



Professional Profile

Chris O'Brien, CFSE

Partner, Exida Consulting

Fields of Competence

Reliability Engineering
Failure Modes Effects and Diagnostic Analysis
Safety Integrity Level Selection
Safety Integrity Level Verification
Functional Safety Training
IEC 61508
IEC 61511
IEC 62061
ISO 13894
ISO 26262

Experience Summary

Chris O'Brien is a Partner with Exida Consulting. He has over 20 years experience in the design, manufacturing and marketing of process automation, reserve power systems, and safety related equipment. He focuses on supporting new and existing customers with their implementation of the IEC 61508 and IEC 61511 functional safety standards as well as reliability analysis for mechanical devices.

He was formerly Vice President of the Power Systems Business Unit of C&D Technologies, a business that specialized in the design and implementation of high reliability back up power systems. Prior to that, he was with Moore Products/Siemens Energy and Automation where he held several positions including General Manager of the Instrumentation Division.

Chris is the author of Final Elements and the IEC 61508 and IEC 61511 Functional Safety Standards and has been awarded 5 patents, including a patent of the industry's first safety rated pressure transmitter. He has a Bachelors of Mechanical Engineering from Villanova University.

Credentials

Bachelors of Mechanical Engineering, Villanova University, 1987

CFSE, Certified Functional Safety Expert, 2007

Key Assignments and Projects

Lead IEC 61511 Type Certification project for steam and gas turbines.

Performed SIL verification for batch pharmaceutical processes.

Performed HAZOP, SIL Selection, and SIL Verification for a chemical plant fume incinerator.

Performed Failure Modes Effects and Diagnostic Analysis on various valve designs.

Lead IEC 61508 Certification project for a dual core microcontroller.

Lead IEC 61508 Certification project for a smart pressure transmitter.

Training instructor for various exida training courses.

Teaching

IEC 61508 Course
IEC 61511 Course

Standards Committees

ISA Safety Division - Director

Recent Publications/Presentations

Final Elements and the IEC 61511 and IEC 61508 Safety Standards, 2009, exida, Sellersville, PA 18960

High-integrity Overflow Protection, InTech, 2009

Accurate Modeling of Shared Components in High Reliability Applications, RAMS, 2010, Co-author: Dr. Julia Bukowski