



SpaceTEC® Partners Inc. Gains International Accreditation



On August 29, 2012, the International Certification Accreditation Council (ICAC) granted a program certificate of accreditation to SpaceTEC Partners, Inc. (SPI) confirming compliance with *ISO 17024: General Requirements For Bodies Operating Certifications Of Persons*. SPI

“Education alone will not train our workforce. The Aerospace industry needs critical thinking and experience which suggest we need a formalized mentoring program to hand off “knowledge” and “experience.” The SpaceTEC program developed in Florida as a partnership between industry, academia and government is a good example of a program that is working.” -- Drexel L. Smith, Senior Vice President, Wyle Laboratories

has, since 2002, operated **SpaceTEC®**, the **National Science Foundation National Center for Aerospace Technical Education**. SpaceTEC® provides the only national hands-on performance-based certifications for aerospace technicians. (See: www.spacetec.org.)

In 2011 the SPI Board created **CertTEC®** as a separate “spin-off” to reach beyond aerospace. **CertTEC®** applies best practices and lessons learned from aerospace to certify core hands-on technician skills in many technical fields. (See: www.certtec.com.)

With the success of the SpaceTEC® and CertTEC® programs nationally established, SPI applied to the International Certification Accreditation Council (<http://www.icacnet.org>) this past summer for accreditation under ISO 17024. This is an important step for any certifying body today. Employers are finding it difficult to hire qualified employees with hands-on skills, and the SpaceTEC® and CertTEC® programs are in “*the right place at the right time.*”



The International Certification Accreditation Council is an alliance of organizations dedicated to assuring competency, professional management, and service to the public by encouraging and setting standards for licensing, certification, and credentialing programs internationally. To understand the significance of this action, consider this from the *President’s Council of Advisors on Science and Technology, Advanced Manufacturing Partnership Steering Committee*:

“An efficient market for employees with necessary knowledge and skills depends on reliable and appropriate credentials and certifications. To succeed, any new credentials and certifications require a critical mass of national recognition, and acceptance and adoption by industry, education, and government. ...Any path forward must incorporate two key functions – accreditation and certification – and result in two key outcomes –common education and training standards – to satisfy current and emerging competencies, and yield portable certifications for individuals.” (Source: Holdren & Lander: *Capturing Domestic Competitive Advantage in Advanced Manufacturing; AMP Steering Committee Report*. Washington, DC: July 17, 2012).

SPI’s accredited credentials meet all of these criteria as noted by comments from key partners:



The SpaceTEC® program at Brevard Community College is a nationally recognized leader in building our nation’s technical workforce, evidenced by its designation as a host institution for the National Science Foundation’s Center for Aerospace Technical Education. The accreditation of their certification programs by an international organization is a tribute to them and the entire consortium. Congratulations to everyone who contributed to this success.” **Dr. James Richey, President, Brevard Community College**

Visit them at: www.spacetec.org, www.certtec.com, and www.best-in-us.com



SpaceTEC® Partners Inc. Gains International Accreditation



"As Director of Florida Government Relations for Lockheed Martin and a member of the SpaceTEC® Partners, Inc. Board of Directors, I am pleased to add my congratulations for the accreditation of their certifications by the International Certification Accreditation Council. Our aerospace technicians in Florida played an active role in the pilot programs from the inception of this credentialing effort, and workforce competence is at the heart of our ability to assure continued success. Program accreditation adds another level of credibility to an important set of certifications, and we are proud to be a part of the SpaceTEC® team".

Adrian Laffitte, Director Florida Government Relations, Lockheed Martin



"As President of Calhoun Community College and an active participant in developing and implementing credentialing for Alabama's aerospace workforce, I applaud SpaceTEC's accreditation by the International Certification Accreditation Council. Workforce performance certification is a key element in assuring the success of our nation's aerospace programs as they transition to a new focus on commercial space. We appreciate the pioneering work done by the SpaceTEC® consortium on behalf of the entire aerospace community. Congratulations and best wishes for your continued success."

Dr. Marilyn Beck, President, Calhoun Community College

"As Deputy Director for Technical Services in the Engineering Directorate at NASA's Langley Research Center, we partnered with Thomas Nelson Community College (TNCC) to develop a pipeline of technicians using a program that includes education, certification and apprenticeship. The TNCC – NASA Intern Program is helping to develop a highly qualified technical workforce for NASA Langley and Virginia. The TNCC two-year Associate degree and the SpaceTEC® Certified Aerospace Technician™ credential were adopted to help reinvigorate the NASA Langley program in 2007. NASA aerospace technicians are an essential part of our team, and SpaceTEC accreditation adds to an already strong aerospace certification program."

Stu Harris, Deputy Director, Technical Services, Engineering Directorate, NASA Langley



"As President of Thomas Nelson Community College, I am pleased to add my voice to those who participate with SpaceTEC® in their work. Our students, faculty, and staff are actively engaged with SpaceTEC® in our efforts to educate and qualify aerospace technicians for the future. Their education and competence are our primary concerns, and SpaceTEC® certifications are a key part of qualifying them for work on the NASA/Langley Research Center team and in related high technology jobs. Achieving an international accreditation is an important addition to the value of SpaceTEC® credentials for all participants -- past, present, and future."

Dr. John Dever, President, Thomas Nelson Community College

"As Chairman of the SpaceTEC® Partners, Inc. Board of Directors and a retired senior aerospace executive, I am extremely proud of the accomplishments of the SpaceTEC® consortium and their affiliated CertTEC® programs culminating in accreditation by the International Certification Accreditation Council. Attracting and retaining any high technology industry relies heavily on the availability of a competent workforce. Hands-on certifications are a key element in that regard, and they exist in only a few of our national credentialing services. The leadership shown by the SpaceTEC® and CertTEC® teams is exceptional, and accreditation by a third party international organization is an outstanding addition to an already powerful program. Congratulations, and keep up the good work!"

Marshall Heard, Chairman, SpaceTEC Partners, Inc.

