Dear Readers,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our members for a very successful and constructive virtual Global Board and AGM. In addition to mastering the virtual format, we have made significant progress into meeting our strategic objectives, and we are happy to have this opportunity to take stock of the actions to be taken for the year ahead.

As a build up to the official launch in November 2021 of our ‘Value of TIC Report’, which uses pertinent case studies to illustrate the substantial and added value arising from the TIC sector, last week we hosted our first pre-launch webinar, ‘Substantiating green claims in the age of greenwashing’, featuring our President, Dr Fübi and high level speakers from the OECD and European Commission. Keep an eye on our LinkedIn and Twitter accounts for webinar highlights and news about the upcoming US-based webinar, ‘Connected future: how TIC is turbo-charging the Internet of Things’ which will take place this June. I extend my thanks to all of our members involved in this process for their valued input.

Furthermore, I warmly invite you to register for our Virtual Panel on 7 June, ‘Reopening the economy and improving long term resilience post COVID-19’ where we will present the key policy recommendations outlined in our recently published Position Paper, highlighting the critical role the TIC sector has to play in supporting the relaunch of the global economy.

This past month we also published a Press Release in response to the European Commission’s Proposal for a Regulation on machinery products and were cited in the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology’s Cybersecurity White Paper on Establishing Confidence in IoT Device Security. I also had the opportunity to attend UDT’s conference, ‘Technology shapes the development. Safety innovations for industry in the 21st century’ where I spoke about the value of close cooperation within the regulatory and manufacturing ecosystems.

On behalf of TIC Council, I send you my heartfelt wishes for a safe month ahead.

Kind regards,
Ms. Hanane Taidi
Director General, TIC Council

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**TIC COUNCIL**

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TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- Alfred H Knight Energy Services have expanded their Business Development team to further support Waste Management organisations across the UK, due to an increased demand for sampling and analysis of waste streams. [Read more.]
- AmSpec has announced the opening of a new office and laboratory in Hamilton, Ontario. [Read more.]
- AmSpec has announced that their Morocco laboratory in Mohammedia has been expanded, further strengthening coverage in the Mediterranean market. [Read more.]
- Applus+ in Indonesia has performed Ex Equipment Inspection for an oil operator at the East Kalimantan offshore platform. The project started in February 2021 and was completed in March 2021. [Read more.]
- Applus+ Laboratories has successfully managed the Type Approval for a new automotive Telematic Control Unit (TCU) intended to be marketed in China. The TCU will provide connectivity and telematic services to a high-end vehicle’s platform. [Read more.]
- ATG has obtained an approval from Cessna Aircraft Company as an authorized independent NDI facility. [Read more.]
- Bureau Veritas and Shell have announced the successful completion of their Supply-R pilot project, conducted during the first quarter of 2021. [Read more.]
- Bureau Veritas Benelux has joined the North Sea Energy (NSE) program as an official partner. [Read more.]
- Bureau Veritas has opened a testing facility close to Port Adelaide, the hub for Australian naval shipbuilding in South Australia. [Read more.]
- Bureau Veritas and OPTEL have published a joint white paper outlining ways to address the unprecedented challenge of assuring COVID-19 vaccine supply around the world. [Read more.]
- CITADEL Engineering Company (CEC) has become a trusted Calibration Lab for Fiscal & Custody Transfer Flow Meter From the Ministry of Oil of Iraq. [Read more.]
- CITADEL Engineering Company (CEC) has won the Inspection Service Contract for three years for one of the IOC’s in the Republic of Iraq. [Read more.]
- Cotecná China has been officially certified as “Multinational Corporation’s Regional Headquarters” by the Shanghai Municipal Government during the Certificating Ceremony on 24 May 2021. [Read more.]
- Cotecná has announced that Neutron, part of the Cotecná Group, has developed “Digital PCR”, an innovative way for the detection and quantification of allergen DNA. [Read more.]
- Cotecná has announced that Nofagroup, part of the Cotecná Group, has doubled its capacity to analyse Mineral Oil Saturated Hydrocarbons and Mineral Oil Aromatic Hydrocarbons in response to growing demand and in compliance with European standards. [Read more.]
- Control Quality has shared its latest successes in April 2021 despite the technical difficulties imposed by COVID-19. [Read more.]
- DEKRA has been listed as MFi Authorized Test Laboratory to offer selected CarPlay certification testing, pre-testing and advisory services for vehicle, telecommunications and infotainment system manufacturers, which are licensees of Apple’s MFi program. [Read more.]
- DEKRA DIGITAL has issued a certification to the E-scooter provider Spin based on the Micro-Mobility Standard for safe and sustainable micro-mobility. [Read more.]
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- Element Materials Technology has reached an agreement with Rolls-Royce that will provide Element’s customers with access to the rig and component test capability and engineering expertise of Rolls-Royce in Germany. Read more.

- Element Materials Technology has invested in new electrical safety testing capabilities at its UKAS-accredited laboratory in Wimborne, UK, expanding Element’s existing UK electrical safety testing capabilities. Read more.

- Element Materials Technology has opened a center of excellence for its connected technologies business in Maryland, US to support its growth plans in the sector. Read more.

- Eurofins has developed two new products for the detection and identification of emerging COVID-19 variants of concern. Read more.

- Eurofins’ “empowerDX” at-home COVID-19 testing kit has received FDA-emergency use authorization for children three years and older. Read more.

- Eurofins has announced that EAG Laboratories, part of the Eurofins Group, is expanding its medical device testing capabilities with a new 20,000 square-foot laboratory located in St. Louis. Read more.

- Eurofins Discovery has announced the launch of new services in support of clients working to address the immune consequences of SARS-CoV-2 and other infectious disease. Read more.

- Eurofins has announced that Eurofins Covid Testing Services Ltd (ECTS) are now officially an approved government provider for day 2 and day 8 PCR testing in the UK. Read more.

- HQTS has announced that its new Testing Laboratory in Vietnam has gained an accreditation by ISO 17025. Read more.

- Intertek has announced the expansion of its Health, Environmental, & Regulatory Consultancy (HERS) business line into Russia and Spain. Read more.

- Intertek has announced that it has been accredited to provide independent third-party certification of the Organic Content Standard (OCS). Read more.

- Intertek has awarded Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Co (EGAS) with the globally-recognised ISO 50001 certification for Energy Management Systems. Read more.

- ISQ, in partnership with Optimal Structural Solutions, INEGI and Stratosphere, has announced the development of new materials for the aeronautical sector, within the scope of an R&D program established with Airbus. Read more.

- Moroni & Partners, part of the Kiwa Group, has recently performed vendor technical advisor activities for Octopus Renewables, specialised in investment management in the renewable energy sector in the UK and Europe. Read more.

- Kiwa has signed a partnership agreement with PV Evolution Labs, an independent test lab for the global downstream solar and energy storage industry, based in the United States. Read more.

- Kiwa and Dutch energy network company Alliander have officially opened the Hydrogen Experience Centre, a demonstration and training location where professionals learn how to convert the natural gas supply in residential areas for hydrogen application. Read more.

- QISJ has issued a notice on Continuous Road Worthiness Inspection/Certificate of Conformity (RWI/COC) Inspections for Kenya. Read more.

- RINA has published new rules for the use of “ammonia as a fuel” and the class notation “Ammonia Ready”. Read more.

- RINA together with Snam S.p.A. and GIVA Group has carried out the world’s first test of a 30% natural gas/hydrogen blend - supplied by Sapio Group in the forging processes used in industrial steelmaking. Read more.

- RINA has been awarded together with BIP Group a project by the European Innovation Council and SMEs Executive Agency (EISMEA) to develop a methodology for the cost-benefit analysis for the use of BIM in public tenders. Read more.
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- Saybolt has been ranked first in this year’s EnergyPoint Research Oilfield Services Customer Satisfaction Survey. Read more.
- SGS has announced that its Cyberlab in Graz, Austria has gained accreditation from the BSI (Bundesamt für Sicherheit in der Informationstechnik), the German Federal Office for Information Security, to carry out cybersecurity evaluations according to Common Criteria for the Technical Domain 'Smart Cards and Similar Devices'. Read more.
- SGS Canada’s laboratory in Sherwood Park, Alberta now compliments the seed testing and sampler services of the SGS flagship US laboratory in Brookings, South Dakota, which have both been officially accredited by the International Seed Testing Association (ISTA). Read more.
- SGS has set out Sustainability Ambitions for 2030 (SA2030). Read more.
- TÜV SÜD has announced that it has won the contract for wind condition analysis and AEP (annual energy production) assessment services for the next phase of an offshore wind farm project off the south-west coast of South Korea, which started commercial operation in 2019. Read more.
- UL has partnered with Australia’s National Science Agency to help advance fire safety for the construction industry. Read more.
- UL has announced plans to collaborate with NREL towards the commercialisation of SolarAPP+ automated permitting tool to help local governments expedite permitting on residential solar projects. Read more.
- UL has expanded their laboratory in Poland to include European consumer technology safety testing capabilities. Read more.
- UL has launched a new vaccination tracking tool to support U.S. return-to-workplace programs. Read more.
- UL has acquired Clear Sky Analytics which will strengthen UL’s renewables offerings to assess and optimise solar plant performance. Read more.
- UL has announced that as a member of the Arm Functional Safety Partnership Program, UL will now offer functional safety training expertise to help address a wide range of semiconductor technologies and components. Read more.
- UL has announced it will offer Wi-Fi 6E testing services in Europe to help advance market growth. Read more.
- UL has opened an electric vehicle charging laboratory in Germany. Read more.
- UL has recognised Somfy Smart Control as the first home automation device to achieve IoT security rating. Read more.
- Viglienzoni Adriatica Srl has signed an agreement for a period of 3 years (renewable up to 2 years) with UNHCR, for the provision of general inspection services for quality control. Read more.
- Viglienzoni Adriatica Srl has signed an exclusive agreement with Mansorin International For Inspection And Conformity Company (Libya). Read more.
Mergers & Acquisitions

- Applus+ has acquired IMA Dresden, a European independent materials testing laboratory for product development. Read more.
- DEKRA has acquired Centro Misure Compatibilità (CMC) in Thiene, Italy, expanding its global network of laboratories for electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) and radio frequency (RF) testing. Read more.
- Element Materials Technology has acquired AIRCOM, a conformance testing provider to the wireless devices market’s primary network operators. The acquisition strengthens Element’s services within the fast growing 5G and connected technologies market. Read more.
- Intertek has entered into an agreement to acquire SAI Global Assurance, a leading provider of assurance services. Read more.
- Kiwa has acquired Hudson Cybertec, specialised in cyber security for Industrial Automation & Control Systems (IACS) to expand its presence in the cyber security market. Read more.
- SGS has announced SGS the acquisition of Brightsight, the leading cybersecurity evaluation laboratory network for chip-based security products. Read more.

Personnel Developments

- SZU Ing. Tomáš Hruška has been re-elected chairman of CQS for another term. Read more.
- UL’s Jasmin Omerovic has been appointed IECEx TAG Deputy Chair for a three-year term. Read more.
Accreditation and Standardisation News

Accreditation

IAF

- Mr. Matt Gantley, Chief Executive of UKAS, has been appointed as the new Chair of the IAF CertSearch Database Management Committee (DMC) effective 01 May 2021.
- The IAF Technical Committee met virtually on May 12. Two important outcomes followed: the working group developing the MD XX on conformity assessment schemes will continue its work - the decision was 36 yes and 17 no. Furthermore, the CABAC proposal to transform selected TC decision into resolutions was not approved, 24 to 24.
- The IAF ballots for the positions of IAF Vice Chair and IAF Technical Committee Chair are due June 16. As previously informed the candidates for IAF Vice Chair are:
  - Mr. Wolfram Hartmann (DAkkS/Germany)
  - Ms. Lori Gillespie (ANAB/USA)
  - Mr. Rajesh Maheshwari (NABCB/India)

The candidates for TC Chair are:
  - Mr. Kevin Belson (UKAS/UK)
  - Ms. Nathalie Saveant (COFRAC/France)

EA

- EA has informed its members on the ruling of the European Court of Justice on Regulation 765. The ruling was in favor of ACCREDIA and the European accreditation system regarding accreditation of European CABs by non-EA accreditation bodies. The full text of the ECJ ruling is here.
- EA a report (only for internal use) regarding the HHC work on remote assessments. EA also informed that an HHC guidance members’ procedural document will be developed based on the report and potential international and stakeholders’ inputs. The HHC has established a TFG convened by Martin Sencak (SNAS) and the NWIP to start to develop this document has been approved.
- EA decided to hold all autumn 2021 EA meetings remotely. The EA General Assembly is still planned for 24-25 November 2021, remotely.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

The renewed European Industrial Strategy

On 5 May, the European Commission presented a Communication on the updated EU Industrial Strategy, adapted to fit the conditions ensuing from, the 2020 COVID-19 crisis.

The updated Strategy reaffirms the priorities originally set out in the March 2020 Communication while responding to the lessons learned from the crisis to boost the recovery and enhance the EU’s open strategic autonomy in key supply chains. It aims at driving the transformation to a more sustainable, digital and resilient competitive economy. It also aims at identifying a set of strategic dependencies and capacities and proposes measures to address and reduce them.

The Strategy focuses on three key areas:

- Strengthening the Single Market’s resilience: the COVID-19 crisis highlighted the essential need to uphold the free movement of persons, goods, services and capital in the Single Market, as well as the need to work together to strengthen its resilience to disruptions. To this purpose, the Commission is currently planning to:
  - Propose a Single Market Emergency Instrument - a structural solution to ensure the free movement of persons, goods and services in case of future crises. It should guarantee more transparency and solidarity, and help address critical product shortages by speeding up product availability and reinforcing public procurement cooperation;
  - Strengthen market surveillance of EU and imported products by supporting national authorities to increase capacity and step up the digitalisation of product inspections and data collection;
  - Mobilise significant investment to support SMEs;

- Solving the issue of the EU’s strategic dependencies. The pandemic also triggered wider awareness of the need to analyse and address strategic dependencies, both technological and industrial. To this end, the Commission will carry out a comprehensive analysis on several topics (starting with raw materials, batteries, active pharmaceutical ingredients, hydrogen, semiconductors and cloud and edge technologies) and based on trade data. The results will be presented in in-depth reviews and will provide further insights on the origin of strategic dependencies and their impact on the EU. Review of potential dependencies in other key areas, especially regarding the digital and green transitions, is already under discussion. In the future, the Commission will also work on diversifying international supply chains and pursuing international partnerships to increase preparedness.

- Accelerating the green and digital transitions of the EU industry, outlining new methods to support the two, such as:
  - Co-creating transition pathways in partnership with industry, public authorities, social partners and other stakeholders, where needed, starting with tourism and energy intensive industries.
  - Providing a coherent regulatory framework to achieve the objectives of Europe’s Digital Decade and the ‘Fit for 55’ ambitions,
  - Providing SMEs with Sustainability Advisors and supporting data-driven business models to make the most out of the green and digital transitions;

The Communication has been sent to the European Parliament and the Council, which are currently reviewing and debating the text. Both institutions might decide to formally respond to the Communication. The European Commission is now expected to unveil specific legislations to implement these proposals.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

Legislative efforts towards a more effective cybersecurity and IoT environment

On May 12, President Biden issued an Executive Order aimed at improving the level of cybersecurity of the federal government, with assistance from the private sector. The 18-page document, in this sense, specifically states that “all Federal Information Systems should meet or exceed the standards and requirements for cybersecurity set forth in and issued pursuant to this order”.

More specifically, the EO’s objectives include:

- Removing barriers to sharing threat information: current contract terms or restrictions often limit IT and OT service providers in sharing data with federal agencies about cyber threat and incident information. Removing these barriers and increasing the sharing of information about such threats, incidents, and risks are deemed as necessary steps in order to accelerate incident deterrence, prevention, and response efforts and to enable a more effective defense of agencies’ systems and information collected, processed, and maintained. Therefore, within 60 days of the date of this order, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), will make recommendations for the necessary contract language changes.

- Modernizing federal government cybersecurity: namely, by adopting security best practices, advancing toward Zero Trust Architecture, accelerating movement to secure cloud services, centralizing and streamlining access to cybersecurity data to drive analytics for identifying and managing cybersecurity risks, and finally investing in both technology and personnel to match these modernization goals.

- Enhancing software supply chain security: within 180 days of the Order (November 8), NIST is directed to publish preliminary guidelines for enhancing software supply chain security. The guidance must include standards, procedures, or criteria, including multi-factor authentication, encryption for data, “employing automated tools, or comparable processes, that check for known and potential vulnerabilities and remediate them, which shall operate regularly, or at a minimum prior to product, version, or update release”.

Among other touched-upon topics, the EO includes: establishing a Cyber Safety Review Board, standardizing the federal government’s playbook for responding to cybersecurity vulnerabilities and incidents, and improving the federal government’s investigative and remediation capabilities. In general, the EO’s main concern is to step up efforts to enhance cybersecurity at the federal government’s level in a way that can strengthen collaboration and information sharing between the government and its various contractors.

Moreover, in December 2020, the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST) published four key documents offering recommendations to both federal agencies and manufacturers concerning effective cybersecurity for IoT devices. These aim at addressing challenges raised in the recently signed IoT Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2020 and providing the guidance that law mandates. Together, the four documents — NIST Special Publication (SP) 800-213 and NIST Interagency Reports (NISTIRs) 8259B, 8259C and 8259D — form a unit intended to help ensure the government and IoT device designers are on the same page with regard to cybersecurity for IoT devices used by federal agencies.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

Legislative efforts towards a more effective cybersecurity and IoT environment

On that note, on April 22 NIST hosted a workshop discussing themes in the comments provided to the Cybersecurity for IoT public draft documents, SP 800-213 and NISTIR 8259D, aiming at getting additional inputs from the stakeholders involved. In June, four roundtables on the non-technical capabilities needed across multiple sectors to make IoT devices securable will be held. Interested parties can visit the website of the event here.

TIC Council Americas is currently very active on both cybersecurity and IoT, as it is hard at work preparing two position papers on cybersecurity and IoT that will be published this month, that aim at providing guidance for our members on these topics. Make sure to keep an eye out on our social media for further news coming soon.
Upcoming Events

June
- May 31 - June 4: EU Green Week 2021
- 1-2 June: Orgalim: Cybersecurity for manufacturing summit
- 2 June: AI for Good - AI Policy, Standard and Metrics for Automated Driving Safety
- 3 June: SGS event: A practical exercise in conduction food defense vulnerability assessments
- 3 June: Digital Europe - The Digital Rulebook
- 4 June: Alliance for Internet of Things Innovation: Future of the Ecodesign Directive and the Sustainable Products Initiative
- 9 June: IAF/ILAC World Accreditation Day
- 10 June: CEN approach on addressing environmental issues in standardization
- 10 June: CEPS - Traceability across circular value chains: how to unlock its potential and mitigate challenges?
- 14-15 June: Single Market Forum (SIMFO)
- 14-16 June: European Council: C-DAYS 2021 - Cybersecurity conference
- 16 June: APPLiA - Sustainable products initiative, the future of sustainable circular homme appliance
- 21 June: Recovery Summit - Shaping European Growth
- 22 June: Climate Change Adaptation Conference
- 22-23 June: International IP Enforcement Summit
- 23 June: ICHD 2021 Virtual North America Workshop
- 24 June: Euractiv - Fit for purpose? the role of renewable fuels on the road to 2030 and beyond

July
- 6 July: Euractiv - The role of science in sustainable food and how to communicate it
We are proud and happy to share our landmark report on the Value of the Testing, Inspection and Certification sector, developed jointly by the international law firm Steptoe and the London-based consultancy Europe Economics.

Find more info here.