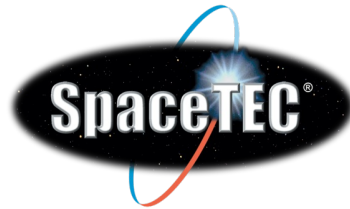


SpaceTEC Partners, Inc.



SpaceTEC Talk December 2017

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A Message from the Executive Director...

Greetings Colleagues.

It's been quite some time since we've published our SpaceTEC Talk newsletter and it's time we catch you up. In the past several months we've experienced poignant transition and significant challenges, but we've emerged with a fresh perspective and a sharpened resolve to provide the very best in performance-based credentialing and related support services. In this edition of SpaceTEC Talk, we'll share some interesting developments and offer a glimpse of where we are and where we're headed.

As the year winds to a close, I'd like to express sincere appreciation to all those who have had such an important role in shaping our future. As our NSF support sunsets, a special thanks to the SPI Board of Directors for their exceptional leadership charting our path forward, to our outstanding National Visiting Committee for their continued guidance and support, and to the education and industry partners who continue to support our programs by offering our products as added value to their students and employees.

A special thanks as well to the dedicated staff here at HQ who've created world class products and an effective business process, our team of Regional Coordinators, our subject matter experts, contractors, the all-important advisory boards and certification subcommittees, longtime and more recent venture partners and all the individuals who advocate on our behalf behind the scenes

Joe Dudek,

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Steven Mason,

[Denmark Technical College](#)

Luis Meza,

[Dona Ana C.C.](#)

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Amy Kienast,

[MIAT College of Technology](#)

Jon Beck,

[North Idaho College](#)

Kassie Silvas,

[Northland Community and Technical College](#)

Tonia Loria,

all across the country. We are exceptionally fortunate to have such an incredible array of capable individuals in our corner.

In the formidable work of credentialing and skills validation we continue to reinforce our credibility through our international accreditation and FAA relationships, both with AST and the FAASTeam. It's a simple value proposition, technicians proving they have the knowledge and skill necessary to maintain sophisticated high-value hardware, confirmed by our world-class processes, thereby demonstrating to prospective employers *"What They Know and What They Can Do."*

New partnerships, compelling new credentials and a fresh approach to supplying employers with validated talent are on tap in the coming months. So, as we close out 2017 we look forward with anticipation and excitement to the coming year. It's been our privilege serving you with products and services we've worked vigorously to validate and refine.

Warmest wishes from everyone at SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. for a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

- Steve.

Meeting Activities of Note

Questionmark Users Conference, Santa Fe, NM

SPI Executive Director, Steve Kane and Certification Manager, Carolyn Parise traveled to Santa Fe, NM in March where they presented how the Questionmark Assessment Management System can be used to run practical exams as well as knowledge assessments. In the well-attended presentation, it was shown how to control test equipment by inserting HTML coding within the Questionmark software. The presentation also featured a demonstration on how questions could be configured to communicate with electronic test equipment.

Aerospace Maintenance Competition, Orlando, FL

In April, SpaceTEC sponsored the Propellant Transfer event for the third consecutive year at the Aerospace Maintenance Competition (AMC). The AMC is held in conjunction with MRO Americas, the

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[South Seattle C.C.](#)

Mickey Shriver,

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largest maintenance, repair and overhaul event in the world. The AMC brings together teams of competitors from AMT schools, the military, MROs, airline operators and package delivery services, who participate in 14 timed events, each testing their technical abilities and knowledge of the aviation maintenance craft. In its sponsorship of the event, SPI offers certification vouchers for Certified Aerospace Technician Core to the top school team in its event. Past recipients have been students from the Aviation Institute of Maintenance in Boston, MA and Salt Lake Community College, SLC, UT.

SAE G8 Committee Meeting, Dayton, OH

In May, Carolyn Parise traveled to Dayton, OH for the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) G8 Committee Meeting. Featured at the meeting was finalization of the AS7489 - Standard Requirements for Aerospace Organic Coatings Applicator Certification. Training meeting the standard is offered through Embry Riddle Aeronautical University's Office of Professional Education Aerospace Coatings Applicator Training & Certification program. SPI is working closely with ERAU and Subject Matter Expert, Matt Thomas to deliver a five-module Aerospace Coatings Applicator Specialist (ACAS) certification. The initial introductory exam is currently available to anyone who has completed the initial introductory training course.

Skills USA, Louisville, KY

Steve Kane traveled to Louisville in June to participate in the Skills USA tournament as a judge for the Nida Corporation/Electronics Technician Association - International electronics competition event. The two-day event featured an initial orientation followed by an all-day competition in which participants were scored in knowledge of electronics theory, troubleshooting, electrical harness fabrication and customer service.

ASTM Committee Meeting, Boston, MA

Also in June, Steve Kane and SPI National Education and Outreach Director, Clark Jermain, traveled to Boston, MA to join with ASTM's Business Development Director, Christine DeJong to address the ASTM International F46 Consensus Standards Committee. In the address, Christine and Clark briefed the committee on details of the ASTM/SPI partnership, SPI's history and what this means to the ASTM/NCATT Aircraft Electronics Technician (AET) program.

Gulfstream, Atlanta, GA

In July, representatives from Gulfstream International's Talent Acquisition team met with

SPI Executive Director Steve Kane, SPI Southeast Regional coordinator Al Hardy, Aircraft Technologies Group (ATG) President Jay Logie and ATG Business Development team member Ryan Geddes to discuss Gulfstream's long-term talent acquisition challenges. Key to the meeting was ATG's strategy for surge needs, or when immediate onboarding of talent to meet commitments becomes necessary and SPI's employee validation through performance-based certifications.

HI-TEC Conference, Salt Lake City, UT

Steve Kane and Carolyn Parise presented at the conference in July. They discussed how CertTEC has created a unique avionics technician certification for the aerospace and aviation industry using a robust assessment management system, Questionmark. Combining knowledge and practical tasks, the assessment allows for hands-on demonstration of knowledge and skills using SPI's proprietary electronic circuit card sets in conjunction with Nida Corporation part-task trainers. Questionmark's assessment software allows HTML coding to be used to create interactive buttons that allow test-takers to communicate with question banks through the testing platform.

Philip Morris USA Visit, SPI HQ

In August, SPI staff met with Kevin Gulliver, President of Nida Corporation and Anthony Kowalski, Maintenance Training Manager for Philip Morris USA to discuss SPI's CertTEC Basic Electricity and Electronics (BEE) certification program. Philip Morris, a division of Altria Corporation, currently uses Nida Corporation part-task trainers in its electronics training and is seeking a certification to further enhance its technical training program. Mr. Kowalski has purchased CertTEC BEE Card sets and plans to begin offering CertTEC certifications to interns and recent hires in the spring.

FAA Site Visit, SPI HQ

In June, representatives of FAA AST met at SPI HQ to perform an annual audit ensuring compliance with Safety Approval SA-11-003. Upon completion of the audit, it was noted that SPI's original application for a safety approval indicated annual reviews of certification questionbanks were performed. When SPI received ISO accreditation through the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) in 2011, the requirement was established at bi-annual reviews. FAA AST issued a finding of non-compliance with SA-11-003 based on conflicting requirements and requested clarification. SPI Executive Director, Steve Kane, sent a formal request to FAA AST to have the review interval changed to bi-annual to align with the ISO requirement and the request was approved. No additional concerns or issues were noted, and a statement of compliance with SA-11-003 was issued to SPI.

Cabin Crew DACUM, Las Vegas, NV

In October, Carolyn Parise traveled to Las Vegas to represent SPI at a Design A Curriculum (DACUM) Functional Job Analysis for Business Aviation Crew Members. The event was sponsored jointly by ASTM International and Flight Safety International. The job analysis was conducted by Mr. Jerry Lancio, President of Community College Consulting Group (CCCG) and certified DACUM facilitator, along with his partner and recorder Mr. Mark Schell. Representatives from corporate flight departments, the National Business Aviation Association, Flight Safety International and training providers participated in the

panel session. Following completion of the DACUM/JA, Mr. Mike Horan, Altria Client Services is leading an effort to develop certification question banks. Question development is expected to commence before year-end with certification development and piloting of the ASTM International certification anticipated in 2nd quarter 2018.

AEA Connect Conference, Kansas City, MO

Carolyn Parise also headed to Kansas City in October for the annual AEA Central Connect Conference. This conference is a two day event that personally connects general aviation industry professionals. Her main focus in attending the event was to administer ASTM/NCATT AET testing to interested parties. The free tests are offered by AEA to conference attendees.

AeroSkills Tournament, Space Coast Regional Airport, Titusville, FL

Also in October, SPI supported the Aircraft Technologies Group (ATG) AeroSkills tournament, held at the Valiant Air Command Museum in Titusville, FL. The regional aircraft sheet metal event attracted competitors from across the southeast, including as far away as Greenville, SC and Miami, FL. Local competitors included a team from Eau Gallie High School's Aircraft Assembly program in Melbourne, FL. Jay Logie, President of ATG served as Pit Boss for the competition, scoring projects and controlling the timing of the individual events. First Place (Top Gun) was a tie, with students from Greenville Technical College, Greenville, SC and Broward College in Ft. Lauderdale, FL turning in matching times and scores. The southeast region Top Guns are now eligible for an all expense paid trip to the finals, which will be held in Las Vegas, NV in Jan 2018. In this unusual twist, both competitors will compete in the Las Vegas event, where the top prize is a tool box and tools worth an estimated \$15,000. The tournaments are an opportunity to raise awareness and plant seeds, potentially attracting students to aircraft maintenance programs at colleges and trade schools. According to Jay, "The industry is growing rapidly - the future is bright. However, there is an issue of serious concern, the **Skills Gap Crisis**. Younger individuals are not being attracted to the trades in sufficient numbers to replace those techs retiring from the industry". Through open invitations to everyone, including grade schools and other potential students to attend and observe the contests, these tournaments can be a catalyst to stimulate much needed interest, leading to increased student enrollments and more technicians entering the industry.

Concord AeroTech, Concord, CA

Steve Kane traveled to Concord in November to present SPI Certified Testing Center and ASTM International Aircraft Electronics Technician Accredited Training Provider status to Rashid Yahya, President of Concord AeroTech. For 20 years before forming Concord AeroTech, Mr. Yahya was Training Director for contract Commercial Pilot programs for several Chinese airlines and managed Commercial Pilot training under contract for the Civil Aviation Flight University of China (CAFUC). Mr. Yahya has directed the training of more than 3,000 airline pilot candidates from China and around the world.

Concord will begin offering training related to CertTEC Basic Electricity and Electronics (BEE), CertTEC Advanced Electricity and Electronics (AEE), NCATT Aircraft Electronics Technician (AET) written, and CertTEC Aircraft Electronics Technician Practical Skills (AET practical) certifications in 2018. Concord AeroTech has furnished a letter of intent to the Flight Standards District Office in Oakland, CA Flight to initiate FAA Airframe and Powerplant training as well, and will be working with the European Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) to establish one of the world's first B2L Avionics Technician training and licensing programs.

Also while at Concord AeroTech, Steve Kane attended meetings with United Airlines Talent Acquisition and Maintenance Training to discuss the current shortage of skilled mechanics in the Bay Area, and the need for advanced training for United's Maintenance Trainers to better prepare the incumbent workforce to maintain Next Generation aircraft. A highlight of the meeting was an opportunity to tour United's San Francisco maintenance facility and discuss workforce issues with key leaders there.

ACTE Conference, Nashville, TN

Earlier this month, SPI National Education and Outreach Director, Clark Jermain and SPI Great Lakes Area Regional Coordinator, David Bates traveled to Nashville, TN to exhibit at the annual Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) Conference. The goal of their efforts at the conference was to put SPI certification products and programs in front of as many education decision makers as possible.

Certification News

New BEE and AEE Information

SpaceTEC Partners, Inc., in partnership with ETA-International (ETA-I), is finalizing a new Advanced Electricity and Electronics (AEE) certification for Electronics Technicians. Similar to, but more in-depth than CertTEC's popular Basic Electricity and Electronics (BEE) certification, the soon-to-be-released AEE will require a demonstration of both knowledge and practical skills. AEE computer-based knowledge exams will be administered by ETA-I while associated practical exams will be administered through CertTEC's Assessment Management System using Nida Corporation part-task trainers. As is the case with the CertTEC BEE, successful completion of the written and practical exams for each module will result in the associated CertTEC AEE certification.

What's significant - AEE versus BEE:

- AEE assessments contain the same major subject areas of DC, AC, Analog and Digital as found in BEE
- AEE Assessments involve a more complex set of circuits, measurements, and troubleshooting skills
- AEE is meant for individuals preparing to become Electronics Technicians or enrolled in programs with an in-depth study of electronics
- AEE competencies align with ETA-I's Certified Electronics Technician Associate (CETa) certification
- AEE practical assessments closely align with ETA-I's Electronic Modules EM1 through EM4
- Individuals who pass all four CertTEC AEE assessment exams may qualify for an ETA-I CETa certification rollover
- BEE assessment is meant for individuals in high school electronics courses, in military Advanced Individual Instruction (AIT) electronic courses, or in programs of study such as Industrial Electronic Maintenance, Industrial Automation, or Electromechanical programs

SPI/ASTM International Partnership

SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. (SPI) and ASTM International's formal partnership will jointly work to help certify aircraft maintenance technicians and other aerospace workers through a new memorandum of understanding. ASTM International is responsible for the development and management of more than 12,000 standards used internationally by governments, industries, and institutions. In 2014, ASTM International absorbed the aviation technician certification products that the National Center for Aerospace and Transportation (NCATT) developed with ATE project grants.

With the 2017 partnership between SPI and ASTM International, SPI became the administrator for all ASTM-NCATT written exams in addition to its other job-oriented knowledge and practical skill certification examinations. SPI also processes applications from schools and industry training providers for ASTM-NCATT Training Provider accreditation. To read the full press release, click [here](#).

ASTM NCATT Special Testing

Credential Testing Services, a division of SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. will be administering ASTM NCATT exams at next year's 61st Annual AEA International Convention & Trade Show at MGM Grand, Las Vegas in March 2018. Exams are free for AEA Convention Attendees, courtesy of the AEA Educational Foundation. To learn more about the convention, click [here](#).

ASTM NCATT Testing will also be available at the [National Business Aviation Association Maintenance Conference](#) in Albuquerque, NM in May 2018. There is a charge for testing at this conference.

ASTM International Aircraft Electronic Technician Standard

A new guide will help assess competencies of avionics professional who work with airplane technologies and who want to gain certification as Aircraft Electronics Technicians (AETs). This is the first standard released by ASTM International's young committee on aerospace personnel (F46). This standard (Guide for Aircraft Electronics Technician Personal Certification F3245-17) provides a basic approach for evaluating subject knowledge, task knowledge, and task performance...for full article click [here](#).

180 Skills Update

180 Skills is continuing to expand our Skills Course Catalog with the addition of several new Baseline and Technical Skill courses. They have just added new courses on Microsoft Excel, Time Management, Personal Branding, Career Building and over 35 new courses in Composites Manufacturing. Check out their website for the newest [Skills Course Catalog](#).

180 Skills also launched a pilot program in partnership with Newark, NJ Public Schools. They are delivering six of their Career Programs to two inner-city high schools in Newark. Students will have two years to complete two Career Programs. This initiative will give real career opportunities to several hundred disadvantaged students at Westside and Shabazz High Schools in Newark. SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. provides end-of-course testing and third-party credentialing for 180 Skills Career Programs.

Nida Corporation and SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. (SPI) to request the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) create an Advisory Circular for Avionics Technician experience, training, qualification, examination and certification.

A White Paper titled "Safer Skies Through Avionics Maintenance Training and Certification," has been developed by Nida Corporation and SPI seeking support from the Aviation Technical Education Committee (ATEC)...to read the full paper click [here](#).

SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. Standing all on It's Own

Over the past eight months there have been many significant changes at SpaceTEC HQ. In March we transitioned from a fully grant-funded National Science Foundation Resource Center into SpaceTEC Partners, Inc., a self-sustaining, 501c3 educational non-profit organization. We've created internal human resources and payroll processes with the help of an outside Professional Employer Organization (PEO), and as our team member Heather Kogut was

relocating to the FL Keys, she created a virtual office environment. Many of you have probably heard the new telephone recording on our VOIP phone system when you call HQ. Not only does this allow Heather to manage call traffic off-site, but it allows HQ staff to have greater flexibility while traveling. This has resulted in increased communication, greater workforce efficiencies and improved future expansion capabilities. Heather will also be assuming additional responsibilities as she transitions to her new role as SPI Business Manager.

Recertification Information

All SpaceTEC and CertTEC certifications have a three-year expiration as required by their ICAC accreditation. Recertification requirements are on a time scale and there are three methods to recertify. To find out more about CertTEC's recertification policy, click [here](#). For SpaceTEC, click [here](#).

For current SpaceTEC[®], CertTEC[®] and CTS product pricing, click [here](#).

To view locations SpaceTEC, CertTEC, and ASTM NCATT certifications are offered click [here](#).

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