



Michigan Section 135
Patrick Butler, Michigan Section Coordinator
Hosted by: Visteon Corporation
October 23, 2007

It was an unseasonably warm October day for the Michigan section meeting, hosted by Rich Caron of the Visteon Corporation in Van Buren Township, Michigan. Visteon village houses their 800,000-square-foot corporate offices and innovation center, the facility is impressive to say the least. Its layout made everyone feel as if they were back in school, on their old college campus. For those unfamiliar with the Visteon name, their website describes themselves as “a global enterprise with nearly a century of automotive engineering and design expertise and more than 80 years of experience in accomplished integrated systems. Our customer base includes the 19 largest vehicle manufacturers in the world.”

Holding the meeting the same week as the Automotive Test Expo proved to enhance the turnout since a lot of NCSLI interested parties were already in town and in meeting mode. We had one of our largest meetings with 30 attendees.

The Michigan section coordinator, Patrick Butler of Robert Bosch, LLC, opened the meeting with a few remarks about the importance of NCSLI and stressed the fact that it is a volunteer organization. Volunteers like Richard Caron and the Visteon Corporation who offer their time and resources are what make NCSLI the great organization that it is.

One of NCSLI's strongest advocates and regional coordinator, Lloyd Baker of Dynamic Technology, Inc., presented the board of directors update. He pointed out the extreme focus the board has given to training and education. He also highlighted the incredible value of the annual national conference.

Mike Bosley of the Visteon Corporation gave a great presentation on Visteon's EMC laboratory capabilities. Not only did we learn a little about the types of EMC tests that there are, we also got a look from the customer's perspective of calibration services. Mike pointed out how he relies heavily on the expertise of Visteon's own calibration laboratory, especially when insuring that outsourced calibrations are in line with EMC testing

requirements. He also shared some lessons learned while setting up a laboratory in China. Mike pointed out that as a result of accreditation, he is now aware that there is a lot more to calibration than just “throwing equipment over the wall” and it coming back with a sticker on it. It was refreshing to see how a user of calibration services sees things.

Next, Miguel Figueroa, the senior manager of test operations at Visteon Village, gave us an overview of the facility. He explained how the layout was designed to flow just like product development, from product ideation to program delivery. He also showed how their technical services were part of a central services organization with functional centers of excellence. This certainly allows for specialization in areas of NVH and acoustics, airflow, calibration and instrumentation, and thermal analysis to name a few. There is no doubt this structure enhances their competency, as well as quality.

Patrick Butler took off his section



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coordinator hat and put on his NCSLI 157 Automotive Committee chair hat. His presentation gave an overview of the NCSLI committees in general and why they exist. Specifically, he addressed the need for more involvement in the Automotive Committee. ISO/TS 16949 was the focal point and the specific requirements placed on calibration and testing laboratories within the automotive community. Patrick pointed out that there is an abundant use of the term “requirements” within the quality standard; but these requirements are open-ended and vague. He also stressed the need for commonality and consistency between audits,



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auditors, and auditing agencies. In order to achieve this, the automotive committee has a goal of publishing a guidance document on auditing for measurement systems analysis. This will assist the auditor and audited. Anyone interested in the workings of the automotive committee should contact Patrick at pat.butler@us.bosch.com.

Dilip Shah of E=mc³ Solutions needed no introduction. He serves as the icon for NCSLI, ASQ, and probably a dozen other acronyms. It is always a pleasure to have someone of his caliber speak at our meetings. He provided us with an overview of the Metrology Education and

Outreach program. This demonstrated the commitment NCSLI has made to insure the future of metrology and calibration professionals. We, as NCSLI members, are eagerly awaiting the availability of training and education resources NCSLI is rolling out. We discussed inviting faculty from local colleges and high schools as a possibility for future meetings. Dilip also followed up with a brief talk on accreditation issues.

After filling ourselves with the lunch that Visteon provided, we let Flow Technology, Inc. dominate the afternoon by educating the audience on the various flow measurement and calibration tech-



nologies available. Rich Markham and Mark Evans came all the way from Tempe, Arizona to give their presentation. Again, this shows the dedication of the volunteers that support NCSLI. Flow Technologies has over 50 years of experience in flow measurement. In addition to flowmeters, they also offer flow calibration services and manufacture primary flow standards. Rich gave an excellent overview of the different flow measure-

ment technologies available from all manufacturers while Mark shared his experience in flow calibration showing us the different possibilities for flowmeter calibration. In each case, they showed us the pros and cons of each type of technology, which allowed the audience to learn what, may be right for their application.

After doling out the door prizes provided by Phil Smith of A2LA and the NCSLI business office, the meeting

adjourned. I think many of the topics presented, generated numerous side discussions, which then of course created endless networking possibilities. It cannot be overstated how grateful the attendees are to the Visteon Corporation for offering their time and resources. Without the support of organizations such as Bosch, Visteon, Flow Technology, and Dynamic Technology, the NCSLI Michigan section would not be what it is today. ■