



Angela Summers, Blogger in charge

I hope to see you at our Open House and Anniversary celebration on September 10, 2014. I cannot believe that it has been 15 years. I left a secure position with a good salary and a comfortable career path to start SIS-TECH in 1999. I paid myself half of what I was making and put every paycheck into a drawer for nearly 18 months. Did the same with the expense checks. By the end of 2001, all of the checks were out of the drawer, the company was growing, and our service offerings were expanding rapidly from process safety to design and implementation of SIS.

All of this started with quantitative verification of PFD_{avg} . My first job in instrumentation and controls was performing calculations on instrumented systems as a risk analyst. I was on-the-job trained and was definitely “schooled” by some of the best mentors in industry. Before any standard required calculations, I used PFD_{avg} and STR to show how changes to the SIS design could lower the predicted cost of ownership through reduced incident and spurious operation frequency.

By the time I started SIS-TECH, I found myself declared a subject matter expert and was publishing papers. I was nominated in 1999 as a US representative to the IEC 61508 and IEC 61511 committees and started traveling internationally for volunteer work. In 2000, I was named chair of ISA TR84.00.02, SIL Verification of SIS. All of this occurred while checks were going into my desk drawer and out of it.

This month I am proud to introduce a new column by Hui Jin, Ph.D., from NTNU, Norway, in reliability engineering. I met Hui through Mary Ann Lundteigen and Marvin Rausand, who were his major advisors for his degree. I served on Hui’s dissertation defense panel along with Dr. Anne Barros, formerly professor of reliability engineering at the University of Troyes, France, and now with NTNU. Hui’s dissertation is titled, “A contribution to reliability assessment of safety instrumented systems.” I am very pleased that Hui joined SIS-TECH as a Risk Analyst. Hui’s column focuses on SIL Solver tips and FAQs.

It has been a fruitful and much blessed 15 years. I have made many friends around the world who feel as strongly about process safety as I do. My dogs go to work with me everyday. The held checks and late nights editing industrial standards and writing papers landed me where I am today, president of something I am really proud of. A frequent refrain in my office hallway is that SIS-TECH is a family. I agree and welcome Hui as our newest member of the family.



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