved my main objective of an MSc with distinction in Process Safety and Loss Prevention, a formal qualification that has enabled me to sell myself to other clients. This has led to more business and I have been lucky enough to do work on a global scale for the likes of Unilever and Yule Catto, while retaining my contacts with P&G.

The Panasonic Trust Fellowships

These prestigious awards are tenable on the following full-time Masters' courses during 2002:

Multimedia Technology at the University of Bath
Manufacturing Systems Engineering at the University of Bradford
Cranfield Manufacturing Masters' Courses at Cranfield University
Environmental Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh
Geotechnical Engineering at Heriot-Watt University
Environmental Diagnosis at Imperial College
Renewable Energy Systems Technology at Loughborough University
Water and Environmental Management at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne
Renewable Energy and the Environment at the University of Reading
Engineering for Development at the University of Southampton
Energy Systems and the Environment at the University of Strathclyde
Water and Environmental Engineering at the University of Surrey
Corrosion Science and Engineering at UMIST
Facilities Management at UWE Bristol
Urban Design/Town and Country Planning at UWE Bristol
Virtual Manufacturing in Construction and Engineering at the University of Wolverhampton

Do you run a Technology Updating Course?

The Panasonic Trust is always keen to expand the number of courses it supports with its awards.

Suitable courses, either full or part-time, can cover any aspect of new technology.

Applicants need not be graduates, but should have qualification in engineering or closely allied subject.

Contact us now for further information on funding opportunities.

Application Information

All enquiries about the Panasonic Trust and its activities should be made to:

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