



At the end of the year 2004 we would like to wish all our customers and business partners as well as our active assessors and technical experts a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2005. We would especially like to thank our customers for the confidence shown and the cooperation we have had. Also in the coming year we will justify this confidence.

Yours sincerely,  
Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Kurt Ziegler

Yours sincerely,  
Dipl.-Ing. Andrea Valbuena

#### **CUSTOMERS – EMPLOYEES – STAKEHOLDERS**

The ranking in the headline above is to show the importance of DAP's activities in the coming years. These activities have of course to be accompanied by correspondent measures and target agreements – some of them will be presented to you as follows:

First of all I would like to thank the members of the Meeting of Shareholders for the confidence shown in me and I will do all my best to justify it.

For years I have directly and indirectly been associated with the complex of accreditation and, therefore also with DAP.

I already was a member of the working group which founded the German accreditation system in the Federal Institute for Material Research and Testing in 1988. Later, as Director of the Material Testing Institute

Brandenburg I got to know the accreditation from the perspective of a conformity assessment body – from the perspective of the customers.

As Manager of the Association of Material Testing Institutions in Germany, which is the majority shareholder of DAP I became the Manager of the Assembly of Shareholders therefore having directly been integrated in the most important decisions taken. In this respect I am not completely breaking new ground with my new position as Managing Director of DAP.

My luck is to be able to manage an company with a sound economic basis and with competent and dedicated staff. After the phase of economic consolidation of DAP by Dr. Berner my principal aim does not consist in incrementing the turnover at all costs which as a matter of fact does not mean that we do not have to reach a consolidated operating result in future.

#### **TOPICS**

- **CUSTOMERS – EMPLOYEES – STAKEHOLDERS**
- **MODIFICATIONS IN CASE NUMBERS**
- **INTERLABORATORY COMPARISONS**
- **NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR MUTUAL RECOGNITION IN THE AREA OF PRODUCT CERTIFICATION**
- **DIN EN ISO/IEC 17020 REPLACES DIN EN 45004**

I will lay the main focus of my work on five areas:

1. Debureaucratization and simplification of internal processes with the objective to give the staff more time for the main field of activity: the accreditation. One part of it is the purchase of an efficient IT system – at the moment in the phase of introduction. From January 2005, the staff is going to work with it.
2. Establishment of a Corporate Identity: my intention is that all staff identify with our company representing DAP that way to our customers and the publicity. Not only financial incentives are a requirement to reach the objective but also the staff satisfaction as a reason of an internal motivation. Our staff must be aware that the customer is most important for us. It is to the customer that we have to establish a fair and partner relationship. Our work is a service for the economy and also for the population in the end. Therefore, the customers have to be on the first place – we have to orient our forces towards them.
3. I got to know the staff by the promotion interviews; targets were set. Many suggestions to improve our work were given. Now it is time to decide whether the structure as before can be maintained or whether changes with regard to the structure and staff have to be made. I like the cooperative leadership which of course must not lead to one-way streets or endless streets. Cooperation calls for bilateral activities.
4. As a consequence of personnel difficulties we were less engaged in national and international bodies as e.g. in ILAC, EA and in the international standardization, a circumstance which was not always advantageous for us during evaluations and in setting up rules. Being the biggest accreditation body, in future there will be the necessity to prepare for and cooperate more in foreign relations.
5. As speaker of the accreditation bodies in the non-mandatory area, but also as DAP Managing Director I welcome the bill on accreditation wishing that it may be passed as soon as possible. I am sure that it will be adopted although there is still a long and hard road to travel. New possibilities of development will be shown to DAP and also to the accreditation bodies in the non-mandatory area. The bill is radically going to change the accreditation landscape in Germany even promoting fusions of accreditation bodies. Primarily the stakeholders are called upon to give advice and experience. This bill even may serve as a nucleus for a European regulation and it would be very regrettable if Germany once again missed such an opportunity and had to be subject to another model. The bill will only be successful, if efforts can be made with regard to a continuous development with regard to a continuous development between the mandatory and the non-mandatory area by mutual confidence building.

DAP is represented in all decisive bodies to make up the bill. My opinion is that this is a moving and exciting time and I assure that I will do my best so that DAP also in fu-

ture will be playing a leading role in Germany's accreditation landscape.

Univ.-Prof. Dr.-Ing. habil. Kurt Ziegler  
Managing Director of DAP

## MODIFICATIONS IN CASE NUMBERS

On its meeting of 8 September 2004 DAR decided to use the following symbols for the type of accreditation in future aiming at a unique representation of DAR case numbers:

- PL – Testing laboratories
- KL – Calibration laboratories
- ML – Medical laboratories
- IS – Inspection laboratories
- ZE – Certification bodies for products
- ZQ – Certification bodies for quality management systems
- ZM – Certification bodies for management systems
- ZP – Certification bodies for personnel

This regulation is to say that we will do without the particular identification of accreditations in the framework of which the laboratories complied with the requirements of § 2 of the Agreement between the Revenue Department of Hanover and the Accreditation Bodies DAP, DACH and DASMIN on the Accreditation of Testing Laboratories and Engineering Offices under the Exploration of Contaminated Sites or Sites Suspected of Contamination on Federal Real Estate of 22 May 2000. Instead of 'PA' 'PL' will be applied. The same is true for PD, PI and PG.

This rule applies to all accreditation certificates for testing laboratories to be issued from 1 October 2004. The accreditation certificates issued before this date will of course continue to be valid. The conversion will be made gradually in connection with the issuance of the respective new certificate to become due.

Dipl.-Ing. Andrea Valbuena, DAP

## INTERLABORATORY COMPARISONS

In 2004 the Institute for Proficiency Testing (IfEP) organized three interlaboratory comparisons in coordination with the DAP Sector Committee Material Testing. In total 149 laboratories from Europe participated in the interlaboratory comparisons for the following test methods: Brinell Hardness Test, Tensile Test including preparation of samples according to DIN EN 10002 and Beam Impact Test according to DIN EN 10045. Mostly the laboratories participated in more than one test. That way at the time being 230 individual results are being evaluated.

In 2005, IfEP will offer the following interlaboratory comparisons which may be used by the laboratories as a constitutive part of the external quality surveillance:

- Rockwell Hardness Test; testing of certified reference materials and of an additional material
- Steel tensile test (round samples); including tests at elevated temperatures
- Aluminium tensile test including hardness test and conductivity testing

All testing laboratories accredited and not yet accredited working in accordance with the standards mentioned above may participate.

The Institute for Proficiency Testing as one of the first German organizers is facing an accreditation procedure as inspection body according to DIN EN 45004 and the essential regulations of ISO Guide 43 and ILAC Guide G13 for organizers of interlaboratory comparisons.

In October 2004 the on-site assessment was conducted with success.

The international orientation and the justified requirements of the participants for qualitatively high-value and demanding results led to this step which we intend to finalize this year.

For more information please consult our staff via

[www.eignungspruefung.de](http://www.eignungspruefung.de) and  
[frenz@eignungspruefung.de](mailto:frenz@eignungspruefung.de)

Prof. Dr. Frenz, University of Applied Sciences, Gelsenkirchen

### **NEW ARRANGEMENT FOR MUTUAL RECOGNITION IN THE AREA OF PRODUCT CERTIFICATION**

DAP is one of the first signatories of the IAF MLA (Multilateral Mutual Recognition Arrangement) for the accreditation of certification bodies for products. This new Arrangement was signed in Cape Town on 9 October 2004 during the 18<sup>th</sup> IAF General Meeting.



The Arrangement forms the prerequisite for certificates of product certification bodies accredited by DAP being recognized in the respective member states. The main objective of such arrangements is the free movement of goods due to the reduction of trade barriers to avoid double activities thus accepting products once certified without more local certification in the respective import country. The IAF motto "Certified once, accepted everywhere" can therefore be put into practice.

It is an extension of the IAF Arrangement of the worldwide net of accreditation bodies in the area of product certification. The worldwide Arrangement up to now was concluded in 1998 and referred to the accreditation of certification bodies for quality management systems.

A credible conformity assessment infrastructure is one of the IAF objectives to create a secure environment and quality of life. The harmonisation of the accreditation process has been promoted by the World Trade Organization WTO/TBT framework to reduce trade barriers above the agreed scale.

For more information on this Arrangement please consult the Website of the International Accreditation Forum: <http://www.iaf.nu/>

Barbara Voon, DAP

### **DIN EN ISO/IEC REPLACES DIN EN 45004**

In November 2004, the DIN EN 17020 "General criteria for the operation of various types of bodies performing inspection" was published replacing the DIN EN 45004:1995-06. Both standards do not differ as regards to the contents. Only the standard number changed into the DIN EN ISO/IEC 17020.

We will take this change into consideration applying the new standard number on our certificates. All accreditation certificates issued before will continue to be valid.

Dipl.-Ing. Andrea Valbuena, DAP

## **FLAG**

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