Hosted By: Agilent Technologies, October 6, 2008.

The New England Region showed up in force for our fall meeting, with 36 names on the register for a Monday morning get together. Agilent Technologies was once again our gracious host.

Our first speaker was Bob Stern of Agilent. In addition to his responsibilities with Agilent, Bob is involved with the NCSLI on the Z540 committee. Bob spoke on compliance with ANSI/NCSL Z540.3-2006. Bob also discussed lab modernization, and some very interesting calibration cost comparison models. These could be used model cost savings, and provide justification for new investments in lab standards. Bob was nice enough to provide electronic copies of his cost justification models (let me know if you would like a copy).

Roger Muse of ACLASS took enough time out from his travels to Eastern Europe (via Paraguay and Andover, Massachusetts) to speak with us on ISO/IEC 17025 Accreditation processes and developments. Roger is the Director of Sales and Marketing for ACLASS. ACLASS is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC), Asia Pacific Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (APLAC), and Inter American Accreditation Cooperation (IAAC) MLAs for ISO/IEC 17025.

Our next speaker was Jun Batista, Quality Director (Metrology) for Genzyme. Jun had the challenge of keeping our attention after a catered lunch. He was more than up to the task, as he discussed RP-6 with us. The RP-6 document is intended to provide general requirements that can be used by the biomedical and pharmaceutical industry for establishing an effective calibration control system. It can be used to develop internal metrology and calibration programs for the biomedical and pharmaceutical industry.

Bill Modlin of Martel Electronics then joined us to outline challenges unique to field calibration and discussed new technologies. Martel Electronics is the new home of Beta Calibrators. Martel Calibrators, a division of Martel Electronics, offers hand held and bench calibrators, process instruments, process indicators, and power supplies manufactured for the process industry and OEM applications.

Thanks again to Agilent Technologies for allowing us to utilize their excellent training facility and for providing a delicious lunch. Thanks also to Cal-Tek Co. Inc. for providing the early AM and afternoon refreshments. And especially to our speakers who take time out of their busy schedules to make our meetings interesting and informative.

Tim Cooke, Region Coordinator
tc Cooke@transcat.com

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