

*In this issue of SSAIB News we have a highly eclectic mix of contributions covering all our certification areas, but with a focus on electronic security systems. This truly is a bumper edition, with something of interest, hopefully, to all of you.*

We have reviewed the security systems dimension in this issue using case studies to explore the range of systems and types of approach taken by some of our registered firms. We took this approach to demonstrate that despite the gloomy economic conditions many of you seem to be managing the storm quite well. This can be attributed, in part at least, to the fact that your management and operations are well regulated and efficient...the checking of which forms part of the certification process. I will come back to the case studies a little later.

On the guarding front we are celebrating SSAIB being granted Passport Certification status. Our scheme has been accredited by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) as meeting the operational requirements for its Approved Contractor Scheme (ACS). Lynn Watts-Plumpkin reviews the training she provided to our inspection team, with guests from SIA and Mercury Security Training. With reference to the latter, Paul Lawton-Jones of Mercury tells you how to take advantage of Government funded training for your personnel, (see inside back cover). We have a fascinating contribution from Sec-Tech, specialists in close protection.

We address fire issues on two fronts. In an article by Geoff Rendall, Certification Manager at SSAIB, your attention is drawn to recent prosecutions as the Fire Service is increasingly looking to the courts to enforce fire safety legislation. The second fire related issue is in the case study by Derek Emslie, of CBS Security, who describes the systems they installed at a large distribution centre in Tamworth.

In another case study we feature the monitored intruder alarm systems supplied by Sightguard Security on the Isle of Wight. This system faced many challenges, both environmental and technical as the project was the RWE npower power station located on the Island.

The third case study takes a detailed look at the systems installed by 2020 Vision Limited in conjunction with Veracity UK Limited at the Newcastle upon Tyne NHS Trust. The system supplied was an integrated digital video recording and management system, offering a very high level of recording performance, coupled with a centralized control and powerful operator interface, it makes an interesting read.

We are grateful to Mike Jay, who convenes the RISC Authority Security Group (formerly IPCRes) for drawing our attention to the concerns that insurers have about keyboxes. Mark Roddis of Lockton International has contributed a piece on Efficacy Insurance and Mark Wetherall of Darwin Clayton draws our attention to Directors' Liability when it comes to employees driving at work. This has real implications for registered firms, but there are steps you can put in place to mitigate your risk, should the worst happen and these are detailed in the article.

David Profit, SSAIB Technical Manager, looks at the issue of Doorstep Selling. In his article he reviews the rights of the consumer and the responsibilities of the seller as enshrined in both the Consumer Protection from Unfair Trading Regulations, 2008 and the Consumer Protection (Cancellation of Contracts Concluded away from Business Premises) Regulations 1987, updated on the 1st October, 2008.

In addition to the above, we have a wide range of industry news and news on developments inside SSAIB.

Turning firstly to SSAIB we have had a very busy year, with a number of visitors popping into our new offices in North Shields, and of course we said farewell to Sir Stanley Bailey CBE who died late last year, having made a significant contribution to the establishment and development of SSAIB over the years.

We welcome David Roscoe to SSAIB as our latest recruit and review the work he will undertake in the future. One of his responsibilities, working with Lynn Watts-Plumpkin, is Ireland, the North and Republic of Ireland. Dave and Lynn spent a productive few days in Dublin at ISEC, the Irish National Security Exhibition, and they give us a review of the main events.

A little overdue, but hopefully worth the wait, we have launched the new SSAIB website. We continue to work on further development of the site to provide a wider range of services to firms, regulators and consumers.

Other significant additions to the site are the online shop and Standards Online. The shop facility currently provides a basic mechanism to purchase standard SSAIB items and we will continue to develop this facility, adding a wider range of products and services which can be purchased and paid for online.

Many firms have expressed concern over the years about the cost and logistics of keeping hard copies of all relevant current British and/or European standards. Standards Online is a major step forward and a coup for SSAIB. Our agreement with the British Standards Institute (BSI) has greatly reduced the cost of standards for our registered firms and it has made all relevant standards accessible to firms for immediate download (for more detail, see page 4).

Another development this year has been the registration of a Certification Mark. We took the opportunity to launch the new mark with the new website and certificate design. It is important to understand that this is not a change in the SSAIB logo, although we have also registered the SSAIB logo as a trademark. The rationale and implication of this are given on page 5 but registered firms should rest assured that we will allow plenty of time for firms to make the transition to the Certification Mark.

For an update on technical issues, go to page 25.

Two new areas of service from SSAIB are Portable Fire Extinguishers and Social Alarm System Certification. With respect to Portable Fire Extinguishers, we have added this scheme to our UKAS schedule following a successful inspection and will make the scheme available as soon as possible. The new audit scheme for Telecare Service Providers is currently being piloted. We anticipate a full launch in May or June this year. For more details see page 5.