VALUE PROPOSITION AND PROGRAMS

The Independent Laboratories Institute (ILI) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), scientific educational organization established in 1992. ILI operates exclusively for educational, charitable, and research purposes and its goal is to provide quality education & training for the laboratory community.

For mutual benefit, ILI leverages its volunteers’ labor and financial resources in order to develop a variety of high value products and services that save its members time and money, while meeting their corporate education, training and new technology acceptance goals.

Among products and services ILI offers are:

- Educational activities in the form of seminars, conferences, webinars
- Education materials such as technical papers, best practice case studies and other educational content
- Research studies to enhance and promote the use of new technologies and procedures
- Training & Certification Programs, including manufacturer/supplier and service provider content

Stakeholders who benefit from ILI include:

- Independent Testing Labs
- Government Agencies
- Vendors and Suppliers to laboratories
- Engineering Firms
- The ACIL organization

CURRENT ILI PROGRAMS & SERVICES

Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting offers opportunities to learn from peers, vendors in the industry and to experience top-notch education to enhance business practices and laboratory operations. This meeting includes an exclusive CEO Forum, industry tradeshow, keynote presentations from industry leaders along with multiple workshops designed to improve lab performance.

P2 (Policies & Practices) Conference

An annual event in our Nations Capital, combining government relations, section specific meetings and business practices roundtables to improve your laboratory business.

Monthly Webinar Series

Education and training in business practices, which includes timely topics such as human resources, financial management and technology solutions for laboratories.
Analyst Enrichment Training Program

The ILI developed a series of webinar-based professional development courses (PDCs) in the hope of enhancing employee's opportunity for career growth and advancement, while improving the productivity of staff and the quality of their laboratory work.

- Train the next generation of laboratory managers
- Help foster improvements in laboratory productivity and analytical accuracy
- Help member laboratories to retain good staff

Workshops

ILI periodically organizes workshops bringing together experts from all parts of the monitoring community (e.g., testing laboratories, instrument vendors, academia, EPA Program Office and Regional Laboratory scientists, service providers) to share ideas and information on issues that the environmental monitoring community is facing. Such issues include: updating legacy monitoring methods, addressing items related to issues that have surfaced but which an agency does not have the expertise or resources to address.

These workshops:

- Serve as a means of fostering a partnership between the laboratory community, the technology innovation community, other important sectors of the industry, and the regulatory agencies (i.e., EPA, FAA, FHWA, FCC and FDA)
- Give current and potential ACIL members the opportunity to work cooperatively with regulatory officials in order to improve the accuracy of the analytical work while also improving laboratory productivity
- Help advance monitoring technology and solve problems facing the industry

ILI New Technology Incubator Program

A major barrier to innovation with respect to advancing measurement science, in those segments of the laboratory testing business that are controlled by federal government regulations, is the delay in Agencies approving new technologies. To address this problem, ILI initiated its New Technology Incubator Program, which serves as a means for the monitoring community to work with their regulatory agency counterparts to develop and validate methods for applying these new technologies.

ILI recently completed an effort that resulted in EPA proposing to approve use of the Solid Phase Extraction technique in its Clean Water Act regulatory program monitoring. In addition, ILI began an effort to expand use of the microwave digestion technique to additional elements and to update EPA’s ICP-MS methodology to include the interference rejection technology that the industry has
developed during the past few years. ILI is also in discussion with FDA officials to expand the Incubator Program to their food testing method needs.

This program permits the innovators, the laboratories, and other interested parties to establish a partnership and work with the agency to move new technology forward faster, with the result that productivity improvements are available to the laboratories much sooner.

Proficiency Testing (PT) Program

The ACIL Corporation for Electromagnetic Compatibility (EMC) Proficiency Testing Inc. (ACE-PT Inc.) provides the world's only set of ISO/IEC 17043-accredited EMC PT program schemes. Because an accredited program is now commercially available, laboratories must meet ILAC Policy ILAC-P9:11/2010 in addition to ISO/IEC 17025. The ACE-PT program satisfies this new industry standard, providing one proficiency test that addresses both sets of requirements.

The ACE-PT program also offers unprecedented scheduling flexibility with a 60- to 90-day completion rate per “round,” including analysis report preparation time, versus non-accredited programs that operate at most one “round” per scheme annually. This allows for timely submission to accreditation bodies (ABs) and key customers, and repeat participation if required. A passing result from an ACE-PT accredited scheme allows laboratories to provide immediate, conclusive proof to assessors that the laboratory fully satisfies the requirements of ISO/IEC 17025:2005 Clause 5.9

Soil Testing Technician Certification

This ILI program meets both ISO/IEC 17025 and FHWA requirements and includes separate laboratory and field technician certifications.

In response to the need for a cohesive national program certifying engineering technicians performing construction materials testing, ILI representatives identified an existing regional program, the Northeast Transportation Training and Certification Program (NETTCP), as a partner for this national program. Established in 1995 in response to the adoption of Federal Highway Administration regulations requiring qualified sampling and testing personnel produce all sampling and testing data related to federally funded transportation projects, NETTCP serves Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont and New York with certifications covering a number of technical areas, including soils, aggregates, concrete, hot mix, drilled piers and asphalt. The NETTCP program includes essential elements of training, performance demonstration and examination.

“We religiously attend both the P2 meeting in April and the Annual Meeting in October. The quality of the speakers and the information we gather from these meetings is incredible. As an owner of an independent testing lab, I don’t know anywhere else I can receive this kind of education that aids me in growing my business.”

— Gregory Schmidt
President & CEO
GeoTest, Inc.