

# NABCEP NEWS



**Reminder!**

## **SIX WEEKS LEFT To Apply for Exams**

The next application deadline for all NABCEP certification exams is **January 24, 2014**.

Applications that are completed and submitted by January 24, 2014 will be eligible for the **April 12, 2014** exam.

NABCEP only offers its certification exams twice a year. We strongly recommend beginning the process now, as it can take some time to gather all of the required documentation. Waiting to start the process could result in a six-month delay until the next exam.

To sit for the certification exam, you must provide documentation that you have met all education and experience prerequisites.

Go to our [website](#) to get started. Our staff will do all they can to assist you, but they cannot extend the deadline.

If you have already been accepted to take an exam, please schedule for it soon; you're much more likely to

## **NABCEP NEWS - DECEMBER 2013**

*Happy Holidays*



## **Congratulations to our New Certificants!**

The results of the last NABCEP exams are in, and 175 solar professionals have obtained their certification. Taking the exam on October 19, 2013, 139 passed the PV Installation Professional exam, 30 passed the PV Technical Sales Professional exam and six passed the Solar Heating Installer exam. Congratulations to our new certificants on their achievement!

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## **Denver CE Conference has More Options**

*Register by January 24th for the lowest rates*

NABCEP will introduce shorter classes at its Third Annual PV Continuing Education Conference, in Denver, CO, this March. Sixteen of the 50 class sessions will go for an hour and a half instead of three hours, allowing more presenters to participate and more topics for attendees to choose from. It will also allow for more issue-oriented presentations, such as a panel on new software tools to reduce costs and two workshops on specific code issues.

The conference, which runs from Thursday March 13 to Saturday March 15, 2014, is designed for professionals who have attained NABCEP certification. Those individuals who have significant PV sales and/or

get a seat in your first-choice exam location. The deadline is **February 28, 2014** to schedule a seat in the next exams.

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***For Certificants:***  
**A Customizable  
Consumer Brochure**



The NABCEP Brochure for consumers explains the value of choosing a NABCEP-Certified professional. It now has been updated with a back panel to put your name, company name and certification number or to cover with a customized sticker. [Download the brochure](#), fill in the panel on your computer and print it out.

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installation experience and have passed the NABCEP PV Entry Level Exam, are licensed electricians, and/or work for a NABCEP Certificant are also invited to this advanced technical training conference.

The three-day event features in-depth workshops from many of the industry's top manufacturers. Participating companies include: SMA America, Surrette (Rolls Battery), Mitsubishi Electric, Schneider Electric, Quick Mount PV, Solectria, Power-One, OnGrid Solar, Renewable Energy Associates, Bill Brooks Engineering, Century Roof and Solar, DPW Solar, Enphase, SolarEdge, Magnum Energy, Advanced Energy, Ameresco, IronRidge, Certain Teed, eGauge, ISA, Morningstar, Midnite Solar, and Outback Power.

Additionally, several renowned experts will be presenting, including: Ryan Mayfield, "2014 NEC Requirements for PV Systems," Andy Black, "PV Economics," Tony Diaz, "Roofing for Non-roofers" and Bill Brooks, "Preventing Arc Faults and Ground Faults." Solar Energy International will also offer a session on PV Operation and Maintenance strategies and procedures.

The conference enables NABCEP Certified PV Installation and Technical Sales Professionals to attain the 18 CE credits required for recertification. It also enables professionals who aren't yet certified to attain 18 of the 58 advanced training hours that are required for certification.

There will be ample time for networking, and participants will be able to take a behind-the-scenes tour of SMA's manufacturing plant.

Because enrollment will be on a first-come, first-serve basis, those who most need the CE hours are urged to sign up ASAP. [Register by January 24, 2014 to save \\$50 on the registration fee.](#)

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Limited sponsorship and exhibition opportunities are still available for the 2014 NABCEP CE Conference. Contact Outreach and Operations Manager Jeff Keller at [jkeller@nabcep.org](mailto:jkeller@nabcep.org) for more information.

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## TECH TIP

From



By Greg Smith  
Senior Technical Trainer  
SMA Solar Academy

**Question:** *Should I use a micro, string or central inverter for my project?*

**Answer:** It depends! The first thing you should ask is, "What problem am I trying to solve?" This simple question will guide your inverter decision beyond an overly simplistic \$/watt metric. There are other factors at play besides price that will influence the 'true cost' of the system- O&M strategy, site layout and challenges, budget, technical proficiency, the financial health of the inverter company, grid management requirements, etc. You have heard the saying, "use the right tool for the job." Determining your own criteria to arrive at that decision is critical to inverter selection.

**About NABCEP:** The North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) is the most respected, well-established, and widely recognized national certification organization for solar professionals in the field of renewable energy. NABCEP is a volunteer board of representatives who are chosen based on their experience and involvement in the solar energy industry. NABCEP's mission is to develop and implement quality credentialing and certification programs for

## More Benefits of Certification

We have been compiling special offers and promotions for NABCEP Certified Professionals in order to provide you with more exclusive advantages on the industry's top products and services. Visit our [Benefits of Certification page](#) on the NABCEP website, which goes into detail about these offers and how you can sign up.

### **Highlighted Benefit for NABCEP Certificants**

#### **GuildQuality Customer Surveys:**

**Free Trial and 20% Off**

GUILDQUALITY

GuildQuality is North America's leading provider of customer satisfaction surveying, performance reporting, and marketing tools for the residential construction industry (click on the logo for homepage). GuildQuality has partnered with NABCEP to help certificants exceed client expectations and better promote their quality.

NABCEP Certificants who sign their companies up for GuildQuality will receive a 20% discount on survey fees, and full access to its performance reporting and marketing tools.

To experience how GuildQuality works first-hand, [sign up for a complimentary trial here](#). Make sure to mention "NABCEP Certificant" when asked how you heard about GuildQuality during signup.

If you are a company that would like to offer a special promotion or discount to NABCEP Certificants, please contact us at [info@nabcep.org](mailto:info@nabcep.org).



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