Dear members,

As the pace picks up and work is proceeding on several interesting projects for the last quarter of the year, I am very happy to say that, with 2022 looming on the horizon, in-person meetings have started taking place once more, and live events have now become the norm again. Let us all hope to leave the tragic chapter of the COVID-19 pandemic, with all the related lockdowns and closures, behind, with a hopeful eye to the future.

In terms of our activities, our team has been hard at work to promote our role and reputation all over the world: this October, we have had four webinars on a variety of themes and issues, from the impact that pandemics can pose to the psychological health of employees to the challenges and opportunities of reopening schools amidst a pandemic, to the quality infrastructure landscape under Industry 4.0 to the advancements of medical devices in India. All of this, once again, showcases how the TIC sector can have a say in a variety of contexts and fields, now more than ever.

In an effort to bring even more visibility to TIC Council and to its members, the team has also participated to a host of worldwide events, both online and in-person: our Communications Manager Laura Martin has joined the EUIPO Observatory Plenary Meeting, working closely together to fight the spread of counterfeit products. Our lead in the Americas, Karin Athanas, was invited to speak at the joint OECD - OCDE online workshop on “Digital Security and Internet of Things”. And finally, Martin Michelot, Executive Director for the Europe region, intervened at ETSI, a European standards organisation, during a meeting of its Technical Committee on Cybersecurity.

And let us not forget our wider publications, with a blog post authored by the Eurofins CEO Gilles Martin on their SAFER@WORK programme and two new position papers on CSRD and on the Machinery Directive.

Last but not least, I am once again very happy to welcome another new member into the TIC Council family: EAA Company Limited joins this month, and we are very much looking forward to a fruitful and productive cooperation.

Kind regards,

Hanane Taidi
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- AHK Mexico has concluded the re-evaluation of its ISO-17025:2017 accreditation with zero non-conformities. Read more.
- Apave has obtained ISO 45001 certification, confirming its commitment to improving employee safety and working conditions and reducing workplace risks. Read more.
- Applus+ has received numerous international awards for its drive towards digitalisation. Read more.
- Applus+ has been awarded a contract for the provision of fuel sampling and collection for an important industrial complex located in Galicia, Spain. Read more.
- Applus+ and Mitsubishi Heavy Industries have announced their intention to develop facilities for environmental testing of highly automated vehicles. Read more.
- Applus+ has been awarded by Repsol a contract for the geotechnical study and environmental site characterisation for the construction of a new industrial terminal in Bilbao. Read more.
- Bureau Veritas has received the “Grand Prix de la Transparence 2021” award in the Code of Ethics category. Read more.
- Bureau Veritas is endorsing the Global Wind Energy Manifesto for COP26. Read more.
- Bureau Veritas has ranked among TOP SBF 120 Companies in terms of women-held executive positions. Read more.
- Cotecna has signed with Ethiopia for a new mandatory conformity programme. Read more.
- Cotecna Kenya has won the East Africa Maritime Awards (EAMA) award for Best Auxiliary Services. Read more.
- Element has set out new environmental ambitions, committing to science-based targets and net zero emissions across its global business by 2035. Read more.
- Intertek has won the IAOB Certification Body of the Year award. Read more.
- Intertek has unveiled Intertek Assuris, the new name for its Health, Environmental, and Regulatory Services (HERS) business. Read more.
- Intertek has been awarded a contract by Tatweer Petroleum for the provision of quality assurance solutions in Bahrain. Read more.
- Intertek has been appointed by Irish Water to deliver a strategic modelling study of Cork harbour, in partnership with Nicholas O’Dwyer Ltd. Read more.
- Intertek has announced it will exhibit and sponsor the NewGen Gold Conference in Perth. Read more.
- Intertek has joined the LEAF Coalition Global Initiative to protect tropical forests, furthering its commitment to a net-zero future. Read more.
- ISQ has been distinguished as Superbrand Corporate (B2B), by Superbrands Portugal, in an evaluation of the reputation and relevance index. Read more.
- QIMA has partnered with Haelixa, a DNA traceability provider, to offer a package of physical traceability and auditing solutions. Read more.
- RINA has announced that it will take part to in 4Weeks4Inclusion 2021, a four-week marathon taking place from 22 October to 22 November, in order to enhance diversity, transform inclusion into an opportunity and convey the values of Inclusion Management. Read more.
- RINA and Marine Engineering Services (M.E.S.) have signed an agreement to cooperate on chemical tankers concepts that will use alternative fuels. Read more.
- RINA has become a member of the UK Chamber of Shipping, the voice of the shipping industry in the UK. Read more.
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Business Developments

- SGS has announced it will manage and operate a new laboratory at Albatros Energy in Mali. Read more.
- SGS has announced it will invest in a new extractables & leachables laboratory in Navi Mumbai, India. Read more.
- SGS in Istanbul has expanded testing capabilities for specific migration of primary aromatic amines in food contact plastics. Read more.
- SGS has announced its accreditation by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) to provide third-party certification of NSF/ANSI standards for food service and commercial appliance equipment products. Read more.
- SGS has opened a new state-of-the-art site for clinical research in Antwerp, Belgium. Read more.
- SGS has opened a new cosmetics testing facility in Hangzhou, China, to meet growing demand for cosmetics product claim substantiation. Read more.
- SGS has expanded its Glasgow biosafety testing facility, helping to accelerate quality testing and reduce turnaround time clients. Read more.
- SOCOTEC Monitoring has has successfully completed the tunnel monitoring element of the HS2 C1 Main Works package. Read more.
- SOCOTEC UK has invested in Spectra QEST, a globally leading vendor in technical information management systems for construction materials and geotechnical testing. Read more.
- SOCOTEC Italia has received the Sustainability Award 2021. Read more.
- SZU has announced it will participate at the International Engineering Fair from 8th-12th November. Read more.
- TÜV Rheinland has applied for medical CAB approval under UKAS-MHRA Authorities. Read more.
- TÜV Rheinland has partnered with Technip Energies to expand project management consultancy services, as well as project controls and supervision capabilities to new markets. Read more.
- TÜV SÜD’s South Korea branch has announced it will participate in the ‘hydrogen-electric tram demonstration project’ implemented by the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) of South Korea. Read more.
- UKAS has published its annual report of 2021. Read more.
TIC Market Trends and Developments

Mergers & Acquisitions

- Element has acquired Nanosyn, a full-service pharmaceuticals contract development and manufacturing organisation. Read more.
- Kiwa Sweden has merged with Valiguard, a company specialised in food safety and organic certification of food producers e.g. against BRC, IFS and ISO/FSSC 22000. The acquisition is part of Kiwa’s growth strategy to strengthen its position on the Swedish market. Read more.
- SGS has acquired Groupe IDEA TESTS, a leading provider of clinical, microbiological and in-vitro testing, and regulatory services to the cosmetics and personal care industry in France. Read more.

Personnel Developments

- Element has appointed Lee Andrews as Group Director, Corporate Affairs and ESG. Read more.

Accreditation and Standardisation News

IAF

- Mr. Wolfram Hartman of DAkkS has been elected as the WG Food Co-Convener. He replaces Kylie Sheehan of JAS-ANZ who will be assuming the role of MLAC Chair following the 04 November 2021 General Assembly.
- Documents and agenda for the IAF General Assembly of 04 November 2021 havbe been distributed in October. A report on the GA will follow next month.

ISO CASCO

- The ISO CASCO CPC (Chairman’s Policy and Coordination group) informs that three of the six positions for A-liaisons are open for the 2022-2023 term.
- ISO CASCO distributed a report on the of the dialogue session CASCO held on October 7 with A-liaisons. Among the key challenges for active participation in CASCO, the lack of available resources seems to persist in many organizations. Often, the work is relying on a small number of volunteers and it is difficult to get more experts involved. All organizations unanimously stressed the importance of raising awareness about the benefits of conformity assessment standards. Industry and in particular SMEs need to realize the value of conformity assessment.
TIC Council Focus Topics

The Current State of the EU Affairs

The European Commission published this month its work program for 2022. The program contains both new legislative initiatives and existing legislation that will be revised. Find below a few initiatives that are of relevance for the TIC sector, which particularly focus around two of TIC Council’s advocacy pillars:

**ESG**

- Initiative on the right to repair (Q3 2022): in the framework of the Circular Economy Action Plan, this undertaking would mostly likely ensure that consumers have a "right to repair" by making repairs more appealing, systematic and cost-efficient. This might be done either by extending guarantees, providing guarantees for replaced parts or better access to information on repair and maintenance. The TIC sector could play a role in achieving the future aims of this initiative.
- The overall Plastics Package, which will be composed of three separate initiatives:
  - The policy framework for bio-based, biodegradable and compostable plastics (Q2 2022), also part of the Circular Economy Action Plan, which should address: (a) the sourcing, labelling and use of bio-based plastics, based on assessing where the use of bio-based feedstock results in genuine environmental benefits, going beyond reduction in using fossil resources and (b) the use of biodegradable or compostable plastics, based on an assessment of the applications where such use can be beneficial to the environment, and of the criteria for such applications.
  - The measures to reduce the release of microplastics in the environment (Q4 2022).
- The revision of the restriction of the use of hazardous substances in electronics (Q4 2022).

**Digitalization**

- The Cyber Resilience Act (Q3 2022): there are few details on what is expected in this initiative, except for the fact that it is understood as a comprehensive package, bringing together existing initiatives by the EU on the topic, such as the NIS2 directive and potentially a new horizontal regulation putting in place harmonized cybersecurity standards for products. It is however expected to focus more on cyberdefense aspects. The TIC Council secretariat will closely monitor this initiative in the future for any developments.
The Current State of Affairs in US Politics

**The state of AI legislation: data protection and integration of AI in agency platforms**

In February 2019, President Trump issued the “Maintaining American Leadership in Artificial Intelligence” Executive Order, through which the federal government advocated for the development of appropriate technical standards and for reducing barriers to the safe testing and deployment of AI technologies. The EO identified a set of six relevant strategic objectives for both promoting and protecting American advancements in AI; among these, to enhance access to high-quality and fully traceable federal data, to reduce barriers to the use of AI tech to promote innovative applications and to ensure that technical standards minimize vulnerability to attacks from malicious actors.

NIST, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, has been active in developing these deliverables, and has held several events and workshops on different topics related to AI R&D. The latest of which, on October 19-21, 2021, focused on the development of an AI risk management framework to help individuals, organizations and stakeholders to manage AI-related risks. Earlier on the same month, NIST also published a draft white paper on the Taxonomy of AI Risk, delving deeper on what are supposed to be “trustworthy” AIs and clarifying the definition and principles within the different organizations working on the topic.

In 2020-2021 there have been multiple pieces of legislation introduced in the United States which would support the incorporation of AI and digital readiness into agency platforms, processes, and operations, and for other purposes. Chief among these, a new bipartisan Senate bill called “GOOD AI Act”, introduced on October 21, aims to secure data collected by AI technologies (such as facial recognition), and would require the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to establish and consult with an AI working group in ensuring that all federal contractors are taking adequate steps to secure data obtained through AI, and that the data is being used to protect national security while not compromising privacy.

As for TIC Council’s efforts towards these goals, our Executive Director for the Americas region, Karin Athanas, has joined multiple panels in the past few months to analyze the interplay between AI, digitalization, standardization, conformity assessment and legislation and provide some useful guidance to the actors involved. A few examples include:

- The IEC Workshop on AI on October 13, which included an introduction to ISO SC 42’s work on AI, with 24 projects currently in development;
- The 4th meeting, on October 21, of the ITU-T Focus Group on AI & Environmental efficiency (FG-AI4EE), which is developing technical reports and technical specifications to address environmental efficiency;
- A TIC Council-organized panel hosted during the February 2021 ICPHSO North American Conference, on AI and machine learning.
Upcoming Events

November

- 1-12 November: 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference
- 4 November: Transform Single-use Plastic Waste into Valuable Products - TRANSFORM-CE
- 5-6 November: OSH events 7th International Conference on Construction, Safety and Health
- 8-9 November: European Textile and Apparel convention - EURATEX
- 9-10 November: Climate-neutral steelmaking in Europe – technology, financing and policy conditions
- 9-12 November: GRMA Summit
- 11 November: SBF Webinar on Fusion: Strategies, roadmaps and development programmes
- 16-18 November: 2021 OECD Green Growth and Sustainable Development (GGSD) Forum
- 23 November: Roundtable: Building trust for the European Health Data Space - DIGITALEUROPE
- 25 November: Standardizing Carbon Neutrality - a milestone on the way to net zero - CEN/CENELEC
- 29 November: FT live: Tech and Politics Forum 2021

December

- 1-2 December: CEPS Cybersecurity Summit 2021

February

- 3-4 February 2022: Masters of Digital 2022 – DIGITALEUROPE
Our latest blog post

Interview with Niranjan Nadkarni, CEO TÜV SÜD South Asia, South East Asia, Middle East & Africa Region

TIC Council interviewed Niranjan Nadkarni, CEO TÜV SÜD South Asia, South East Asia, Middle East & Africa Region, to discuss the following topics:

- Insights on the transition of the TIC industry over the last two decades
- The role of TIC in helping industries meet their sustainability agendas
- How the TIC sector is helping in the adoption of Industry 4.0
- The key trends and challenges that will shape the TIC industry
- How the TIC sector in India is coping with the pandemic
- Whether remote inspection will completely replace on-site inspections

Click here to read the full interview on TIC Council’s blog

https://t.co/lnbHh9cM6t

#testing #inspection #certification #blogpost #industry #sustainability #Industry4point0 #Industry4D #remoteinspection

Our Director General, Ms. Hanane Taidi, in London with Mr. André Lacroix, Mr. Marc Boissonnet and Mr. Marcus Long. Our Advocacy and Public Affairs Director, Ms. Efthymia Ntivi, joined remotely