



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ETA International Launches NEW Photonics and Precision Optics Technician Certifications

Greencastle, Indiana – August 9, 2011 – Electronics Technicians Association, International (ETA) continues to be a leader in providing certifications for many of the world’s high-demand, technical occupations. The Photonics Technician and the Precision Optics Technician certifications are now available through the internationally recognized certification organization, ETA International. ETA is proud to announce the addition of the two new certifications to the vast list of ETA technical certifications. The two new certifications were developed by the Florida Photonics Cluster trade association in cooperation with a number of companies, educational institutions and individual photonics professionals.

“Several national employment surveys have indicated the potential for technician job growth in the area of optics and photonics.”¹ With this job growth will come the demand for skilled technicians and thus, education and training programs. ETA International is at the forefront of meeting this demand through partnerships with educational institutions, trade associations, professional societies, and with certification.

The ETA Photonics Technician certification is available at two levels; Operator and Specialist. Both certification levels require the traditional theory examination as well as a hands-on skills component. The Specialist level certification requires the skills and knowledge of the Operator level, but also requires higher knowledge levels in optics, photonics, and technology, and requires a greater variety of hands-on competencies in laser and optical components and systems.

A Photonics Technician works in jobs that require the ability to assemble, measure, test, and repair optical components such as lenses, mirrors, and filters and optical sources such as lasers and light emitting diodes (LEDs). The average annual salary for an entry-level Photonics Technician is \$39,082.

The ETA Precision Optics Technician certification is also available at two levels; Journeyman and Senior. Both certifications require a knowledge examination as well as a hands-on skills component. At the Journeyman level, technicians have the minimum required knowledge competencies and hands-on competencies, and experience with fabrication and test fewer types of optics. The Senior level technician will have a broader knowledge of optical/photonics concepts, a greater range of hands-on competencies and experience with fabrication and testing of a wider range of types of optics and optical coatings.

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A Precision Optics Technician works in the technical area of optical component fabrication in optical shops for optics manufacturers and in quality control departments for organizations that incorporate precision optics into various systems. They can also handle, store, and ship precision optical components. A 2009 study¹ by the National Center for Optics and Photonics Education (OP-TEC) revealed that the demand for Precision Optics Technicians far exceeds the number of individuals trained in the precision optics field with over 3,000 precision optics technicians needed to meet industry demand by 2014.

For more information on the new ETA Precision Optics and Photonics Technician certifications please visit www.etainternational.org or contact ETA at 800.288.3824.

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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Download this press release at: www.eta-i.org/pr/photonicspr.pdf

¹ National Center for Optics and Photonics Education. (2009). Photonics Technician Employment in the United States: An Industry Survey of Current and Future Demand in 209 for Education and Training programs.