Registration for the 2015 Technical Forum and Annual Meeting of the Members is officially open! Changes have been made to this year’s schedule and more training sessions and meetings have been added that will provide attendees with additional learning and networking opportunities. Please visit our website (www.A2LA.org) for details on the event, including dates, meeting and training descriptions, lodging, meals, transportation, and more. You may register for the event through the “Registration and Fees” button on the “Events” tab from our homepage or by following this link. We hope to see all of you there! Questions? Email: Forum@A2LA.org

A2LA is Moving

A2LA will be moving its offices in February 2015. Further information will be provided to our accredited and enrolled organizations, stakeholders and all interested parties as this date draws closer.
### Spring 2015 Training Schedule

#### Assessment of Laboratory Competence
- March 16-20, 2015-Baltimore, MD  
  ($1595.00 non-members, $1545.00 A2LA members)
- June 1-5, 2015-Frederick, MD  
  ($1595.00 non-members, $1545.00 A2LA members)  
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)

#### Internal Auditing
- March 30-31, 2015-Charleston, SC  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)
- April 23-24, 2015-Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)
- May 14-15, 2015-Minneapolis, MN  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)
- June 25-26, 2015-Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)

#### Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty
- February 23-24, 2015-San Antonio, TX  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)
- June 15-16, 2015 – Detroit/Livonia, MI  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)

#### ISO 15189:2012 and CLIA Clinical Laboratory Accreditation
- March 30-31, 2015-Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)
- March 19, 2015 – Baltimore, MD  
  ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 A2LA members)

#### ISO Guide 34:2009 and Accreditation for Reference Material Producers
- April 27-28, 2015-Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)

#### ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and Laboratory Accreditation
- February 25-27, 2015-San Antonio, TX  
  ($995.00 non-members, $945.00 A2LA members)
- March 18-19, 2015-Baltimore, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (Please note that this is a 2-day version of the course.)
- March 30-31, 2015-Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (Please note that this is a 2-day version of the course. This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)
- April 13-14, 2015-Boulder, CO  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (Please note that this is a 2-day version of the course.)
- May 6-7, 2015-Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (Please note that this is a 2-day version of the course. This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)
- June 17-19, 2015-Detroit/Livonia, MI  
  ($995.00 non-members, $945.00 A2LA members)

#### ISO/IEC 17025: 2005 Advanced: Beyond the Basics
- March 19, 2015 – Frederick, MD  
  ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 A2LA members)

#### Measurement Performance Improvement Using Statistical Tools
- May 14-15, 2015 – Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)

#### Measurement Uncertainty Advanced Topics
- April 20-21, 2015 – Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)

#### Measurement Uncertainty for Testing Labs
- March 25-26, 2015 – Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)
- May 12-13, 2015 – Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)

#### Proficiency Testing: ISO/IEC 17043 and ISO 13528
- April 29-30, 2015-Frederick, MD  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)  
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)

*Continued on page 3*
General Notices & Press Releases

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Spring 2015 Training Schedule

Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action
- April 1, 2015 – Frederick, MD
  ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 A2LA members)
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)
- April 15, 2015 – Boulder, CO
  ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 A2LA members)
- May 8, 2015 – Frederick, MD
  ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 A2LA members)
  (This course is held at A2LA Headquarters. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)

Venues:
The Westin Riverwalk, San Antonio
420 W Market Street
San Antonio, TX 78205
(210) 224-6500
Rate: $199.00 per night (room rate cut-off: January 30, 2015)

Baltimore Marriott Inner Harbor
110 S Eutaw Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
(410) 962-0202
Rate: $129.00 per night (room rate cut-off: February 15, 2015)

- March 30-31, 2015 (Internal Auditing)
The Mills House
115 Meeting Street
Charleston, SC 29401
(800) 874-9600
Rate: $199.00 per night (room rate cut-off: February 27, 2015)

- April 13-15, 2015 (ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and Laboratory Accreditation (2-day); Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action)
Boulder Marriott
2660 Canyon Blvd.
Boulder, CO 80302
(303) 448-6632
Rate: $199.00 per night (room rate cut-off: March 5, 2015)

- May 14-15, 2015 (Internal Auditing)
Millennium Hotel Minneapolis
1313 Nicollet Mall
Minneapolis, MN 55403-2697
(612) 332-6000
Rate: $159.00 per night (room rate cut-off: April 21, 2015)

Detroit Marriott Livonia
17100 North Laurel Drive
Livonia, MI 28152
(734) 462-3100
Rate: $129.00 per night (room rate cut-off: May 22, 2015)

For additional information, please contact Julie Collins, A2LA Training Manager, at 301 644 3235 or jcollins@A2LA.org.

A2LA will be exhibiting at the 2015 Measurement Science Conference being held at the Disneyland Hotel in Anaheim, CA from March 18-20, 2015. Ashly Carter, A2LA Senior Accreditation Officer, will be conducting a half-day tutorial on Root Cause Analysis and Peter Unger, A2LA President/CEO, will be conducting a full-day tutorial on Traceability and Uncertainty Policies of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). Mr. Unger is also one of the keynote speakers for the event. We encourage you to come out and see us! Registration information may be found at http://msc-conf.com/registration/. For questions, please contact Pam Wright, A2LA Calibration Accreditation Manager, at pwright@A2LA.org.
2015 NCSLI Technical Exchange Scheduled

The NCSLI Technical Exchange will be held February 11-12, 2015 at the Raleigh Marriott Crabtree Valley Hotel in Raleigh, North Carolina.

A2LA is pleased to announce that three of our trainers will be presenting workshops:

- For the third time, Ken Sloneker’s day-long workshop, Thermocouple Theory and Practical Application, will be on the agenda. This workshop has been filled to capacity in previous years.
- For the first time, Tom Wiandt’s day-long workshop, Temperature Measurement/ Temperature Metrology and Thermometer Calibration, will be on the agenda.
- A2LA Program Manager, Rob Knake, will also conduct a two-day workshop on ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratory Accreditation.

To learn more about the Technical Exchange and registration CLICK HERE.

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To learn more about the Technical Exchange and registration CLICK HERE.

January 13, 2015:
Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty
This 2-hour webinar will cover:
- Measurement Uncertainty definitions
- Why Measurement Uncertainty is required.
- Measurement Uncertainty and ISO 17025/ANSI Z540.3
- Minimum Measurement Uncertainty contributors
- Simplified process for determining Measurement Uncertainty.
- Measurement Uncertainty references.
Registration URL: [https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/480321690806670338](https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/480321690806670338)
Training ID: 963-069-580
$299.00 per attendee. A2LA Member rate: $279.00 per attendee. Volume discount for attendees available.
Contact: [info@wptraining.com](mailto:info@wptraining.com) for more information.

January 15, 2015:
Practical Methods for Reporting Measurement Uncertainty on a Calibration Report per ILAC P14 Guidelines
This 2-hour webinar will cover:
- Understanding ILAC P14 requirements.
- Metrological traceability.
- Measurement Uncertainty contributors.
- Reporting a customer’s Measurement Uncertainty.
- Test Uncertainty Ratio (TUR) and compliance statements.
- Helpful spreadsheet techniques.
Registration URL: [https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/1417928359023923458](https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/1417928359023923458)
Training ID: 335-152-876
$299.00 per attendee. A2LA Member rate: $279.00 per attendee. Volume discount for attendees available.
Contact: [info@wptraining.com](mailto:info@wptraining.com) for more information.

January 20, 2015:
Measurement Uncertainty for Testing Laboratories
This 2-hour webinar will cover:
- Determining sample size.
- Determining repeatability and reproducibility.
- Type A and B uncertainty classifications.
- Combining uncertainties.
- Assigning k-factor and t-distribution.
- Reporting in an uncertainty budget.
Registration URL: [https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5018620032780746498](https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/5018620032780746498)
Training ID: 382-600-492
$299.00 per attendee. A2LA Member rate: $279.00 per attendee. Volume discount for attendees available.
Contact: [info@wptraining.com](mailto:info@wptraining.com) for more information.

January 22, 2015:
Purchasing Requirements for ISO 17025
This 2-hour webinar will cover:
- ISO/IEC 17025, Section 4.4, 4.5, 4.6 and 5.10 requirements pertaining to purchasing.
- Purchasing review for technical content.
- Approved supplier list.
- Criteria for approval.
- Review of purchased items.
- Sub-contracting requirements.
- Records requirements.
Registration URL: [https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/6738338681994921730](https://attendee.gototraining.com/r/6738338681994921730)
Training ID: 953-484-780
$299.00 per attendee. A2LA Member rate: $279.00 per attendee. Volume discount for attendees available.
Contact: [info@wptraining.com](mailto:info@wptraining.com) for more information.

A2LA Discount Code is: WINA2LA15
New & Updated Documents

By Lisa Wrona, A2LA Quality Assurance Assistant

The following documents have been updated within the controlled A2LA management system. All of these documents are available on the A2LA website (www.A2LA.org) through the “Search” tool or on your customized “CAB Portal” (as appropriate) unless otherwise indicated.

- **G108 - Guidelines for Estimating Uncertainty for Microbiological Counting Methods** was revised on September 3, 2014.
- **R311a - Transition Memorandum for FedRAMP 3PAO Recognized to ISO/IEC 17020:1998** was made obsolete on September 8, 2014.
- **P111 - Technical Consensus Decisions from the Electro-Mechanical Advisory Committee (EMAC)** was revised on September 9, 2014.
- **C210 - Specific Checklist: Construction Materials Testing Laboratory Accreditation Program** was revised on September 4, 2014.
- **R307 - General Requirements: Accreditation of ISO/IEC 17065 Product Certification Bodies** was revised on September 5, 2014.
- **P107 – Policy on Transferring Accreditation** was revised on October 21, 2014.
- **R105 - Requirements When Making Reference to A2LA Accredited Status** was revised on October 30, 2014.
- **C104 - General Checklist: Requirements When Making Reference to A2LA Accredited Status** was revised October 30, 2014.
- **C309 - General Checklist: ISO/IEC 17065 Product Certification Body Accreditation Program** was revised on September 19, 2014.
- **G117 – Guidance on Scopes of Accreditation for Testing Laboratories Registered with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)** was revised on October 7, 2014.
- **R311c – Transition Memorandum Listing of Recognized 3PAO Transition Dates** was revised on August 29, 2014.

If you have any questions about these updates, please contact A2LA at 301 644 3248 or your Accreditation Officer directly. ✪

A2LA Staff Changes

By Diana Elias, A2LA Director of Human Resources

A2LA is pleased to welcome Ms. Amber Martinez as a new staff member. Ms. Martinez is working as an Accreditation Officer within the materials testing team. Amber has a B.S in Animal and Avian Sciences, with a concentration in Biotechnology, from the University of Maryland, College Park. Prior to joining A2LA, Amber has worked as an administrative assistant at ThermoFisher Scientific located in Frederick, MD. She also has several years of experience working in veterinary care services.

We welcome Amber to the growing A2LA family! ✪
A2LA Welcomes New Approved Lead Assessors

By Trace McInturff, A2LA Director of Accreditation Services

Since the previous issue of A2LA Today, the following individuals have achieved the status of “Staff Approved Lead Assessor” and have begun performing assessments for A2LA:

- **Mr. Warren Udy – 8/12/2014** – Mr. Udy resides in Logandale, NV and has an extensive background in physical and personnel security along with an extensive background in cybersecurity. He has over 30 years of leadership, program management, and technical management experience in operating and managing large, diversified organizations in Information Technology, Counterintelligence, and Cybersecurity environments. He spent 20 years in the U.S. Army as a Counterintelligence Officer, and successfully commanded/managed a large counterintelligence field office with resident offices that supported a major intelligence command. Mr. Udy will be assigned to assessments under the FedRAMP Inspection Body program.

- **Ms. Vanessa Cook – 8/27/2014** – Ms. Cook resides in Springdale, AR and has a Bachelor’s Degree in Biology from Sonoma State University in northern California. She began her career with Tyson Foods, Inc. in the Laboratory Services Division and gained experience working in both Food Chemistry and Microbiology departments at both technician and management levels. Ms. Cook will be assigned to assessments in the Biological and Chemical (food) fields of testing.

- **Mr. Karthik Balasubramanian – 9/29/2014** – Mr. Balasubramanian resides in Vienna, VA, holds both a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in Computer Science and has over 23 years of experience in the IT industry. He has held various jobs covering a broad range of domains including consulting, cybersecurity, cloud computing, systems integration, and software/database design and development in various platforms and industries. Mr. Balasubramanian will be assigned to assessments under the FedRAMP Inspection Body program.

- **Ms. Patrice Siravo – 10/23/2014** – Ms. Siravo resides in Monument, CO, has a Bachelor of Science in Astronautical Engineering from the US Air Force Academy, a Master of Science in Systems Engineering, and currently holds the CISSP credential. She has over 20 years of experience in multiple fields, including Information Assurance, Cloud Security, Systems Engineering, Acquisition Program Management, and Software Requirements Development. Ms. Siravo will be assigned to assessments under the FedRAMP Inspection Body program.

- **Mr. Siu Lin Fung – 11/4/2014** – Mr. Fung resides in Natick, MA, has a Post Graduate Diploma in medical laboratory sciences and management certificate, and has over 16 years of supervisory experience in a clinical laboratory, reporting to the administrative and medical directors of laboratories. Mr. Fung will be assigned to assessments in the ISO 15189 clinical laboratory field of testing.

*We welcome these individuals to the A2LA assessor corps!*
An Accredited Organization’s Perspective:

**IQ Laboratories**

This column presents the unique perspective of one of our accredited organizations and how accreditation and implementation of ISO standards have benefitted them. All accredited organizations are invited to submit their responses to the five standard questions posed below to our newsletter editor for consideration (submissions should be sent to: Teresa Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality & Communications, at tbarnett@A2LA.org.) In each issue of A2LA Today, we will present the responses submitted by one organization. This issue presents those submitted by IQ Laboratories, Inc. in Shanghai, China.

**Why did your organization seek accreditation from A2LA?**

For our lab, IQ Laboratories (IQL) located in Shanghai, China, we were looking to get approval from CTIA (a trade organization for cellular telephones) to become an authorized test lab (CATL) in order to be able to perform testing and certification services based on IEEE 1725 and IEEE 1625. In order to do that, we needed to get ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation.

We contacted several organizations to make this happen. A2LA was by far the easiest to work with and the most responsive of all. They provided concise direction and instruction on what exactly we needed to do to become ISO/IEC 17025 accredited and they were available throughout the process when we had questions or concerns. They really helped us get prepared...and we ultimately passed the audits necessary for accreditation.

**How did the process of implementing an ISO standard bring to light areas for improvement that have made you a better organization?**

We had challenges when it came to thorough record keeping. Once we decided to pursue ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation through A2LA, they sent us clear guidelines as to what makes a laboratory ISO/IEC 17025 compliant – and what we needed to do to help ensure that we have the correct record keeping process and procedures in place. Our record keeping process has improved 10-fold based on the guidance A2LA has given us.

**What benefits has your organization seen as a result of your A2LA accreditation?**

- Grow our battery pack business via new projects within our existing customer base.
- Win new business based on our increased strengths and capabilities from an accreditation perspective.

**How has A2LA accreditation improved your marketability? How has your business changed for the better since gaining accreditation?**

We have been able to increase our marketability by:
- Strengthening our credibility and positioning around testing and certification capabilities.
- Strengthening our thought leadership in the area of testing and certification.
- Gaining more to talk about out in the marketplace.
- Gaining a competitive advantage.

**About IQ Laboratories:**

IQL, a wholly owned subsidiary of Palladium Energy, is a top-notch global testing and certification lab located in Shanghai, China. IQL combines over three decades of technology expertise with innovative and flexible engineering, testing and qualification capabilities to meet any power challenge.

- ♥
A2LA Staff Spotlight:  
Kelsey Roberts, A2LA Marketing Coordinator

By Teresa C. Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality & Communications

Kelsey has a Bachelor degree in Business Management and a Masters of Business Administration, both from Hood College and both with a concentration in Marketing – a subject she became hooked on after her very first business course in college. Reading the HBR article “Marketing Myopia” in her Introduction to Marketing class piqued her interest and she never looked back!

She began her career with A2LA in 2012 as an intern in A2LA’s newly-formed marketing department. She had been working toward her MBA at Hood College in Frederick, MD when one of her professors and mentors approached her about an internship with A2LA. She interviewed for the position the next day and started with A2LA two weeks later. After her work as an intern, A2LA asked her to join as a full-time employee to continue growing the Association’s marketing efforts. She always knew that she wanted to work for a non-profit organization and her work at A2LA has given her a new respect for the integral, behind-the-scenes work that is done by the Association to promote quality throughout numerous industries.

As Marketing Coordinator for A2LA, Kelsey is responsible for coordinating responses to government and private sector requests for proposals and maintaining the resulting contracts. She also manages the advertising efforts for A2LA’s established business programs, which also includes coordinating placement of articles written by A2LA staff into industry publications. In addition, she works on Association press releases, the A2LA Annual Report, market research, social media and other miscellaneous marketing efforts.

“I love the culture at A2LA”, she says, “and being able to interact with the exceptional employees on a daily basis. Working on the marketing and communications group allows me the opportunity to collaborate with a diverse group of individuals from across the organization.”

Kelsey is also extremely active in her community. Prior to joining A2LA, she held numerous internships where she performed various marketing duties, including with the Downtown Frederick Partnership and Hood College. She worked part-time to kick-start a local Frederick non-profit, assisting them with promotions, advertising, event planning and volunteer coordination. She is currently very involved with the local non-profit, Celebrate Frederick, whose purpose is to offer a shared cultural experience in Frederick, MD through the planning and implementation of numerous events. Frederick natives know them for their popular events such as In the Street and Frederick’s 4th of July Celebration.

Kelsey also sits on several of their committees, including the Volunteering Committee, whose purpose is to recruit and coordinate the volunteer base. She chairs the Summer Concert Series Committee, which plans and coordinates an outdoor concert series on Sunday nights in Frederick’s Baker Park. At the moment, she is busy preparing for their five Holiday events that will be held throughout December.

“Kelsey has been a joy to work with. She has been very helpful to me in understanding social media and she has frequently identified and implemented initiatives in the best interests of the Association.”

- Terence C. Barnett, Director of Quality & Communications

“Kelsey is an absolute pleasure to work with! She is one of those rare individuals with utterly contagious enthusiasm, genuine excitement about her job, willingness to join any work group or committee, and the knowledge to contribute meaningfully to the Association. She is a true asset to the Marketing & Communications Team.”

- Karin Athanas, Forensics Program Manager

“Kelsey brings a high level of energy, commitment and skill to each task we’ve performed together and she is a pleasure to work with. Her fresh and new ideas have breathed new life into our marketing efforts and have had a sustaining impact on how A2LA does business.”

- Peter Unger, President/CEO

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Kelsey grew up in Gaithersburg, MD with her parents and two sisters. She moved to the Frederick area permanently in 2007 and currently lives in Jefferson, MD with her husband, Jordan, who was an active duty Marine for 5 years (2007-2012), serving as an Osprey Mechanic and spending most of 2010 on a deployment to Afghanistan.

She has coached high school girls’ lacrosse at St. John’s Catholic Prep for the past three years and will be transitioning to coaching a youth recreational team.

“I am very excited to be able to introduce young kids to a sport that I have loved for so long,” she says. “I played lacrosse in high school and for four years at Hood College.”

Kelsey calls herself a “total animal person”. She has always had cats as pets, saying, “truthfully, they’re my favorite!”, and has volunteered extensively with a no-kill rescue in Frederick called “Friends for Life Cat Rescue”, from which she adopted her orange tabby twin brothers, Fred and George, and a dilute torbie, Tuna. On her free time, she loves to stay active, hiking, biking and running. In the Spring and Summer months, she also enjoys helping her mother tend her 2500 square foot garden and trying new recipes with the abundant produce.

“Kelsey has been a great addition to A2LA. She has injected a lot of fresh ideas and energy into the Marketing Department and everyone in Accreditation Services enjoys working with her. I am very excited to see what else she has in store as far as marketing A2LA.”

– Trace McInturf, Director of Accreditation Services

On October 23, 2014, the Eastern Pennsylvania NCSLI section meetings were reinstituted. A2LA’s Phil Smith, Public Affairs Director, worked with Marcus McNeely, NCSLI NE Regional Director, to find a host and presenters for the meeting. Ed Philips, Metrology Supervisor, and Eva Pellow, Metrology Manager, from Laboratory Testing Inc.’s Calibration Laboratory volunteered to host the meeting at their facility.

The meeting featured:

- Scott Mimbs, NASA Metrology Program Manager (Retired), who presented Metrology and the Consequences of Bad Measurement Decisions;
- Greg Strouse, Physical Measurement Laboratory, Sensor Science Division Leader, NIST, who presented Who Needs Calibrations Anyway?; and
- Joshua Biggar, Fluke Metrologist, who presented An Uncertainty Analysis of Fluke Calibration Fused-Quartz Bourdon Tube Pressure Products.

Plans are already underway for Spring 2015 meetings in Eastern Pennsylvania and Long Island, New York. Laboratory Testing Inc. (LTI) is an independent, A2LA-accredited testing and metrology laboratory in business since 1984 near Philadelphia, PA. LTI provides materials testing (mechanical testing, chemical analysis, and metallography), nondestructive testing, dimensional inspection, and calibration services. Their specialty is metals testing and the analysis of powdered metals, ores, ferroalloys, composites, and ceramics. Test specimens are machined on-site and failure analysis investigations are conducted to determine the root cause of material failures. The calibration lab provides NIST-traceable calibration services for dimensional, pressure, force, torque, electrical, temperature, mass and vacuum measuring instruments, on-site calibration services, new instruments, and replacement parts. LTI has a 91,500-square-foot facility which allows for efficient and safe processing of large-volume orders and large materials.
A2LA signs MOU with the GCC Accreditation Center

By Peter Unger, A2LA President/CEO

A2LA and the Gulf Cooperation Center (GCC) Accreditation Center (GAC) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to provide a framework for cooperation for different sectors of accreditation. The areas of cooperation include:

- Assessment and joint accreditation of conformity assessment bodies applying for accreditation or already accredited by A2LA or GAC;
- Attendance at seminars and training courses organized by the other party;
- Arrangement for conformity assessment bodies’ participation in proficiency testing programs organized by the other party;
- Exchange of experience and technical information on accreditation; and
- Introduction of experts to each other, according to each’s needs and subject to the availability of experts.

The MOU was signed in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on November 17, 2014 with the participation of: His Excellence Mr. Nabil A. Molla, General Director, GCC Accreditation Center (GAC); Mr. Brahim Houla, Conformity Assessment Senior Specialist at GAC; Mr. Erik Hunt, Deputy Counselor and Commercial Attaché at the United States Embassy in Riyadh; Mr. Steve Garrett, International Trade Specialist Office of the Middle East; and Ms. Sylvana Ricciarini, Director of Government and Global Affairs at A2LA.

Unger Re-elected as Chair of ILAC

By Teresa C. Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality & Communications

A2LA President and CEO, Peter Unger, was re-elected for a third and final two-year term as Chair of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). Mr. Unger has relished the opportunity to serve ILAC.

“The vision of ILAC, ‘Accredited once accepted everywhere,’ fits the A2LA vision and mission very well,” asserts Mr. Unger. “ILAC currently recognizes 87 accreditation bodies around the world under its Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). Countries providing over 95% of the global GDP now have at least one internationally recognized accreditation body. Work continues to have recognition arrangements for all regions of the world. I am very pleased to be part of this progression.”

A number of ILAC meetings took place in Vancouver, BC in October.

ILAC General Assembly: The ILAC GA has adopted a strategic plan for 2015-2020. A significant resolution passed to launch the proficiency testing provider (PTP) accreditation MRA. The reference material producer (RMP) resolution did not pass, even though 71% of the economies voted in favor. The existing Executive Committee was re-elected, with the exception of Arne Lund of SWEDAC, who was replaced by Lal Elan of UKAS as the Inspection Committee Chair.

Continued on page 11
ILAC Arrangement Council: APLAC’s re-evaluation and continued recognition was reapproved. For EA, several activities for the current re-evaluation have already been completed and the remaining activities are scheduled to be completed by April 2015. A2LA Vice President & COO, Roxanne Robinson, is the team leader. For IAAC, the final report on the re-evaluation is currently being reviewed by a Joint IAF/ILAC report review task force. The decision-making step will be completed via electronic ballot in November/December 2014. The following unaffiliated bodies are in various stages of initial evaluation or re-evaluation:

- KCA, Kyrgyz Republic
- NCA, Kazakhstan
- SANAS, South Africa
- DAC, United Arab Emirates
- EGAC, Egypt
- KENAS, Kenya
- SADCAS, Botswana
- ENAO, Ethiopia

ILAC Marketing and Communication Committee (MCC)/IAF Communication and Marketing Committee (CMC) Joint Meeting: The first segment of the meeting was devoted to IAF matters, including promotion documents, use of the IAF logo, IAF news/bulletins, IAF website, IAF strategic plan and the CMC work plan. The joint segment covered a review of the WTO TBT Public Forum event attended by 60 trade officials and interested parties, a review of the draft joint WAD statement, draft brochure, branding options, and the feasibility of a supporting video. Supporting materials published recently included the energy brochure, the route to signing the Arrangements, a welcome handbook, social media guidance and Specifying accreditation (Annex B - Communicating with Regulators). Internal communications focused on the file sharing system, joint IAF/ILAC/ISO/IIQC public sector efforts and use of social media. The last segment covered MCC-only topics, including possible new brochures for traceability and calibration, PTP and RMP accreditation. Five existing brochures were reviewed for proposed changes. The MCC accepted the three templates (accreditation one-page informational document, comment letter and thank you letter) for responding to proposed regulations that were developed by A2LA Director of Government & Global Affairs, Sylvana Ricciarini. Other matters included the new website developments, good news stories (mostly USA-based and related to use of the MRA), ILAC News readership statistics, and the MCC activities proposed under the revised ILAC Strategic Plan.

ILAC Accreditation Issues Committee (AIC): The one day AIC meeting that coincides with the ILAC/IAF conference consisted of reports from the twelve (12) Working Groups, ILAC liaisons, the ILAC regions, and the other various ILAC committees. The highest profile discussion revolved around the letters provided by both APLAC and IAAC requesting that ILAC halt their work on converting ILAC-G17:2002 – Introducing the Concept of Uncertainty of Measurement in Testing in Association with the Application of the Standard ISO/IEC 17025 into a P-series document, something that had been heavily discussed in the previous AIC meeting in Oslo in March 2014. The AIC concluded that work on the revision of G17 will be placed on hold pending the outcome of the revision of ISO/IEC 17025.

In the meantime, the WG will work with the ILAC MCC to establish some educational and promotional ‘good examples’ literature, looking at what has been achieved in the past 10 years and looking to collect examples of where Measurement Uncertainty in Testing has been successfully applied in real life applications (e.g. lifesaving, money saving, etc.).

The AIC is also going to be very active following the work of CASCO WG 44 in the rewrite of ISO/IEC 17025. Two active members of the AIC have been identified as co-conveners, Mr. Warren Merkel and Mr. Steve Sidney, and a number of AIC members have been nominated by their economies’ standards writing bodies and will serve on the WG, one of which is A2LA Director of Accreditation Services, Mr. Trace McInturff.
Season’s Greetings!

May your holiday season be filled with cheer and celebration for the New Year.

Best Wishes from A2LA.