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ETA Meets the Needs of the Alternative Energy Industry through Certification!

GREENCASTLE, Ind. – As a result of the stimulus package structure and the many green incentives, it is expected that the number of jobs in residential green energy production will explode in the next 18 months. ETA International is proud to announce two career track certification pathways in alternative energy technology. One is an Alternative Energy Installer certification and the other is a professional level Alternative Energy Integrator. Both certifications are comprised of three degrees of completion; entry level, mid-level, and advanced level.

In October 2008, Global Insight, Inc. released a study showing approximately 750,000 people employed in what can be considered as green jobs. This makes up less than one percent of the total employment in this field. It is anticipated that by 2038, 4.2 million green jobs will be added to alternative energy, accounting for 10 percent of new job growth over the next 30 years.

"The increase in interest for this new certification track has been phenomenal; from school directors to working technicians word has spread and we are hearing from every corner of the 'tech' world," stated ETA International President, Teresa Maher, CSS. "Geothermal, wind and solar energies are at the forefront of job creation. ETA plans to lead the certification charge. Both two and four year curriculums have already been developed and will be implemented into the classroom this fall."

ETA's Alternative Energy Certification track will cover the following areas:

- Passive Solar
- Geothermal
- Photovoltaic
- Wind
- Micro Hydro
- Fuel cells

ETA's **Alternative Energy Integrator** certification career path is a three-level program.

- Level One will require the candidate to pass four tests. Examinees will be expected to pass the Electronics Module 1 (Direct Current), Electronics Module 2 (Alternating Current), and two comprehensive exams; one that covers four alternative energy areas (Photovoltaic, Wind, Micro Hydro, and Fuel Cells) and the other includes physics, chemistry, meteorology, and mathematics.
- Level Two requires the examinee to pass three tests – Electronics module 4 (Digital Theory), and two comprehensive exams; one covers passive solar and geothermal while the other tests knowledge of project development, finance, standards and codes, incentive, feasibility analysis and site development.

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- Level Three will be an advanced comprehensive battery of tests over the entire alternative energy area with a heavy emphasis on project, and product development, finance, standards, laws, covenants, and return on investment (ROI) analysis.

ETA's **Alternative Energy Installer Certification** will provide three levels of certification from Entry to Master.

- Entry Level will require a test in each area consisting of a written and a hands-on component.
- Journeyman Level will be an advanced test in each area to include both a written and a hands-on component. It will also require 12 months experience working in the field.
- Master Level will require the candidate to have passed all of the 6 specialty areas, have five (5) years experience working in the field, and pass a comprehensive test that includes not only the technical competencies but management and standards as well. The installer program is focused primarily for training companies, continuing education departments and junior college programs.

"Certifications are the only answer to ensure a certain level of competency to develop solutions and guarantee a successful outcome for green energy projects," said Ray Stroud, CETma and ETA subject matter expert. "ETA's alternative energy certifications have been designed with a considerable amount of rigor. This is the way for the nation to receive a long lasting return on the billions of dollars being invested in renewable energy."

As one of the main objectives in President Obama's economic recovery program, it is important to recognize this opportunity and support the industry's growth. While the country is supporting the cause, each state must also step-up to the challenge of implementing these technologies.

In an interview with Lou Dobbs, the Ohio Governor Ted Strickland stated, "The state [of Ohio] has targeted alternative energy as the number one industry for transforming its workforce…and over the past two years, Ohio has been very aggressive about funding economic development projects of all types. According to state officials, those projects have created more than 53,000 jobs and saved another 200,000 jobs."

ETA International's Alternative Energy Certification Track will begin to be released in June 2009.

Learn more about ETA's Alternative Energy program by contacting us at 800.288.3824 or email eta@eta-i.org. Schools and training companies should have their program's curriculum reviewed for ETA course approval, please contact Teresa Maher at teresa@eta-i.org.

ETA International - Founded in 1978, the 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 steers international electronics standards and provides renowned professional electronics credentials.

Today, ETA has issued over 100,000 technical certifications covering more than 70 certification programs in a variety of electronic fields. The association is comprised of over 3,500 members, 700 Subject Matter Experts (SME's) serving on various Industry Advisory Committees and 1,000 Exam/Certification Administrators (CA's). ETA aligns with individual professional goals, vocational and educational curriculums, and businesses' resource initiatives through our certification programs, conferences, speaking engagements, and book and journal publications. (www.etainternational.org)

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