

# **Inter-Laboratory Proficiency Testing of NDT Labs According To ISO 17043 As A Tool For Continuous Improvement Principle According To ISO 9001**

**Tomas Zavadil<sup>1</sup>, Lucie Zavadilova<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup>Services Department, ATG (Advanced Technology Group), Czech Republic, <sup>1</sup>Services Department, ATG (Advanced Technology Group), Ltd., Czech Republic

Inter-laboratory proficiency testing of NDT laboratories acc. to ISO 17043 is currently used by the industry as an effective tool to select those laboratories, that are competent to perform the NDT tasks according to the customer requirements in desired quality especially. The main reason the NDT laboratory is participating in such proficiency testing is therefore to prove its competency externally - to their potential customers. Nevertheless, the inter-laboratory proficiency testing may also help these laboratories internally by improvement of their existing NDT process. The goal of this article is therefore to show that inter-laboratory proficiency testing may be used as an internal tool to assess effective execution of NDT process in the company. It builds up on the continuous improvement principle, one of the core principles of the ISO 9001 standard. In this article it is also demonstrated how the inter-laboratory proficiency testing may help the NDT laboratories to fully understand the whole NDT process, get valuable feedback on how it is currently executed by the laboratory, provides self-reflection on performing NDT tasks, monitor the internal efficiency and improves the NDT laboratory assessment of the process through continuous, incremental improvements managed by repeated participation in the various inter-laboratory proficiency testing schemes.