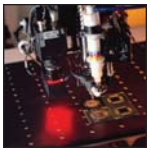
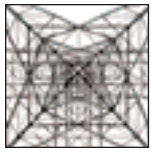
United States National Committee of the IEC

# News and Notes



**In This Issue**



Volume 4 Number 4 December 2009

During its 1904 World's Fair, the city of St. Louis hosted a week-long International Electrotechnical Congress that set the stage for a permanent International Commission on electricity. In 1926, the meeting returned to the United States with a hosting in New York, then Philadelphia in 1954, Washington, D.C., in 1970, and Houston in 1998. Now, over a century after that first meeting, the U.S. will again welcome dignitaries from around the globe as Seattle plays host this October to its first General Meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission.

## The USNC Welcomes the World to Seattle for the IEC 2010 General Meeting

### *The World Runs on Standards*

*by Jim Matthews, USNC President*

Many hands make for light work," the old saying goes – and it has certainly proven true as the USNC prepares to host the 74th IEC General Meeting in Seattle, Washington, in October 2010.

We are fortunate to enjoy the broad support of our IEC community across the United States, and at this point can count 58 General Sponsors and 65 Technical Sponsors signed on to support the General Meeting (see page 10 for the list of meeting sponsors to date).

The USNC has invited 91 Technical Committees (TCs) and Subcommittees (SCs) to the meeting, and we expect approximately 2,400 participants plus accompanying persons to attend. In total, this will be the largest IEC General Meeting ever held. We are looking forward to a successful meeting, and it would not be possible without the ongoing support, preparation, and teamwork of the USNC constituents and staff.

#### Event Highlights

An IEC General Meeting includes both business and technical meetings. The business meetings span a five-day period from October 11 to 15, and include the Standardization Management Board (SMB), the Conformity Assessment Board (CAB), the Council Board (CB), the Executive Committee (ExCo), the Market Strategy Board (MSB), and the IEC Council. Participants at these meetings review the policy, management, business, and statuatory activities of the IEC.

The IEC General Meeting also includes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FEATURED ARTICLE

# The USNC Welcomes the World to Seattle for the IEC 2010 General Meeting

## *The World Runs on Standards* (continued)

*by Jim Matthews*

technical meetings of TCs, SCs, Working Groups (WGs), and Project Teams. These meetings will span the 11 days between October 6 and 16. In addition, there will be plenty of opportunities for the business and technical participants to interact during the General Meeting.

### Strategic Planning

The USNC started planning for our hosting of the 2010 General Meeting about seven years ago, setting it as one of our strategic goals. We formed a steering committee of interested members, and then set upon the tasks involved in the planning in earnest. For help along the way, the IEC provides a guidebook on the structure and organization of the General Meetings for host committees, with over 100 pages of requirements and information. This document, known informally as the "blue book," is well known to the National Committees (NCs) who have hosted IEC General Meetings in the past and relied on its guidance.

The Planning Committee also drew on experience and information from the last U.S.-hosted General Meeting (Houston, Texas, in 1998) as well as the generously shared experiences of the other countries who have hosted the meeting in recent years.

We also selected a professional meeting planning organization (Conference Direct), whose help and insights have been invaluable in our efforts.

### Financial Matters

On the funding side, our efforts began with a generous seed donation from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), and then we started the process of seeking support from our U.S. constituents. We also began to set aside funds from within the USNC annual budget as well.

While we could not have foreseen today's economic situation, we did want to minimize the impact on our constituents, so we offered the ability to make a funding commitment and pay it over any period up to five years. Drawing on the experience of the Houston meeting from 1998, we also started with a large goal that we could scale down if needed, and planned for the worst case including a contingency reserve for unexpected needs.

### Final Stages

We are now moving forward with the final planning for the Seattle meeting, where we will officially unveil our theme, "The world runs on standards." Experts from as many as 60 to 70 countries will gather, and, if our planning is successful, not only fully realize their meeting-specific goals, but also learn a little about each other.

**We are now moving forward with the final planning for the Seattle General Meeting, where we will officially unveil our theme, "The world runs on standards."**

The 74th IEC General Meeting will include several special programs. Because we have a broad cross section of technical groups and leadership, there will be a series of workshops for TC/SC leaders on three different mornings. In addition, we have organized a poster session where each TC and SC can display their area of work, current topics, and challenges. The poster session will be open during the entire meeting, but for two evenings we will encourage representatives of the TCs and SCs to be at their posters to interact and answer questions. The IEC has also organized a Young Professionals Program with invited professionals who are expected to be the next generation of IEC standards contributors (see USNC To Sponsor 2010 IEC Young Professionals Competition, page 5, for more information).

*Jim Matthews, USNC President*

### Area Attractions

While most of the efforts will be focused on the technical and management aspects of IEC standards, it is important to note that our meeting location, Seattle, Washington, offers a lot to our participants and accompanying persons. A phenomenal meeting venue and hotels await our attendees. An exciting, walkable, and accessible downtown full of arts, shopping, and great food is also close at hand, and, of course, the scenic natural beauty of the Pacific Northwest region is also easily reached.

We invite all of our sponsors, constituents, and participants to join us for a busy, interactive, and memorable meeting in Seattle this October.

### Further information

For updated information on the IEC 2010 General Meeting in Seattle, including event and venue details and sponsorship opportunities, click here. ■

# TC 51 Faces the Challenges of Today's Magnetic Components Industry

*by Mark A. Swihart*

Magnetic components, such as transformers, inductors, noise suppression sheets, and chokes, are ubiquitous in switching power supplies, Electromagnetic Interference/Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMI/EMC) filters, many sensors, and various other circuits. Standardization of such magnetic materials and structures is handled by IEC Technical Committee (TC) 51, *Magnetic components and ferrite materials*.

## A History of Success

TC 51 originated in 1958, and today maintains some 67 standards, with 9 countries as participating members. The mid-1990s to mid-2000s were very prolific years, as dozens of new and updated standards resulted from a successful effort to reflect changes in the ferrite industry due to growth and maturing of commercial switching power supplies. There is now an essentially complete set of standards for ferrites, and several factors account for the especially fruitful period that TC 51 enjoyed:

**Engineering participation.** As the TC's focus became more technical, membership evolved from marketing and management individuals to engineers, enabling standards to reflect technical facts over commercial advantage.

**User focus.** TC 51 very consciously strives to craft standards that will be appealing and practical to users of magnetic components – the circuit and system designers.

**National committee (NC) support from abroad.** While engineering experts from all over the world were fully engaged in the process, time and again it was the Japanese Secretariat who produced good new work item proposals and the first committee drafts – in fact, more than 80 percent of the new draft proposals for the new and updated standards came from Japan. German NC groups have also made significant contributions, especially in inductor reliability.

**Engagement from all the leading suppliers.** During the TC 51's highly productive years, all industry-leading ferrite suppliers in the U.S., Europe, and Japan participated (about 10 in all).

## Migration of an Industry

At the same time that the global soft ferrite industry was so successfully putting its house in order with regard to standardization, the very structure of the industry was in upheaval. Ferrite production chased lower costs (and the customers) to Asia, especially China. While some of industry leaders were able to make the transition, some did not survive, and all have been put under greatly increased economic pressure. As a result there is no longer a large pool of leading ferrite companies able to send knowledgeable engineers to TC 51 working group (WG) meetings.

But TC 51 was not caught by surprise: the committee made efforts early on to encourage Chinese participation (and participation from other local suppliers in Asia). This was unsuccessful for a long time. Chinese suppliers use the standards and have a natural interest in them, but there are barriers to their full participation in the committee. Nevertheless, TC 51 was persistent. The center of gravity in ferrites had moved to China, so Chinese participation would be essential.

In a bold move, the committee asked the China NC to host the 2009 plenary meeting for TC 51, and the China NC and local suppliers stepped forward in excellent fashion. The result was a highly successful meeting in October 2009 at Shenzhen, close to Hong Kong. Attendance was higher than for any TC 51 meeting in at least 10 years.

## Future Involvement

While China's effort in 2009 seems to demonstrate a commitment to ferrite standards, there are still barriers. Language is a very significant one. Also, European and U.S. attendance at Shenzhen was not strong, and end users of ferrites largely do not participate.

*Mark A. Swihart, Techical Advisor, U.S. TAG for IEC TC 51, Vice President of Applications Engineering and Sales, Magnetics Division, Spang and Co.*

There may not be a pool of technical expertise like there has been in the past. The surviving leading companies from the U.S., Japan, and Europe continue to be in transition. There has been a steady of drain of experienced experts as they leave the industry, and the producers in China simply do not have the depth and breadth of technical experience to replace what has been lost.

The future implication for U.S. users of magnetic components is that they will not be well-represented unless they become directly involved. The group with the most at stake is power supply manufacturers. Only one switched-mode power supply (SMPS) manufacturer participates on the U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) today. And while there used to be a large number of core producers and winders in the U.S. and Europe looking after the interests of their power supply customers in the standards, those companies are mostly gone.

The new focus of TC 51 will be on inductors, transformers, and noise suppression sheet; these new standards will be especially application-oriented in nature. And even though production of magnetic components is now centered in Asia, the U.S. and Europe are the dominant end markets and the producers welcome the guidance of end users in crafting new standards. Now is the time for U.S. power supply makers and other users of high frequency magnetic components to get involved and influence the new standards that will impact their business for years to come. ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

## Klaus Wucherer of Germany Elected as Next IEC President

At the 73rd General Meeting in Tel Aviv, Israel, in October, the IEC Council elected Klaus Wucherer of Germany as the future IEC President. Dr. Wucherer will begin his one-year term as IEC President-Elect on January 1, 2010, and his three-year term as IEC President on January 1, 2011.

Dr. Wucherer has been president of DKE, the German National Committee (NC) of the IEC, since 2000. He is a member of the Supervisory Board of VDE, the German Association for Electrical, Electronic & Information Technologies, and was its president from 2003 to 2005. He served as an executive vice president of Siemens AG and was a member of the Siemens Corporate Executive Committee from 2000 to 2007. His responsibilities included Automation and Drives (A&D), Industrial Solutions and Services (I&S), and the economic regions of Asia and Australia. He sat on the boards of several companies of the Siemens group. He is also on the board of SAP AG, Infineon Technologies AG, and Leoni AG.

Dr. Wucherer has a German Engineering Doctorate Degree (Dr.-Ing.) in electrical and mechanical engineering from Chemnitz University of Technology in Germany. He holds honorary professorships at Chemnitz as well as at the University of Applied Sciences in Germany and the Tongji University of Shanghai, China. He is also a guest professor at Nanjing's Southeast University and at Jinan's Shandong University in China. The USNC congratulates Mr. Wucherer on his appointment and looks forward to much success for the IEC under his leadership. ■

LATEST FROM THE IEC

## Electric Vehicle Workshop Sets Out Strategies for Standardization

Organized by the Standards Institution of Israel (SII) in association with the IEC, a special workshop on standards for electric vehicles was held during the IEC 73rd General Meeting in Tel Aviv. The event brought together managers and research-and-development engineers from electric vehicle and infrastructure developers, key strategists from major Smart Grid programs, and experts from various IEC Technical Committees (TCs).

The workshop was opened by Renzo Tani, Immediate Past President of the IEC. Ziva Patir, vice president, international standardization for Better Place, a global provider of electric vehicle networks and services, acted as chaiperson of the workshop. Better Place currently has operations in Israel, Denmark, and Australia, and is now expanding its electric vehicle and charging solutions to the U.S., Canada, Japan, and other markets.

Ms. Patir expressed that electric vehicles provide unique possibilities to address global challenges related to economic opportunity, energy independence, and environmental impact. However, she emphasized that to do so, the standardization community needs to rise to the challenges of the complex issues covering charging systems, plugs and infrastructure, and battery technologies.

Electric car prototype presented by Better Place

George Arnold, national coordinator for Smart Grid interoperability at the U.S.'s National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), joined the workshop to provide his insight into the Smart Grid architecture being developed under President Obama. He explained the complex standardization issues that are being addressed, including the ability of the future Smart Grid to be able to provide charging capacity for electric vehicles.

Cyriacus Bleijs, chairman of IEC TC 69, *Electric road vehicles and electric industrial trucks,* expressed his frustration at the lack of commitment and involvement of the electrical utilities in his TC's work. He stated that their involvement is critical in addressing some of the fundamental engineering challenges in the work being done. Mr. Bleijs went on to discuss how his TC is working closely with both IEC Subcommittee (SC) 23H, *Industrial plugs and socket-outlets,* and the key automotive technical committee in International Organization for Standardization (ISO) TC 22, *Road vehicles*.

Speaker after speaker identified and expanded on the enormous potential of electric vehicle technology, as well as the significant challenges presented for standardization. These challenges include the ability of standards development organizations around the world to come together to ensure that the market can be served by International Standards.

Ms. Patir summed up her feelings: "IEC and other major standardization bodies have an excellent opportunity to avoid another plug and socket disaster. The market wants one solution in all aspects of the electric vehicle market – be it the charging plugs and sockets, the battery interfaces, or the data transfer technology from the utilities." The consensus conclusion was that standardization provides both an opportunity and a hurdle for the future of electric vehicles, and that collaboration and cooperation will be key to the technology's success. ■

USNC NEWS

## USNC To Sponsor 2010 IEC Young Professionals Competition and Other Special Events at 2010 GM

The USNC will soon announce its implementation plan for the 2010 IEC Young Professionals Competition, a new initiative that will be introduced this coming year. The USNC effort seeks to honor three young American professionals who work for a company, business, or industry that uses, benefits from, or contributes to IEC's work in electrotechnical standardization and conformance.

The Young Professionals Competition is being launched as part of the new IEC Young Professionals Programme. At the 2010 General Meeeting (GM) in Seattle, the first workshop specifically targeting young engineers and managers will be held as part of this Programme. The Young Professionals will be selected to represent their respective nations at the GM and participate in the workshop.

IEC Young Professionals Workshop attendees will learn more about the IEC, standardization strategies, and conformity assessment. Intended for professionals in their 20s to mid-30s with some experience in standards development or in the use of standards in conformity assessment, the initiative will provide an opportunity to experience the 2010 GM, attend technical meetings, and hear and meet some of the experts who are already involved in IEC standardization work.

The IEC Young Professionals Programme is destined to strengthen industry participation and encourage professionals to become involved in IEC work from the outset of their careers. Ideal candidates for the competition will be young professionals whose positions involve them in technical standardization or conformance from a technical, commercial, or managerial perspective within their organization. More information on the nomination process and further details about the program will be made public in early 2010.

Another first in IEC history to be held during the 2010 GM is a workshop for all Technical Committee (TC) and Subcommittee (SC) officers. This workshop is open to all officers, including those who may not have been otherwise planning to come to Seattle, and should be an ideal opportunity for participants to share their experiences, exchange ideas, and work together in a common forum. More detailed information will be provided over the coming months.

### Further information

To nominate a candidate for the Young Professionals Competition, contact Charlie Zegers at czegers@ansi.org. For more details on the events of IEC 2010, click here. ■

### GO AHEAD, GET AHEAD

### IEC YOUNG PROFESSIONALS WORKSHOP 2010

USNC NEWS

## ANSI eStandards Store Purchases Support USNC


Standards developed by IEC can be purchased from a variety of websites, organizations, and third-party resellers. But to see the greatest benefits from dollars spent, USNC members should purchase standards directly from the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), since the revenue from ANSI's eStandards store directly supports the activities and initiatives of the USNC.

The USNC/IEC is a totally integrated committee of ANSI. As such, the Institute provides administrative support to the USNC and its nearly 1,400 managerial, engineering, scientific, and professional participants. ANSI also provides the fiduciary framework by which the USNC's financial obligations are met, including the payment of annual dues to IEC. And since ANSI is a non-profit organization, the revenue earned from your purchase helps to support the programs and services offered to USNC members, from workshops for U.S. Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Administrators to this latest issue of the *News and Notes* newsletter.

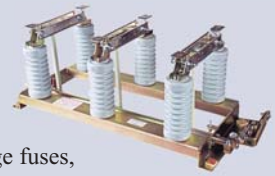
When you purchase IEC standards from ANSI, you are making a commitment to bolster U.S. leadership at the IEC table. And purchasing standards directly from ANSI's eStandards Store offers the additional benefits of cost savings for ANSI members, personal service, and the convenience of one-stop shopping for more than 175,000 standards available for immediate download.

### Further information

Contact the ANSI customer support team (212.642.4980; info@ansi.org) or visit the eStandards Store (webstore.ansi.org). ■

USNC NEWS

## SC 32A Addresses Challenges in HV Fuse Standardization



*IEC Technical Committee (TC) 32,* Fuses, *Subcommittee (SC) 32A,* High-voltage fuses, *focuses on standardization of specific requirements for high-voltage (HV) fuses designed for use on alternating current systems of 50 hertz and 60 hertz. Working Group (WG) 3 member Dr. John G. Leach reports on his work with SC 32A.*

Fuse standards have diverged greatly over the past 30 years. From our perspective, IEC fuse standards tend to be Eurocentric. Since practice in North America has been somewhat different in several areas, we took internationally agreed practices and added several more specific application/fuse construction requirements.

North American practices, however, are common in many countries outside of the U.S., Canada, Mexico, and Europe. I have always taken the view that North American standards are still IEC practice, but with appropriately added application-driven requirements.

In the past ten years I have been laboring hard to get IEC standards to reflect this reality – that North American practice is widespread (probably more so, particularly in terms of units, than European practice). I have achieved limited success. But things are improving, and we are even starting to see more North American practice in Europe. In fact, we have recently received a request to incorporate an IEEE-developed test into an IEC fuse standard.

SC32A is now losing to retirement our only true "user." A few knowledgeable users would be tremendously helpful in ensuring a balanced structure for standards development. My observations are probably typical – if you do not attend the WG meetings, do not expect to be taken very seriously. As they say, "If you're not on the dance floor, you don't get to dance."

**Further information**

To get involved in SC 32A, click here. ■

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

## United Nations Endorses the Use of IECEx for Safety in Ex Areas

In its session on November 26, 2009, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) formally approved a new UN publication endorsing the use of an internationally recognized certification system to promote safety of equipment, services, and personnel associated with explosive (Ex) areas. IEC System for Certification to Standards Relating to Equipment for Use in Explosive Atmospheres (IECEx) is the internationally accepted certification system that verifies compliance with international safety standards in Ex areas.

The IECEx System comprises the three core Certification Schemes: IECEx Certified Equipment Scheme; IECEx Certified Service Facilities Scheme; and IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competencies Scheme. Additionally, the certification of equipment is accompanied by the certification of persons working in hazardous environments, as covered by the new IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competency Scheme.

These schemes provide independent assurance that equipment and services comply with international safety standards and that persons holding an IECEx Certificate of Personnel Competency are competent to work in areas where a concentration of dust, vapour, or flammable liquids has the potential to cause explosions.

Modern-day industrial automation has increased the need for equipment, especially electrical equipment, that can be used in hazardous areas. Explosion protection is an essential part of the overall risk management that is conducted for industrial plants and equipment. Given the high risk nature of explosion protection, Ex areas are subject to heavy regulations in many countries.

Through the UNECE's Working Party on Regulatory Cooperation and Standardisation Policies, a sectoral initiative on Equipment for Environments with an Explosive Atmosphere was established. The objective is to promote the convergence of national technical regulations currently in place toward a shared framework. This international framework will eliminate many existing barriers to trade in this equipment and drastically reduce its costs. At the same time, it will increase the safety of installation and of personnel working in this sector. In turn, communities living in the proximity of hazardous locations would also be better protected.

To achieve these goals, the UNECE has developed a series of Common Regulatory Objectives that reference IEC and International Organization for Standardization (ISO) standards and can be used to align existing national regulations on explosive environments with an internationally harmonized model. Best practice in the assessment of conformity to such standards is entrusted to IECEx.

The UN's endorsement affirms the use of an internationally recognized certification system such as IECEx as essential to reducing unnecessary costs associated with duplication of testing and assessment and establishment of sound risk management. IECEx provides assurance that equipment is manufactured to meet dedicated Ex safety standards and that services comply with international safety standards.

**Further information**

Learn more at www.iecex.com. ■

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

## IEC CAB, ILAC, and IAF Build Stronger Ties

Companies the world over are pooling resources, streamlining efforts, and stepping up their attempts to be more competitive in these tough economic times. And striving for efficiency is not just an industry prerogative: Nations are joining regional entities that are better equipped to defend their interests, and national, regional, and international organizations – IEC included – are signing agreements that give them more weight in the global market.

Over the years IEC has finalized numerous agreements and worked in tandem with other international and regional electrotechnical standardization or Conformity Assessment (CA) bodies. The IEC Conformity Assessment Board (CAB), in particular, has a long and successful history of cooperation with the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) and the International Accreditation Forum (IAF).

These three organizations met on October 14, 2009, to take these partnerships to a new level. At the Vancouver meeting a new model of assessment collaboration – "the common pool model" – was elaborated and agreed upon whereby the IEC CA Systems will provide ILAC and IAF with their reassessment plans for 2010.

It was decided that if the reassessment of a specific Certification Body (CB) or Testing Laboratory (TL) coincides with the relevant ILAC or IAF plan, then the CA System will provide a list of Technical Experts to choose from. ILAC or IAF will appoint the reassessment team, made up of a Lead Assessor coming from their ranks and a group of CA System technical experts. Once the reassessment has been completed, the CA System will administer the reassessment report as one of its own.

IECEE Executive Secretary Pierre de Ruvo

This common model of cooperation ensures that IEC CA Systems-registered assessors apply IEC International Standards in a uniform and consistent way, maintaining confidence in the rigor of the technical assessment.

CAB, ILAC, and IAF also proposed the establishment of a tripartite Steering Committee to deal with policy and strategy issues. IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE) executive secretary Pierre de Ruvo was named as chairman of the Steering Committee, with his three-year term starting on January 1, 2010. ILAC and IAF will provide the "meeting secretary," and ad-hoc task forces will be appointed to deal with specific technical or administrative issues.

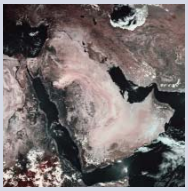
The following elements will be developed further by the Committee:

- Common understanding of the requirements laid down in ISO/IEC 17025, *General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories,* and ISO/IEC Guide 65, *General requirements for bodies operating product certification systems*
- Reassessments of CBs and TLs using CA Systems expertise
- Use of harmonized assessment forms
- Use of harmonized assessment preparation guidelines

The CAB, ILAC, and IAF have all approved the proposals, strengthening ties between the three organizations. As the CAB/IEC/ILAC Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) is due for revision in 2010, this establishes the perfect opportunity to develop a tripartite MoU that would incorporate these proposals. ■

CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT

## Gulf Region Event Highlights Need for IEC CA



The first Gulf IEC-IECEE International Conference for Standardization and Conformity Assessment in Electrotechnology (GICSE), was held December 2-9, 2009, in Bahrain. Organized by the Gulf Cooperation Council Standardization Organization (GSO), the Bahraini Industry and Commerce Ministry, the IEC, and the IEC System of Conformity Assessment Schemes for Electrotechnical Equipment and Components (IECEE), the event focused on the need to better protect the region's citizens from accidents caused by low-quality electrical appliances and components.

With the rapid growth of the consumption of non-conforming electrical appliances has come an increase in accidents and electrical fires. An estimated 30 percent of the region's building fires are caused by short circuits, faulty wiring, and non-conforming electrical products. The use of IEC International Standards in third-party conformity assessment (CA) will increase the safety and health of local populations and in turn encourage the development of manufacturing and the reduction of trade barriers.

The GICSE was opened by the Minister of Industry and Commerce of Bahrain, H.E. Hassan Abdulla Fakhro. The event brought together key players from manufacturing, testing, and government bodies from Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates to look at the safety of electrical appliances and buildings, as well as the role of CA in improving the quality and performance of electrotechnical products and systems in the region.

The event aimed to provide these Gulf countries – today the third most important trading platform for electrical and electronic goods globally – with the tools they need to play a key role in the development of IEC International Standards and in the IECEE. ■

ITEM OF GENERAL INTEREST

## Dr. Patrick Gallagher Appointed as NIST Director

The U.S. Senate confirmed Patrick D. Gallagher, Ph.D., as the fourteenth director of the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on November 5, 2009. President Obama nominated Dr. Gallagher to his new post on September 10, 2009.

"Dr. Gallagher is a top-notch scientist, administrator, and proven leader," said U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke. "We expect him to continue his capable stewardship of NIST as we tackle complex problems like cybersecurity, developing an interoperable 'smart' energy grid, standardizing electronic health records, and advancing the manufacturing sector."

Dr. Gallagher has carried out the functions of the director in his current position as deputy director since September 2008. Prior to his appointment as deputy director, he was the director of the NIST Center for Neutron Research (NCNR). This national user facility provides thermal and cold neutron measurement capabilities to the U.S. research community. In 2000, Dr. Gallagher was a NIST agency representative at the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC). He is an active contributor to the area of U.S. policy for scientific user facilities and was chair of the Interagency Working Group on neutron and light source facilities under the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

After receiving his Ph.D. in physics from the University of Pittsburgh in 1991, Dr. Gallagher has pursued research interests including neutron and X-ray instrumentation and studies of soft condensed matter systems such as liquids, polymers, and gels.

The USNC congratulates Dr. Gallagher on this well-deserved appointment. ■

ITEM OF GENERAL INTEREST

## U.S. Standards Organizations Reach Out to Capitol Hill

On October 2, 2009, representatives of nine leading standards organizations gathered on Capitol Hill to introduce Congressional staff to the U.S. private sector–led approach to standards. The event, which was attended by more than 60 staffers and other interested stakeholders, demonstrated how standards and conformity assessment activities help companies meet their global needs, and how the *National Technology Transfer and Advancement Act* (NTTAA – Public Law 104-113) impacts the U.S. standardization system.

All congressional staff members were welcome to attend the event, which was co-sponsored by the following organizations:

- American National Standards Institute
- American Petroleum Institute
- American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-Conditioning Engineers
- ASME
- ASTM International
- National Fire Protection Association
- National Institute of Building Sciences
- SAE International
- Underwriters Laboratories

During the hour-long event, S. Joe Bhatia, president and CEO of the the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), spoke on *The U.S. Standards System*; Jim Thomas, president of ASTM International, followed with remarks on *How Standards Impact Trade;* and Gordon Gillerman, chief of standards services as the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), addressed *The Public/Private Partnership*. Each speaker reinforced the fact that the U.S. standards system works effectively and identified some of the successes that underpin the strong public/private standardization partnership.

(l-r) Jim Thomas, ASTM International; Jamila Thompson, Senior Legislative Assistant in the Office of Rep. John Lewsi; Joe Bhatia, ANSI; Gordon Gillerman, NIST

The event was the third in a three-part series of briefings intended to provide congressional staff with the fundamental background to understand the U.S. standards system in theory and in practice, the manner in which U.S. governments use and reference standards, and the impact of standards on global commerce. The first briefing was presented by Jeffrey Grove, ASTM International; Ann Weeks, UL; Robert Garfield, American Frozen Food Institute; and Len Kruger, Congressional Research Services.

The second briefing featured federal agencies that work with standards development organizations. Gordon Gillerman, NIST; Jay Howell, U.S. Consumer Production Safety Commission; Donald Marlowe, U.S. Food and Drug Administration; Mary Saunders, U.S. Department of Commerce; Brenda Smith, Customs and Border Protection; and Jeff Weiss, Office of the United States Trade Representative, all participated. They discussed how standards impact trade and safety, reduce government workload, and funnel into the rulemaking process, and how they are enforced. Additionally, Shaun Donnelly of the National Association of Manufacturers represented the industry perspective.

The briefings provided Congressional staff with insight into the standardization process, its important role in legislation, and the success of public-and-private-sector collaboration. ■

ITEM OF GENERAL INTEREST

## Twinkling Rockefeller Tree Illuminates the Importance of Standards

Thousands gathered in Rockefeller Center in New York City on Wednesday, December 2, 2009, to watch the lighting of what may be the world's most famous Christmas tree. With celebrity performances, a live broadcast, and the dazzling illumination of a 76-foot tree, the spectacle delighted the crowd with the help of IEC and other standards working together for a safe and wonderful event.

The two-ton Norway spruce was hoisted into its spot with the use of a crane. A number of American National Standards that assure the safe use and proper functioning of these machines are developed by the ASME International B30 Standards Committee on Cranes and Related Equipment.

With the tree securely displayed, crowds gathered to see live performances by the Radio City Rockettes, Aretha Franklin, Barry Manilow, and others. The songs and background music for these performances were broadcast to the audience over a high-quality sound system whose development has been guided by International Standards. The IEC has developed a series of standards for sound systems, including: IEC 60268-5 Ed. 3.1 en:2007, *Sound system equipment - Part 5: Loudspeakers;* IEC 60268-4 Ed. 3.0 en:2004, *Sound system equipment - Part 4: Microphones;* and IEC 60268-7 Ed. 2.0 b:1996, *Sound system equipment - Part 7: Headphones and earphones*. These standards were developed by IEC Technical Committee (TC) 100, *Audio, video, and multimedia equipment*. The chairperson of this committee is Mark Hyman of the Society of Motion Picture and Television Engineers (SMPTE).

The grand finale of the evening was the lighting of the tree at 8:55 p.m. EST. Adorned with over five miles of LED lights, this tree and others in homes around the country are both sparkling and safe thanks to standards for holiday decorations. NFPA 70-2008, the 2008 National Electrical Code (NEC), addresses the safe installation of electrical wiring and equipment to be used both indoors and outdoors, such as strings of lights that drape over an evergreen tree. Article 590 of the NEC covers the safe installation of temporary wiring and equipment and specifically addresses holiday lighting strings in section 590.5. That section requires holiday lighting strings to be UL listed and in annex A of the NEC, reference is made to UL 588 (Ed. 18), *Standard for Seasonal and Holiday Decorative Products,* as the standard that is applicable to this type of equipment.

*Happy New Year from everyone at the USNC*

This annual tradition highlighted the vital role of standards as New Yorkers, tourists, and television viewers nationwide kicked off the holiday season. ■

SAVE THE DATES

## Save the Dates for Upcoming Events of Interest

**FEBRUARY 2010**
**Standardization Management Board (SMB)**
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
Geneva, Switzerland

**MAY 2010**
**TMC/Council Meeting**
Tuesday–Wednesday, May 11–12, 2010
Washington, DC

**JUNE 2010**
**Conformity Assesment Board (CAB)**
Monday, June 7, 2010
Geneva, Switzerland

**Standardization Management Board (SMB)**
Tuesday, June 8, 2010
Geneva, Switzerland

**SEPTEMBER 2010**
**TMC/Council Meeting**
Wednesday–Thursday, September 8–9, 2010
UL Office, Research Triangle Park, NC

**ANSI World Standards Week**
Monday–Thursday, September 21–24, 2010
Arlington, VA

**OCTOBER 2010**
**74th IEC General Meeting**
Wednesday–Friday, October 6–15, 2010
Seattle, WA

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| October 11 | **Standardization Management Board (SMB)** |
| October 12 | **Conformity Assessment Board (CAB)** |
| October 14 | **Council Board (CB)** |
| October 15 | **Council** |

For a complete schedule of upcoming meetings, or for more information on any of the events listed above, visit www.ansi.org/calendar. Enter "USNC" or "IEC" in the key word search field to narrow the list of results.

## IEC 2010 General Meeting in Seattle

The United States is hosting the General Meeting of the International Electrotechnical Commission for only the sixth time since 1904. The events will be held in Seattle, Washington, during the period of October 6–15, 2010.

More than 2,400 delegates and 750 accompanying persons from around the globe are expected to attend. Pending sponsor support, more than 90 IEC Technical Committees and Subcommittees will be invited to the event.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available for **IEC 2010**. To learn more, visit www.ansi.org/usnc.

### General Sponsors by Category as of December 2009

The USNC/IEC gratefully acknowledges the 55 General Sponsors that have already stepped forward to commit financial resources in support of IEC 2010:

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Thanks are also due to the 65 Technical Sponsors that have committed their support to specific Technical Committee and Subcommittee meetings during the 2010 General Meeting in Seattle.

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**ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION**
The USNC *News and Notes* newsletter is distributed to the constituency of the United States National Committee (USNC) of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). Its purpose is to provide news, information, and updates on TC/SC activities among other items that may be of interest to members of the electrotechnical community.

**HOW TO CONTRIBUTE**
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