

CSA



Index

CSA SOCIAL MEDIA #CSAHORSHAM OR #COMMISSIONING

ALL THE NEWS FROM THE CSA GALA AWARDS INSIDE THIS ISSUE



This Edition is sponsored by: **Ashford**

NEW MEMBERS We would like to welcome the following new members to the Association

Individual Members: Mahmoud Nafady, Sultan Khan, Ruben Altres, Sabarinathan Viswanathan, Daniel Goddard, Aswin Joseph, Mohamed Abdelnaby, Polite Paious, Ewan Magill, Simon Whitehouse, Binooj Anjakulath, Navab Kayungakandi, Naseer Dar, Ananthu Boban, Adrian Haleem, Vic Wheeler, Dale Draper, Aaron Masters, Bryan Humphrey, Luke Benson, Irshad Hussain, Joseph Taylor, Gareth Crompton, Emanuel Mireuta, Mohammed Irshad Ali, Shaikh Mohammed Haroon, Vergel Lansang, Michael Brown, Peter Matthew, Marcus Longmore, Owen Body, Chris Lewis, Nathaniel Kayes, Cleevan Deepak Britto, Christopher Magboo, Daren Vincent Falar, Ananthu Mohan, Geward Solomon, Ian Carr, Howard Runton, Ashokkumar Karuppaiya, Ahmed Nabil, Mohammad Majid Khan, Syed Razvi, Yasir Arafath, Khaled Diab, Mohammed Ishak, Seeni Ibrahim, Chris Haldane, Louie Smith, Owen Kelsey, Mark Stogdon, Adam Hulton, Raymund Simanngan, Aaron Leon, Jonas John Austria, Franklin Pablo, Ralph Nuyana, MD Nasim, Faizan Khan, Amr Elsayed Abdullah Kutb, Luke Flannery, Elliot Gilbert, Sami Hough, Gerard Gil Limson, Michael Kyriacos, Asem Soliman, Johnny Ambeguia, Clement Edoria, Amr Elsayed Abdullah Kutb, Elliot Gilbert, Joshua Kelly, James Bruty, Joel Agnes, Shaun Regelous, Robert Hallpike, Iain Bainsevich, Thomas Moore, Tom Hyde.

Individual associates: Colin Webster, David McCreath

GALA AWARDS

LIFETIME CONTRIBUTION AWARD

ROGER CARLIN



The CSA Lifetime Contribution Award is one of the most prestigious industry honours that senior members of the commissioning world can be awarded. We were delighted to announce that this year's CSA Lifetime Contribution Award went to Mr Roger Carlin.

Roger is a member of the CSA who has put a great deal of effort into the Association over many years. He has always been welcoming, with a cheeky vibe and proactive approach. More recently, this influential person has been hugely supportive of moving the Association forward... So to be fair, this was one of the easy decisions for the CSA team to make!

Roger Carlin has worked in the building services industry for something over 40 years, starting back in the late 70's as an apprentice technician engineer with Haden Young. Having contributed to many BSRIA, CIBSE, Commissioning and

Water Treatment guides, the role of CSA Chairman between 2007 and 2009 was yet another successful accomplishment.

In the late 90's, Roger established a Commissioning & O&M company, which has gone from strength to strength and grown into a very successful business which now employs over 150 staff and offers a wide variety of services, including, water treatment and facilities management.

With an unrelenting passion for commissioning, which is graphically illustrated through ownership of the car registration plate P1 TOT, our winner continues to be at the forefront of our industry. His recent drive in transforming the water treatment industry through pioneering training an accreditation, coupled with the work he puts into up-skilling his own teams, as well as the continued support he gives to the CSA is further testament to that passion.

Joanne Rowe – CSA Association Secretary

A WORD FROM OUR SPONSOR

Ashford

Welcome to the latest edition of the new, refreshed format CSA Index!

Ashford is delighted to sponsor this particular Gala Awards edition of Index, as we had a very successful evening and personally, it was an emotional night for me as recipient of the Lifetime Contribution award.

The CSA Awards has come such a long way since its inception back in 2015 and I am very proud to have been instrumental in its creation following discussions with Andrew Castle of Touchwave Media at the BCIA Awards he was running the previous year. At that time, everyone thought that the sort of event you now see annually was beyond us and out of reach.

Until then, the commissioning industry CSA AGM and Luncheon was held at the St Stephen's Club in Westminster and was a much more relaxed affair with a very busy bar! The event has always been seen as an opportunity to catch up with old friends, relax, eat, have a few drinks, and to ask your boss for a rise! The networking aspect shouldn't be underestimated, as I can attest. Meeting the principals of all the big players in 1990 served me very well in the next few years ultimately resulting in Ashford being born.

After a number of contentious meetings at the St Stephen's Club, the AGM was moved to before lunch making the business process much smoother and quite a bit shorter! Those days seem a lifetime ago. The AGM now, is a totally different affair, always runs smoothly with the order of business carried out competently and professionally.

The Gala Awards has been a game changer for both the Association and the Industry it serves enabling the excellent work of the CSA and its members to be showcased and rewarded. It allows anyone in the industry to nominate a person or company for one of eight awards. All entries are rigorously reviewed by the independent Judging Panel made up of the CSA, the various sponsors and is expertly martialled by Touchwave media.

Mirroring our success in the industry, Ashford has been very successful at the Awards, collecting an amazing eight awards in the eight years the event has been running. These are: Commissioning Provider of the Year 2015, 2016, 2018, 2021 and 2023. Investment in Training Award 2019, 2021 and 2022. Innovation in Commissioning 2016.

Commissioning Provider of the Year– Why Ashford?

Commissioning provider of the year is awarded to the commissioning specialist who has achieved recognition from main contractors or final end-users for their services in areas such as technical expertise and advice, customisation of special requirements, clarity of all documentation and on time delivery.

Ashford provides a full commissioning service from design audit, through construction inspection, supervision and commissioning management, to pre-commission cleaning, pre-commissioning, commissioning and performance testing. Our aftercare service includes monitoring of water quality, legionella control, water hygiene services, general maintenance, post occupancy evaluation and continuous commissioning. One of the biggest challenges we face is our Industry's propensity for ambitious and often unrealistic programmes of work. As the commissioning specialist, we are often faced with an ever diminishing "window" to carry out our works, with delayed starts and immovable completion dates. The only way to overcome this is by 100% commitment to the project and client, 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, offering expert advice on what is and isn't achievable in the timeframe. Planning is key, so early involvement in the form of workshops and seminars help mitigate a compressed commissioning period. This approach results in better awareness of the detailed requirements, and a strong bond with the project team. This leads to ongoing "partnerships" and future work.

Ashford's main differentiator is attitude – the customer must come first. At Ashford we're all about getting the job done, whatever the challenge. Last year we celebrated 25 years in business. During this time, we have transformed from a small home office in Ashford Middlesex to a £12.5M plus turnover business with 3 locations in the UK, and two in Europe. We have more than a dozen customers we have worked with for over 20 years, some from the beginning in 1997. The company's wealth of expertise and experience, particularly in major projects, is a tribute to the ability of our staff.

Current overseas projects include Bayer Pharmaceuticals, Finland; Tesla Gigafactory Berlin, Microsoft VIE01 datacentre, Vienna, New Maternity Unit, RVH Belfast, Fujifilm Diosynth Biotechnologies, Hillerød Denmark. London projects include: Google Waterside, Shard Place,

One Nine Elms, Battersea Power Station Phase 3 and the Kensington Olympia Refurbishment.

Past projects include: Battersea Power Station Ph2, 40 Leadenhall, 22 Bishopsgate, 100 Bishopsgate, 52 Lime Street (aka The Scalpel) and 70 St Mary Axe (aka the Can of Ham) Google Hamina Finland, Vantage Data Centre Zurich, Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast, the Ulster Hospital, The Francis Crick Institute, 5 Broadgate, Southbank Tower, Nova Victoria, Heathrow Terminal 2B, Royal London Hospital, Pembury Hospital, Bloomberg HQ, Chelsea Barracks etc. An impressive CV by any standards.

Ashford, work to exceed customer expectations by building strong relationships. This comes from going above and beyond what others are willing to provide. We call it the Ashford way, cradle to grave support, from tender issue to practical completion and beyond, we support our clients in every way we can. Our continuing investment in staff, training and facilities demonstrate our commitment to our clients. Transitioning to Employee Ownership in January 2022 has resulted in a more cohesive and focussed workforce, giving our customers further assurance of our commitment to them, our staff and the longevity of the company. This all adds up to a better customer experience.

Investment in Training Award – Why Ashford?

The Investment in Training Award is presented to the individual, company or organisation that can demonstrate a consistent contribution in relation to the delivery of professional training and ongoing skills development.

As Managing Director and founder of Ashford I have always championed education. As a company we have looked to spread our investment, enrolling students in the CSA DLCs, college and University courses over the years. If a staff member shows commitment and has the aptitude, we will support them and push them as far as they want to go. Although predominantly engineering, we also have staff members undertaking other training in human resources and accountancy qualifications.

With the current shortage of good, trained people in the industry and our continued expansion, we have substantially increased our trainee programme employing an inhouse recruitment consultant leading to 19 new trainees this year. The CSA Distance Learning Course continues to play a major part in our programme, with 4 students moving from DLCA to B and a further 6 students ready to enrol in DLC A. Our internal training programme for both our commissioning and water treatment engineers covers both practical and classroom sessions. We have designed an individual Training and Career Development Framework for each division of the company: pre-commission cleaning and flushing, commissioning and water treatment maintenance.

Our objective is to create technically able engineers whether flushing, commissioning or maintenance with

an understanding of the whole construction process. The Training and Career Development Framework sets out in detail the experience, technical and personal competencies and compulsory training requirements for each discipline/grade. Similar to the CSA's own Path of Development, but much more prescriptive and specific to our company requirements, the trainee is issued with a handbook with which they can, in collaboration with HR and their TSM, plan their career development. The trainees therefore know what they need to achieve and are measured against specific criteria in their appraisals. One to one sessions ensure they get the best from the training available and allow adjustments to be made as and when required to ensure steady progression. Invariably, this allows them to develop into better, more able engineers in all aspects.

At Ashford we are all about commitment, both to our staff, our clients and the industry. Most recently, we have demonstrated this to our staff by transitioning to Employee Ownership where the company is now indirectly owned by all the staff via a trust. This has enabled us to retain and develop the wealth of talent the company has without the disruption of new ownership and all the associated changes to policy and procedure.

We have also demonstrated our commitment to the industry as a whole by continuing to fund and train our staff for the 27th year running. We do this because we believe it is the right thing to do.

We have always supported the CSA serving on various committees and currently, I am chairing a specialist training sub-committee tasked with creating a new distance learning course for Pre-Commission Cleaning (PCC). The committee is close to completing DLC A, the first of 3 courses based on the CSA's commissioning course structure and has an agreed syllabus, career framework and job descriptions. A little more work is required before we can put the scheme forward to BESA/Skillcard/CSCS for approval and eventually, industry accreditation. It is not an exaggeration to say this course will change the landscape in terms of pre-comm cleaning. Rather like the CSA Commissioning DLCs before it, it will raise the standard in terms of technical knowledge, competency and practical skills, leading to better outcomes for our clients and more efficient, well commissioned buildings.

Innovation in Commissioning Winner 2016 – Why Ashford?

The Innovation in Commissioning Award was presented to the individual, company or organisation that produced an initiative, service or system that improved upon existing technologies and provided improved customer benefits in terms of energy, cost, ease of use and improved service. It was replaced the following year by Product/ Service Innovation of the Year to make it more accessible and encourage more entries.

As part of Ashford's progression to ISO 14001 certification back in the noughties, we were looking at ways to mitigate the impact of pre-commissioning cleaning on the environment. Traditional methods used vast quantities of water and chemicals to achieve clean systems. Ashford's answer was the MDP®. It should be noted that this was almost ten years prior to the Closed Loop Pre-Treatment Cleaning (CPC) proposed in BSRIA's BG29/ 2021.

Ashford put forward its Minimal Discharge Process - MDP® in 2016.

MDP® is Ashford's innovative approach to pre-commission cleaning of closed systems. The aim is to reduce both the quantity of water used during flushing and the amount of effluent generated during the cleaning process whilst meeting the spec and guidance and delivering a clean, stable system ready for commissioning. MDP® does this by cleverly combining well proven industry techniques and procedures with new technology.

Traditionally, vast quantities of clean, potable water (up to 20 times the system volume) are discharged to drain during the dynamic flushing procedure. This is not only wasteful but costly and inefficient. In the main, closed systems are then cleaned using aggressive chemicals which strip the pipe surface

rendering it "active" and vulnerable to corrosion. This cleaning also generates large amounts of trade effluent which is harmful to the environment and difficult to dispose of.

MDP® uses a combination of inspection, management, specially developed formulated products together with filling and cleaning techniques to significantly reduce or even eliminate these costly issues.

The benefits of MDP® can be summarised as follows:-

- Minimises environmental impact by using less water and producing less effluent
- The process is not reliant on water supply or drainage allowing flushing to start earlier in the programme
- Management of the filling and pressure testing process
- Close monitoring of system chemistry and microbiology from day one
- Early passivation of the systems
- Mitigation of microbiological risks
- Control of remedials

Ashford has used MDP® on dozens of successful projects over the years and continues to look at new ways to minimise the impact of construction processes on the environment.

ASHFORD ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LIMITED

COMMISSIONING AND PRE-COMMISSION CLEANING SPECIALISTS

DATA CENTRE EXPERIENCE

The internet and technology boom of the nineties led to a proliferation of switch sites and disaster recovery suites throughout the country. Ashford carried out its first disaster recovery suite in early 1998. The £1M 2nd floor fit-out at Anchorage House in London's East India Dock for Safety Net PLC was closely followed by Global Switch, the £50M conversion of the old BIC pen factory in Clichy just outside Paris.

During the "noughties" increasing demand for more and more safe, reliable storage saw the sector grow year on year and Ashford increase its experience in this field dramatically. Successful projects include: Credit Suisse at Slough and Docklands; Morgan Stanley at Heathrow and Croydon; Barclays Capital at Northolt; JP Morgan Chase in Basingstoke; Merrill Lynch in Camberley and UBS Hayes.

The marketplace moved from banks and financial Institutions to data storage providers and in 2012/13 we completed 2 of the largest data centres in the UK at the time, Project Horizon - Rockingham Data Centre in Corby (2 x 140,000L cooling circuits, 280 CRAC units) and Infinity Fox, Prologis Park

Harlington Middlesex (100,000L and 72 CRAC units). In both cases, our client was MJL and indirectly, Mace.

More recently 2019 saw Ashford completing **Equinix SK2.6 in Stockholm, Sweden** for ESG PLC. This was an expansion of Equinix's assets in the Stockholm area and involved the provision of the main cooling infrastructure for Data Halls 11 and 12. The system comprised 7 hybrid coolers with a total heat rejection of 10.5MW, supplemented by 4 centrifugal chillers with various primary and secondary pumped circuits feeding 56 CRAC units. Chilled water volume 100,000L @ 40% Glycol and the condenser water system volume of 80,000L.

Recent Works

Recent works include The Ark Data Centre in Enfield London, LPP5A in Hamina Finland and ZRH11 Data Centre Zurich, Switzerland.

The Ark Data Centre in Enfield London comprises 7 data halls each served by an Excool Indirect Evaporative Cooling unit, the primary transfer medium being air. The Excool system is effective, efficient and purports to be the lowest energy process available for cooling data centres.

The system uses free cooling in the Winter, adiabatically cooled outside air in the Summer and is “topped up” by mechanical refrigeration on extreme days. The data centre also utilises 52 CRAC units over two floors served via traditional refrigeration.



The “Excool” Indirect Evaporative Data Centre Cooling unit

LPP5A in Hamina Finland is part of a 2-billion-dollar investment by Google who bought the Summa Mill from the Finnish Paper Company in 2009. Ashford are undertaking the works for Austrian engineering company Zauner Anlagentechnik GmbH. The first phase of the project was completed in 2011 and 2020 saw continued investment with LPP5A being built. The advanced cooling system uses seawater from the Bay of Finland reducing energy use and is the first of its kind anywhere in the world.



The site before works commenced.

Systems comprise 650,000L process chilled water circuit serving 275 Hyena CRAC units, an HDPE Sea Water cooling circuit, chilled (180,000L) and heating (150,000L) systems serving 130 4-pipe FCUs together with approximately 30 AHU/Extract systems and associated terminals and 42 dedicated extract systems.



The site as it is today. It all started 2018 with a new sea water pipe installation to secure sea water cooling for the LPP eastern campus.

ZRH11 Data Centre Zurich, Switzerland is part of the Vantage Data Centres Zurich Campus Winterthur Switzerland, the first for the US-based client. Built by DPR Construction, our client is Zauner Anlagentechnik GmbH. The 3 storey ZRH11 facility is the first building with a total of 8MW via a more standard engineering solution of chillers (11no.) and Heat pumps (2no.) serving the data hall requirements via CRAC units (30no.) and FCUs (30no.). Standard air conditioning is provided for offices and ancillary areas via AHUs, CAV supply and extract boxes and grilles/diffusers. The overall data centre campus (ZRH1) will total 40MW once fully developed.



How the Vantage Data Centre Campus will eventually look.

Current Works

Current projects include:-

- LCY-10 ECHELON Data Centre Mill Wall, London
- Virtus 7.5 Data Centre, West Drayton, London
- VIE01 Microsoft Rapid Deployment Data Centre - Vienna, Austria
- LON 01 Data Centre, Park Royal, London



Ashford

ASHFORD TIMELINE





CHAIRMAN'S SAY

Dear CSA Members, as we step into Winter, I am thrilled to reflect on the remarkable achievements and milestones we've reached together as a community. The last quarter has been particularly exciting, marked by the success of our 8th Annual Awards Ceremony, an event that showcased the excellence and dedication within the Commissioning Specialist Association.

The heartbeat of our association lies in recognising and celebrating the outstanding contributions of our members. The 8th Annual Awards Ceremony was a testament to the collective passion and commitment that defines the CSA. It was an evening filled with inspiration, camaraderie, and a shared commitment to excellence in our field.

This year, we had the privilege of hosting the CSA Gala Awards at the prestigious Leonardo Royal Hotel, a new venue that added an extra layer of grandness to our celebrations. The event's success was a testament to the collaborative efforts of our members, sponsors, and partners who continue to elevate the stature of the Commissioning Specialist Association.

I am delighted to report that this year saw a record-breaking number of submissions across the seven award categories. The diversity and quality of the entries reflected the expanding scope and influence of our association. It's truly heartening to witness the growing impact of commissioning specialists across various industries.

A heartfelt congratulations is in order for all the award winners and finalists. Your dedication to excellence and innovation has set a standard for our entire community. Your achievements not only reflect your individual commitment but also contribute to the collective success of the CSA. Thank you for inspiring us all.

In particular, I want to extend my sincerest congratulations to Roger Carlin for being awarded the prestigious CSA Lifetime Contribution Award. Roger, your dedication and significant contributions have left an indelible mark on our association. Your legacy will undoubtedly inspire generations of commissioning specialists to come.

As we close the chapter on another remarkable year for the Commissioning Specialist Association, let us carry this momentum forward into the new year. Together, we will continue to push the boundaries of excellence and innovation in our field.

As I enter my final year as CSA Chairman I would like to Thank you all for your continued support, and here's to a bright and successful future for the CSA.



GCC CHAIRMAN'S SAY

As 2023 draws to a close, reflection of what has been achieved throughout the year is nothing short of astonishing, all with the intent to ensure that the CSA remains at the forefront of the commissioning industry.

The CSA's significant input into, and release of CIBSE's update Code M, the commissioning managers grading system, the behind-the-scenes preparation of electrical test papers to cater for entrants from all disciplines, imminent release of online exams etc, the list goes on and on. What has been equally impressive is the commitment and close collaboration with our committee that has enabled continual improvement to be made that aligns with the specific needs of GCC's market sector.

Our Chairman attended this year's UK annual general meeting followed by the Gala Awards which was fantastic, with many accolades being presented to the worthy winners, however, watch this space because the GCC will hold its inaugural GCC CSA awards event in 2024. So, with this, and further announcements to follow, 2024 is set to be a great year for all our members and interested parties.

Finally, I'd like to thank our committee members, but also a special mention to the UK's Chairman, Neil Burdess, Tony Anderson, Joanne Rowe, Kate Macintyre and Keith Barker.

Neil Burdess – Associate Head of Commissioning Banyards

GALA AWARDS



We were delighted to have returned to London on Thursday 5th October for the 8th Annual Awards Ceremony. With a record number of submissions across the seven categories, this year's programme again produced some truly exceptional entries from right across the commissioning arena. There was also a record number of attendees on the night that provided a lively networking arena for all to enjoy.

FINALISTS & WINNERS

Some 50 Finalists across the seven award categories were determined. From these Finalists, the individual category Winners were announced, as follows:

Project of the Year
Sponsored by BSRIA
Instrument Solutions



Finalists:



- Ashford Environmental Services: Astrazeneca – The Discovery Centre (Disc)
- Banyards: Children's Day Treatment Centre At Evelina London Children's Hospital
- Cleartech Group: Hilton Garden Inn – Silverstone Circuit
- CML Sustain: London Underground Bank Station Capacity Upgrade – Northern Line
- Crown House Technologies: Ld11x London Data Centre
- End Systems: HMP Five-Wells
- HDR: The Oak Cancer Centre at The Royal Marsden Sutto

Winner:



Banyards – The Christie Patterson Cancer Research Centre

Product/Service Innovation of the Year
Sponsored by Media Control Management



Finalists:

- BAPI: Blü-Test Test Instrument Suite
- CSI TECHNOLOGIES: Videntium Testing & Commissioning Software
- FRESE: Optima Compact Veriflow Series PICV
- HDR: Nucleus Commissioning Management Software

GALA AWARDS



Winner:



VEXO – S-BMS

**Commissioning
Provider of the Year**
*Sponsored by Modern
Building Services*



Finalists

- Banyard Consultants
- Crosscount
- End Systems
- HDR Commissioning
- Media Control
- Red Engineering
- WP3

Winner:



Ashford Environmental Services

**Commissioning
Manager of the Year**
Sponsored by HDR



Finalists:



- Andrew Sharp: Banyard Consultants
- John Wilson: Crown House Technologies
- Anthony Newton: End Systems
- Andrew Dobson: L&P Group
- David Forbes: Phoenix Commissioning Services
- Derek Moore: RED Engineering
- Keith Mckendrick: Tab Uk

Winner:



Matthew Ward – CrossCount

GALA AWARDS



Investment in Training Award
Sponsored by VEXO



Student of the Year
Sponsored by RED Engineering



Finalists:



- Ashford Environmental Services
- Banyard Consultants
- Clear Construction: Glenn Hawkins
- End Systems
- H&V Commissioning Services
- Phoenix Commissioning Services

Winner:



HDR – The Careers Plus Programme

Finalists:



- Devantay Dimsoy: Ashford Environmental Services
- Jake McCully: CCM Commissioning Specialists
- Stuart Rankin: CCM Commissioning Specialists
- Ilias Seferoglou: HDR
- Greg Eusebi: Phoenix Commissioning Services
- Ryan Lundie: Phoenix Commissioning Services
- Philip Flynn

Winner:



Liam Drake – End Systems

GALA AWARDS



**Commissioning
Engineer of the Year**
*Sponsored by Ashford
Environmental Services*

Ashford

Finalists:



- Sam Bruce: End Systems
- Keiren Paton: H&V Commissioning Services
- Billy Daly: Media Control
- Greg Eusebi: Phoenix Commissioning Services
- Firas Hanif: WP3

Winner:



Adam Murray – HDR

It was the biggest and best CSA gala awards to date, where we welcomed more attendees and nominees than ever before. We even had a new setting at the Leonardo Royal Hotel.

Special thanks go to our sponsors for supporting the CSA:

Ashford Environmental Services
BSRIA Instrument Solutions
HDR Inc
Media Control Managements
Modern Building Services
RED Engineering
Vexo International

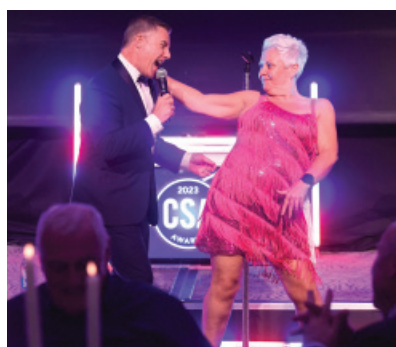
A heart thanks also goes to our entertainment for the night from Andy Wilsher Sings where we all enjoyed a host of ratpack numbers and Robbie Williams hits during dinner and after the awards ceremony. You can find out more about our entertainment on: www.andywilshersings.co.uk/.



Finally a special thanks goes out to our host for the evening Andrea Byrne and of course our media partners Touchwave Media. Plans for 2024 awards is already underway, look out for more information in coming editions of Index in 2024. If you are interested in sponsoring or entering the gala awards in 2024 please contact Jo or Kate for more information in the office on: office@csa.org.uk.

Joanne Rowe – CSA Association Secretary

GALA AWARDS



GALA AWARDS



GALA AWARDS





CSA OFFICE NEWS



It was so fabulous to see so many of you at this years gala awards ! The AGM and the gala awards evening just flies by so if we didn't get the chance to speak to any of you please accept our apologies and make sure you track us down next year!

This year saw a great turn out of entries and attendees with a new presenter and wonderful singing entertainment by Andy Wilsher. We hope you all had a great time and we look forward to celebrating more of you in 2024!

There are still plenty of celebrations coming out of the CSA office as you will see below as it was business as usual for the grade 4 exam and DLC courses.

As a reminder membership subscriptions will be invoiced mid-December for the 2024 year, these will be issued via email. If you are worried we do not have up to date contact information please let us know.

As a final note for the year myself and Kate would like to thank all of you for your interest and input this year.

We are your association and if any of you want to get involved with the CSA on a small or large scale please drop us a line at the office, whether you want to sponsor an award or you simply have an idea for an article or something that you want the CSA to work towards on your behalf as a member please let us know.

GRADE 4 EXAM

Well done to everyone who took and passed the grade 4 exam in October 2023.

To register your interest for the grade 4 online exam when it goes live please email: office@csa.org.uk

(If we are online before this you will be contacted directly so that you may sit the test earlier if you wish)

ANTONIOUS SAMEH FOUAD, ARNEL REGASPI, RENAN MANHUYOD, ALEX HUSSEY, RYAN PEARSON, NIDEESH ROBERT, JOSH CHARLTON, CHRISTIAN, JOHN BALUCA, YASIR ABBAS.

DLC'S

Well done to everyone who passed their Distance Learning Courses:

DLC A:

LEWIS MACAREE, STUART RANKIN, LEWIS FAIRLIE, JODY BARNES, KYLE WEATHERLEY, EFAN JONES, ELLIOT GILBERT, DEVANTAY DIMSOY, ENGIN OZCELIK, RORY BRAMMER, SAMI AHMED

DLC B:

BEN BARBER, DALE WHITE, JOSHUA HURST, JAKE BRACKENRIDGE, HARVEY HAYES, THEO KADIR

DLC C:

DANIEL MURRAY, PETER MATHEW, NATHAN SMITH, KEIRAN WHETHAM, JONATHAN HUNT, JAKE MCCULLY, LIAM DRAKE, PHIL FLYNN.

TONY ANDERSON – TECHNICAL MANAGER

THE CSA AND BESA

With our increasing collaborations with various industry associations and institutions, one major collaboration we will highlight is our work with Building Engineering Services Association (BESA). We have spent months trialling out a new testing platform with BESA for our Grade 4 examinations and DLC Tests and we are delighted to announce this has been a very positive and fruitful partnership.

- The first major goal was to digitalise Grade 4 exams and then DLC A through C examinations.
- New tests created and converted to allow students to fully answer online and achieve instant feedback at end of exam.
- This has been fully tested on the previous platform and was fully operational.
- A new system is in place and the CSA are at the penultimate testing stage on this new platform W/C 27th November 2023.
- This will be full ready for 08th January 2024 onwards!
- Watch this space if this becomes available any earlier!

The second longer term goal is attempting to migrate all of our DLC digital library onto BESA's Academy – a vision for 2025.

This inevitable means changes, major changes to our examinations for next year onwards!

MAJOR CHANGES TO THE GRADE 4 EXAMINATIONS EXPLAINED

2023 sees the end of:

- The written exam being the main “go-to” for the Grade 4 exams.
- Restrictive and fixed geographical exam locations in a CSA corporate member office.
- 2–4-week delay with returned Grade 4 marking.
- The twice a year “lock” on Grade 4 exams being taken in May & October only.
- Traditional closed book exam – 55 marks out of 100 would be enough to secure a pass.
- Voluntary Invigilated examiners

2024 sees the start of:

- Grade 4 **online exam** as the standard testing platform.
- **Flexible test locations** that suit the candidate.
- **Instant results** at the end of the test.
- **Fully flexible calendar** for test dates & timings to suit each potential Grade 4 candidate.
- **Multiple choice styled exam** requiring **80** marks out of **100** to secure a pass.
- **AI proctored exam.**

With an AI proctored exam this allows the maximum amount of flexibility in choosing the time and date of the exam, without losing the need for invigilation.

So, what are the new requirements to sit the Grade 4 Test?

There are no new requirements – it's exactly the same requirements and process as before to sit the exam.

Okay so what were the previous requirements to sit the Grade 4 Test/Exam?

If a candidate wishes to sit the Grade 4 exam, they contact the CSA Office and they will confirm if candidate:

- is currently a **CSA Grade 3** (must be valid and not expired).
- holds the **necessary job experience** to sit the Grade 4 exam.

Those candidates that meet both of the above requirements will be issued with a link to BESA Academy along with all the instructions they require to sit the test.

A full step-by-step process will be released by the CSA in the next few weeks to explain the testing process – keep a look out for it!

MAJOR CHANGES TO THE DISTANCE LEARNING COURSE EXAMINATIONS (A, B & C)

The 3 other examinations for Distance Learning Courses DLC A, B & C will follow the Grade 4 changes listed out above.

If a candidate wishes to sit the DLC exam, they contact the CSA Office. They will confirm if the candidate meets the minimum requirements for each DLC exam.

What are the requirements to sit each DLC Test/Exam?

The below summary is based on a candidate sitting each and every DLC exam in order. (6 months additional experience already accredited at each exam stage.)

- To sit the DLC A Exam – The candidate should be a current CSA Trainee with 12 months experience.
- To sit the DLC B Exam – The candidate should be a current CSA Grade 1 with 2 years' experience.
- To sit the DLC C Exam – The candidate should be a current CSA Grade 2 with 3.5 years' experience.

Those candidates that meet the above requirements for the associated test will be issued with a link to BESA Academy along with all the instructions they require to sit the test.

This summary does not match every potential candidate's individual circumstance and additional requirements may be required if not following the full DLC pathway. For more details on the full list of requirements refer to our Training & Career Development Handbook.

https://www.csa.org.uk/Commissioning_Specialists_Association/file/PDF/Training_and_Career_Development_Handbook.pdf



VICE CHAIRMAN'S SAY

Oh my! The recent Commissioning Specialist Association AGM and the splendid awards evening that followed brought home just how much progress your Association and the commissioning industry has made in the last three decades. I think that we all need reminding just what has been achieved.

In those early days the CSA 'squatted' in Commtech's offices in Coulsdon, with only part-time administration and funded purely by the founder member companies continually putting their hand in their pockets to keep it going. I remember working with the first secretary Reg Bishop, phoning companies and asking if their senior staff had any technical material that could be put into the first engineer's compendium – I still have a copy somewhere!

Selling those and fluorocarbon fluid for u-tube manometers started to bring in some funds that were devoted to producing training material, the famous Distance Learning Courses.

The time and effort that went into producing those first DLC modules, really paid dividends. Of course, they've been regularly updated over the years, but the core information has stood the test of time and shows what a good job was done back then.

The funds to maintain progress were now sourced from membership fees of the growing number of commissioning companies that joined and of course from those far-sighted commissioning people who recognised the value of what the CSA was doing and joined as Individual Members (I was one of them, in fact the very first Individual Member).

Now, the CSA has its own office premises, a branch in the Middle East, nearly a hundred Corporate Member companies, just under a

thousand Individual Member commissioning engineers and dozens of Associate Member companies. And those members are spread across the whole world.

As well as the DLCs, we've developed the grade 4 exams, the grade 5 thesis system, a detailed Path of Development, the renowned Introduction to Commissioning Management course and worked with CIBSE and BSRIA to provide commissioning expertise in their technical documents. There are also numerous Technical Memoranda and Guidance Notes to help you.

The CSA has recently worked with BESA to get its training schemes and that career path accepted as an NVQ equivalent so that commissioning engineers with CSA accreditation are now recognised as a category for CSCS cards in their own right.

Be assured that there are plans in place for more training material, continuing to work with CIBSE and BSRIA, further cooperation with BESA and to generate more contacts with other trade associations so we can work together to improve things for all of us.

Let us be absolutely clear. None of this would be possible without the support of YOU the Members, be you Individual, Associate or Corporate. It really is appreciated every day just what that support has enabled the CSA to do and we very much hope that you make use of and enjoy the resulting benefits.

CHAIRMAN'S CHARITY



This year Neil Burdess, CSA Chairman selected "Support Dogs" as the charity to support during the game of higher and lower. A total of £1839.00 was raised and has been added to the CSA just giving page where you can still donate: www.justgiving.com/page/csa-awards2023.

Support dogs is a national charity dedicated to saving and improving the lives of children and adults with various challenging medical conditions. We provide, train and support specialist assistance dogs to achieve this.



Autism assistance dogs for autistic children. The dogs are trained to provide safety for the child and reduce stress in social environments. You can read more about this programme at www.supportdogs.org.uk/pages/category/autism-assistance.

Seizure alert dogs for people with epilepsy. Our dogs are trained to provide a 100% reliable, potentially life saving alert up to 1 hour before an epileptic seizure. This enables the client to find safety and be in control over their seizure, allowing a much more independent life. You can read more about this programme at www.supportdogs.org.uk/pages/category/epilepsy-seizure-alert.

Disability assistance dogs for people with physical disabilities. The client's own pet dog is trained to perform tasks which are specifically tailored to their individual needs, providing them with greater independence and safety. You can read more about this programme at www.supportdogs.org.uk/pages/category/disability-assistance.

Established in 1992, Support Dogs works across England, Scotland and Wales and provides all its services entirely free of charge to those in need of them. However, the charity relies solely on voluntary donations and receives no government funding.

Working with Rescue Dogs

We are proud that 1 in 4 of the dogs we train come to us from rescue centres or as unwanted pets. You can find out more about our work giving rescue dogs a second chance at www.supportdogs.org.uk/rehoming-pet-and-rescue-dogs.

If you would like to find out more about support dogs you can visit their website on the following link: www.supportdogs.org.uk/.



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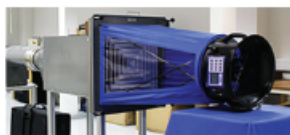
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