



## ETA® International Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
Greencastle, Indiana  
September 12, 2013

### **ETA International reaches milestone in fiber optics certifications**

*As consumer demand for more bandwidth and faster connection time continues to increase, so does the demand for certified fiber optics professionals. ETA International recently issued its 50,000<sup>th</sup> fiber optics certification.*

Over 50,000 Fiber Optics professionals holding ETA certifications can be found worldwide as consultants, designers, contractors, technicians, installers, managers, and supervisors and these individuals are at the center of businesses, government, military, education and transportation industries.

Being ETA certified as a fiber optic professional gives a competitive edge in a truly exciting and rewarding industry. The US Department of Labor predicts job growth at 13% through 2020 with average earnings of \$54,290 yearly.

ETA certifications are widely recognized and frequently used in worker job selection, hiring processes, pay increases, advancements, and often required as companies bid on contracts. What sets ETA fiber optics certifications apart? The hands-on testing component validates skills required in today's industry and a four-year certification allows you time to grow in your field before renewing.

The use of fiber optics is not limited to home phone systems, internet access and cable television. Transportation industries, educational systems, hospitals, financial institutions, businesses, governments and militaries also use fiber optics as a connection to complex networks of physical lines and cables to connect with the outside world.

Fiber Optics Installers are expected to obtain knowledge of basic concepts of fiber optics and copper cabling installation and service which are applicable to all the functions required to safely and competently install fiber optics communications cabling. Once an installer has been tested on skills, abilities and knowledge, he or she should be able to enter employment in the fiber optics field in industries such as: aerospace, mining, railroad, and transportation. With minimal training in areas unique to the special requirements of individual products or systems designs, the installer has the tools to be a profitable and efficient part of the workforce.

Fiber Optics Technicians are expected to obtain knowledge of fiber optics concepts that will allow them to be involved with designing, configuring, installing, and maintaining fiber optics systems. Technicians will also be able to test and troubleshoot a Local Area Network (LAN) system with various faults. This certification is designed for technicians, system analysts, design engineers, managers, telecommunications professionals, fusion splicers, mechanical splicers, end users, etc. The prerequisite for the Fiber Optics Technician certification is the Fiber Optics Installer, or equivalent work experience.

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The Fiber Optics Technician-Outside Plant certification is designed with special emphasis on outside plant applications and standards. A FOT-OSP must be able to properly terminate, test and troubleshoot singlemode fiber optic communication systems. This includes various types of termination and troubleshooting techniques applicable to high speed laser based systems as well as to safely and completely analyze Fiber to the Home (FTTH) signatures, measure reflectance, test splitters, and identify faults in fiber optics communications and transmission cabling. The FOT-OSP should have a basic understanding of the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC) and the National Electrical Code (NEC) and all safety conditions specific to the outside plant environment and the applicable transmission equipment.

All ETA certifications align to accepted international standards, measure competencies of persons, not products or vendors. ETA's certifications are personal and travel with the individual, regardless of his or her employment or status change. ETA's free Career Resource Center connects jobseekers to high-demand employment opportunities.

ETA represents the technology industry, from the technician and educator to the corporate institution. Widely known for electronics certification programs, ETA helps electronics technicians advance their knowledge, skills and excel in their fields, while connecting employers to qualified electronics professionals. The association's initiatives are to provide a prominent certification program of competency criteria and testing benchmarks that steer international electronics standards and provides renowned professional electronics credentials.

ETA® International - Founded in 1978, Electronics Technicians Association International is a not-for-profit, professional association promoting excellence in electronics technologies through certifications. The association's initiatives are to provide a prominent certification program of competency criteria and testing benchmarks that steer international electronic standards and renowned professional electronics credentials. Today, ETA has issued over 115,000 technical certifications covering more than 70 certification programs in a variety of electronics fields. The association consists of over 5,000 members, 625 Subject Matter Experts (SME's) serving on various Industry Advisory Committees and 1,010 Exam/Certification Administrators (CA's). ([www.eta-i.org](http://www.eta-i.org))

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