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PRESS RELEASE

ETA Meets Demand for Aerospace and Avionic Fiber Optics Training and Certifications

The aerospace and avionics fiber optics industry are highly dependent on the supply of trained personnel to install, operate and maintain emerging technologies. The rapid development of technology places great challenges on educators and employers to train and certify personnel in a timely way.

Greencastle, Nov. 4, 2014: The need for aerospace and avionic fiber optic training continues to increase as fiber optic systems are introduced onto military and commercial aircraft. A supply of trained and certified personnel to install, operate and maintain emerging fiber optics technologies is imperative to the aerospace and avionics fiber optics industries' abilities to meet their customers demand for bandwidth.

The rapid development of this technology is placing great challenges on educators and employers to train and certify personnel in a timely way. A cooperative effort between ETA International, SAE International, and ARINC has created a training and certification program that stays current with technology and meets these challenges.

Avionics box manufacturers are a main supplier of fiber optic technology. As their customers continue to demand more and more bandwidth, the avionics box manufacturers are finding that fiber optics is the only way to meet their demand.

The commercial air transportation industry typically requires that fiber optic systems meet the requirements of ARINC specifications. As avionics box manufacturers embrace fiber optic technology, they typically do not realize that their fiber optic fabricators, installers, technicians and quality assurance personnel need fiber optic training and certification to ensure

compliance with the requirements defined in the various ARINC Reports. That changes the first time a product fails inspection and is rejected by a customer.

Often, products are rejected for failing endface visual inspection as defined in ARINC Report 805. Endface inspection and cleaning is a well-defined low-tech process; however, it requires a skilled, properly trained and certified individual. While performing an inspection as defined in ARINC Report 805 is minor step in the manufacturing process of an avionics box, the financial impact associated with rework because of a poorly performed inspection is far from minor.

Military avionics box manufacturers are not immune from the same problems being experienced by commercial avionics box manufacturers. Military customers typically do not invoke ARINC fiber optic standards; rather, they invoke SAE International aerospace fiber optic standards.

Both SAE International and ARINC have developed extensive fiber optic training standards, which provide detailed knowledge and hands-on competencies. Successful completion of the knowledge and hands-on training detailed in these documents leads to certification. Third party certification independently recognizes that a person has been properly trained, evaluated, and tested. ETA International has been working with these organizations to create a certification infrastructure that aligns with the training standards they have developed.

An ETA International certification signifies that the holder has demonstrated professional proficiency and has the technical knowledge and hands-on skill to meet the requirements defined in ARP5602 or ARINC Report 807. Currently, ETA International is responding to a request from industry to develop an inspection and cleaning certification for an ARINC Report 805copp.

About ETA: Since 1978, ETA has issued over 150,000 professional certifications that are widely recognized and frequently used in worker job selection, hiring processes, pay increases and advancements and are often required as companies bid on contracts. ETA certifications are accredited through the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) and align with the ISO-17024 standard. ETA's certifications are personal and travel with the individual, regardless of employment or status change and measure competencies of persons, not products or vendors. www.eta-i.org

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