

OCTOBER 2005



HOUSTON SECTION ELECTRO^Pnews

RSVP by Oct 3rd

For \$5 Discount

On the Houston Section website:
www.houstonisa.org
or call: 713-684-1414 x1104

Price: \$20 with RSVP
\$25 without RSVP



Time: 11:15 am – Social
11:45 am – Lunch/Meeting

Place: HESS Club
5430 Westheimer Way
Houston, TX 77056

Complimentary meal for new members

Bring a new or potential member to the next meeting and they will receive a free gift

Spouses & family members are welcome to the section meetings

Sign up for email notices of meetings & events at
http://www.houstonisa.org/network_online!.htm

General Meeting

Wednesday, October 5th

Topic: Quantitative Risk Analysis And The Facilitation Of SIL Target Assignment

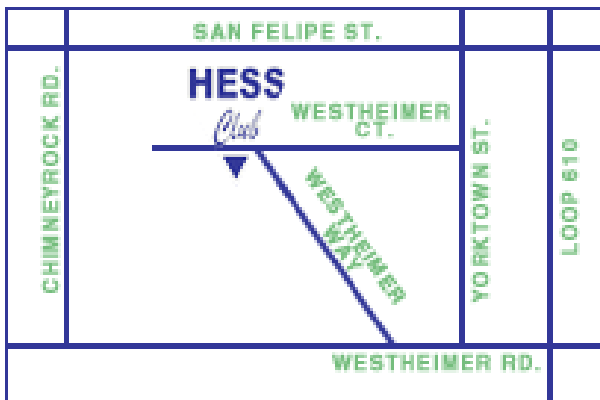
The standards addressing Safety Instrumented Systems (SIS), viz., ANSI/ISA 84.00.01-2004, IEC 61511, and IEC 61508, have placed many requirements on the design, selection, installation, operation, and maintenance of instrumented safety systems.

This presentation introduces the life cycle requirements of a safety instrumented system under the standards and examines the most common techniques utilized by many in the process industries for SIL assignment, including risk matrix, risk graph, Layers of Protection Analysis (LOPA) and quantitative risk assessment.

**Speaker: Kimberly A. Dejmek, P.E., C.F.S.E.
Baker Engineering and Risk Consultants, Inc.**

Kim Dejmek has provided consulting services in various areas of process safety and loss prevention engineering in industrial applications for over seventeen years. Her areas of specialty are Safety Instrumented Systems (SIS), Process Hazards Analysis (PHA), and quantitative risk assessment. Kim has been an active and contributing member of the ISA S84 committee and has published numerous articles and presented many papers on SIS related topics. She is a Certified Functional Safety Expert (CFSE) in the field of SIS Application.

Kim is a Chemical Engineering graduate from Michigan State University and a Professional Engineer registered in the state of Texas. She worked as a process safety specialist with Technica Inc. (now DNV), Fluor Daniel Inc., and Premier Consulting Services, before joining Baker Engineering and Risk Consultants, Inc. (BakerRisk) in 1999. Prior to her work in the field of process safety, Kim worked as a process engineer and environmental compliance officer for the 3M Company.



ISA provides its members with unparalleled access to technical information, professional development resources, and opportunities to network with other automation professionals. In addition to these unique benefits, membership supports a not-for-profit organization dedicated to advancement of the state-of-the-art and recognition of the automation profession.



President's Corner

John Campbell
President, ISA Houston Section

As I write this, I am sitting in a temporary office trailer at the ConocoPhillips Lake Charles refinery, trying to cool off from the latest trip out into the field. I am here for the startup of a new unit for the refinery and, because I am responsible for one small piece of the unit, I was tapped to be part of the startup crew. Getting decked out in hard hat, safety glasses, Nomex coveralls, safety shoes and radio in the unseasonably warm southwestern Louisiana weather is enough to make almost anyone wilt. And I am out of practice.

When I first started as an engineer, I looked around and decided that eventually becoming a consultant appeared to be something to aspire to. Sitting in the office and fielding questions that came by telephone and mail (no computers and email in those days) and thinking deep thoughts about perplexing problems seemed to be the epitome of an engineer's existence. So I went through years of project planning, detailed design, construction/startup support, repeat ad infinitum, ad nauseam. Slowly I moved up the corporate ladder, endured "temporary" assignments, even took a short term shot at supervising (not the job for me – I'm relatively unmanageable myself).

Now I am a consultant. At least, that's the title that goes with my pay grade. I do spend a lot of time sitting in my office, fielding questions that come in by phone and email. I like to believe that I think deep thoughts about perplexing problems – with a minimum of accompanying snoring. Every now and then, though, the only way to get the job done is to head to the field. It may not actually require going into the operating facility but does mean at least getting into the plant offices to ask questions, review documentation and see how things are really done. It reminds me that, despite the dislocation and discomfort, the best learning experience for a design engineer is to follow the project into construction and startup. You discover the holes that you left in the design so that you don't make those particular mistakes again. You learn that vendor manuals and drawings don't always tell you every thing you need to know about how to make an instrument work. Above all, you really learn that simpler is better. Getting complicated simply because you can is generally an invitation to doing it all over again in the field.

So as I finally quit dripping on the keyboard and finish my third cup of cold water, I realize that I should probably head back out again. Operations has likely gotten the unit startup a little farther along so I can get a little further in doing what they hauled me here for. After I save this and lock up the computer, it's on with the hard hat, safety glasses and radio and back out after it again. You know, engineering life is really pretty good, even for an old consultant.

P.S. Before I could get back to this to clean it up and send it to Mary, the refinery decided to reduce throughput because of the threat of Hurricane Rita, which shut down the startup. All of us on the crew that are from Houston headed back to town. By the time this is printed, Rita will have come and gone, with whatever effects that she has. Hopefully, we will all be putting things back together and getting on with it. Best of luck!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

ISA Houston Section Annual Chili Cook-Off

**Thursday, November 17th, 2005
From 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm**

*All teams paid for by August 31st
will be entered into a drawing for a free
golf foursome at Kingwood Country Club*

St. Arnold's Brewery

**This year we will be
featuring:**

Opportunity to taste chili prepared by 20 Different chili cook-off teams

Awards for: 1st, 2nd, 3rd place and the People's Choice Award

Beverages from St. Arnold's Brewery!!!

Gifts for all non-members who join at the event

Tabletop Displays from all Chili Cook-off Teams

Ability to network and hang out with other people in your industry





Editor's Note

Looking for Work? Wanting to Hire?

Email the information to me and we will include your message in the next newsletter.

m.carmichael@krohne-oilandgas.com

Advertise where it counts!

If you would like to advertise in our newsletter, please contact Rick Williams at (713) 382-8006 or rwill74018@aol.com.

Below are the new advertising rates:

\$200.00 - Single Ad Space (10 Issues)

\$300.00 - Double Ad Space (10 Issues)

\$400.00 - Triple Ad Space (10 Issues)

\$400.00 /1 Month Insert - (8 ½ * 11 format Single Page)

\$700.00 /1 Month Insert - (8 ½ * 11 format 2-Page)





Cranial Gas

by Paul Gruhn, PE, CFSE

It's not what you know, it's who you know

Sometimes things come together just right and make you feel warm and fuzzy all over.

I love beer and am a home brewer. There are two brewing supplies stores in Houston (north and south) and there are clubs associated with each. I happen to be a member of one of them, called the Foam Rangers (www.foamrangers.com). They utilize an e-mail list serve, just like we do.

One peaceful evening I was going through my personal e-mail. There was a posting from a Foam Ranger mentioning a "brewery automation system problem" at St. Arnold's. My fellow Houstonians should recognize that name. St. Arnold's is Houston's oldest and largest micro-brewery. It's also the place that the Houston ISA Section has had its fall social events at for a number of years. I'll be the first to admit that I've really enjoyed our events there (and I've got the beer mugs to prove it). I followed the link in the e-mail to the brewery's web site which described their automation system dying. (They referred to the system as 'God' and their posting said "God is dead".) Unfortunately, it didn't provide any relevant details (e.g., what brand system, what software, what was the exact nature of the problem, etc.).

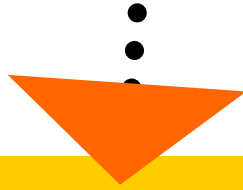
Being connected with both groups, I figured there was something I could do, if nothing more than serve as a bridge. I broadcast a message to the Houston ISA list serve calling for our members to come to the rescue. If our members couldn't fix a brewery automation system, who could? By the very next morning, I had received several messages offering help. I referred those people directly to the brewery. A more detailed message from Rick Brackett, currently with Siemens, outlined how he and others at Rockwell were involved in the original installation. While the various people in the original project had moved on to other areas—some literally—Rick and three others with Siemens went to the brewery that very same day. Paul Adams of Rockwell also went there and personally resolved the issue and got the system back online. Paul even said that Rockwell would probably donate more recent hardware. Thanks also to Gary Brelsford of BP for passing along my message to Paul at Rockwell.

Brock, the owner of the brewery responded back to me, "Thanks for sending out the info on us. It was highly effective! We have had lots of offers for assistance. The best part was that one of the Rockwell people that has been working on the system saw it and he came out and fixed it! Yea!! I owe you a beer!"

I'm looking forward to going to the brewery and getting that beer! We'll be having our fall social event there soon. You also might want to drop by there on one of their Saturday tours and let them know you're a proud member of the group that helped get them back online. It's often not just *what* you know, it's *who* you know. I've always like to put a twist on that phrase, "It's not who you know, but who finds you worth knowing." I've always tried to serve as a useful resource for others, as people tend to come back to you when they have a problem. It's heartwarming (and in this case, stomach-warming) to see network connections in action. How many people are in *your* network?

Disclaimer: The rantings expressed here do not represent the opinions of ISA, its local board, or any sane person – living or dead – that we know of.

Welcome New Members!



Pamela Kutner
Randall Estes
Carter White
Alberto Dufau
Edmund Hunt
Robert Lee
Gilberto Jaimes
Bill Edet
Jack Hunter
Evan Ghazi
Kevin Stevenson
Willam Sammons
Minh Truong
Missy Burrows
Phillip Winfrey
Jofre Lantion
Olis Bahari
James Tummy

The Alexander Group
Valve Accessories & Controls
MSA
ABB
GB
BL Technologies
BL Technologies
Oil & Gas Co.
Interlink Controls
BP Engineering
Trans American Automation
Rockwell
Conoco-Phillips
Alltemp Sensors
Sempra Energy



Houston Section 2005 Scholarship Program

The Board of Directors of the ISA Houston Section has approved a scholarship program to be awarded for the 2005/2006 school year. Please inform and encourage everyone who is eligible to participate. The requirements are as follows:

- Scholarships are awarded to successful applicants who will attend an accredited technical school, college or university in the Fall 2005 and Spring 2006 semesters as a full time student pursuing a minimum of 12 credit hours per semester.
- Applicant must be nominated by someone who has attended a minimum of three(3) ISA Houston Section monthly meetings and or activities during the 2004/2005 ISA Houston Section fiscal year September 1, 2004 through August 3, 2005.
- The applicant must compose and submit an essay of no less than 500 words (typed) describing their future goals and the contribution that a scholarship would have in achieving those goals.
- The applicant must be a high school senior or a college undergraduate student.
- The applicant must NOT be the previous recipient of any other ISA scholarships in the current or the previous fiscal year. The ISA Houston Section scholarship will not be awarded to the same person in consecutive years.
- The applicant must submit a copy of their recent high school or college transcript.
- The applicant and/or nominating party is encouraged to attend the December 7, 2005 meeting of the ISA Houston Section at the Houston Engineering and Scientific Society (HESS) located at 5430 Westheimer Way, Houston.
- All scholarships will be submitted directly to the college or university whom the scholarship recipient is enrolled to pay for normal tuition, enrollment fees and textbooks for the specified school year.

Notes to applicants: **To be considered, the application and associated documents must be postmarked no later than October 19, 2005.** The scholarships will be awarded to applicants based upon the quality of the essay, high school or college grades, accomplishments and the recommendation given by their nominator. If there are any questions, contact Chan Miller at 281-249-2632 or any Board of Director listed in the newsletter.

Mail to:
Chan Miller
Technip USA Corporation
1990 Post Oak Blvd., Ste. 200
Houston, TX 77056

Fax applications to: 281-249-2330
or email: cmiller@technip.com

Note: Transcripts must be mailed.



Houston Section 2005 Scholarship Application

Applicant Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, & Zip Code: _____

Applicant SSN: _____ Day Time Phone: _____

Current School: _____ Expected Graduation Date: _____

Plan to/or Attend
College/University: _____

Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Nominating Party: _____ Day Time Phone: _____

Relationship to Applicant: _____

Check dates of ISA Houston Section meetings/functions attended by nominator:

- ___ September 1, 2004
- ___ November 4, 2004
- ___ December 1, 2004
- ___ February 2, 2005
- ___ March 2, 2005
- ___ April 6, 2005
- ___ May 11, 2005
- ___ June 1, 2005
- ___ August 3, 2005

Signature of Applicant: _____

Please print or type and complete the entire application form. **Mail, with postmark no later than October 19, 2005**, completed application form with letter of recommendation, essay and transcripts to: cmiller@technip.com

ISA Houston Section
Attn: Chan Miller
Technip USA Corporation
1990 Post Oak Blvd., Suite 200
Houston, Texas 77056-3846
(mail transcripts please)

Pictures from our September Meeting

Topic: ISA 84 - 1996 vs. 2004 (Improvement or Bigger Headache?)



Our Panelists were:

End User Perspective
Art Dowell - Rohm & Haas

Consultant Perspective
Angela Summers- SIS-Tech

Contractor Perspective
Wayne Cohen- KBR



Calendar of Events

Houston Section

General Membership Meetings & Events

At the HESS Club – 5430 Westheimer Way – unless noted

November 2, 2005	11:30 am	General Meeting
November 17, 2005	5:00 pm	Chili Cook-Off @ St. Arnolds
December 7, 2005	11:30 am	General Meeting
February 1, 2006	5:30 pm	General Meeting / Bosses' Night
March 1, 2006	11:30 am	General Meeting
April 5, 2006	11:30 am	General Meeting
May 10, 2006	11:30 am	General Meeting
June 7, 2006	11:30 am	General Meeting

Analysis Subsection Meetings & Events

At Ramada Inn, Hwy. 225 @ Richey, Pasadena

Contact Daniel Podkulski at (281) 834-2833 or Dan.E.Podkulski@exxonmobil.com

ICCS Monthly Meetings

At the HESS Club – 5430 Westheimer Way – unless noted

For Information Contact Greg Smallwood at TAG

Pipeline Subsection

October 17, 2005 *13th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament
At Meadowbrook Farms Golf Club, Katy
Contact Jere Haney (281) 571-8065*

National & International

Analysis Division Spring Symposium Meeting Schedule

2006	April 02-06	51st Annual, New Orleans, LA
2007	April 15-18	52nd Annual, Houston, TX

ISA International Fall Conference & Exhibit Schedule

2005	October 25-27	Chicago, IL
2006	October 17-19	Houston, TX
2007	September 25-27	Chicago, IL

ISA Houston Section 2005-2006 Officers

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