FIA Announces a New Council

Keeping a close eye on developing areas of the fire safety business, it is clear that technology is rapidly evolving both in scope and potential.

We're seeing new technology, some of which is genuinely helpful, and some that seems new just for the sake of being new. We need to look closely to understand which advancements will truly improve our current systems, simplify processes, aid and define integration points between systems, and maintain reliability. While there are many standards and rules to follow, these shouldn't prevent us from moving forward with better methods.

To help guide this, the FIA Board has decided to form a new group, temporarily called the **Technology Council**, to shape our future and keep us at the forefront of innovation.

There are already FIA technology working groups such as *Internet of Things (IoT)*, *Cyber Security*, etc., which are well attended, so clearly there is an appetite. We now need to move to forming a council of 15 members to represent the views of FIA members, work closely with key stakeholders, and help define the future of technology in fire safety systems and all associated services.

Initial thoughts are to guide the FIA and its members in adopting and developing technologies that foster:

- Universal access to real-time data

- Seamless integration of systems

- Data-driven action

- Instant communication

- Enhanced collaboration

- Empowered learning

- Collaborative understanding in the fire safety sector

Key Objectives to be Considered:

- **Promote Universal Access**: Advocate for solutions that ensure every business, regardless of size or technological maturity, has access to real-time site data and critical fire safety information.

- **Drive Seamless Integration**: Facilitate the development and adoption of interoperable technologies and platforms that enable effortless data sharing and communication between devices and systems.

- **Enable Data-Driven Action**: Champion the integration of IoT devices with systems that trigger real-life actions, ensuring alerts and notifications translate into effective risk reduction.

- **Foster Instant Communication**: Support the implementation of real-time communication tools and platforms that minimize latency and maximize clarity among stakeholders.

- **Enhance Virtual Collaboration**: Promote the use of virtual collaboration tools that enable productive teamwork regardless of physical location.

- **Empower Learning**: Develop platforms and resources that provide access to best practices and knowledge, democratizing expertise across all skill levels.

- **Cultivate Collaborative Understanding**: Encourage the use of technology to foster cultural exchange, understanding, and stronger relationships between clients and providers.

Key Initiatives to be Considered:

- **Standards Development**: Collaborate with relevant bodies to develop and promote open standards for data exchange and system interoperability in the fire safety industry.

- **Technology Evaluation**: Assess and recommend emerging technologies that can enhance fire safety practices.

- **Education and Training**: Provide educational resources and training programs to FIA members on the use of new technologies.

- **Pilot Programs**: Initiate and oversee pilot programs to test and validate innovative technology solutions.

- **Cybersecurity Guidance**: Develop best practices and guidelines for cybersecurity to protect data and systems within the fire safety ecosystem.

- **Advocacy**: Represent the FIA and its members in discussions with regulators and policymakers on technology-related issues.

Benefits to FIA Members

- **Safer Built Environment**: Proactive risk reduction through dynamic stakeholder action.

- **Increased Efficiency**: Streamlined processes and reduced operational costs.

- **Enhanced Innovation**: Fostering a culture of technological advancement within the industry.

- **Improved Collaboration**: Stronger relationships and better communication among stakeholders.

- **Market and Thought Leadership**: Positioning FIA members at the forefront of technological adoption in fire safety.

What's Next?

In September, you will be asked to nominate yourself in the normal round of voting onto Councils and Board pre-AGM. There will be a maximum of 15 members accepted onto the council.

The FIA Technology Council will be formed, and the first course of duty at the first meeting will be to nominate a Chair from those voted in. Watch closely and be one of the first to sit on our newest council and help shape the future.

If you are not an FIA member and want to help shape the future of technology in the fire safety industry, then contact **membership@fia.uk.com** to join 1,200 other members who help shape our industry.