

# American Association for Laboratory Accreditation

## PRESS RELEASE

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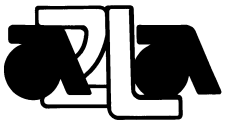
### A2LA Adds Information Technology Testing to its fields of Accreditation

Frederick, Maryland, June 15, 2007 – The American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) is proud to announce the addition of the Information Technology (IT) field of testing to its already broad range of accreditation activities. Applications for accreditation are now being accepted.

“Prior to the addition of this program, the only domestic, internationally recognized accreditation that was offered specifically for the IT field was narrowly focused on encryption,” said Peter Unger, President of A2LA. “A2LA’s addition of the Information Technology field of testing provides the IT industry with a new and viable way to determine the technical competence of laboratories that test any aspect of a hardware and or software within electronic equipment, not just the encryption functions.”

Unlike a physical test item, this “virtual” test item is defined as any aspect of a hardware and/or software environment that is under test. This testing can be physical, logical, virtual, or analytical. All laboratories seeking accreditation with A2LA for Information Technology (IT) testing must meet the general requirements of ISO/IEC 17025: 2005.

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In addition, they must also meet the requirements documented in the *A2LA SPECIFIC CRITERIA FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF VARIOUS TYPES OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY TESTING LABORATORIES*. This document describes additional accreditation requirements specifically applicable to laboratories performing testing related to information technology.

Explained Unger, “Computers have revolutionized our world and are now integrated into virtually every aspect of our professional and private lives. We need to have confidence that the computerized systems we use function as they should, and that they don’t **cause** security or interoperability **problems**.”

The program requirements apply to a broad range of technical areas including software conformance testing, computer security (including testing for malicious code), network testing technology, mathematical & computational science testing, software program testing, communication & protocol testing and systems conformance testing.

A2LA is a nonprofit, non-governmental, public service, membership society that will be celebrating its thirtieth year in 2008. Its mission is to provide comprehensive accreditation services for testing and calibration laboratories, inspection bodies, proficiency testing providers, reference material producers, and product certification bodies. Services are available to any applicant whether they are private or government, and regardless of their size. A2LA is the largest multi-discipline accreditation body in the United States, and is internationally recognized.

A2LA welcomes applications for the accreditation of all types of laboratories. The addition of the IT field of testing at A2LA will provide IT laboratories with an additional level of recognition of the excellent service provided to their customers.

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