

## **Subcommittee on Instrument and Control Systems Report to CRE**

**Fall 1999 Meeting—New Orleans, La.**

**Report Written by: A. P. Ahmad (Chairman)**

**Presented by: Ron Szanyi (Vice Chairman)**

### **General Information:**

1. There were 30 attendees at the joint meeting and roundtable with seven from user companies.
2. The joint meeting discussed major issues such as future of standards, need to have a new chairman, interaction with other sub-groups on standards writing, interaction within the sub-groups and various standards they are working on, and what should constitute an acceptable voting group for standards acceptance.
3. There were tutorials on control valves, paradigm shift in process controls and a roundtable of questions and answers during the joint meeting.
4. The three task force met during the next two days to work on ongoing documents. (More details are provided in the next page.)

### **Major Concerns and Requests to CRE:**

The key concern is that we have not found new leadership for the SOICS. Pasha Ahmad has already completed his term but is staying on till the current Vice Chairman takes over. The current Vice Chairman, Ron Szanyi cannot make the decision until Mobil Exxon merger details are completed and people know what their new roles would be. There should be management support for participation. There is a concern that the number of users may go further down with the impending mergers. CRE should consider inviting the following companies for membership.

Citgo, Tesoro, Clark, Chevron, Diamond Shamrock/Ultramar, Phillips, Lyondell, Murphy Oil, Flying J, Sinclair, Sun, Cooperative/NCRA, Koch, Valero.

1. There is an administrative concern that API is unable to keep the email address list and rosters updated and keep the members informed on when the minutes have been posted to the WEB page. We are asking the CRE to consider the following:
  - Keep the roster and email address current by making timely corrections on what is provided on the WEB page. Bob Platt will provide the information to API and will keep his list current for the next six month.
  - Drop those from the Roster who are not active participants. Active participants are those who attend the meeting or contribute to the work.
  - Send email to the members when the minutes are posted on the WEB page and provide timely notices of the API Refining meetings to all members.
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2. We are concerned that as more user companies move away from internal standards, there would be greater requirement to keep the API standards current, and ensure they are comprehensive, integrated, uniform, and develop new standards. This is happening when the user company support for API in terms of resources is

diminishing. We need to make the standards more uniform, more applicable so they can be used by the companies instead of maintaining their internal standards. API SOICS is forming a group of users which would look in the instrument and controls area of user companies moving from internal to external standards and what recommendations should be made to the management, especially the activity of their representatives at API and their interaction with other industry standards organisations such as PIP.

3. Due to the difficulty of getting voting results from the required number of members in accordance with the current API policy (e.g. problems with TP555), it is recommended that CRE consider adopting a policy where all members are not required to vote to get a document approved. Our proposal is as follows:

Only the user members and the members on the Task Force responsible for the document are required to vote and are counted. All other members are sent the document. If they vote or send comments, then their votes and comments are counted and addressed. Otherwise, they are not counted. Any existing voting rules or changes should comply to international standards so that our voting rules do not compromise our ability to make the standards international at some future date.

4. API SOICS feels that other sub-groups are writing instrument standards because there is no formal interaction between it and those groups. We believe that it is a CRE function to provide a formal process of interaction between sub-groups. The current concern is with the Heat Transfer Group. Steve Golightly of SOICS will be working on an interaction matrix and make contact with the Heat Transfer Group, especially in light of the plans to revise the Fired Heaters Instrumentation RP556.

## **Activity of the Task Force**

### **Task Force C: (Rick Stanley—Chairman)**

Task Force C is now completing the work on RP557 (Advanced Controls). This RP is due for balloting in Spring of 2000 with publication sometimes in Spring of 2001.

Task Force C is now planning to revise the existing RP 554 (Instrumentation and Control) which was last completed in September of 1995. The plan is to go out for publication in fall of 2002.

The approach to the revision of this RP is to look at the vast amount of technological change and have the practice reflect these. This would make the RP more useful, more meaningful and in line with what issues and problems users are facing in design, purchase, implementation, and maintenance of these systems.

The RP will include several levels starting from sensor networks including field bus, smart devices etc.

### **Task Force A (Bob Szoke—Chairman)**

Task Force A is currently working on revising RP552 (Transmission Systems). They plan to have the first revised draft on the WEB after the Fall Meeting. The plan is to get the revision completed and out for ballot in Fall of 2000 and subsequently publishing it. Before RP-552 goes out for balloting, the draft will be reviewed with the sub-group on electrical systems.

Task Force A is also undertaking the task of revising RP556. Even though this RP was originally developed by Task Force C, Task Force A would be the one revising it with possible move of people from Task Force C to A at the option of the members. A more formal procedure of interaction with the Heat Transfer Group is being planned while working on this RP. (Steve Golightly has been given the task to make contacts with the Heat Transfer Group and recommendations on how this could be accomplished.) The CRE's help in developing a formal procedure for interaction between sub-groups is being requested.

### **Task Force B (Dick Lightstone—Chairman)**

Task Force B is currently working on TP555. Currently, they are incorporating the comments received so far. After, incorporation, this would go out for ballot. The group which should be used for voting purposes is under discussion. The proposal of the subgroup to the CRE is to have the users and task force members be mandatory voters in determining acceptance of the document. All others be given the option to provide comments and vote but if they do not vote or provide comments, they be not included in the numbers for balloting purposes.

The Task Force will start working on revising RP551 (Instruments) beginning the Fall of 2000. Again there would be fair amount of interaction between this practice and RP554. The plan is to have chairmen of the task forces meet and review their plans for revising the documents include scope and boundaries to ensure that overlap are minimised and references are appropriate.