iNTACS information letter 2025-08

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International Assessor Certification Scheme

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

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation in our recent survey about “Automotive SPICE® experience and its profitability”! We are excited to share the insightful results with you in this edition of the information letter.

We are also happy to announce the launch of the ASPICE Potential Analysis training, which began in May 2025. The usage of this new model is designed to enhance skills and drive excellence in projects.

Additionally, we have a lineup of fascinating conferences scheduled for the last two quarters of the year. Have a look for more details and opportunities to engage with the latest updates for using SPICE models. Take your chance to discuss with industry and subject matter experts!

Happy reading!

Thank you for being a valued member of the iNTACS community. We look forward to your continued engagement and support.

Best regards,

Your iNTACS working group “Information Management”.

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News from the Executive Board and Advisory Board

Procedure Certification Criteria was updated

The definition of a basic PAM has been added to section 3.1.8. The distinction between PAMs is necessary in order to differentiate between certifiable models and extensions. We have also defined the registration of extensions in section 3.8. For Automotive SPICE® extensions, this is done automatically by the VDA QMC. All other extensions can be registered with the ECQA. Potential Analysis is an extension to Automotive SPICE® and is treated as such in assessments and during certification. In Chapter 5, we have described the rules for cross-certification and cross-training. Please read the relevant text. Unregistered extensions will no longer be displayed on the website from January 2026. Please also check our FAQ page on the Ticket Dashboard website regularly.

Internal procedure for EE-AC certificates and Certificates of Competence updated

The internal procedure now defines how members of working groups can obtain their Certificate of Competence after successful participation. In case of questions, please contact your Working Group Leader.

Deletion of assessor tags on the intacs.info website

The Executive Board has decided that the following assessor tags will be deleted from the website on January 1, 2026:

- ISO/IEC 15504
- Extensions without registration

Existing licenses remain valid. Regardless of this, we recommend that all experts and assessors register extensions and participate in the upgrade training for ISO/IEC 330xx.

Survey results about Automotive SPICE® experience and its profitability

The ASPICE® survey conducted by intacs e.V. provides valuable insights into the practical application and perceived profitability of ASPICE®. Based on 167 valid responses from experienced professionals worldwide, the study offers a representative and well-founded perspective on the implementation of ASPICE® in real-world projects across the industry.

The survey was conducted online between February and April 2025 and focused on each respondent's most complex ASPICE® project. While the study captures a broad spectrum of experiences, it is limited to individual project insights and may reflect subjective perceptions.

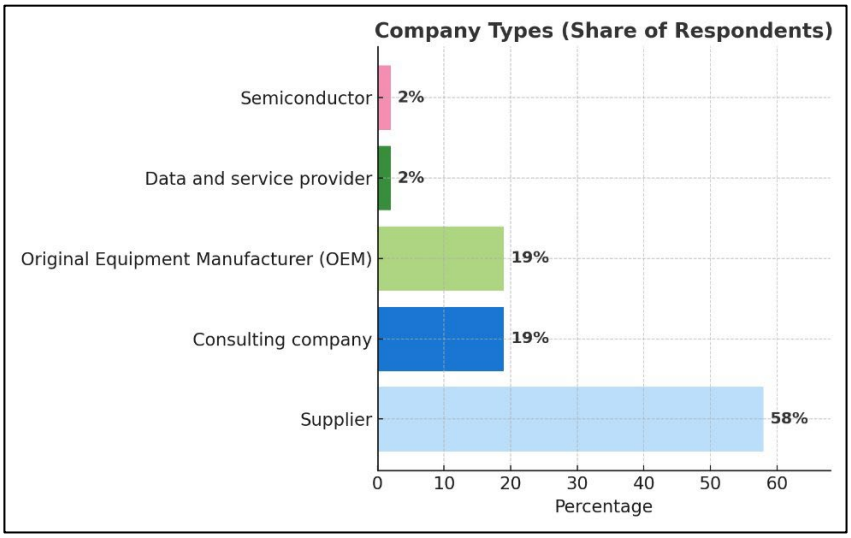

Figure 1: Company types in the survey

The majority of respondents (58%) came from supplier organizations. Most evaluated projects were conducted between 2022 and 2024, reflecting current industry practice. These projects were often related to functional safety, certification, or cybersecurity and were typically executed by small to mid-sized teams (median size: 30).

Most projects targeted ASPICE® Capability Level 2, with some already aiming for Level 3. The most frequently assessed processes included project management (MAN.3), software engineering (SWE.1–6), and supporting processes (SUP)- mainly reflecting the old VDA scope.

Clear improvements were reported across key engineering activities. The strongest positive impact was seen in traceability of requirements, followed by improvements in error detection and project communication. However, schedule adherence showed mixed results, indicating ongoing challenges in that area.

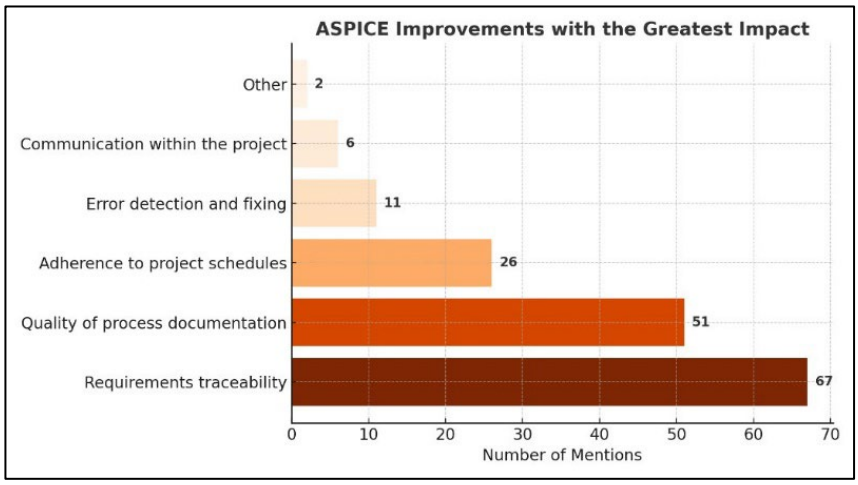

Figure 2: ASPICE improvements with the greatest impact

From an investment standpoint, ASPICE® implementation required on average 11.65% of a project's development budget. The primary cost drivers included additional workload, training, and external consulting. Despite these initial costs, nearly half of the respondents observed financial benefits within the same project—mainly through reduced error rates, maintenance efforts, and warranty claims. In follow-up projects, almost 90% reported a positive return on investment.

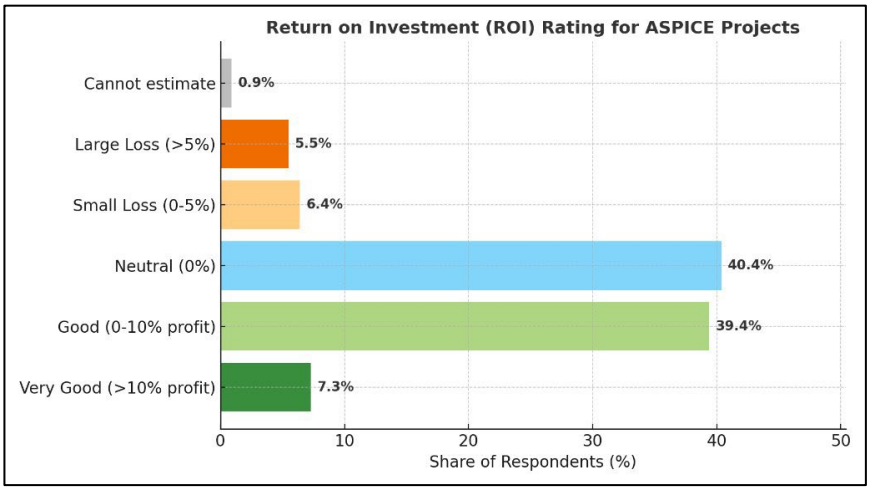

Figure 3: ROI rating

The overall satisfaction with ASPICE® was high. Around 72% of participants noted a positive impact on customer satisfaction, and over 60% expressed general satisfaction with its use. Although neutral responses were present, negative feedback was minimal. Respondents clearly viewed ASPICE® as a catalyst for improved quality, traceability, and development structure. The general perception has shifted—from seeing ASPICE® as an overhead to recognizing it as a value-adding framework.

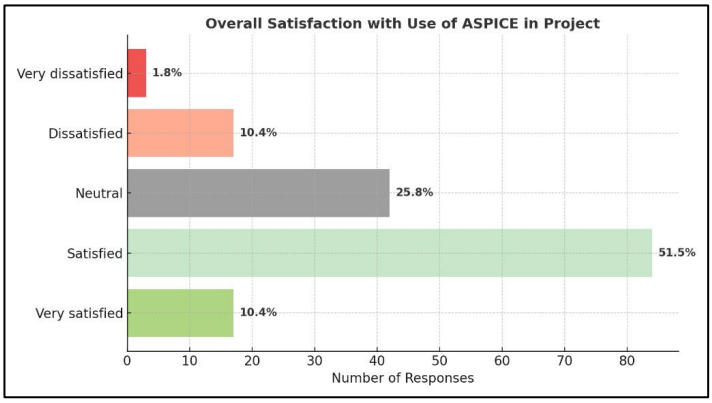

Figure 4: Overall satisfaction

In conclusion, the benefits of ASPICE® clearly outweigh the challenges. While the initial investment is significant, the long-term gains in quality, efficiency, and stakeholder satisfaction make it worthwhile. Future surveys should aim to explore the long-term benefits in greater depth and include perspectives from management and team members who interact with ASPICE®-compliant processes, but do not have expert-level knowledge. This would help to better understand process reuse and broaden the view on ASPICE®'s ecosystem. More detailed information will be published in an intacs® White Paper on the intacs e.V. website.

Contact:
Mario Herberger (mario.m.herberger@intacs.info)

Changes of procedures and templates

This new section will summarize new intacs® procedures or templates that were published recently. All new publication of procedures will now have a “release date” of the document and a “valid from” date to highlight when exactly the new rules in the procedure apply.

Procedure / Template & Link	New version	Release date	Valid from	Release notes (Main changes)
Procedure Certification Criteria	10.8	2025-07-25	2025-07-25	• Chapter 3.1.8: Definition models and extensions • Chapter 3.8: Registration of extensions • Chapter 5: Cross-certification and cross-training

Facts & Figures

Did you know that…

iNTACS e.V. is a non-profit association that currently has 41 individual and corporate members. Certified experts and assessors do not automatically become members of the association.

New FAQ page / intacs® Knowledge base on our website

With the change to the version of the Automotive SPICE® PAM and the introduction of the new training structure, a lot of questions were raised to iNTACS using our ticket system. We have summarized all the questions and answers we provided in a structured way. So, before raising a ticket you might want to have a look in the new “Knowledgebase” section (https://intacs.info/ticket-dashboard) to find a quick answer e.g., regarding assessor certification or trainings. The list is being constantly updated.

iNTACS information letter history

Older versions of the iNTACS information letter can be downloaded from our website here.

Figure 5: New home of the iNTACS information letter

News from the Assessors Community

SPICE Communities and Networks

One of our main goals is to make intacs® visible all over the world. We have certified assessors in many countries, so we need an efficient way to keep them up to date with all the innovations and changes and to get feedback so we can continuously improve our scheme.

Therefore, the Internationalization Working Group establishes contacts with companies, industry representatives and community members in all countries to promote the intacs® program.

In addition, regional representatives are appointed to act as local contacts and communicate directly with the local intacs® assessors.

Are you interested?

Have a look at https://intacs.info/spice-center/spice-networks.

iNTACS regional event in Budapest

The intacs regional representatives from Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Serbia, and Slovenia successfully organized their first regional event from May 14–15 in Budapest, Hungary. The event was hosted by Robert Bosch Kft. Hungary at their Innovation Campus and was sponsored by intacs and EuroSPI (www.eurospi.net).

Over 100 participants - both onsite and online - attended the two-day event, which focused on sharing experiences and discussing a broad range of SPICE-related topics. Presentations were delivered by members of the intacs working groups, representatives from the VDA AK 13, as well as industry experts from OEMs and automotive suppliers.

For more details see https://intacs.info/spice-news-reader/spice-networks/intacs-reg-event.

Figure 6: iNTACS regional event in Budapest

Contact:
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iNTACS Regional Representative “Austria / Croatia / Serbia / Slovenia”

News from our Working Groups

Status of iNTACS Working Group “New Training Courses and Coordination”

Automotive SPICE Potential Analysis training launched

In June 2024 the VDA published the Automotive SPICE® Potential Analysis PAM/PRM (ASPICE® PoA). A month later in August 2024 the corresponding Blue-Gold-Volume was available as printed version. As the ASPICE PoA is classified as an official Automotive SPICE® extension, the VDA AK13 provided the training material and exam questions for this PAM/PRM. In collaboration with a subgroup from the VDA-QMC Working group 13 (aka AK-13) a syllabus and training concept were defined. After screening and reviewing the PAM/PRM and Blue-Gold-Volume the content for a one-day training and an exam was identified.

The training covers the Automotive SPICE® Potential Analysis PAM/PRM itself, but also the purpose, scope definition and the use cases for this model. For Automotive SPICE® Potential analysis a different Framework based on the ISO/IEC 33004 was developed and is explained in the training. The scope of ASPICE® PoA is divided in three groups: Base Scope, Plug-Ins and Flex Scope as introduced by Automotive SPICE® PAM/PRM 4.0.

A method named “Potential Analysis” is also used in automotive hardware area and therefore a comparison from Automotive SPICE® Potential Analysis to VDA Volume 6 Part 3 and to the ASPICE PAM/PRM 4.0 is explained in this training. Some organizations run pilots for the Potential Analysis PAM/PRM to evaluate the feasibility and concepts behind this model extension. Feedback from these pilots and the Pilot Training- and two Train the Trainer session was already integrated in the training material.

After a final editorial loop the training was officially published on May 21st, 2025, and right after the release some trainings were conducted. Feeback on Training material and the model extension is highly welcome. Potential fulfils all requirements for a PAM, but standalone certification is not possible. PoA is treated as an extension to Automotive SPICE®.

Contact:
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iNTACS Coordinator for “ASPICE Potential Analysis”

Status of iNTACS Working Group “Functional Safety”

Harmonizing Standards: Navigating the Levels of Interaction Between Automotive SPICE® and ISO 26262

In the evolving landscape of automotive systems engineering, the relationship between Automotive SPICE® and ISO 26262 has transitioned from segregation to increasing convergence. While both frameworks serve critical yet distinct purposes - process capability and functional safety, respectively—their integration is no longer a theoretical aspiration, but an operational imperative. As part of our work, we have identified three archetypal levels of interaction between the two standards, offering a compass for organizations seeking to optimize both compliance and efficiency.

1. Isolated – Dual Realms, Dual Burdens

At the foundational level, organizations operate in an isolated paradigm, where Automotive SPICE® and ISO 26262 are treated as entirely separate spheres. Assessments are conducted independently, with results siloed and unrecognized by the counterpart framework. While this ensures strict adherence to the letter of each standard, it often results in duplication of effort, inflated audit overhead, and lost opportunities for synergy.

2. Co-Existence – Aligned in Spirit, Divergent in Execution

Progressing towards maturity, the Co-Existence model embraces alignment at the project level. Both Automotive SPICE® and ISO 26262 guidance are applied in parallel, and processes are harmonized where feasible. Yet, the underlying models remain structurally distinct. Crucially, assessment results from Automotive SPICE® begin to play a supporting role in safety audits, or even directly in the functional safety assessments. This reuse of evidence marks a significant step toward audit efficiency and reduced disruption to project teams.

3. Fusion – A Unified Model for Dual Compliance

The Fusion stage represents the culmination of integration efforts. Here, a single, cohesive process assessment model is engineered to fulfill the requirements of both Automotive SPICE® and ISO 26262. This integrated approach enables a consolidated assessment framework, minimizing redundancy and ensuring traceability across process capability and safety objectives. The outcome is not merely compliance, but a demonstratable elevation in process maturity and audit readiness.

Conclusion

The path from isolation to fusion reflects an industry-wide recognition that operational efficiency, audit traceability, and cross-disciplinary integration are no longer optional but essential. As OEMs and suppliers navigate the intricate demands of safety-critical automotive systems, a harmonized approach to Automotive SPICE® and ISO 26262 is emerging as a cornerstone of best-in-class engineering governance.

For organizations still in the early phases of this journey, the imperative is clear: deliberate steps toward integration can yield measurable benefits in both compliance and quality. Whether a conscious co-existence utilizing synergies, or whether a full-fledged fusion is the ideal approach, is still under investigation by the intacs® Working Group Functional Safety.

If you are interested in these topics and want to contribute, feel free to contact the Working Group.

LinkedIn hashtag: #intacs-functional-safety

Contact:
Hendrik Meyl (hendrik.meyl@intacs.info)
iNTACS Working Group Lead “Functional Safety”

Status of iNTACS Working Group “Data Management SPICE”

Because Data Needs a Little Seasoning

Effective data management is essential for organizations to derive value from their data assets while ensuring consistency, quality, and compliance. The next generation of Data Management SPICE (Software Process Improvement and Capability Determination) emphasizes a structured and process-oriented approach to managing data across its lifecycle. It supports organizations in aligning data strategies with business goals, implementing governance frameworks, ensuring data quality, and enabling secure and efficient data sharing.

In the era of AI-driven transformation, the next generation of Data Management SPICE plays a critical role in bridging machine learning (ML) and IT service management. High-quality, well-governed data is foundational for developing reliable ML models and delivering consistent IT services. This framework highlights the interdependencies between data lifecycle management, model training, and service operations – ensuring that data used for ML is trustworthy, traceable, and aligned with IT processes.

It fosters seamless interfaces between ML pipelines and IT services, supporting scalable deployment, continuous model monitoring, and compliance with service-level and data protection requirements. By integrating data management into both ML and IT service practices, organizations can unlock robust, AI-enabled services with operational excellence and strategic agility.

Next-Generation Data Management SPICE: Aligned with ASPICE 4.0 for Integrated and Scalable Data Practices

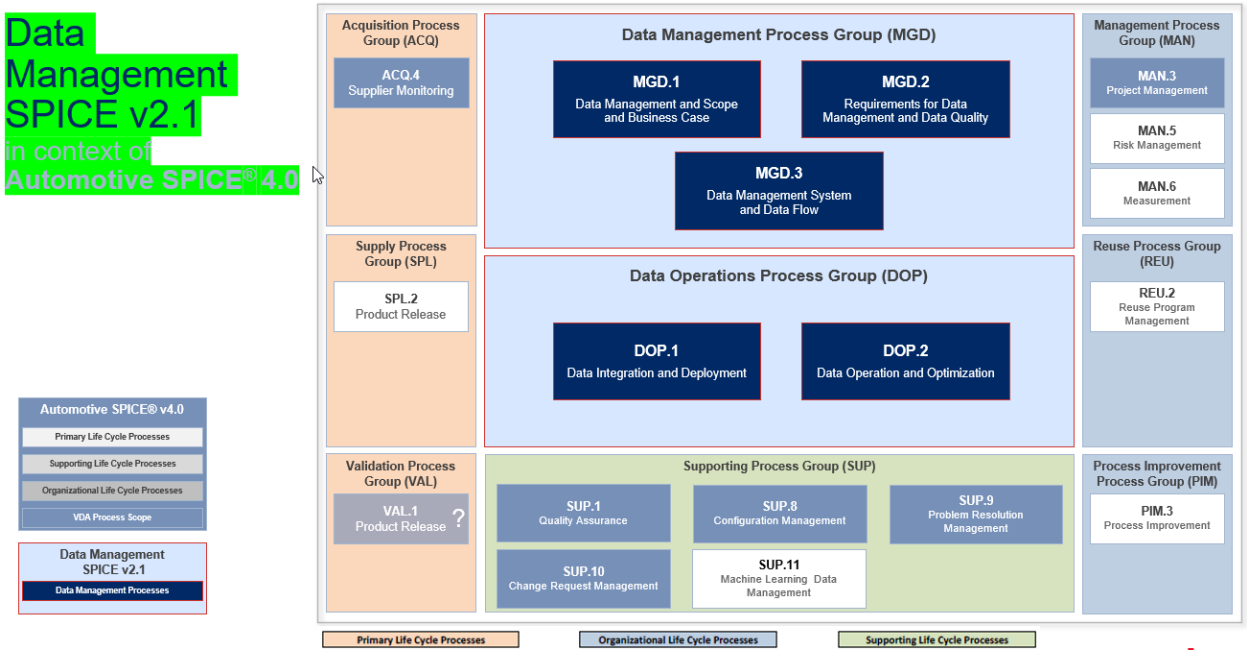

Figure 7 Adapted processes in Data Management SPICE V2.1

The next generation of Data Management SPICE, fully aligned with ASPICE 4.0, provides a structured framework for managing data as a core asset across the product and service lifecycle. By extending and integrating with ASPICE 4.0 processes, it enables consistent data quality, governance, and traceability – crucial for AI, machine learning, and IT service environments. This alignment ensures seamless collaboration

between engineering and data-driven domains, fostering scalable, compliant, and future-ready digital solutions.

The diagram illustrates how Data Management SPICE v2.1 is structured and aligned within the Automotive SPICE 4.0 framework, emphasizing its integration with both primary and supporting life cycle processes.

At the core of this integration are two dedicated groups:

- **Data Management Process Group (MGD)**, which addresses data strategy, data quality requirements, and system-level management of data flow.
- **Data Operations Process Group (DOP)**, focusing on practical aspects such as data integration, deployment, and operational optimization.

It complements other supporting processes such as Quality Assurance (SUP.1), Configuration Management (SUP.8), Change Request Management (SUP.10), and Problem Resolution (SUP.9).

In addition, key processes from ASPICE v4.0 – such as Project Management (MAN.3), Supplier Monitoring (ACQ.4) – interact with data processes to ensure cross-domain traceability, compliance, and robust governance.

This integration ensures that data becomes a first-class citizen in system and software engineering, supporting the growing dependency of modern IT services and ML systems on high-quality, well-managed, and traceable data throughout the lifecycle.

The release of the next generation Data Management SPICE is scheduled for Q4 2025. Stay tuned.

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iNTACS Working Group Lead “Data Management SPICE”

Status of iNTACS Working Group “Optical SPICE”

Optical SPICE Working Group Highlights In-Vehicle Optical Product Development at China Software Innovation Conference

On June 13, at the third China Software Innovation and Development Conference held in Wuhan, the Optical SPICE Working Group, represented by Gong Zheng and Hou Yawen, engaged in discussions with Dr. Cao from China Optics Valley and representatives from two leading Wuhan-based optical enterprises. The focus was on the standardization of in-vehicle optical product development using Optical SPICE, particularly its innovative practices in the Process Reference Model (PRM) and Process Assessment Model (PAM).

During the session, the Optical SPICE Working Group introduced iNTACS and detailed how Optical SPICE's PRM and PAM frameworks support the development of in-vehicle optical systems. SPICE, as an extension model, offers a systematic approach for designing and validating these systems. The discussions also covered two key industry trends: "optical communication in vehicles" and the “transition from copper to optical fiber”. The application of optical technology in vehicles has significantly enhanced communication bandwidth (up to 10Gbps) and safety (e.g., EMC interference), while also necessitating a reconfiguration of the vehicle development process.

Currently, OEMs like Dongfeng Motor and optical product suppliers have completed the first phase of collaborative research. They have successfully upgraded optical cable assemblies from industrial-grade to automotive-grade, with comprehensive validation for extreme conditions such as high temperatures (125°C) and high vibration (V3 level). The validation process has been completed from assembly to individual components, from bench testing to real-vehicle application, ensuring suitability for the entire vehicle environment, including the cabin, chassis, and roof.

This exchange at the conference not only promoted the adoption of the Optical SPICE model in in-vehicle optical product development but also established an international standard communication platform for the industry. As the adoption of optical communication in vehicles accelerates, Optical SPICE is expected to play a more significant role in driving innovation and enhancing overall vehicle performance.

Figure 8 Impression from "China Software Innovation and Development Conference" presenting Optical SPICE

Contact:
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iNTACS Working Group Lead "Optical SPICE"

Selected SPICE-related conferences

The conferences listed below are intacs® accepted events. Speakers and attendees will receive a certificate of participation (EE-AC or EE-EP) to be used for an intacs® Competent or Principal Assessor certification issued by the conference chair.

32nd EuroSPI Conference (September 17-19, 2025), Riga Technical University, Latvia

EuroSPI² 2025 (17 - 19 September 2025) is organized as a hybrid event (online and onsite) and has 8 thematic topic areas, 4 streams, 54 presentations, and 9 international keynote speeches. Each thematic stream integrates both research and industry / applied science sessions.

Full program: https://conference.eurospi.net/index.php/en/programme/conference-programme

Thematic topics:

- Emerging Approaches to Software Engineering
- Digitalization of Industry and E-Mobility
- High Maturity Organizations
- Functional Safety and Cybersecurity
- Agile and Lean
- Assessment Models and Standards
- Innovation
- Sustainability and Life Cycle Challenges

EuroSPI is recognized by INTACS to provide Experience Evidence for participation at the event. Assessors meet researchers and industry representatives from automotive, IT and defense.

1st NASPICE Conference (September 23-24, 2025), Novi, MI, USA

The 1st North America SPICE conference will take place this September. Please see the website content using this link: NASPICE | 1st North America SPICE Conference.

The North American SPICE Network is excited to announce the first-ever Automotive SPICE® conference in North American history, taking place in Novi, Michigan on September 23rd and 24th, 2025. This in-person event will provide a platform for experts, assessors, and industry leaders to discuss the latest developments in Automotive SPICE®, including advancements in automotive standards, quality, safety, and security for embedded systems.

2nd Asian SPICE Conference ASCON x 10th Korean SPICE Network International Conference (November 12-13), Busan, Korea

We, Korean SPICE Network (KSN) are delighted to announce that we will organize the 2nd ASCON (Asian SPICE Conference) x 10th KSN International Conference on 11th & 12th November in Signiel Busan Korea.

The 1st early bird application started with only $300 until 17th August, although the regular price ($500) is still very reasonable for the quality of the conference. (same price for onsite / online).

Here are 4 reasons why you must attend our conference:

1. Many OEM speakers
2. All in English
3. Online access provided
4. EE-AC/EP accepted

Plus, if you join onsite, we can share dinner (1st day) and lunch (2nd day) all together ;-)

We cannot wait to see you!!

For more information reach out using https://2nd.ascon.asia/ and https://ksn.kaata.or.kr.

Contact:
Kwangho Che (khche@cnbis.co.kr)
iNTACS Regional Representative of Korea & Conference Chair 2nd ASCON Conference

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Please also mind the statements in the “Application for Assessor Certification” document signed by each assessor for the first and re-application of the assessor license.

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Translations

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

Thanks to the translators and reviewers for supporting us 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 address below.

All the best,

Thomas Kömmerling & the “Information Management” Working Group team

Contact:
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