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Dear iNTACS members, SPICE assessors and friends of intacs®!

The new Automotive SPICE® PAM 4.0 and the VDA QMC® Guideline V2.0 was released for the automotive industry. We are thrilled to announce the launch of our brand-new " Automotive SPICE PAM 4.0 Upgrade" training, which is available since April 2024. This comprehensive training has been crafted to empower you to understand the changes from PAM 3.1 to PAM 4.0.

But that is not all! We are also on a continuous journey of improvement and innovation. As part of our commitment to your professional growth, we are excited to share that our existing trainings are undergoing a significant refresh. Prepare to mark your calendars for October 2024, when the updated trainings concept for PAM 4.0 will roll out, packed with all you need to perform Automotive SPICE® assessments using PAM 4.0 for the automotive industry. With the new "Process Expert" training we are creating a training so you can understand the model and guideline in detail. Therefore, there will be a dedicated training for quality personnel to guide the projects in fulfilling the process requirements.

Besides the work for the training material there is also progress in the other working groups in iNTACS. The non-automotive community is steadily growing.

Enjoy!

All the best,

Your iNTACS working group "Information Management"

iNTACS information letter 2024-04

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News from the Executive Board

iNTACS e.V. annual meeting with Executive Board and Advisory Board members

Würzburg, Germany - On January 10th, iNTACS held its annually meeting, bringing together the Executive Board members and Advisory Board members. The meeting serves as a platform for the exchange of ideas and insights on the latest developments in the working groups.

During the meeting, the Advisory Board members provide valuable feedback on the strategies and initiatives, while the Executive Board presents updates on the progress of ongoing projects and future plans. This meeting focused on the new training concept for Automotive SPICE® PAM 4.0 and the introduction of the new training "Process Expert". Besides that, it was discussed that the rules for assessor certification and renewal were updated to cover the new concept.

The 2024 iNTACS e.V. virtual member convention will take place on September 4th, 2024 (1:00pm - 3:00pm CEST). Our members will receive the invitation and agenda by email and letter. Of course, if there are any questions or needs feel always free to contact the Executive Board (executive@intacs.info).

Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency PAM published on our website

There is a new PAM available on our website! The Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA®) published its process assessment model (see https://intacs.info/spice-center) for software development according to JERG-0-049 (see https://sma.jaxa.jp/techdoc_en.html). The JAXA®-PAM is an ISO/IEC 33004 conformant and ISO/IEC 33020 compliant assessment model. iNTACS has confirmed this in a technical review.

Creation and use of assessment "certificates"

As a non-profit organization, iNTACS e.V. does not interfere with the business activities of its partner companies. This also applies to the creation of assessment "certificates" for Automotive SPICE® assessments. The creation of assessment "certificates" by assessors or the organization carrying out the assessment is the responsibility of the creator and is possible in general. In this context, however, we would like to point out that the use of the intacs logo and trademark on assessment "certificates" is not permitted. The use of the assessor's signature with intacs certification number is possible. Please note the regulations and trademarks of the VDA QMC®.

Update of the intacs® training concept

In coordination with its partners in VDA®, iNTACS e.V. has updated the training concept, which will be applied from the start of the training courses for Automotive SPICE® 4.0. The certification levels for assessors will not be changed. The Process Expert training will be offered independently with a scope on Technical Development. For more details see the article below or visit our website: https://intacs.info/training-center.

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First Automotive SPICE® 4.0 upgrade training successfully completed!

iNTACS e.V. has successfully conducted the first Upgrade Pilot Training for Automotive SPICE® 4.0 from the 28th to 29th of February 2024. Certified trainers from accredited training companies took part in the two-day event. It was the first opportunity to present the content and discuss and exchange ideas with international Instructors of the community. The feedback will be processed as part of a review and an updated version of the training material will be produced. Colleagues from VDA® AK13 also took part in this review. We wish everyone continued success!

📇	**Executive Board contact:** Lars Dittmann (lars.dittmann@intacs.info)

News from our Working Groups

Status of iNTACS Working Group "WG Training Development"

New intacs® training architecture extended with "Combined Lane"

As already published several months ago, iNTACS will change the training architecture for certified SPICE assessors this year, together with the updated trainings for Automotive SPICE® 4.0.

The introduction of the new intacs® certified Expert training for Automotive SPICE® will not only support assessors to understand the model, but also practitioners who have to ensure the conformity of internal processes and projects to the PAM.

After intensive discussions with stakeholders from VDA, OEMs and suppliers, iNTACS decided to extend the new architecture with an alternative path for becoming a Provisional Assessor. Besides the standard path of completing the Expert training for becoming familiar with the PAM, then collecting first experiences, and applying the model in projects and organizations, before attending the second part in the Provisional Assessor training, there is now also the chance to become a Provisional Assessor in "one step" without missing important information.

The so-called "Combined Lane" allows the attendance of a seven-day training spread out over two weeks, that contains the material of both trainings, Expert and Provisional Assessor, with an exercise between the two parts and only one exam at the end of the training. Of course, such a long training course in one session is a greater challenge for prospective assessors in terms of concentration and receptiveness. Therefore, the "Standard Lane" with sufficient time between the parts is also highly recommended.

Because of these recent updates, the initially planned release of the new training architecture in July 2024 must be postponed to October 1st, 2024.
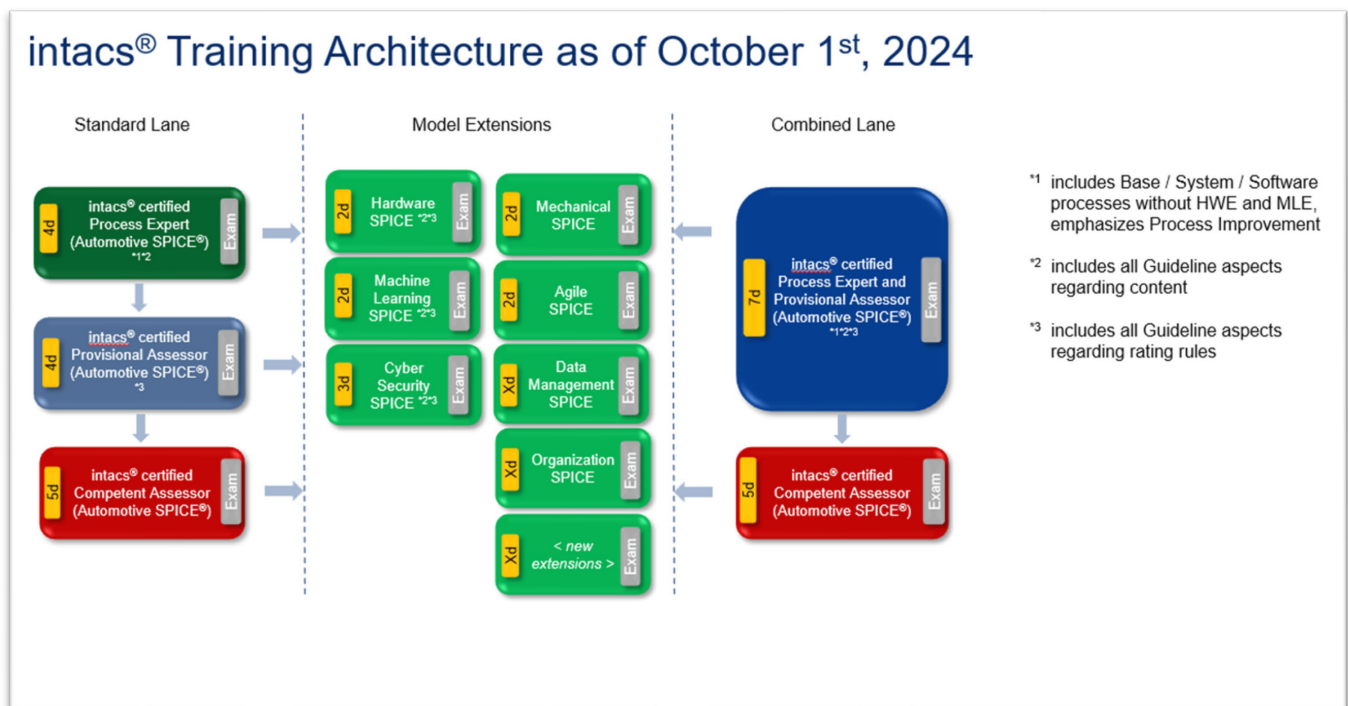

Figure 1: New iNTACS training architecture

iNTACS information letter 2024-04

More details can be found on our website: https://intacs.info/training-center

	Contact:
	Jürgen Schmid (juergen.schmied@intacs.info) & Bernhard Sechser (bernhard.sechser@intacs.info)
	iNTACS Working Group Leads "WG Training Development"

Status of iNTACS Working Group "Cybersecurity SPICE"

Due to the new Automotive SPICE® PAM 4.0 and the associated Guidelines version 2.0, the references in our training materials have changed. We will undertake the activities in order to update the Automotive SPICE® for Cybersecurity training material. We are currently defining the working method for this. The aim is to provide the updated and revised version by the end of June 2024.

As we change and update our training material, further improvements may be incorporated. If you have found any important points in the training material, please let us know.

Having gained experience with Automotive SPICE® for Cybersecurity, our working group is also very interested in your feedback.

	Contact:
	Thomas Liedtke (thomas.liedtke@intacs.info)
	iNTACS Working Group Lead "Cybersecurity SPICE"

Status of iNTACS Working Group "SPICE for Mechanical Engineering"

SPICE for Mechanical Engineering version 2.0 available

SPICE for Mechanical Engineering was completely revised. To simplify and accelerate this model´s application in assessments we decided to merge the former System-V and Component-V into just one common Mechanics-V. In addition, SPICE for Mechanical Engineering was aligned with the conceptional changes introduced with Automotive SPICE® 4.0.

Please download the Mechanical Engineering addon for Automotive SPICE® here. The assessor´s community is invited to review SPICE for Mechanical Engineering version 2.0 and to share any comments and proposals for further improvement by submitting a ticket on our iNTACS homepage.

	Contact:
	Robert Schlieder (Robert.schlieder@intacs.info) & Andre Zeh (andre.zeh@intach.info)
	iNTACS Working Group Lead "Mechanical SPICE"

Status of iNTACS Working Group "Hardware SPICE"

The iNTACS Hardware SPICE workgroup is proud to introduce our new workgroup leader, Mr. Attila Fehérvári, who brings a wealth of experience as a principal Automotive SPICE® assessor and a founding member of the Hardware SPICE workgroup. He will be taking over the reins from Dr. Pierre Metz, ensuring a smooth transition and continued excellence in our work.

The Executive Board and the Advisory Board would like to thank Dr. Pierre Metz for the many years of very good and trusting cooperation and for his tireless commitment to iNTACS and the SPICE community!

The working group's goal remains the same: to provide an up-to-date, modern process assessment model for electronic hardware engineers in the automotive industry. The model will be kept synchronized with the latest Automotive SPICE PAM/PRM and provide additional background information, such as functional safety or cyber security aspects.

The latest updated intacs® Hardware SPICE version 3.0 has been available since last December. The training materials will be available in Q3 2024, as per the usual intacs training roadmap introduced.

	Contact: Attila Fehérvári (attila.fehervari@intacs.info) iNTACS Working Group Lead "Hardware SPICE"

Status of iNTACS Working Group "SPICE for IT Services"

In June 2022, we finalized and released the SPICE for IT-Services PAM version 4.0. Meanwhile we successfully completed a small number of pilot trainings with different groups of interested people as well as a few assessments.

As of today, we are happy to announce the release of the combined SPICE for IT-Services Process Expert/Provisional Assessor Training.

Currently we are working on a Competent Assessor training course. This will establish SPICE for IT Services as an independent certification pathway.

An updated version of the PAM and the Competent Assessor training is planned to be ready for review by the end of 2024.

	Contact: Eberhard Hübner (eberhard.huebner@intacs.info) iNTACS Working Group Lead "SPICE for IT Services"

Status of iNTACS Working Group "Internationalization"

Very first Gate4SPICE meeting in France

Christophe Debou, the iNTACS Regional Representative for France, supported the very first Gate4SPICE meeting in France which took place on the 12th of October 2023 at the "Maison du Handball" in Créteil (France). In total, 33 participants from France, Belgium and Switzerland attended this event. Back then, the Gate4SPICE meeting served both as a kick-off for the Automotive SPICE® French speaking community but also for the about-to-be-released Automotive SPICE® 4.0. Morning presentations were followed by afternoon workshops around Automotive SPICE® 4.0, Automotive SPICE® deployment for new domains and combining complex landscapes and Automotive SPICE®. The next Gate4SPICE meeting in France was planned to take on the 24th of April 2024.

Results of the event can be found here.

India SPICE Network organizes Gate4SPICE meeting

Sunil Kumar, Regional Representative for India, organized and hosted a Gate4SPICE event titled "Demystifying Automotive SPICE® 4.0 & Ensuring Safe and Secure Products" on September 29th, 2023. This event served as a dynamic convergence point for automotive industry professionals worldwide, with a keen focus on the latest developments in Automotive SPICE® 4.0 and its far-reaching implications for the industry. Beyond SPICE, the event featured illuminating discussions on topics such as functional safety and cybersecurity.
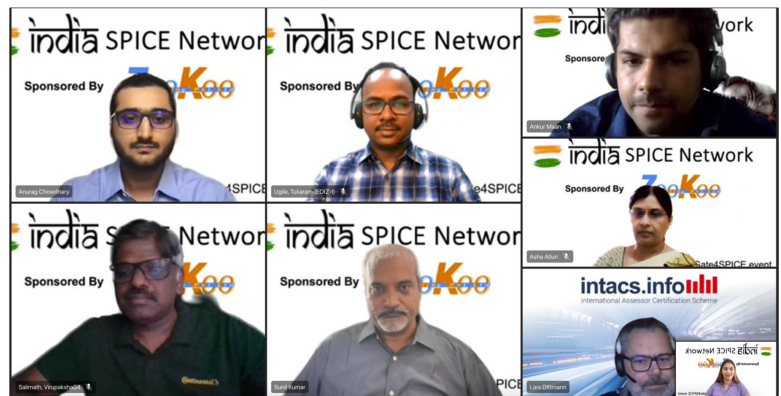

Figure 2: Group photo India SPICE Network

The virtual gathering boasted an exceptional lineup of speakers who collectively shared their expertise and insights, deepening our understanding of these critical subjects.

In addition to the enlightening presentations, the event featured an engaging and challenging workshop focused on TARA (Threat Analysis and Risk Assessment). Participants were organized into multiple groups, fostering collaboration and teamwork as they grappled with the intricacies of a TARA. This hands-on experience provided valuable practical insights into assessing and mitigating risks in the automotive industry.

Results of the event can be found here.

News from Chinese Region

We are excited to share with you about the Chinese assessor events which were supported by VDA QMC® China and CSN in the past year. These events have become a great platform for automotive industry professionals to discuss and learn about various topics related to software quality management in China.

Below is the summary of our events that were held in 2023:

Supporting VDA QMC® Activities

- The 5th SYS China workshop day - March 24, 2023, 69 attendees
- ASPICE® online conference - October 19, 2023, 201 attendees
- The 6th VDA Automotive SYS Conference China - November 1-3, 2023, 220 attendees

Figure 3: Group photo VDA QMS China

Supporting Gate4SPICE Activities

- Gate4SPICE Event with EAST - April 15, 2023
  Topic: Pursuit of an Efficient SW Quality Management, 22 attendees
- Gate4SPICE Event with Cariad - May 26, 2023
  Topic: How tool chain would support software quality, 27 attendees

Supporting CSN Workshop Activities

- Agile SPICE Workshop – June 5th, 2023, 35 attendees
- Developing reliable automotive EE products – July 14th, 2023, 33 attendees
- Requirement engineering for automotive software – September 8th, 2023, 16 attendees
- The 7th CSN conference – September 15th, 2023, 144 attendees

Figure 4: 7th CSN conference group photo

- Research on pure software product development process – October 24th, 2023
- ASPICE® implementation analysis in Enterprise – December 1st, 2023, 35 attendees

Appendix: Brief Introduction of CSN

CSN is the China SPICE Association ("China SPICE Network") with 281 members.

The main objectives are to:

- Act as an open communication platform to all assessors or people who are interested in quality management, software-based product development, SPICE and Automotive SPICE in China.
- Resolve interpretation issues related to SPICE through interactions of experiences and knowledge
- Organize workshops and research to explore new topics on SPICE
- Share latest trends and activities conducted internationally related to SPICE
- Help participants gain experience evidence (i.e., EE-AC, EE-EP)
- Establish communication channels with intacs and Chinese SPICE assessors
- Support intacs & VDA QMC activities in China

Contact:
Bernhard Sechser (bernhard.sechser@intacs.info)

iNTACS Working Group Lead "Internationalization"

News from our Certification Bodies

News from the ECQA®

The ECQA® is happy to announce that the number of training providers for iNTACS accepted (non-automotive) PAM extensions (e.g., Agile SPICE®, Hardware SPICE, Data Management SPICE, etc.) is increasing. New training organizations are registered around the world. A training provider in China just finished their first Agile SPICE® training and the first batch of successful certification exams with the ECQA® as a Certification Body. This clearly proves that there is increasing interest in the PAM extensions and more training organizations are already applying.

This text is kindly provided by the ECQA®.

	Contact:
	Michael Reiner (info@ecqa.org)
	CEO of ECQA GmbH

Reminder: VDA Automotive SYS Conference 2024

Quality, Safety and Security for Automotive Software-Based Systems Conference
July 03 - 05, 2024
https://vda-qmc.de/en/events/

Landgut Stober
Behnitzer Dorfstraße 27-31
14641 Nauen OT Groß Behnitz
Germany

This text is kindly provided by the VDA QMC®.

	Contact:
	Dr. Jan Morenzin (office@automotivespice.com)
	Automotive SPICE Certification Office

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Translations

All translations are based on the English version of the information letter. The English version is always the leading version. This information letter and all translations are property of iNTACS e.V.

Thanks to the translators and reviewers for supporting us for in translating this information letter.

	Chinese translation: Yawen (Evan) Hou Member of iNTACS Working Group "Information Management"
	Korean and Japanese translation: Kwangho Che iNTACS Regional Representative KOREA

Comments and Feedback

Your feedback and comments are greatly appreciated! Please do not hesitate to contact us via the email below.

All the best,

Thomas Kömmerling & the "Information Management" Working Group team

	Contact: Thomas Kömmerling (thomas.koemmerling@intacs.info) iNTACS Working Group Lead "Information Management" Member of the Advisory Board

International Assessor Certification Scheme e.V. (iNTACS e.V.), Herderstr. 7, 51147 Köln, Germany