This year’s Annual Report finds that International Accreditation Service (IAS) has granted its 800th accreditation across 17 programs worldwide. Coupled with this is another major milestone—completion of 40 years of uninterrupted service to the industry since issuing the first IAS accreditation certificate in 1975. An unexpected but welcome development that aided in reaching these milestones is IAS’ impact on the global market for accreditation. Thirty percent of IAS revenue comes from entities around the globe. A substantial portion of IAS accreditations still serve U.S.-based companies and laboratory accreditation remains IAS’ largest program. The IAS mark has gained credibility and respect globally based on efforts to ensure timely service delivery, responsiveness and technical competence. These three attributes and a lean approach to accreditation have all contributed to IAS’ success in the U.S. and around the world.

While 2015 has been a banner year for IAS, it is a result of old-fashioned, hard work with help from an improved software system, recruitment of top-notch technical experts and proven assessors to handle the workload. The backbone of a successful accreditation program is the quality and versatility of its assessment teams supported by a dedicated, tenured staff. IAS will continue to do what has worked so well for us in the past, and we will also seek innovative solutions and smarter ways to achieve our goals.

As a resource for the ICC’s Governmental Members, IAS remains at the forefront of accreditation in the construction sector while establishing an international presence primarily accrediting laboratories involved in fields including construction, petro-chemical, food, electrical, sustainability, chemical and others. The Middle East in particular has shown strong interest in IAS accreditation services.

IAS continues to expand its scope of accreditation offerings so that we will be able to provide services in response to market opportunities and inquiries and requests from clients. In December 2014, IAS underwent a thorough on-site evaluation by an international team of experts from the Pacific Accreditation Cooperation (PAC). PAC is a region of the International Accreditation Forum, the apex body that oversees accreditation bodies worldwide. The evaluation is a process that accreditation bodies undergo to gain international recognition of their accreditation services to maintain recognition or to expand into new areas of accreditation. Having already completed a successful PAC evaluation, IAS will offer accreditation in the disciplines of Management System Certification for Quality Systems under ISO 9001 and Environmental Management under ISO 14000. IAS is poised to join the international Multilateral Recognition Arrangement and add to the portfolio of accreditation services it has to offer as a full service accreditation body. This expanded recognition will allow the organization to reach markets where there is high demand for accreditation domestically and abroad. Later this year, IAS will again be evaluated by PAC for recognition of our Personnel Certification accreditation program. Upon receiving international recognition of these new accreditation programs IAS will be well-positioned for future growth and expansion.
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