

Measurement as a Strategic Tool for Improved Production, Faster Cycles and Lower Costs

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In today's environment, metrology is no longer regarded as a costly requirement, but rather as a strategic asset. It is an essential step of any quality and performance effort and a major decision making factor in an increasing number of industrial and service organizations.

The International Congress of Metrology is the largest European event in this field, and its 14th edition will focus on Measurement Process Improvement as a requirement for product & process quality insurance in industry and laboratories. Nearly 1000 professionals from about fifty countries will meet to discuss these issues June 22 - 25, 2009 in 180 conferences and 6 round tables, and in a major exhibition of 90 top suppliers in the field and 4 field visits of companies.

Increasingly wider application of measurement processes

As new and more accurate measuring instruments were being designed based on technical and scientific developments, metrology was applied to an increasing number of new fields over the years. In the past, measurement had been traditionally limited to such characteristics as dimensions, electrical quantities, time or mass, but it is now commonly applied to such new fields as environmental control, health, biology, chemistry, nanotechnologies, or sensory and immaterial metrology...

Both open and concealed measurement processes are now at work in our everyday life. As a universal and vital decision-making tool in health, safety or environmental fields, measurement can have dramatic impact in major issues.

However, if such impact may be obvious in fields like health (strength of drugs, of radiation in radiotherapy, medical biology analyses ...) or environmental management (measurement of pollutants in the air, water, etc.), its application is a little bit harder to manage in areas such as human safety (e.g. ABS systems in cars, tire pressure monitoring, speed control...). But when it comes to measurement of company savings, its implementation gets more tricky!

Potential leverage of measurement for improvement in manufacturing

Measurement gives manufacturers the assurance that their final product will meet stated requirements. Reliable and easily comparable measures help to make a good product on the first time. Used by Engineering departments at the product design stage, they contribute to monitor production quality control and management.

Manufacturers shall build measurement into the production process, and not limit its use to final quality product inspection. Metrology shall be custom designed to meet each company's needs. It shall be implemented in a friendly and practical manner, and planned well ahead of production to carry out effective leverage of company performance. Then it shall contribute to effectively limiting rejects, improving productivity by reducing setup times and lowering costs... As a suitable measurement system can greatly reduce rejects, over-quality costs and waste can be kept under control, contributing to effective sustainable development implementation.

Major international forum of metrology

Metrology is a field in constant change, with new developments and constraints to deal with: systems miniaturization, increased accuracy... Measurement processes improvement in industry and laboratories contributes to a large extent to such organizations performance optimization.

The next International Congress of Metrology will be one of the largest world forum of ideas and practices dedicated to such measurement processes improvement, bringing together hundreds of manufacturers and scientists from all over the world. **Manufacturers will get new practical solutions meeting their needs and easy to implement within their organization.**

After the previous events held in Lyon in 2005 and Lille in 2007, the 14th International Congress of Metrology will take place in Paris June 22 - 25, 2009.

Nearly 1000 participants from about fifty countries in all parts of the world, professionals in companies, laboratories and bodies, health organizations and measuring instruments manufacturers, metrology users, quality officers, managers and decision makers, teachers and researchers... will meet in:

- 6 industry round tables to discuss such issues as:
 - What's at stake for Metrology in the health field,
 - Metrology and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions,
 - Metrology and industrial performance,
 - Industrial temperatures and new materials,
 - Accreditation, economic and strategic issues,
 - Wireless measurements in the industrial environment,
- 180 conferences,
- Unique trade exhibition of latest technical advances with about 90 exhibitors,
- 4 technical visits in companies implementing best practices in this field.

The French College of Metrology is in charge of managing this unique event in Europe, jointly with the following international organizations: EA, Euramet, BIPM, OIML and NPL, and along with the following user companies and technical centres: Eurocopter-Group EADS, Renault, Acac, BEA Métrologie, Cetiati, CETIM, IMQ, INSA of Lyon, and LNE.

Two leading companies on this field sponsor the 2009 Congress: Stork Intermeas, provider of calibration and materials testing services, and Hexagon Metrology, world leader of high performance products and instruments.



For more information visit: www.metrologie2009.com

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