



UITIC News

UNION INTERNATIONALE
DES TECHNICIENS DE
L'INDUSTRIE DE LA
CHAUSSEURE

INTERNATIONAL UNION
OF SHOE INDUSTRY
TECHNICIANS

N° 0 - SEPTEMBER 94

With this leaflet we begin a means of communication "for" and "between" the members of the International Union of Shoe Industry Technicians. Until now, the Conferences, the information relating to the said Conferences and Assemblies and the quotations have been the only connections to our members.

In increasing the time between Conferences to three years, the Executive Committee has decided that it is a rather long period of time to keep UITIC "alive". We would like to promote this newsletter as a means of achieving a better team spirit within the association. In this leaflet, other proposed initiatives are also discussed for the same reason.

However, the Executive Committee cannot bear all the responsibility for these initiatives. In order for them to work we need cooperation from all those who make up UITIC. From now on, we urge you to think of the possibilities and the benefits which would provide each member with access to a strong UITIC. UITIC is an organisation with a strong international image that exists within the Footwear Sector and it will grow to become all that its members want it to be, acting on those technological fields which are not covered by other sectorial organisations.

This newsletter has been conceived as a brief publication, with the idea that it should be easy to prepare and easy to read.

Therefore we hope for brief items to include in it.

The original will be published in English, due to the international understanding of the language, but all our members are authorized to translate it into their respective languages and to distribute it in the most appropriate way, if they so wish.

Thank you to everyone for the few minutes of attention that is required to read this information and, especially, thanks in advance for your potential collaboration.

César Orgilés
PRESIDENT

PORTUGAL, THE NEXT UITIC CONFERENCE

As was agreed and announced at the Conference in Athens, the next International Technical Conference for Footwear will be organised for October 1996 by the Technical Centre for Leather and Allied Trades (CTCA), that is located in San Juan de Madeira, a city near to Oporto in the geographical centre of footwear production in Portugal.

In the last few years, Portugal has strengthened to become one of the main European footwear producing countries and relies on numerous companies equipped with the most modern technology in our sector. The factory visits promise to be very interesting.



BRIEF NOTES

UITIC IS IMPORTANT

The present members of UITIC come from a total of 23 different countries and several more have applied to become part of UITIC. Our organisation groups together, essentially, National Associations of Footwear Technicians, but the Technical Centres or Institutes are also involved. Individual member companies in the forefront of technology, as well as independent experts, must not be forgotten.

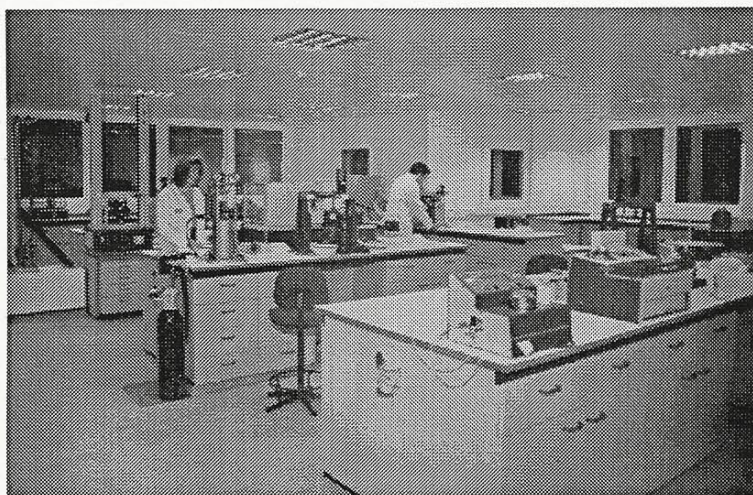
Its growing status is based on the success of the 11 International Conferences held during the 21 years of UITIC's existence, on the quality of the papers presented and the wide participation of technicians from all the world.

OUR MEMBERS: SATRA CELEBRATES 75 YEARS IN BUSINESS

SATRA Footwear Technology Centre, based at Kettering UK, is one of the world's leading footwear research organisations. This year it celebrates 75 years in business and has over 1100 member companies in more than 50 countries. It employs over 150 scientists, technicians and support staff.

SATRA played an important part in the setting up of UITIC and SATRA officials have served on our Executive Committee over the years.

John Bunten, former Research Superintendent at SATRA, was a long standing member of UITIC and became our President for 1981-83. SATRA Chief Executive Dr Ron Whittaker during his spell on our Committee provided great help in organising our conferences on new technology. Peter Perkins, an Assistant Director at SATRA, has now taken on this role. SATRA made a major contribution to the organisation of the UITIC conference in 1979 which was held in Bristol, UK.



One of the new conditioning laboratories in SATRA's Edinburgh Building

Royal visit

SATRA's 75th anniversary was marked by a royal visit - from HRH The Duke of Edinburgh - who opened a new £500,000 laboratory and office block, naming it "The Edinburgh Building". It houses two conditioning rooms which allow SATRA to test to the latest European and other standards.

A heavy investment has also been made in equipment for

a refurbished instrumental analysis laboratory, which is currently carrying out research into footwear materials discolouration and the causes of odour in shoes.

The Finished Product Area laboratories have also been upgraded and the new facilities are being used for a major study of the factors that affect footwear comfort.

Besides running its own extensive research and testing facilities, SATRA also sells test equipment so that companies can carry out their own quality checks. Last year sales of test equipment were greater than ever before - underlining the importance of quality in today's footwear markets.

Having a worldwide membership means that SATRA staff travel extensively -

each year technical personnel spend more than 1000 days overseas on consultancy and marketing assignments. SATRA materials and information management systems - SATRA-Summ, SATRAData, VisionStitch and SATRAScope - are now installed in over 250 companies in all parts of the globe.

Last year SATRA's turnover topped £4 million for the first time. Its strength is a reflection of the firm foundation laid by the pioneers 75 years ago. They identified three clear directions in which the trade needed to apply scientific development:

- Gaining full knowledge of materials used
- Keeping abreast of shoe-making processes
- Improving education in the trade.

Significantly, these are still recognised as key objectives today.



MEETINGS

The French Association of Footwear Technicians (AFTIC), promoter and founder member of UITIC, to which they also gave their logo, held its General Assembly in April. It received reports on the participation of the French technicians at the Athens Conference, the election of their representative Philippe Brossard as Vicepresident of the UITIC and the organization of the study day jointly with the tanning technicians about organization, quality and certification, that was held with success at the beginning of last June.

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EDITING

For further details on information published in this newsletter or when sending possible articles to be published here, address correspondence to:

INESCOP
(Rosa Navarro)
P.O. Box 253
03600 ELDA (Alicante)
SPAIN
FAX 34-6-5381045