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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ETA International Launches the New Passive Intermodulation (PIM) Testing Certification

Greencastle, Indiana – May 17, 2011 - As the demand for cellular services increases, taking extra steps to reduce interference such as PIM has become more crucial. PIM is a form of interference where intermodulation mixing occurs within the confines of the transmission line and antenna network of a radio system. If the PIM is too high, the radio coverage can be seriously damaged. Due to the high RF levels generated by PIM equipment, RF safety and awareness are of great concern. The improper use of PIM test sets can cause serious injury to those in close proximity to the system and harmful interference to other radio frequencies in the vicinity of the test site. This is a serious issue for the wireless industry.

The problem with PIM test sets is the lack of qualified individuals to operate them. Electronics Technicians Association International (ETA), being a pioneer during the last 20 years in the wireless industry, has the solution. ETA is proud to announce the new Passive Intermodulation Module Testing certification which requires operators to successfully demonstrate that they possess the skills and knowledge to safely and effectively operate PIM test sets.

The ETA PIM certification assures site managers that quality antenna installation has taken place and meets the desired engineering and propagation standard for that site. The PIM test set operator knows how to use the testing equipment hardware, and can do so in a safe and harmless manner. Additionally, the ETA certified technician has a clear understanding of antenna theory and interference testing and will be positioned to help resolve site PIM issues, thus making it easier for the ETA certified technician to resolve these interference issues.

While wireless communications have become a vital part of life in the world, reduction of interference has so far been limited. The PIM test set has proven to be a major contributor in minimizing interference. Testing the antenna system during construction reduces the possibility of PIM. Experience has proven that antenna systems that cannot pass the PIM test will never have the range from that site that the engineers have designed that site to operate with.

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Possessing this knowledge has led most large cellular and LTE carriers to make PIM a required part of their testing. Moreover, as design engineers become more aware of the added value of this test, new construction requirements have begun specifying PIM testing as part of the site commissioning process. These proactive industry measures not only mean better frequency for cellular industries but higher demand for PIM test set operators!

The ETA PIM Testing certification exam is \$125. If you would like more information on this or any ETA certification please call 800.288.3824 or visit us online at www.etainternational.org.

ETA[®] International - Founded in 1978, the Electronics Technicians Association International is a not-for-profit, professional association promoting excellence in electronics technologies through certifications. The association's initiatives are to provide a prominent certification program of competency criteria and testing benchmarks that steer international electronic standards and renowned professional electronics credentials. Today, ETA has issued over 115,000 technical certifications covering more than 70 certification programs in a variety of electronics fields. The association consists of over 5,000 members, 625 Subject Matter Experts (SME's) serving on various Industry Advisory Committees and 1,010 Exam/Certification Administrators (CA's). (www.etainternational.org)

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