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## **ETA International Launches New Commercial Audio Certification** *Expanding their list of Certifications by Meeting Another Industry Need*

GREENCASTLE, Ind. – Wherever you are, commercial audio is there! Many new offices, stores, restaurants, schools, warehouses or houses of worship, include audio systems. Yet sound contractors report great difficulty finding skilled commercial sound technicians.

To help fill this need, ETA has created a Commercial Audio Technician (CAT) Certification to ensure the quality of those who work or want to work in this field.

“Unlike data or fiber optics, where training and certification are routine, commercial audio contractors usually depend on a workforce which is largely untrained and uncertified” said Karl Eilers, chair of the ETA CAT development committee.

“This is not by choice; they simply cannot find skilled people. You can imagine the trouble this causes. When a job applicant presents an ETA CAT certification, the potential employer will know that this is a person who is not likely to make the basic, profit-draining mistakes that plague the commercial audio business. That’s the kind of employee every contractor is looking for,” Eilers continued.

The certification will reach key individuals who install and integrate permanently installed commercial audio systems. It will be of special interest to residential technicians who want to replace income lost to the housing slowdown, and electronic technicians in related fields who already work in commercial venues and want to add audio to their skill set. Special emphasis is placed on the 70V techniques commonly used in large, complex systems.

Interconnect and video contractors who now subcontract audio will be able to bring this work in-house by encouraging their technicians to earn a CAT certification.

“This commercial audio certification is a great addition to the ETA certification offerings”, said Teresa Maher, ETA International President.

“Everyone comes into contact with some form of these systems today and it is important to have qualified individuals installing them. Developing and releasing this certification is just one way for ETA to certify those working in the forefront of the electronics industry.”

The Commercial Audio Technician certification is a journeyman option and the fee is \$75. Individuals must take the Associate CET or all five Electronics Modules (AC, DC, Analog, Digital and Comprehensive).

About ETA International - Founded in 1978, the Electronics Technicians Association, International is a not-for-profit, professional association committed to providing accredited certifications that meet the industry standards. The association’s initiatives are to provide prominent certification programs of competency criteria and testing benchmarks that steer international electronics standards and provides renowned professional credentials. Today, ETA has issued over 100,000 technical certifications to individuals covering more than 840 businesses and 50 certification programs. The association is comprised of over 3,500 members, 700 Subject Matter Experts (SME’s) serving on various Industry Advisory Committees and 1,000 Exam/Certification Administrators (CA’s).

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