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The National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) has made NCEE a certified assesment body under the APEC MRA. This allows testing results to be held valid in Korea and Taiwan. This will help clients reach these markets quicker and with less hassle.

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Johnson Gains iNARTE Engineer Status

NCEE Labs is proud to announce that Test Engineer Nic Johnson has just received iNARTE Certification in Electromagnetic Compatibility. iNARTE is an independent, nonprofit association which provides certification to qualifying individuals in the fields of Telecommunications, Unlicensed Wireless Systems Installation, Electromagnetic Compatibility/Interference, Electrostatic Discharge Control, and Product Safety. Certification by iNARTE is recognized by the FCC and other regulatory bodies and is a sign of superior knowledge and excellence in their field.

Johnson has gained much experience in EMC throughout his seven plus years with NCEE Labs, Nic earned bachelor's degrees in Electrical Engineering, Physics and Astronomy from the University of Nebraska - Lincoln. He is also a member of industry organizations such as the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers and the Telecommunications Certification Body Council. Having this level of expertise available is invaluable to NCEE and the clients they serve.

Nic Johnson gains certification in the EMC community

NCEE Helps Keep State Plows On The Road

Over the course of many years snow plows used by the Nebraska Department of Roads have become increasingly high-tech. Trucks are now loaded with many electronic controls and features that assist the operator in making the streets drivable during the winter months. These electronics provide the operator with data about what spots on each street need more material and which locations require less. This type of control and information lowers the cost of providing the service by saving money on material and allowing one truck to cover more area between trips back to the yard for more material, reducing down time.



NCEE can perform on-site testing. Please call 402.472.5880 with inquiries.

However, all of this technology was slowly but consistently causing the radios used in the truck, to communicate with each other and back to the dispatch, to have less and less range. This created many radio communication dead spots for the drivers. Radios that worked well in an old truck now did not have the same performance or ability to transmit the same distance.

On a 100 degree day this last summer, NCEE was assisting members of the Nebraska Department of Roads in examining snow plows to see if they could find the problem. Through a number of tests, and the help of the trained operators, it was determined that the communication radios were being degraded by RF noise being coupled to the DC power lines inside the truck.

NCEE provided these services to the State of Nebraska at a greatly reduced cost and is happy to be able to provide aid to the community. With winter in full force, these radios are sure to get plenty of use.

NCEE Labs Granted Acceptance for Korean and Taiwan Product Testing

The Nebraska Center for Excellence in Electronics is now one of the elite U.S. labs designated to help manufacturers reach the Taiwanese and Korean markets. NCEE just received Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) status from the APEC (Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation) member countries of Korea and Taiwan, now allowing NCEE testing results to be valid for products entering those markets.

NCEE's CAB designation brings additional international accessibility to its clients. Manufacturers looking to place products into markets overseas can greatly benefit by having their testing completed by CAB designated organizations. NCEE customers will be able to reach Korean and Taiwanese markets much faster, eliminating the lost revenue and costs associated with a delayed product launch.

This will also eliminate the need to have multiple labs providing testing to get products into various international markets.

A Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) is a government-to-government agreement that helps facilitate trade by promoting acceptance of test results of each country's assessment bodies. This MRA makes NCEE Labs a certified assessment body with organizations in Taiwan and Korea. This cooperation between governments helps foster the flow of information and adds transparency to testing procedures and product quality. Testing procedures often change frequently and managing them over a global scope can be a daunting task. Helping standardize these procedures and recognizing testing from certified assessment bodies alleviates this problem and creates many opportunities.

The Bureau of Standards, Metrology and Inspection (BSMI) is the key organization in Taiwan with the APEC MRA. BSMI is the authority responsible for standardization, metrology and product inspection for products manufactured in and entering Taiwan. In Korea, the Radio Research Agency's Certification Division takes care of various testing, registration and approval of wireless and information technology equipment. NCEE's test results are now recognized by both of these organizations.

If you have any questions or would like to see how this can aid your company please give us a call. NCEE engineers are more than happy to explore this opportunity with you.

NCEE Active in ACIL

As many of you are aware, NCEE has been an active member of the American Council of Independent Laboratories (ACIL) for several years.

ACIL membership grants NCEE a forum and voice at the same table as many other internationally known testing organizations. One of the areas of persistent discussion is the lack of enforcement of Mutual Recognition agreements by NIST. This greatly affects the ability of US manufacturers and laboratories in competing with overseas businesses by restricting markets and opportunities.

Of late, the area in which they are taking more interest is in the emerging requirements for new "Smartgrid" systems. NCEE's General Manager Doug Kramer is active in the area on two fronts, one in the review of the program requirements for testing labs and certification bodies and the second being the particular EMC requirements for products to be used in these systems.

If you have any questions regarding this or are developing products, please contact Doug for more information.

Energy Star marking can give you a leg up in the eyes of consumers

NEED MORE INFO?

For more information about our full suite of capabilities please visit our website, www.nceelabs.com, or call us at 402.472.5880. If you do not see a specific test listed please call to discuss it with us, we may be able to add it to our growing arsenal of capabilities!

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New Opportunities with Energy Star

The EPA's recent changes to its Energy Star Program require manufactures to obtain third party testing to use the Energy Star marking. NCEE is exploring the opportunity this has created by looking into testing requirements for potential Energy Star products and becoming an Energy Star testing laboratory.

There are many divisions of product classes ranging from battery chargers and data storage devices to dishwashers and vending machines. Each product class has its own set of testing specifications. As NCEE narrows what specifications it can and will meet, please contact us to discuss the possibility of making your product Energy Star compliant. Working together to build these capabilities will ensure that NCEE's services match your needs and will help them develop the areas that are in demand. Many consumers are looking to Energy Star certified products to save energy, money and to save the environment. NCEE is looking forward to helping manufacturers make an impact with the Energy Star Program.

Please call NCEE with questions and comments and check out the Energy Star website at www.energystar.gov.

New Terms and Conditions

As businesses grow and change so do their operating policies. Consequently, NCEE Labs has recently made changes to its Terms and Conditions. The updated terms and conditions can be found at the bottom of any new quote supplied by NCEE Labs. We encourage all customers to read these terms and conditions and contact us with any questions you may have. One notable change to review is the late payment fees section for payment after 45 days.

If you would like to visit NCEE to discuss new testing needs or if you would like to come out and see the facilities please give us a call to set up a time. NCEE personnel look forward to working with you and continuing a strong working relationship with your company. If you have any questions or comments about NCEE, the testing community or articles in this newsletter please give us a call.