A2LA Achieves CMS Deemed Status for Accreditation of Laboratories to CLIA Requirements

By Larnell Simpson, A2LA Director of Medical/Marketing Affairs

After an in-depth, three-year application process, the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is proud to announce that the Association has been granted “Deemed Status” by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to accredit laboratories worldwide to the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA) requirements. With this announcement, A2LA now carries validation and approval of their Clinical Laboratory Accreditation Program by both CMS and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), creating the most comprehensive validation of quality and competence offered to clinical laboratories worldwide. A2LA’s clinical accreditation program inherently complements our commitment to quality, integrity and technical competence, as an addition to the currently offered accreditation services in eighteen program areas.

With this achievement, A2LA becomes the only U.S. accreditation body with dual recognitions in the clinical testing arena: Recognition by ILAC (www.ILAC.org) for the accreditation of clinical laboratories to ISO 15189:2012 and recognition by CMS for the accreditation of clinical laboratories to the CLIA requirements. A2LA is also the first new CLIA Accrediting Organization to be recognized by CMS since 1995.

Applicant clinical laboratories now have the opportunity to implement A2LA’s “Platinum Choice” option that allows a clinical laboratory not only to fully meet CLIA requirements but also to gain accreditation to ISO 15189 with one assessment, using one team of assessors. The “Platinum Choice” option provides domestic recognition for accreditation to the CLIA requirements as well as international recognition of the clinical laboratory’s testing competence and quality via ISO 15189 accreditation. The CLIA and ISO 15189:2012 requirements work together to enhance overall quality and ensure patient health and welfare.

A2LA’s international experience with ISO standards makes this offering beneficial for international laboratories seeking CLIA accreditation. These laboratories may now seek accreditation to CLIA requirements and to the international standards used in their respective countries to bring their quality and standardization processes under the management of one Accrediting Organization.

“We have done the research, we have done the work and we have created a cost structure that makes our accreditation program competitive with existing Accrediting Organizations and now we are poised to deliver a new, more comprehensive approach to the clinical laboratory community,” states Larnell Simpson, A2LA Director of Medical/Marketing Affairs.

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By Larnell Simpson, A2LA Director of Medical/Marketing Affairs

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is proud to announce the release of our newly redesigned website. After months of preparation and dedication by our entire team, we are pleased to invite you to visit our new website, which was launched on March 10, 2014. As always, it may be reached at www.A2LA.org.

The site's homepage was redesigned to welcome visitors with a bold, clean look and feel, with more direct access points to the most relevant materials that benefit our users. In addition, each page of the newly designed website contains program-specific contact information, links to program-specific documents and quick access buttons that assist visitors in obtaining access to the most frequently used documents in each section.

The new website was designed to enhance the experience of four unique visitors: EXISTING CUSTOMERS, POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS, INFORMATION SEEKERS AND REGULATORS/SPECIFIERS. By moving to a more client-centric layout, we provide visitors with the ability to access program-specific information easily, as opposed to sifting through large amounts of material to acquire what is of particular interest to them.

POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS and INFORMATION SEEKERS will find easily accessible, detailed information and documents needed to apply for initial accreditation or to find organizations currently accredited by A2LA. Once an application is submitted, EXISTING CUSTOMERS will find customized, specific materials within their own dedicated and secure CAB Portal related to their particular, accreditation-related activities.

REGULATORS AND SPECIFIERS will enjoy information pertaining to the domestic and international recognitions held by A2LA as well as documents and information designed to address the needs of industry-specific programs.

Our newly revamped training page provides access to a wide variety of on-site and public training information and course descriptions as well as the ability to register for upcoming classes.

The new website will also more prominently feature announcements, recent news events and program launches to allow interested parties or those who wish to add to their existing scopes of accreditation an immediate notification of these opportunities.

A2LA takes great pride in our customer service and we consider our website to be an extension of our commitment to service and accreditation. We welcome any feedback that you may have and if you have any questions or experience any problems using the new website, please contact us at marketing@A2LA.org.

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Direct program specific access

Mark Your Calendar!
A2LA 2014 Technical Forum & Annual Meeting
April 4-6, 2014

A2LA recognized to accredit Forensic Labs in Texas

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Recent news and program announcements
A2LA Recognized under U.S. FedRAMP

By Samantha Dizor-Carter, A2LA Senior Accreditation Officer

The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is proud to announce that it has been recognized by the Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP) to accredit Third Party Assessment Organizations (3PAOs) for the FedRAMP program. A2LA began accepting applications from 3PAOs in December 2013.

FedRAMP is a U.S. government-wide program that provides a standardized approach to security assessment, authorization and continuous monitoring for cloud-based products and services.

Under the FedRAMP Security Assessment Framework, 3PAOs will now be required to be assessed by A2LA in order to be accredited by the FedRAMP Project Management Office (PMO). Through the use of technical experts as assessors, the A2LA assessment process involves a rigorous evaluation of technical competence of the 3PAOs, as well as an assessment of their compliance to the general requirements of ISO/IEC 17020 – Requirements for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection. 3PAOs that are already recognized under the FedRAMP program will also be required to be assessed by A2LA in order to maintain their current accreditation through FedRAMP.

A2LA has developed a training class for 3PAOs that covers the requirements outlined in ISO/IEC 17020 and the additional requirements of the FedRAMP program. The first class was offered in November 2013 and additional classes will be offered throughout 2014 for all prospective applicants.

For additional information regarding the A2LA FedRAMP accreditation program, please visit the A2LA FedRAMP program webpage (http://www.a2la.org/FedRAMP) or contact Samantha Dizor Carter at 301 644 3220 or sdizor@A2LA.org.

A2LA Approved by FBI National DNA Index System

By Karin Athanas, A2LA Program Manager

On January 13, 2014, the National DNA Index System (NDIS) Procedures Board approved the designation of the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) as an accrediting agency under the United States Federal DNA Identification Act (42 U.S.C. §14132).

As a designated agency, A2LA, through its Forensic Accreditation Program, is now recognized to accredit:

- Laboratories performing DNA analyses on DNA samples obtained from identified subject(s) for the purposes of entering the resulting DNA profile or DNA record into a DNA database; and
- Laboratories performing DNA analyses on known or casework reference samples considered evidence by that laboratory.

In addition, A2LA is approved to perform biennial external audits to the FBI Quality Assurance Standards (QAS) in accordance with FBI QAS, Section 15.2 which requires that, at least every two years, an external audit be performed.

The Federal DNA Identification Act of 1994 establishes a national index of DNA information and specifies the types of data that may be maintained on the system and requirements for participating laboratories. This national system is referred to as the National DNA Index System (NDIS) and is overseen by the NDIS Procedures Board.

The NDIS contains DNA profiles contributed by all 50 United States, the District of Columbia, the federal government, the US Army Criminal Investigation Laboratory, and Puerto Rico. Laboratories that wish to participate in the NDIS must meet the requirements of the Quality Assurance Standards issued by the FBI Director and be accredited by an accrediting body that has been determined to meet the following three criteria:

1. Non-profit status.
2. Professional association of persons actively involved in forensic sciences.
3. Nationally recognized within the forensic field.

Following a lengthy review process, which included a review of the A2LA forensic accreditation program management structure, accreditation requirements and assessment performance, A2LA has been found by the NDIS Procedures Board to have met the requirements of an accrediting body in accordance with the Federal DNA Identification Act and is now formally approved.
Spring 2014 Training Schedule

**Title:** Fundamentals of Force Calibration (in partnership with Morehouse Instrument Co.)  
- June 18, 2014—York, PA ($500.00 flat fee) (This course is held at Morehouse Instrument Co. Please contact A2LA if you need recommendations for hotel accommodations.)

**Title:** Internal Auditing  
- May 12-13, 2014—Columbus, OH  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty  
- June 16-17, 2014—Chicago, IL  
  ($795.00 non-members, $745.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** ISO/IEC 17020:2012 and Inspection Body Accreditation for Forensic Facilities  
- May 19-20, 2014—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.)

**Title:** ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and Laboratory Accreditation for Forensic Organizations  
- May 21-22, 2014—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.)

**Title:** ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and Laboratory Accreditation  
- June 18-20, 2014—Chicago, IL  
  ($995.00 non-members, $945.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action  
- April 16, 2014—Livonia, MI  
  ($495.00 non-members, $445.00 A2LA members)

**Title:** ISO/IEC 17020:2012 and FedRAMP  
- May 15-16, 2014—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.)

**Venues:**

**April 16, 2014—Detroit Livonia, MI**  
(ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and Laboratory Accreditation, Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Action)  
Marriott Detroit Livonia  
17100 Laurel Park Drive North  
Livonia, MI 48152  
(734) 462-3100  
Rate: $129.00 per night  
(room rate cut-off: March 24, 2014)

**May 12-13, 2014—Columbus, OH**  
(Internal Auditing)  
Hilton Columbus at Easton  
3900 Chagrin Drive  
Columbus, OH 43219  
(614) 414 5000  
Rate: $189.00 per night  
(room rate cut-off: April 11, 2014)

**June 16-20, 2014—Chicago, IL**  
(Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty, ISO/IEC 17025:2005 and Laboratory Accreditation)  
Chicago Marriott O’Hare  
8535 West Higgins Road  
Chicago, IL 60631  
(773) 693-4444  
Rate: $164.00 per night  
(room rate cut-off: May 25, 2014)

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

April 1, 2014:
Introduction to Measurement Uncertainty

This 2-hour web event will cover:
- Measurement uncertainty definitions;
- Why measurement uncertainty is required;
- Measurement uncertainty and ISO/IEC 17025/ANSI Z540.3;
- Minimum measurement uncertainty contributors;
- Simplified process for determining measurement uncertainty;
- Measurement uncertainty references.

Registration URL: https://student.gototraining.com/r/1865664880964624128

$299.00 per attendee. A2LA Member rate: $279.00 per attendee. Volume discount for attendees available.

Contact: info@wptraining.com for more information.

April 22, 2014:
Measurement Uncertainty for Testing Laboratories

This 2-hour web event will cover:
- Determining sample size;
- Determining repeatability and reproducibility;
- Type A and B uncertainty classification;
- Combining uncertainties;
- Assigning k-factor and t-distribution;
- Reporting in an uncertainty budget.

Registration URL: https://student.gototraining.com/r/3820818656499184640

$299.00 per attendee. A2LA Member rate: $279.00 per attendee. Volume discount for attendees available.

Contact: info@wptraining.com for more information.

May 13, 2014:
Practical Methods for Reporting Measurement Uncertainty on a Calibration Report per ILAC P14 Guidelines

This 2-hour web event will cover:
- Understanding ILAC P14 requirements;
- Metrological traceability;
- Measurement uncertainty contributors;
- Reporting customer’s measurement uncertainty;
- Test Uncertainty Ratio (TUR) and compliance statements;
- Helpful spreadsheet techniques.

Registration URL: https://student.gototraining.com/r/2470649163915852032

$299.00 per attendee. A2LA Member rate: $279.00 per attendee. Volume discount for attendees available.

Contact: info@wptraining.com for more information.

May 15, 2014:
Purchasing Requirements for ISO/IEC 17025

This 2-hour web event 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://student.gototraining.com/r/7672118717040497408

$299.00 per attendee. A2LA Member rate: $279.00 per attendee. Volume discount for attendees available.

Contact: info@wptraining.com for more information.

A2LA Discount Code is: A2LASPRNG14
New A2LA Board Members for 2014

By Teresa C. Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

A2LA’s membership has voted in three new members of the A2LA Board of Directors: Shahriar Amiri, Bradley Goskowicz and Eric Rieders. In addition, William Kogler has been appointed as Treasurer.

Shahriar Amiri is currently Chief Building Official & Inspection Services Director, Arlington County Government, Virginia. He directs and manages the operation of the county’s Building Department with responsibilities ranging from new construction design review, inspection and approval to Community Code Enforcement and Care of Premise initiatives dealing with the care and maintenance of existing buildings. He engages in many public speaking sessions with national and local associations such as the International Municipality Attorney’s Association, Virginia State Bar Association, and Arlington Economic Development Authority, dealing with public policy and technical issues. Mr. Amiri is an executive-level public manager with over 26 years of demonstrated success in the building and construction industry. He is substantively involved at the local, state, and national levels addressing safety standards, codes, federal mandates, and policies affecting environments and accessibility. He has served as a member of the board of directors on many not-for-profit organizations in the building industry and has received state and national honors. Mr. Amiri is the past President of the Maryland Building Officials Association, and International Code Council’s Mid-Atlantic Region (Region VII). At the National level, he has served on many committees for the International Codes Council (ICC) and has earned the Presidential Service Award. He was a key member on the Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines Federal Review Advisory Committee between 1994 and 1996, receiving the Vice-Presidential Hammer Award. Mr. Amiri holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland. Additional educational and professional development includes: Executive Program in State and Local Government (2004) from Harvard University and Montgomery County Executive Leadership Program (2000) from Johns Hopkins University.

Bradley Goskowicz is Chief Executive Officer for Microbiologics, St. Cloud, MN. He is responsible for the leadership and management of an equity-owned company with 100+ employees at Microbiologics and its subsidiary, Gibson Bioscience, in Lexington, KY. Mr. Goskowicz is a senior medical device executive with more than twenty years of outstanding performance in international positions of increasing responsibility. He has a proven track record of improving profits by increasing sales, extending market penetration, developing new therapies, directing pre-market approval clinical trials and developing reimbursement strategies. He is experienced in mergers, acquisition integration, building departments and teams and has a strong understanding of operational issues and experience in developing cost and manufacturing strategies to improve margins and increase profits in the markets of food safety, pharma and clinical. Mr. Goskowicz received the Cornerstone Award as top executive in 2012 by Granite Equity Partners. Mr. Goskowicz holds a Bachelor of Science, Medical Technology, with a minor in Chemistry from Marquette University, Milwaukee, WI. He was also Class President, School of Medical Technology, 1977, and Distinguished Alumnus of the Year, College of Health Sciences 2011.

Eric Rieders is President and Chief Executive Officer of National Medical Services, now known as NMS Labs. He is focused on ensuring that the company has the resources to continue to deliver the highest quality of services through a sustained period of growth. Dr. Rieders earned a doctorate in mathematics from Syracuse University and a BS in chemistry and mathematics from Ripon College (Ripon, WI). He is also a Board member of the Fredric Rieders Family Renaissance Foundation, which is a non-profit foundation providing educational, training and research opportunities focused primarily on the forensic sciences. Dr. Rieders is an adjunct Professor of Forensic Science at Arcadia University located in Cheltenham, PA.

William Kogler is the CEO of EJW Enterprises, Inc., where he is responsible for all P&L, operations, management, leadership and governance of the multi-million dollar education services company. As CEO, he has increased profits by more than 30%, has redesigned their financial and procurement systems, reduced risk through a modified insurance structure, designed and implemented a marketing communications plan and initiated a health benefits program for all full-time employees. Mr. Kogler also gained extensive experience with program management, human resource management, communications, policy development, external affairs, government affairs, procurement and information systems management during his time as the Senior Advisor/Acting Administrator with the U.S. Rural Business Service. He has a Bachelor of Arts from UCLA and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Minnesota. Mr. Kogler was in a private practice law firm from 1995-1996, where he specialized in civil litigation involving employment, contract and insurance claims.

A2LA welcomes Mr. Amiri, Mr. Goskowicz, Dr. Rieders and Mr. Kogler to the A2LA Board of Directors and we look forward to their valuable input and participation. ♦
By Teresa C. Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

Since the last issue of A2LA Today, A2LA has welcomed Takeisha Farmer, Peter Kelly and Jordan Acton to our staff as Accreditation Officers.

Takeisha has a B.S. in Health, Physical Education and Recreation from Tennessee State University and an M.S. in Anatomy and Cell Biology from Indiana University School of Medicine. Prior to joining A2LA, Takeisha was an EHS Regulatory Analyst Contractor for RegNet Environmental Services in Washington D.C., a Senior Research Associate at Meharry Medical College in Nashville, TN, a Laboratory Technician at Wishard Memorial Hospital in Indianapolis, IN, a validation scientist at Covance Central Laboratories Services in Indianapolis, IN, a validation scientist at Roche Diagnostics in Indianapolis, IN and an Associate Scientist at ABC Laboratories in Columbia, MO. She has also co-authored several publications and presented on topics in her areas of expertise.

Peter has a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Technology from Penn State University (Wilkes-Barre) and a B.S. in Mathematics from Shippensburg University. Before joining A2LA, he was an electrical engineer with Fellenzer Engineering LLP in Middletown, NY.

Jordan has a B.A. in Mathematics from Hood College in Frederick, MD. Prior to joining A2LA, he was a student intern and teaching assistant at Hood College.

We welcome Takeisha, Peter and Jordan to the growing A2LA family!

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 unless otherwise indicated.

- **R311 – Specific Requirements: Federal Risk and Authorization Management Program (FedRAMP)** is a new document, dated November 8, 2013. There are also three transition memoranda (R311a, R311b, R311c) associated with the implementation of this requirements document.
- **P103 – Policy on Estimating Measurement Uncertainty for Testing Laboratories** was updated on December 6, 2013.
- **R101 – General Requirements: Accreditation of ISO/IEC 17025 Laboratories** was updated on December 6, 2013.
- **C315 – Specific Checklist: TNI SSAS Provider Accreditation Program** was updated on December 13, 2013.
- **C316 – General Checklist: ISO/IEC 17043 Proficiency Testing Provider Accreditation Program** was updated on December 13, 2013.
- **I106 – Available Proficiency Testing Programs** was updated on January 16, 2014.
- **P605 – A2LA Metrological Traceability Policy for Medical Laboratory Testing** was updated on February 20, 2014.
- **C620 – General Checklist: A2LA Metrological Traceability and Measurement Uncertainty for Medical Laboratory Testing** is a new document, dated February 20, 2014.
- The following checklists were made obsolete on January 7, 2014:
  - **C219 – Specific Checklist: Combined ISO/IEC 17025 and DoD Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program Requirements**
  - **C220 – Specific Checklist: Demonstration of Capability with NELAC Appendix C and DoD Gray Box Requirements**
  - **C221 – Specific Checklist – Current DoD QSM Gray Box requirements**
  - **C222 – Specific Checklist: NELAC Appendix D and DoD Gray Box Requirements**

If you have any questions about these updates, please contact A2LA at 301 644 3248 or your Accreditation Officer directly.
A2LA Welcomes New 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 Assessors’ and have begun performing assessments for A2LA:

- **Laura Torchin** – 10/29/2013 – Laura resides in Woodland, CA, has a Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences from UC Davis and has over 20 years of experience in the fields of analytical chemistry, molecular biology, microbiology and biochemistry. Ms. Torchin will be assigned to assessments in the Biological and Chemical (Food, Veterinary) fields of testing.

- **Edward Edelson** – 11/12/2013 – Ed resides in Monroe, NJ, is a Ph.D. Organic Chemist and is a quality, petrochemical and environmental professional with extensive experience in lab management, quality management, and analytical/organic chemistry in the petroleum, lubricants, and environmental fields. Mr. Edelson will be assigned to assessments in the Chemical and Environmental (Petroleum, Fluids, Coal) fields of testing.

- **David Zimmerman** – 11/12/2013 – David resides in Eagan, MN, has a degree in Instrumentation Technology from St. Cloud Technical and Community College, is a NARTE Certified EMC Engineer, writes EMC test procedures and reports, and provides training and consultation for EMC laboratory management, EMC measurements, mitigation, and testing oversight. Mr. Zimmerman will be assigned to assessments in the Electrical (EMC, Telecom, and Product Safety) field of testing.

- **Ronald Ryniewicz** – 12/6/2013 – Ron resides in Harrison Twp, MI, has an Engineering Degree in Special Machine Design from Macomb College, and has 35+ years of experience in automotive product testing and development in vibration, servo-hydraulic, thermal, life cycle durability, drivetrain durability, automotive interior, exterior and other mechanical, electrical, electronic, quality and safety facets of product design and testing. Mr. Ryniewicz will be assigned to assessments in the Mechanical (Automotive, Consumer Product Safety, Environmental Simulation, Furniture, Plastic, Rubber, Textiles) field of testing.

- **Megan McConnell** – 2/7/2014 – Megan is an Accreditation Officer at A2LA in the Electrical Group and has been with A2LA since June 2012. Megan currently is handling CABs in the Acoustics & Vibration, Electrical, Mechanical, and Thermal fields of testing as well as the field of Calibration and Product Certification. Ms. McConnell will serve as a management system assessor on assessments and as a staff evaluator on assessor oversights.

- **Andrew Bohan** – 2/10/2014 - Andrew is an Accreditation Officer at A2LA in the Product Certification and Materials Testing Group and has been with A2LA since June 2012. Andrew currently is handling laboratories in the Acoustics & Vibration, Chemical, and Mechanical fields of testing in the Automotive and Aerospace arenas. Mr. Bohan will serve as a management system assessor on assessments and as a staff evaluator on assessor oversights.

- **Jessica Davis** – 2/25/2014 – Jessica resides in Colorado Springs, CO, has a Bachelor’s Degree in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Akron, and her technical expertise includes mechanical testing of polymers, metals, medical devices, implant testing and MRI testing. Ms. Davis will be assigned to assessments in the Mechanical (metals, plastics, orthopedic implant) field of testing.

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

MET 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, 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 MET Laboratories.

Why did your organization seek accreditation from A2LA?
A2LA is the leading accreditor among the North American ILAC signatories. A2LA has extremely fast response time and is very organized. A2LA adds value to our organization because of the strong reputation that A2LA has.

How did the process of implementing an ISO standard bring to light areas for improvement that have made you a better organization?
It tightened up our training program, improved validation procedures we perform in-house, and drove us to better communicate with clients about the work they want done. It’s improved our staff, measurements, and outreach with clients.

What benefits has your organization seen as a result of your A2LA accreditation?
We can expand and modify our scope quickly to jump into new areas like ENERGY STAR testing and certification, as well as when we round out our existing portfolio of mechanical and electrical testing services.

How has A2LA accreditation improved your marketability? How has your business changed for the better since gaining accreditation?
A2LA is synonymous with ISO/IEC 17025 accreditation and is clearly the market leader. Our clients want to know if we are “A2LA-approved”. It has obviously benefited our marketability in North America and abroad. Our relationship gives a lot of confidence to our clients.

About MET Laboratories:
MET Laboratories was found in 1959. Accredited services offered include:
- Product safety testing and certification for a wide scope of standards (product categories);
- Energy efficiency testing and certification for ENERGY STAR and certification for NRCan;
- Telecom testing for ETSI and NEBS;
- Fiber optic testing to GR and MIL standards;
- EMC testing and certification for FCC and Industry Canada;
- EMC and environmental simulation testing for military, wireless, automotive and commercial aircraft equipment.

A2LA-accredited services are offered in Baltimore, MD; Austin, TX; and Santa Clara, CA. MET also has operations in China, Taiwan, Korea and Italy (not A2LA-accredited). ♣
Staff Spotlight:

Adam Gouker
A2LA Accreditation Manager

By Teresa C. Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

Adam began his career with A2LA in February 2006 as a Laboratory Services Officer on the Materials Testing team. He came to the Association fresh out of college, where he earned a Bachelor’s Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Pittsburgh at Johnstown. In his early years with A2LA he worked primarily with mechanical and chemical testing labs and assumed the role of recording secretary for the Materials Testing Advisory Committee (MTAC) from 2007 – 2009. During that time he also represented A2LA on ASTM Committees E28 and F16, and served as the initial lead person for A2LA’s accreditations related to the CPSC’s Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008.

“I can always count on Adam to give me insightful advice. His diplomatic skills in addressing delicate issues are outstanding.” - Peter Unger, A2LA President/CEO

Adam was promoted to the position of Senior Accreditation Officer in late 2008, and shortly thereafter transitioned to working extensively with electrical testing labs in order to fill a role left vacant by the departure of another staff member. Although there was a steep learning curve in this new field he plunged head-on into comprehending the complex regulatory requirements facing A2LA’s electrical testing labs, concentrating particularly on the areas of EMC testing and certification. In due time, Adam came to understand the nuances in requirements between different regulators around the world as related to EMC testing and certification of electronic products. In 2009 he became A2LA’s EMC Program Manager, and, since that time, has worked extensively with the FCC and NIST to maintain A2LA’s status as a recognized accreditor of EMC test labs and certification bodies to domestic and international regulatory requirements. He currently serves as the main point of contact at A2LA for these agencies and is responsible for key activities related to the Association’s FCC and NIST/NVCASE recognition. In other roles, Adam currently represents A2LA domestically as the Chair of Sub-Committee 6 on Conformity Assessment within the ANSI ASC C63 Committee, is an executive committee member of ACIL’s Conformity Assessment Section, and is a member of the Smart Grid Interoperability Panel. Internationally, he also represents A2LA through APLAC as the liaison to the APEC TEL MRA Task Force, and is an approved APLAC peer evaluator.

“I have been impressed with Adam, starting with the interview process and talking with his references who detailed his work ethic back in his high school days. Everything we have thrown at him throughout his career at A2LA he has taken ownership of and has enhanced beyond what was previously established. He has truly become the name and face of A2LA for those programs and/or areas for which he is responsible. As APLAC Technical Committee Chair I was very pleased to be able to nominate Adam as the APLAC liaison to the APEC TEL MRA Task Force, which has allowed him to achieve an international presence in the EMC/Telecom arena. A2LA is truly fortunate to have him.” - Trace McInturff, A2LA Director of Accreditation Services

Most recently, following a period of continued growth at A2LA, it became necessary to create a new team within Accreditation Services in January 2014. Based on his experience, skills, and devotion to mentoring of other A2LA staff members over the years, Adam was named as the Accreditation Manager for A2LA’s new Electrical team, and is now responsible for oversee-
Updates on A2LA

Continued from page 11

ing a group of six Accreditation Officers. Adam is looking forward to his new responsibilities and the challenges that lie ahead. Although he will continue to stay involved in some of his domestic and international obligations, Adam also looks forward to mentoring other staff members to take on new roles that will assist him in these areas.

“I’m always impressed with how responsive Adam is, especially considering his current workload, and with how he maintains his composure and steady demeanor even when the pressure is on.” - Randy Querry, A2LA Accreditation Manager

On a Personal Note…

Adam currently resides in Hanover, PA with his wife, Alisha, whom he married just a few short years ago in September 2011. The couple enjoys travelling and vacationing together anywhere with a warm beach and cold drinks. Adam’s hobbies include outdoor activities such as hunting, fishing, and summer softball; although much of his time will soon be consumed by the new addition to their family – a baby girl (Ava), expected in early May of this year.

Trainer Spotlight:
Ken Stoub

By Julie Collins, A2LA Training & Membership Manager, and Teresa C. Barnett, A2LA Director of Quality

Mr. Ken Stoub has a long and illustrious history with A2LA. Serving as a trainer within the A2LA training program is just one facet of his contributions to the Association and one which we highlight in this issue of A2LA Today.

The first accreditation training class that Ken himself took was in May 1995. It was called The Assessment of Laboratory Quality Systems and it was an intense 5-day certified class covering both ISO/IEC Guide 25 and ISO 9001, led by Ivan Waples of NATA and Peter Unger and Nancy Foncannon of A2LA. His participation in and successful completion of this course prompted an invitation from A2LA for him to start presenting these training classes on behalf of A2LA.

Shortly thereafter in 1996, he began team-teaching that same 5-day class with Ivan Waples. Together they taught this class twice per year until Mr. Waples retired in 1999.

In May 1996, Ken traveled to Hanoi, Vietnam to take the Trainers of Laboratory Assessors Course put on by Ivan Waples and Alison Lord of NATA. This course provided him with excellent insight into the concepts of establishing clear training objectives and building training classes to meet those objectives.

When ISO/IEC 17025:1999 was published, Ken worked with Daren Valentine of A2LA to create a new 5-day class that was entitled Assessment of Laboratory Competence. This class has been offered at least six times each year since then – at both public and on-site training venues – and it is still the class that all new A2LA assessors are expected to take and pass before being contracted to perform assessments for A2LA.

With the publication of ISO/IEC 17025:2005, additional classes were developed (1-day, 2-day and 2½-day versions) and presented both as public and on-site courses.

Courses on Environmental Chemistry (2001), Food Chemistry (2001), Food Microbiology (2001) and Environmental Lead (Pb) (2003) were also developed and presented by Ken.

In 2010 Ken developed a new training class on Root Cause Analysis and Corrective Actions which was, typically, presented alongside the ISO/IEC 17025:2005 classes.

It is estimated that Ken has presented over 600 training classes over the years – through A2LA and through his own company, Group Seven Laboratory Services.

Ken has been an invaluable resource during his time with A2LA and we sincerely thank him for his contributions toward the growth of our training program.
From February 26 – March 8, 2014, A2LA underwent a peer evaluation by representatives from the Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC) and the Inter-American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) for the purpose of confirming A2LA’s signatory status within the APLAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA) (for the accreditation of testing and calibration labs, medical labs, inspection bodies and reference material producers) and the IAAC Multi-Lateral Arrangement (MLA) (for the accreditation of testing and calibration labs, inspection bodies and product certification bodies). The evaluation also served to confirm the recommendation of A2LA as a full signatory to the APLAC MRA for the accreditation of proficiency testing providers once this MRA is extended to include proficiency testing provider accreditation.

Representatives from CNAS-China, NATA-Australia, IANZ-New Zealand, INN-Chile and SCC-Canada served on the evaluation team during the intensive 1.5 week evaluation process. A2LA’s records, staff, policies, procedures and on-site assessment practices were examined in detail. All of this resulted in no non-conformities cited against the ISO/IEC 17011 requirements or the ILAC/APLAC/IAAC rules and policies. In their draft summary report, the team called particular attention to A2LA’s skilled staff and excellent foundation of accreditation experience. The team also stated in their draft summary report that they were impressed with the caliber of A2LA staff, the evident professional culture within the organization, A2LA’s good communication with stakeholders and the focus on client service.

In addition to the team itself, representatives from several government agencies were in attendance to observe the evaluation in order to bolster their confidence in the MRA process overall.

Due to unexpected weather issues and other extenuating circumstances, a small part of the peer evaluation will take place in the coming weeks to complete the entire process. In the meantime, A2LA is preparing their response to the evaluation team’s four items of concern and several recommendations and suggestions, which are always welcomed by A2LA in the spirit of continual improvement.

A2LA extends its thanks and appreciation to the evaluation team for the thoroughness of their review and to the government agency representatives in attendance for taking such an important interest in this process.