



Inventors News

We are on the web: www.inventors.asn.au

Inventors Association of Australia (SA) Inc Newsletter

June 2009 (NON-MEMBER)

NEXT MEETING

State Association House
73 Wakefield Street
Adelaide

Thursday 18th June

DOORS OPEN at 7.00pm

MEETING STARTS at 7.30pm

GUEST SPEAKER

Chris Hayward
of IP Australia

TOPIC:

How the introduction of the
internet has affected IPA

SUPPER and NETWORKING
approximately 8.30 – 9.00

Inventors Presentations
and other business

10.00pm CLOSE

Presidents Comments

Why was it called “Scotch Tape”? It all began in a garage in 1921 when Richard Drew noticed a car painter having trouble with the moistened paper tape used as masking tape. He set about inventing a better tape. After experimenting with many materials he initially came up with tape made from cheesecloth. In the beginning he only put adhesive along each edge of the tape leaving the centre untreated. Users asked “Why be so Scotch with the glue”, and the name “Scotch Tape” stuck to the product. Still not happy he kept on experimenting until he came up with a tape which would not stick to itself so that it could be made into a roll. Finally Drew’s cellulose tape hit the market in 1930 and the tape was an instant success.

Eric Rodda, President

REMINDERS

We are approaching the end of the fiscal year and fees are due at or before the July meeting.

Remember, you must be financial to vote for members of the Management Committee.

Please consider putting yourself forward for election to a position on the Committee, where you can help make a difference.

Nomination forms will be handed out at the June meeting. Alternatively, you can just print, and fill out the form on the last page of this newsletter to register your choices.

Forms can be sent in advance to:-

The Secretary,

IAA (SA) Inc., State Association House,
73 Wakefield St, Adelaide, 5000.

Speaker Review

The Speakers spot at the May meeting was occupied by a visual Power Point presentation that was sent to me by Mark Thompson, Sales and Marketing Director of Warwick Audio Technologies, on my request for permission to use some material from their website about their fascinating new product in last month's newsletter. Not only was permission given, but an extensive amount of other material was provided.

After a brief introduction by me, Phillip Sanders presented the visual display provided.

The product in question is referred to as FFL—Flat Flexible Loudspeaker—made from a new flexible thin film laminate. The company was formed in 2002 for research at the University of Warwick, UK, with a research and development grant awarded in May 2004. With further funding in 2007 and 2008.

The first patent was lodged in March 2002—IPN 02 19764. The second patent was lodged in July 2007—IPN 07 077438.

Warwick Audio is seeking “**expressions of interest**” from major OEM companies to grow the product range in the following core markets: Audiovisual sound panels / Cinema – 3D surround sound / Public Announcement / Automobile headlining.

Duncan Billson of Warwick Audio is the inventor of flat, flexible loudspeaker [FFL] technology. It is a Dipole radiator with a virtually mass-less diaphragm, that is driven equally at all points across the surface of a 250µm thin wafer-like material.

The FFL competes against existing moving coil speakers, piezoelectric, electrostatic loudspeakers—ESL is the reference standard but is very expensive.

Flat panel technologies available include: Panphonics which are stiff, expensive and several mm thick.

FFL has a potential for very low cost manufacture; low material cost; simple high volume fabrication; low design overhead and fast turnaround. It is ultra thin—one fifth of a millimetre—and ultra light for use in low loading applications. E.g. ceiling mounted or transport applications. It can be shaped to meet advanced design needs like car interiors, or cut to design requirements.

Sound quality: SPL~90dB with THD <4% / Frequency response: 0.8 – 20.0 kHz / High directivity: Far field diverges at ~15 degrees / will curve to a 10cm radius and weighs 35grams per square foot.

It produces no heat, is non-magnetic, and can be arranged as multiple speaker elements in a single panel.

Further product generation will involve flexed panel, concave, convex and column wrap speakers. Warwick Audio will be working to develop audio fabric and fully flexible audio membranes.

By Don Ingram

Thanks to Mark Thompson, Sales & Marketing Director of Warwick Audio Technologies Ltd

Email: info@warwickaudiotech.com

Web: <http://www.warwickaudiotech.com>

IP Australia CORNER

Intellectual Property (IP) Australia produces a fine selection of FREE booklets and leaflets to aid inventors.

Their website is www.ipaustralia.gov.au

They can be visited at Innovation House East Wing, Technology Park, Mawson Lakes Boulevard, Mawson Lakes ... or contact them (for the cost of a local call) on 1300 65 1010.

Your say on IP Australia's performance – Customer Benchmark Survey 2008 results

2 June 2009

IP Australia completed its third biennial Customer Benchmark Survey in December 2008.

The Customer Benchmark Survey is IP Australia's primary mechanism for understanding customer and stakeholder perceptions of its products and services.

Participants were surveyed across areas such as: responsiveness to enquiries and requests, confidence in IP rights, adequacy of payment mechanisms and quality of search and examination reports.

The survey provides very useful feedback on the performance of IP Australia across all business areas.

IP Australia is using the survey results to improve our operations. We are undertaking a series of modernisation, quality improvement and training programs as part of our continuous improvement efforts.

IP Australia would like to thank all participants in the Customer Benchmark Survey 2008. We value feedback and look forward to learning more about customer needs and expectations through ongoing market research programs.

To view a summary of the research findings [click here](#).

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At last!

A Serious Answer to Global Warming



From Howard Schulze

Howard Says...

From the desk of a busy patent attorney

US Patent Examiners Told to Issue Patents

The USA patent office was seriously embarrassed by bad publicity following their acceptance of the 'one click' patent. They have for the last year or so become hopelessly negative. Not unsurprising; people who depend on patents being granted, have become upset. I was talking to some of the Attorneys in the US last year, who were telling me just how difficult it had become to get anything through. So you will see how significant it is that they have been told to start granting patents again (let more through the system).

The following is an email I received recently...

Written by Gene Quinn

Posted: May 22, 2009 @ 4:40 pm

Tell A Friend!

Mark Malek, Patent Attorney with Zies Widerman & Malek

I just spoke with Mark Malek, a patent attorney at the firm I am with - Zies Widerman & Malek. Mark had an interesting conversation earlier today with a patent examiner who shall remain nameless. The purpose of the call was to inquire about the status of a particular application that had been filed over 4 years ago and which was still waiting a First Office Action. The patent examiner told Mark that about 2 weeks ago management told the examining corps that they need to start issuing patents. This may seem strange to those who are not familiar with how the Patent Office has been operating, but this is sadly important news to report. The allowance rate had dipped to 42% during the first quarter of 2009, and over the five year term of Jon Dudas the allowance range had dropped from its historical averages year after year.

Because of strict quality initiatives, which really didn't raise quality all that much, many patent applications were held up, rejected outright or applicants were forced to file continuations or appeal. This led to a tremendous backlog of patent applications, unrest in the patent bar, unrest among corporations upon whose existence and funding require issued patents, and unrest among patent examiners as well. It seems that the initiatives that Acting Patent Commissioner Peggy Focarino spoke to me about are in full swing and new training has ensued to train examiners how to efficiently and appropriately issue patent applications. This is indeed very good news, and I expect we will see a substantial raise in patent allowances moving forward through the end of fiscal year 2009. Filing patent applications might just become the "in" thing to do once again giving a realistic opportunity to obtain rights. Now we can only hope that these initiatives also lower the pendency period so patents can issue while still technologically relevant.

More to come next week. In the meantime, a tip of the hat to the Patent Office!

Howard Schulze, Collison and Co Patent Attorneys.

The Measure of Things

CALIBRATION

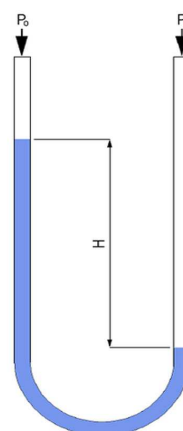
Calibration is the validation of specific measurement techniques and equipment. At the simplest level, calibration is a comparison between measurements—one of known magnitude or correctness made or set with one device and another measurement made in as similar a way as possible with a second device.

The device with the known or assigned correctness is called the standard. The second device is the unit under test (UUT), test instrument (TI) or any of several other names for the device being calibrated. This process establishes the calibration of the second device, with important limitations that will be discussed later.

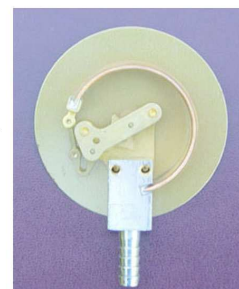
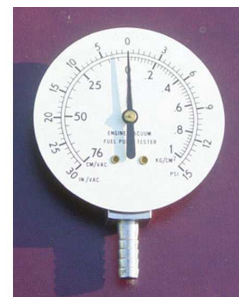
HISTORY

Many of the earliest measuring devices were intuitive and easy to conceptually validate. The term "calibration" probably was first associated with the precise division of linear distance and angles using a dividing engine and the measurement of gravitational mass using a weighing scale. These two forms of measurement alone and their direct derivatives supported nearly all commerce and technology development from the earliest civilizations until about 1800AD.

The Industrial Revolution introduced wide scale use of indirect measurement. The measurement of pressure was an early example of how indirect measurement was added to the existing direct measurement of the same phenomena.



Above: Direct reading design
Top right: Indirect reading design from front
Right: Indirect reading design from rear, showing Bourdon tube



Before the Industrial Revolution, the most common pressure measurement device was a hydrostatic manometer, which is not practical for measuring high pressure. Eugene Bourdon filled the need for high pressure measurement with his Bourdon tube pressure gage.

In the direct reading hydrostatic manometer design, unknown pressure pushes the liquid down the left side of the manometer U-tube (or unknown vacuum pulls the liquid up the tube, as shown) where a length scale next to the tube measures the pressure, referenced to the other, open end of the manometer on the right side of the U-tube. The resulting

height difference “H” is a direct measurement of the pressure or vacuum with respect to atmospheric pressure. The absence of pressure or vacuum would make H=0. The self-applied calibration would only require the length scale to be set to zero at that same point.

In a Bourdon tube, applied pressure entering from the bottom on the silver barbed pipe tries to straighten a curved tube (or vacuum tries to curl the tube to a greater extent), moving the free end of the tube that is mechanically connected to the pointer. This is indirect measurement that depends on calibration to read pressure or vacuum correctly. No self-calibration is possible, but generally the zero pressure state is correctable by the user.

Even in recent times, direct measurement is used to increase confidence in the validity of the measurements.

In the early days of US automobile use, people wanted to see the gasoline they were about to buy in a big glass pitcher, a direct measure of volume and quality via appearance. By 1930, rotary flow meters were accepted as indirect substitutes.

By 1970, the windows were gone and the measurement was totally indirect.

Indirect measurement always involve linkages or conversions of some kind. It is seldom possible to intuitively monitor the measurement. These facts intensify the need for calibration.

Most measurement techniques used today are indirect.

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Calibration#History>

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Don’t worry about people stealing an idea. If it’s original, you will have to ram it down their throats”

Howard Aiken

Thanks to Mark Smith

Does this ring a bell with you? Or have your experiences been quite the opposite—where you have had an original idea stolen?

Perhaps you might like to share your insights or experiences with other members of our Association by phoning, emailing or writing the Newsletter Editor, Don Ingram

on 08 8278 8905.

or blackbird at internode.on.net,

or 14, Monash Avenue, Belair, 5052.

Can the Old Become New?

While trawling for the latest in gadgetry and technology, I was surprised to find on an obscure website, that Albert Einstein was—apart from a world renowned physicist—the co-inventor—along with one of his students, Leo Szilard—of a refrigeration system.

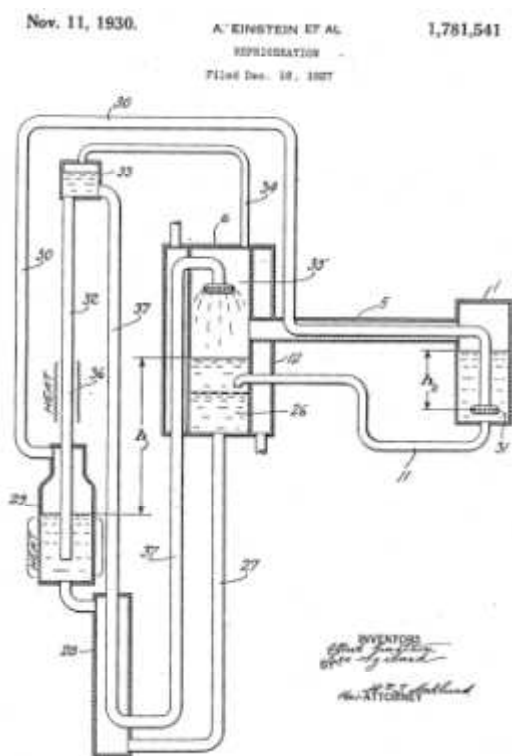
The apparatus uses a refrigerant in the presence of an inert gas to promote evaporation of the refrigerant; in this case, butane in combination with the inert gas, ammonia.

The device comprises an evaporator-(1), which is placed within the chamber to be cooled.

A condenser-(6), [surrounded by a cooling water jacket (12)] where the refrigerant is separated from the ammonia gas which is re-absorbed into water.

The ammonia solution then passes to the generator (29) via a heat exchanger (28). The generator is heated by a suitable means which drives the ammonia into chamber (33) and back into the condenser (6).

Fluid levels and pressures in the apparatus are important for a normal function.



Perhaps the re-discovery of this old invention may have started a race to produce a solar-powered cooling system. After all, we do need to keep cool when the sun is at its hottest.

It makes sense to me...

Don Ingram

The full patent application can be found on...

<http://www.google.com/patents/about?id=t0BRAAAAEBAJ&dq=A+Einstein+refrigeration>

Patent number: 1781541

Filing date: Dec 16, 1927

Issue date: Nov 1930

Inventor: Einstein

NEW MEMBERS

We cordially welcome all our new members and trust that the Association can help you in your 'journey'. If you have any special requests please talk to any member of the committee and we will endeavour to help you. Committee members have a red dot on their name tags.

NEWSLETTER CLASSIFICATIONS

There are basically 3 types:

- A** The comprehensive INTERNET version on our website for *financial* members.
- Am** The MAIL copy for those *financial* members without email facilities.
- B** The B version (which is intended for FREE GENERAL RELEASE) and has been edited to remove items which are not intended for *non members*.

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Should you wish to contact the Editor, Don Ingram, regarding Newsletter matters...
phone: 08 8278 8905.

If you have any problems receiving this document (a copy should be received 2 or 3 days before the monthly meeting) please contact our IT consultant, Phillip Sanders, on admin@inventors.asn.au

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The Buffalo Theory of Drinking

One afternoon at *Cheers*, Cliff Clavin was explaining the Buffalo Theory to his buddy Norm.

Here's how it went:

"Well ya see, Norm, it's like this... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells. Excessive intake of alcohol, as we know, kills brain cells. But naturally, it attacks the slowest and weakest brain cells first. In this way, regular consumption of beer eliminates the weaker brain cells, making the brain a faster and more efficient machine. That's why you always feel smarter after a few beers."

