



NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CERTIFICATION IN ENGINEERING TECHNOLOGIES®

sponsored by the National Society of Professional Engineers

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PRESS RELEASE

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NICET ECLIPSES 125,000 CERTIFICATIONS ALL-TIME

Engineering Technology Certification Non-Profit Credits Employers and Industries for Milestone, Anticipates Continued Growth in Fire Protection, Construction and Transportation

Alexandria, VA - April 22, 2009 - The National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET), the country's leading provider of affordable, universally recognized certification and testing services for all individuals in engineering technology and related disciplines, announced today it has reached the milestone of issuing 125,000 total certifications since its founding in 1961.

"NICET shares a commitment to public safety and a qualified workforce with businesses and government organizations in jurisdictions nationwide. We have achieved this certification milestone through steadfast industry support and government recognition," said Michael A. Clark, CAE, Chief Operating Executive for NICET. "We anticipate our certification numbers will continue to grow across multiple technician areas as more employers and governmental agencies rely on NICET certification to measure the qualifications of their engineering technology workforce."

NICET offers certification in more than 25 technical areas across six major fields, including Fire Protection, Construction Materials Testing, Transportation, Geotechnical, Underground Utilities and Video Security Systems. Issuing 200 to 300 new certifications per month and growing, NICET projects it will pass the 130,000 mark for all-time certifications in 2011, its 50th anniversary year. The Institute administers more than 14,000 tests per year, with some individuals testing more than once and possibly earning more than one certification as they move along the career path from entry to senior level.

"I've found NICET to be a tremendous value to the technician, the employer and the entire Engineering Team," said James H. Wathen, PE, PLS, DBIA, Senior Engineer for EA Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc. and Chair of the NICET Board of Governors. "The certification process gives the technician a defined career path. The employer can hire with much more confidence than going by a resume. NICET helps raise the bar while allowing state-to-state mobility by virtue of the national certification it provides. So, I believe NICET plays a vital role in strengthening the Engineering Team."

More Employers Requiring NICET Certification

Certification, in general, is becoming more recognized as a way for public and private organizations to evaluate their workforces. With more state and local governments and employers requiring NICET certification, specifically, the Institute expects continued growth in its testing and certification services. Recent technology, political, regulatory and business trends also promise to spur opportunities for growth, particularly in NICET's largest (Fire Protection, Construction and Transportation) and newest (Video Security Systems) certification fields:

- more -

- With computer-based testing becoming the norm, NICET is preparing to deploy Web-based services that will improve access, convenience and customer service for applicants, improve testing and certification processes, and dramatically increase the Institute's certification numbers.
- More jurisdictions require NICET certification in Fire Protection. More agencies, manufacturers and other end-users specifying NICET certification as contractual requirements.
- The new administration in Washington, D.C., has made rehabilitation of the nation's aging infrastructure – i.e., roads, buildings and bridges – a top priority. This positions NICET's Transportation Engineering Technology and Construction Materials Testing (asphalt, concrete, soils) programs squarely within this high-growth area.
- Highway construction issues and building and maintenance of runways at airports should increase demand for Transportation-related certifications.
- To meet the growing need for Closed Circuit Security and other engineered security systems in government buildings, museums and airports, NICET launched Video Security Systems testing and certification services in February 2008.

About NICET

NICET (www.nicet.org) provides rigorous, affordable testing and certification services across a broad range of disciplines to engineering technicians and technologists nationwide. As a respected authority in many technical fields, NICET regularly brings together industry leaders and subject matter experts to identify industry needs as well as design and maintain certification programs that promote technical knowledge and proficiency. The resulting programs measure the competency of, and layout career paths for, engineering technicians and technologists, and supply industries and employers with a more highly skilled workforce. By employing workers who have demonstrated technical mastery through NICET certification, corporate and government employers can provide higher quality goods and services and, ultimately, ensure a higher degree of public safety. The Institute promotes the continuing professional development of its certified technicians and technologists through a re-certification process that emphasizes updated skills and state-of-the-art knowledge. Founded in 1961, NICET is a division of National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE).

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