



March/April 2010

NABCEP Co-Sponsors the 2010 SolarTech Leadership Summit

NABCEP invites you to join us at the SolarTech Leadership Summit on April 21 and 22 in San Ramon, CA. On Wednesday, April 21st, NABCEP's Executive Director, Ezra Auerbach, along with Wieland Electric's Manager of Business Development, Doug Eakin, will moderate a session on how best practices can ensure quality PV installations. NABCEP is a partner organization for the Summit. Please visit the [event website](#) to learn more.

The [session](#) will address how best practices, in conjunction with standardized procedures and performed by quality installers, can increase quality and efficiency while decreasing installation times. It is critical to ensure a trained, certified workforce is in place to meet the high demand for workers in the solar industry. Consumers who choose a certified solar installer have a way to judge the competency of practitioners. For installers, certification is a commitment to quality and processes, and a way to set themselves apart from their competition.

Panelists include Jeanine Cotter, CEO, Luminant Solar, Johan Alfsen, International Training Manager, Quick Mount PV, and Gary Gerber, President & CEO, Sun Light & Power. There's still time to register for the Summit. To register, [go here](#).

New JTA for PV Technical Sales Certification

In the January issue of NABCEP News, we announced a new credential entitled PV Technical Sales Certification, targeting those who don't install but are involved in other parts in the value chain. This includes gathering site-specific information, analyzing customer needs, and energy use in order to advise customers about the most appropriate solution for their needs.

In November 2009, a group of subject matter experts (SME) participated in a "DACUM" process with the aim of developing a job task analysis (JTA) for this new Certification. In January 2010, NABCEP certificants and more than 6,000 industry stakeholders had an opportunity to weigh in on the committee's work by way of an on-line validation survey. "The survey enjoyed a very high response rate from both the industry and NABCEP certificants" said Ezra Auerbach, Executive Director of NABCEP. After receiving psychometric and Committee recommendations, NABCEP's Board of Directors recently approved the PV technical sales JTA.

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The JTA is a comprehensive analysis of how a task is accomplished, including a detailed description of both manual and mental activities required to perform a given task. It guides the development of exams by which candidates for certification can demonstrate that they truly possess the skills and knowledge that their peers and experts have deemed necessary to do the job well. It is the core document of the NABCEP's Solar PV and Solar Thermal Installer Certifications. Look for more news on the PV Technical Sales Certification on our website.

JTA for PV Installers getting updated

In 2007, NABCEP attained ANSI/ISO/IEC 17024 Accreditation for personnel certification bodies. This prestigious accreditation includes rigorous requirements for examination development and maintenance, and for quality management systems. To maintain this accreditation, NABCEP must, among other things, conduct regular reviews of its JTAs. NABCEP's PV JTA was last updated in 2006. In that time, the industry has boomed, and entire new technologies, techniques and materials have appeared in the marketplace.

Under the skilled guidance of PTI's (Professional Testing Incorporated) Dr. Cynthia Woodley and Adrienne Cadle, a 15-person committee made up of largely of NABCEP PV certificants met in February to tackle this task. As was the case with the PV Technical Sales JTA process, the next step for the PV Installer JTA will be an online survey to validate the results of the committee's work. It will be sent to all NABCEP Certified PV Installers. Distributors, on NABCEP's behalf, will send the survey to a larger group of non-certified PV installers.

NABCEP will be busy at Solar 2010 in Phoenix May 17-22

If you're headed to ASES's Solar 2010 in Phoenix from May 17-22, you'll be able to hear about NABCEP in a variety of venues at the conference. On Thursday, May 20th the forum, [Certification—Getting it Right](#), NABCEP's Executive Director Ezra Auerbach will discuss why NABCEP's national certification of renewable energy installers matters. Joining Auerbach will be IREC's Jane Weissman and Pat Fox, AEE Solar's Jeff Spies, and SEI's Johnny Weiss. There are several industry-training sessions that qualify for NABCEP continuing education credits. Some are free, but [registration is required](#).

This year at the ASES conference, CONERGY is sponsoring the [Solar Success Training Event](#) with new and expanded training opportunities for a variety of markets. Auerbach's [Everything You Want to Know](#) session will cover all aspect of NABCEP and provide a complete overview of the organization and its programs. Auerbach will discuss how to meet the necessary qualifications to take the Certification exam as well as the requirements to maintain Certification.

Questions, Comments or Suggestions

Feedback from our stakeholders is vital to the ongoing success of NABCEP in fulfilling its mission to develop and implement quality credentialing programs for renewable energy workers. I always welcome email and phone calls about our programs, problems, successes and suggestions for improvement. Please don't hesitate to drop me, Ezra Auerbach, Executive Director of NABCEP, a line, either [by email](#) to or by phone to 1.800.654.0021, x 304.