

When Will I Be Famous?

An Engineering Dilemma



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Institution news

Any would-be bloggers out there?

It has been brought to our attention that members would like to know what's going on in other members' working lives as many designers feel isolated in their own industries. So, if you would like to tell other IED members what's doing in your special area of engineering design, a blog is the perfect medium to do just that. If you are interested please contact editor, editoria@engineeringdesigner.co.uk. And don't forget the members' forum - perfect for asking questions, exchanging viewpoints and getting to know other members (link to forum can be found on the home page).

Going Green



The IED Council are developing a sustainability policy for the Institution, to cover everything from the paper used in the office to investigating the use of video conferencing as an alternative to travelling to meetings. Work has already begun at Courtnigh by replacing over 60 standard bulbs with energy efficient alternatives and by placing water saving 'hippo' bags in all the toilets. It is hoped that these measures will help to cut costs and

ECDL CAD Certification

EU Member States (MS), in correlation with the EU Lisbon Agenda goals have an obligation to improve their overall innovation potential. As a matter of fact, the EU Commission has an innovation policy (see <http://trendchart.cordis.lu/>) that employs an innovation scoreboard rating (using, for example, number of patents registered, life-long learning and how much SMEs innovate in-house) to assess how much each MS is innovative.

Design is one key activity that contributes to innovation in the MS. In this respect, European citizens need to be professionally trained in designing innovative products, which requires the transfer of knowledge in both design technology and methodology. Training in CAD, as one type of design technology, needs to be professionally delivered and certified to an international level by competent testing centres. The eventual training of CAD operators and their harmonised certification via ECDL is therefore an important step towards the exploitation of CAD, as a technology supporting innovation in Europe and its Member States.

To facilitate this, the EU Leonardo Da Vinci Programme has funded a project nicknamed CECA concerned with developing ECDL CAD learning training material and infrastructure. The CECA project will, through its partners, disseminate information and

training services to relevant stakeholders on available ECDL CAD courses. IED members should note that ECDL certification offers many benefits:

For the CAD operator:

ECDL CAD is for students and professionals such as architects, engineers, draughtsman, interior designers etc, seeking to acquire an internationally recognised qualification that certifies their current core CAD skills. This certification can provide the basis towards further studies or professional development in a CAD related field.

For the employer:

ECDL CAD certifies that an individual who has successfully completed this qualification has the skills and knowledge to use the standard software and features of most CAD applications.

CECA has a number of European partners including a Maltese SME (MECB Ltd), which through Dr Jonathan C Borg, who is Malta's IED Regional Co-ordinator, is providing its technical expertise in CAD and even elearning content development. During the project, MECB will be organising a number of dissemination activities. If you would like to learn more please visit <http://www.mecb.com.mt/ceca>.

Dr Jonathan C Borg, Malta Branch