

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

Welcome to our final information letter of 2025! As the year draws to a close, we are happy to provide you with a short update on the latest developments within the SPICE landscape. This edition highlights the availability of our insightful new whitepaper "Automotive SPICE® experience and its profitability", which is now ready to download on our website. Furthermore, we will share the latest progress from our dedicated working groups, including "UCAT - Unification of Competent Assessor Training", "Agile SPICE", and "Data Management SPICE", as they continue to shape the future of process assessment and personal qualifications.

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".

## Table of Contents

<b>News from the Executive Board and Advisory Board.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<i>Publication of the white paper on Automotive SPICE® experience and its profitability</i>	3
<i>ASPICE® Coffee Talk</i>	3
<i>Organization SPICE “Observed Guidelines”</i>	3
<i>New Version of Data Management SPICE released</i>	4
<i>Changes of procedures and templates</i>	4
<b>News from our Working Groups.....</b>	<b>5</b>
<i>New Working Group “UCAT - Unification of Competent Assessor Training”</i>	5
<i>Working Group “Agile SPICE”</i>	5
<i>Working Group “Data Management SPICE”</i>	6
<i>Working Group “Functional Safety”</i>	7
<b>News from our Regional Communities .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<i>First NA SPICE CON in Novi, MI, USA</i>	8
<i>Gate4SPICE Event in Timisoara, Romania</i>	9
<i>2<sup>nd</sup> ASCON x 10<sup>th</sup> KSNC in Busan, Korea</i>	10
<b>Selected SPICE-related conferences &amp; events.....</b>	<b>13</b>
<i>Saphire Masterclass</i>	13
<b>Disclaimer, Trademarks, and Imprint.....</b>	<b>14</b>
<i>Trademarks</i>	14
<i>Translations</i>	14
<i>Comments and Feedback</i>	14

## News from the Executive Board and Advisory Board

### Publication of the white paper on Automotive SPICE® experience and its profitability

We are pleased to announce that the results of our survey on “Automotive SPICE® experience and its profitability” have now been published as an official iNTACS® white paper. Following the strong interest from the community and the insightful feedback collected between February and April 2025, the final report is now publicly available on Zenodo using DOI (Digital Object Identifier): <https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.17505778>.

The white paper extends the summary previously shared in the last information letter (2025-08) and provides additional details on ROI (Return on Investment) patterns, perceived benefits across engineering disciplines, and long-term effects of Automotive SPICE® adoption on quality and stakeholder satisfaction. Organizations, assessors, and project leaders are invited to review the publication to deepen their understanding of how Automotive SPICE® contributes to improved development efficiency, reduced error rates, and higher customer satisfaction.

The white paper can also be found on the iNTACS® website via the following link:

- See <https://intacs.info/spice-center> (Whitepaper section at the bottom of the page) via this direct [link](#).

We would like to thank all participants once again for their valuable contributions. Your input continues to help broaden the perspective on Automotive SPICE®’s practical impact across the industry.

	<b>Contact:</b> Mario Herberger ( <a href="mailto:mario.m.herberger@intacs.info">mario.m.herberger@intacs.info</a> ) Author of the white paper
---	--

### ASPICE® Coffee Talk

As part of a pilot phase, iNTACS® is supporting “Coffee Talks” organized by experienced assessors and instructors. We are currently examining whether these meetings can be permanently recognized as iNTACS® accepted events. This requires the fulfillment of the defined rules, in particular regarding duration, content, and free access.

The first session was about: "Bureaucracy vs. Speed - How much documentation do we really need?". The focus was on finding the right balance between documentation and maintaining the speed of development. Too much paperwork can slow down projects, while too little can lead to serious compliance issues and quality risks in the long term. In the exchange, perspectives were discussed and networking between colleagues was promoted. We will report on the further progress of the initiative - stay tuned!

### Organization SPICE “Observed Guidelines”

The Organization SPICE working group has completed work on the Organization SPICE PRM/PAM V4.04 model, Guideline Organization SPICE V2.02, and the Guideline Observed Assessments V2.01. The models were finalized by the working group and approved by the advisory board. The original PAM/PRM model was split into a pure model part and a guideline part at the request of various partners. The Guideline Observed Assessments will not be published or actively promoted by iNTACS® but will remain part of the training. Using the Guideline Observed Assessments model is possible on request.

## New Version of Data Management SPICE released

The Data Management SPICE PRM/PAM V2.0 is available for [download](#) on the iNTACS website.

## Changes of procedures and templates

This section will summarize new intacs® procedures or templates that were published recently. All new publications 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)
Fee structure ( <a href="#">link</a> )	5.9	2025-09-19	2025-09-19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cross Certification added</li> </ul>
Certification Procedure ( <a href="#">current V10.8</a> )	V10.10	soon	soon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In section 3.4.1 “Only EEs gathered after the last (re-)certification as Provisional Assessor are valid.” is deleted as it is invalid for PA</li> <li>• Guidance for unified Instructor Certification</li> </ul>
EE Log template ( <a href="#">link</a> )	V7.9	2025-10-24	2025-10-24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removed ISO/IEC 15504 and replaced by ISO/IEC 33061</li> <li>• Assessor license validity date added</li> </ul>

## News from our Working Groups

### New Working Group “UCAT - Unification of Competent Assessor Training”


A new intacs Working Group UCAT unify CA training was founded in July 2025.

Currently there is just a CA training for Automotive SPICE® that is performed regularly, but there is less chance to get enough participants for a CA training for ISO33061 or a CA training for SPICE for IT service management. Therefore, the intacs advisory board decided to unify the training materials for CA training to be as independent from the PAM as possible.

The goal of the new WG is to unify the training materials but to have individual exams for:

- CA for Automotive SPICE® done by VDA-QMC®
- CA for ISO/IEC 33061 done by ECQA®
- CA for SPICE for IT Service Management done by ECQA®

If you have any questions, want to participate or have additional requirements, please do not hesitate to contact our WG lead.

	<b>Contact:</b> Kosmas Kopmeier ( <a href="mailto:kosmas.kopmeier@intacs.info">kosmas.kopmeier@intacs.info</a> ) Working Group Lead Unification of Competent Assessor Training
--	--

### Working Group “Agile SPICE”

Help us shape the future of Agile SPICE!

Your insights and experiences are essential to further refine and enhance the next version of Agile SPICE.

The Agile SPICE Working Group brings together a diverse community of Automotive SPICE® practitioners and agile professionals from various companies, regions, and product domains. Together, we strive to ensure that the Process Reference Model (PRM) delivers maximum value to both the automotive and agile communities.

Now, we would love to hear from you:

- How clear and helpful do you find the current Agile SPICE processes and training material?
- Which aspects work particularly well in your projects?
- Where do you see opportunities for improvement or clarification?
- Are there additional agile practices or process areas you believe should be included?
- How can we make Agile SPICE even more practical and valuable in your daily work?

Please take a few minutes to complete our short survey and share your perspective — your feedback will directly influence the next evolution of Agile SPICE.

Together, we can make Agile SPICE even more effective, relevant, and aligned with real-world agile development. See <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PTB57HG>



	<b>Contact:</b> Lukas Schneider ( <a href="mailto:lukas.schneider@intacs.info">lukas.schneider@intacs.info</a> ) Working Group Lead Agile SPICE
---	---

## Working Group “Data Management SPICE”

### Because Data Needs a Little Seasoning

The next-generation Data Management SPICE has been released, providing a comprehensive framework for assessing and improving data-related processes. It is designed for flexible application – usable both as a plug-in to Automotive SPICE® PAM 4.0 for integrated process assessments and as a standalone Process Assessment Model (PAM) and Process Reference Model (PRM) for dedicated data management evaluations.

The document is now available for [download](#), and updated training sessions are offered to support effective implementation and application of the framework.

A new training concept for fundamental knowledge about data management is currently under development. The offer will provide role-specific training modules tailored to different stakeholder groups — including management, process owners, data practitioners, and assessors — ensuring each audience gains the knowledge and competencies relevant to their responsibilities in applying and improving Data Management SPICE within their organizations.



### Special topic: Why Data is NO Software!

While data and software are both essential components in modern digital systems, they are fundamentally different in their nature, function, lifecycle, and usage.

Data provides raw materials; software is the structured mechanism that processes and transforms data into meaningful outputs.

#### Nature:

**Data** is raw, unprocessed, and context dependent. It represents facts or observations about the world but carries no inherent meaning until interpreted. Data can exist in various forms such as numbers, text, images, or sensor readings.

**Software** consists of structured instructions (code) written in programming languages that tell a machine what tasks to perform. It is active, logical, and purpose-driven, enabling systems to process data, interact with users, and perform specific functions.

#### Function:

**Data** serves as the input that fuels analysis, decision-making, and system operations. It needs to be processed or analyzed to extract value or derive meaning.

**Software** is the mechanism that processes, manipulates, and transforms data to produce results, manage tasks, or create user interfaces. It enables the execution of logic and algorithms to solve problems or automate processes.

To be continued in the next information letter!



**Contact:**

Thomas Sievers ([Thomas.Sievers@intacs.info](mailto:Thomas.Sievers@intacs.info))  
Working Group Lead Data Management SPICE

## Working Group “Functional Safety”

### Motivation and Background

Over the past period, our collective work has centered on understanding how organizations can more effectively align Automotive SPICE®, Functional Safety audits, and Functional Safety assessments. Through detailed comparisons of assessment practices, audit expectations, and evidence-generation models, we identified clear opportunities to reduce redundancy, improve traceability, and strengthen the consistency of engineering governance. We also examined several collaboration models - ranging from isolated assessments to coordinated audits and integrated fusion approaches - and observed that the industry increasingly benefits when process capability and safety evaluations are aligned.

These insights created a shared motivation: the need for a set of Guidelines to guide teams and assessors and the development of an Integrity Process Assessment Model (PAM) capable of supporting consistent, scalable evaluations across organizations. The work now underway is a direct continuation of this earlier analysis.

### Team “Guidelines”

The Mini-Team “Guidelines” has initiated its work with the objective of establishing well-founded guidance on combining Functional Safety with Automotive SPICE® and related processes. The team has started on a systematic comparison of existing approaches as well as the novel approach in creation by the PAM Team. To support this analysis, evaluation criteria are being defined and subsequently applied during a dedicated analytical phase.

Parallel to this technical analysis, the team is identifying all relevant stakeholder groups and documenting criteria and best practices tailored to each. The outcomes will be consolidated into a coherent proposal scheme, ensuring that the guidance is usable across diverse engineering and quality environments.

### Team “PAM”

In parallel, the Mini-Team “PAM” has begun developing the Integrity Process Assessment Model. The current focus lies on defining and finalizing the model concept. This concept is undergoing review against the ISO 33000 series to ensure compliance with established assessment principles. The team is also elaborating the SWE.3 process as an example, demonstrating the level of detail expected for future process characterization.

A pilot implementation of a selected process instance will provide practical validation, followed by refinement of the reference process landscape. This includes evaluating whether additional processes are needed to ensure complete coverage for large-scale applications. The objective is to achieve “mass-production readiness”, meaning the full processing of the ISO 26262 by the new model, targeting completion by the end of 2027.

### Conclusion

The beginning of this new period marks a meaningful continuation of the work initiated previously. The conceptual baseline established earlier has enabled the present teams to proceed with clear direction, structured methods, and shared understanding. Through the activities of both work groups, we are advancing toward integrated, audit-ready solutions that strengthen process capability, functional safety alignment, and engineering governance across the participating organizations.

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



**Contact:**

Hendrik Meyl ([hendrik.meyl@intacs.info](mailto:hendrik.meyl@intacs.info))  
Working Group Lead Functional Safety

## News from our Regional Communities

### First NA SPICE CON in Novi, MI, USA

The inaugural North American SPICE (NASPICE) Conference took place September 23–24, 2025, at the Suburban Collection Showplace in Novi, Michigan, bringing together a distinguished assembly of automotive industry leaders, experts, and innovators from North America, Europe, and Asia.

The two-day premier event featured presentations and workshops from leading OEMs and suppliers, including General Motors (GM), Stellantis, PACCAR, Dana, BorgWarner, Magna, DENSO, Bosch, Nexteer, Valeo, Luminar, AUMOVIO, Omnex, Knuvener Mackert, Korean SPICE Network, TÜV, and ZF, reflecting the breadth and depth of expertise across the industry.



*First NA SPICE CON in Novi, MI, USA*

### Inspiring Keynotes and Industry Updates

Keynote sessions addressed critical themes shaping the future of automotive software, safety, and quality:

- "Driving Excellence: Automotive SPICE, intacs, and the Road to Secure Mobility" – Thomas Liedtke, Member of the Intacs Advisory Board and Working Group Leader for ASPICE and Cybersecurity
- "The New Automotive Era, Systems Thinking, and Collaboration within ASPICE" – Chandrasekar Krishnamurthy, Global Director of Product Management, BorgWarner
- Automotive SPICE news – Jan Morenzin, Head of VDA QMC Certification Office
- "Implementing Functional Safety and Quality in Manufacturing" – Theogene Lavergne Jr, Executive Director, General Motors
- "Functional Safety Perspective on ASPICE" – Mihir Shah, Functional Safety Specialist, Dana Incorporated

OEM presentations and workshops also featured leaders from GM, Stellantis, and PACCAR, alongside thought leaders from AIAG, Bosch, Magna, Nexteer, Valeo, ZF, Luminar, and others.

### Hands-On Workshops

Conference workshops delved into technical and organizational challenges, with focus areas including:

- System Definition and Ownership
- Achieving ASPICE Compliance: A Supplier's Perspective

- Harmonizing ASPICE, Functional Safety, and Cybersecurity into Organizational QMS
- Development Paradoxes and Consistency Across Assessments
- PACCAR Case Study: ASPICE Applied to a Software Quality Assurance Process

As an intacs-recognized event, NASPICE also enabled participants to earn valuable experience evidence toward Competent or Principal Assessor certification.


## Organizers and Sponsors

Chad Kymal, CTO and Founder of Omnex and Organizing Committee Chair, highlighted the conference's success:

"With participants from around the world, the event went extremely well thanks to the dedication of our sponsors and the engagement of the broader Automotive SPICE community."

The conference committee, including representatives from PACCAR, BorgWarner, Ford, VDA QMC, DENSO, iNTACS, GM, Stellantis, Magna, and UL Solutions, expressed gratitude to the platinum sponsors DENSO and Omnex, and to standard sponsors Sharpen 360, Envorso, and Knuvener Mackert, whose support made the event possible.

If you are interested in being involved in the 2026 NASPICE Conference taking place on September 29<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>, you can visit [NASPICE.net](https://naspice.net) | [intacs® Accepted Event](#) or get in touch with the organizing committee

	<p><b>Contact:</b> Juan Webb (<a href="mailto:jwebb@omnex.com">jwebb@omnex.com</a>) iNTACS Regional Representatives USA</p>
---	---

## Gate4SPICE Event in Timisoara, Romania

On the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2025 the Romanian Automotive SPICE® assessors' community gathered in Timișoara, for the Gate4SPICE entitled "*Role of ASPICE® 4.0 in today's automotive VUCA world*". This event was hosted by Schaeffler, also represented the ten year anniversary of the first Gate4SPICE event organized locally.

The first meeting of this type in Romania took place in 2015 in Timișoara, through the initiative of Continental, thus starting a constant cycle of collaboration and knowledge exchange within the local Automotive SPICE® community.

The central theme of the Gate4SPICE was deeply rooted in the current realities of the automotive industry: how the Automotive SPICE® PAM 4.0 standard can support concrete responses to the current complex and dynamic challenges.

The event was attended by a diverse group of Automotive SPICE® assessors, representing top companies in the field such as Schaeffler, Aumovio, Huf, Elektrobit, Magna Electronics, and Flextronics. The atmosphere was dynamic and collaborative, combining theoretical presentations with interactive workshops.

The agenda included a series of speeches, including:

- Driving Excellence: Automotive SPICE® and Automotive Market Trends with PAM 4.0 – a presentation focused on how the use of OSS (Open-Source Software) can be effectively integrated into Automotive SPICE®, with an emphasis on new market trends.
- Exploring the Opportunities of Automotive SPICE® Potential Analysis and Successful Experience with Automotive SPICE® Potential Analysis Model.
- Changing the Mindset in a Project towards Automotive SPICE® PAM 4.0 – a session that analyzed the impact that Automotive SPICE® PAM 4.0 has on organizations, incorporating concrete perceptions and experiences from the assessor community.

- The Quality Manager's Compass: Navigating AI, Automotive SPICE® PAM 4.0 and Cost Pressures in a VUCA Automotive Landscape.



*Gate4SPICE event in Timișoara, Romania*

In addition to these presentations, the Gate4SPICE program also included three interactive workshops, designed to stimulate the exchange of ideas and best practices among participants.

The event reconfirmed the significant role that these events play within an active Automotive SPICE® community, capable of transforming the requirements of the standards into concrete, efficient and innovative practices.



**Contact:**

Alina Ilin ([alina.ilin@reg.intacs.info](mailto:alina.ilin@reg.intacs.info))

Mihai Banea ([mihai.banea@vitesco.com](mailto:mihai.banea@vitesco.com))

iNTACS Regional Representatives Romania

## 2<sup>nd</sup> ASCON x 10<sup>th</sup> KSNC in Busan, Korea

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Asian SPICE Conference (ASCON), held in conjunction with the 10<sup>th</sup> Korean SPICE Network Conference (KSNC), took place at Signiel Busan, Korea, on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

The event successfully brought together no fewer than 450 participants who shared their expertise and fostered collaboration across a wide spectrum of critical topics. Discussions focused on key areas, including process and product quality, Software-Defined Vehicles (SDVs), the convergence of ASPICE, Cybersecurity and Functional Safety, AI utilization, and the UN Regulation No. 177.

The success of this year's conference was largely driven by the distinguished speakers from around the globe, particularly the invaluable contributions from leading OEMs, including Hyundai-Kia, Mercedes-Benz, BMW, and Ford.



*Atmosphere at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASCON*



*Speakers at the 2<sup>nd</sup> ASCON*

This turnout definitively demonstrated the strong and widespread interest in Automotive SPICE®, not only in South Korea but also across the wider East Asian region.

During the closing ceremony, the ASCON flag was formally handed over to Dr. Wang, Chairperson of the China SPICE Network and host of the upcoming 3<sup>rd</sup> ASCON. It was subsequently announced that the next conference is scheduled to be held in Shanghai on October 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

During the 1<sup>st</sup> NA SPICE CON held this past September, the global communities pledged to collaboratively introduce speakers and sponsors to one another, aiming for synergistic mutual growth.

We firmly believe that the activities of the Automotive SPICE® community in Asia will contribute to the further development of the global automotive industry.

	<p><b>Contact:</b> Kwangho Che (<a href="mailto:khche@cnbis.co.kr">khche@cnbis.co.kr</a>) iNTACS Regional Representatives Korea</p>
---	---

## Selected SPICE-related conferences & events

### Saphire Masterclass

We welcome Saphire Masterclass!

The purpose of the Saphire Masterclass is to complement the existing knowledge exchange programs already accepted by iNTACS®. Structured as a one-day online conference with two to three speakers, it also includes workshops to discuss and further explore the topics presented. Everyone is invited to share their knowledge with their peers in a short presentation.

As this is intended to be a frequent and self-sustaining program, a small participation fee is required. For more details, please visit the event website <https://www.saphirecertification.com/masterclass>

Upcoming Event: SC052202EN, 12<sup>th</sup> of Dec 2025, 09:00–16:00 CET, English

- The Cybersecurity Assessment (Rüdiger Beilharz)
- Understand the challenges and opportunities of CRA (Cyber Resilience Act) (Dr. Joachim Leder)

As a participant, you will earn one EE-EP for the event mentioned above. This is not valid for further Masterclass events. So, book your seat now!



**Contact:**

Hendrik Meyl ([masterclass@saphirecertification.com](mailto:masterclass@saphirecertification.com))

## Disclaimer, Trademarks, and Imprint

In case you would like to register or cancel your registration for this information letter, please log in to your account at [intacs.info](https://intacs.info) and edit your subscription in the section “Newsletter Language”.

### Trademarks

We would like to point out that the use of trademarks has been detailed in agreement with our partners as follows:

intacs®, Agile SPICE, AUTOMOTIVE SPICE®, VDA® QMC® and ECQA® are registered trademarks. The usage of the forenamed trademarks and any associated logo for any kind of certificate is prohibited.

The usage of logos for other purposes must always be approved in writing in advance by the respective rights holders. Any infringement may lead to a loss of the assessor’s certification and may trigger legal consequences.

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.



Used trademarks in this document:

- AUTOMOTIVE SPICE®, ASPICE®, VDA® and QMC® are registered trademarks of VDA Verband der Automobilindustrie e.V., 10117 Berlin, Germany
- iNTACS®, intacs® and Agile SPICE are registered trademarks of International Assessor Certification Scheme e.V. (iNTACS e.V.), 51147 Köln, Germany

### 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.

	<p><b>Chinese translation:</b> Yawen (Evan) Hou Member of iNTACS Working Group “Information Management”</p>
	<p><b>Korean and Japanese translation:</b> Kwangho Che iNTACS Regional Representative KOREA</p>

### 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

	<p><b>Contact:</b> Thomas Kömmerling (<a href="mailto:thomas.koemmerling@intacs.info">thomas.koemmerling@intacs.info</a>) iNTACS Working Group Lead “Information Management” &amp; Member of the Advisory Board</p>
---	---

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