

CHAIRMAN'S ADDRESS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, December 2013

The year 2013 has seen the beginning of the revival of the Irish economy. ETCI has been through a difficult few years and I am pleased to announce that we appear to have turned the corner. The measures put in place over the last few years have stabilised the organisation and returned it to profit. ETCI has provided exemplary service to Electrotechnical standardisation in Ireland since 1972 thanks to the selfless dedication of its many experts. We hope to do so well into the future. I can summarise the year as follows:

1. **Financial Strategy**: For the second year ETCI has shown a profit, of €45,000 for the financial year up to June 2013. The satisfactory operation has been achieved as the result of difficult decisions that were made and my thanks are due to the many people that made personal sacrifices to enable this turnaround. The outlook for 2014 is progressing satisfactorily and the nascent return of the construction industry should show a rise in the sale of completion certificates. The sales of ET101 is also anticipated to be stable.
2. **Developments with NSAI**: We continue to have good relations with NSAI which provides the secretariat to many of our TCs. We are grateful to NSAI for financial support in attending the IEC Annual General Meeting in India which was provided on a once-off basis. I would remind members that NSAI are the Irish member of IEC and CENELEC and our MoU with NSAI that recognises ETCI as the National Electro-technical committee to these bodies.
3. **Developments with the CER**: In June 2013 CER implemented a decision that all Restricted Electrical Works in a domestic setting can only be carried out by a Registered Electrical Contractor. This adds to the existing decision on Controlled Electrical Works. This is a welcome development as it focuses on the use of competent, insured registered electrical contractors. ETCI continues to advocate increased regulation of 'electrical installations in explosive atmospheres' and 'periodic inspections of existing installations'.
ETCI has, at the request of the CER, retaken responsibility for the Electronic Certification System. The system currently generates insufficient returns to cover costs. We are currently examining options to renew the system to ensure that it complies with the CER Criteria Document and is self funding.
4. **Interaction with the Institutes of Technology**: A number of meetings were held in ETCI with delegates from all the Institutes of Technology who are involved with electrical apprenticeship training. It is anticipated that ETCI training courses (such as 'Verification & Certification', 'ATEX Course for Hazardous Areas' and 'Electrical Engineering Systems') will in future be fully accredited courses and ETCI will provide accredited courses. This also fulfils a requirement from the CER. The electrical engineering systems course which we provide in partnership with Engineers Ireland is accredited.
5. **Work of Technical Committees**: I would particularly like to thank all who take part in the work of both our Technical Committees and our Task Forces. Their voluntary input is exceptional by any standards. Their employers must also be given credit for the contribution and time these committee members are allowed to give.
We were privileged this year in that the Chairman of TC2, Jim Keogh, received the IEC 1906 award. It is excellent that Jim has received this recognition from his colleagues in TC64. It is also interesting to note that Jim has been asked to attend the next IEC TC64 meeting and to make a presentation on our certification system, which apparently is a world leader.
TC3 also deserve special mention in 2013 for completing the Medium Voltage Rules. This is a very comprehensive document which reflects the enormous amount of work put in by the members of TC3.
6. **Cenelec AG**: The 1st Joint Session of the CEN General Assembly and CENELEC General Assembly took place in Copenhagen in June 2013. The European Commission contributed to the meeting and stressed the importance of standards and had identified key policy areas where standards are needed to help carry out the EU policy objectives, and bring Europe back to growth and open new market opportunities for the consolidated open market.

The CEN/CENELEC AGs were preceded by the 2nd European Standardization Summit. The standardization of services was the main theme of the Summit. Services forms 70% economic

activity and employment in the Member States of the European Union and the Services Directive (2006/123/EC) recognises the need for European Standards to facilitate compatibility between services supplied by different providers.

7. **IEC AG:** The 77th IEC General Meeting was held in New Delhi in October 2013 which was attended by over 1000 delegates from about 100 countries. IEC now has 82 members and 83 affiliates. The theme was “Challenges of Power Quality” Insufficient power quality is not only disruptive to those who experience it but it is also very costly to economies, companies and individuals. The importance of a reliable quality electrical power supply has never been greater than it is today. There is an ever-increasing reliance on new devices and digital communications in both our public and private lives – from personal communications devices such as smart phones and tablets, through to healthcare equipment, the technology that drives business services and industrial processes.

It is in this context that disturbances such as power outages (anywhere from tiny fluctuations to total absence of power for hours or days) and fluctuations that occur with the quality of power (voltage sags or surges, transients and harmonics) have such a major impact on our lives and our economies.

John McAuley, Chairman ETCI, December 2013