

# Update

Newsletter for ISA Certified Control Systems Technicians® (CCST®)



Spring 2008

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## CCST of the Month: Matt Cresto, Level II

With ISA's Certified Control Systems Technician® (CCST®) designation, Matt Cresto qualifies for more selective instrumentation and control systems jobs.

After starting his career as an electrician eight years ago, he has added instrumentation work periodically over the last three years. Having the ISA certification has opened more instrumentation jobs to him as some postings at the union local require the CCST. In addition, those jobs often pay more and the work is more interesting to him.

"The work is more mentally challenging and it's more prestigious because not as many people qualify for the jobs," he said. His instrumentation and control systems responsibilities on the job may include calibration, specification checking, and start up and interface testing.

Cresto took the CCST Level II exam in July 2007, when a local instructor was looking for candidates to evaluate a new exam. "The instructor of my instrumentation class mentioned that he helped rewrite the CCST exam and was recruiting volunteers to take it," Cresto explained. "I wanted to get the certification and this was a chance to take the exam without having to pay the fee because it was evaluative."

Already certified by EPRI, Cresto was curious about the ISA exam. "I'd heard it was harder than the EPRI," he said.

Cresto is currently working on assignment with Meade Electric at a plastics plant in Joliet, Ill. The company seeks out certified technicians for their jobs, though they do not require it for every position. "They want well-trained people working for them because it helps them get contracts at the plants in the area," said Cresto.

He believes his ISA Level II certification will help him advance his career into higher level technician positions and possibly into a supervisory role. "Passing the test has given me more confidence in what I can do," he said.

ISA established the CCST program in 1995 to recognize and document technicians' knowledge, education, and experience in instrumentation, measurement and control. The program was developed in conjunction with the Instrument Technicians Labor-Management Cooperation Fund, the Instrument Contracting and Engineering Association (ICEA), the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), and the United Association of Plumbers and Pipe Fitters (UA).

The CCST program offers three levels of certification with varying experience and education requirements.

Level I requires a minimum of five years of work experience, training, and/or education. Level II requires seven years of work experience, training, and/or education with at least two years in instrumentation/measurement and control. Level III requires 13 years work experience, training, and/or education with at least five years in instrumentation/measurement and control. CCSTs must renew their certification every three years. This is accomplished by earning Professional Development Points (PDPs) by working, training and continually gaining knowledge in the field.

The CCST exams cover seven performance areas or domains: calibration, loop checking, troubleshooting, startup, maintenance/repair, project organization and administration.

The Level II CCST is a practical exam, testing problem-solving and decision-making skills, according to Cresto. "Don't take it without the specific years of experience required," he advised. "In my opinion, it's not the type of test you can study for. It tests where you are in your career with 'real-world' situations."

Cresto plans to keep his certification current, renewing it when it is due in 2010.

**"Passing the test has given me more confidence in what I can do,"**

**- Matt Cresto**

## Next Testing Window Deadline is 15 May

**A**re you getting ready to take an exam? Don't delay—the next testing window deadline is rapidly approaching!

All CCST® applications must be postmarked on or before 15 May 2008 to be eligible for Window 2 with testing between 1 July and 31 August 2008.

Testing must be completed within two exam testing windows. Your first exam testing date must be scheduled during the first available window after you postmark your application to ISA. All rescheduling and retesting must be completed within the two consecutive exam testing windows within your nine-month eligibility period. If you postmark your application between 16 May and 15 September 2008, the next exam availability period is 1 November–31 December 2008.

Here are some helpful reminders about the application and exam process:

- Download your application at [www.isa.org/ccst](http://www.isa.org/ccst) and mail, along with payment, to ISA
- Upon approval of your application, a testing eligibility code will be mailed to you
- Go to [www.prometric.com/ISA](http://www.prometric.com/ISA)\* to locate a Prometric electronic testing center near you to schedule your exam date
- Prometric will send you a test date confirmation via e-mail
- Report to the testing center at the scheduled time, bring a valid photo identification and the confirmation email you received from Prometric
- You will be given your pass/fail results immediately after testing at the Prometric test center

\*The CCST Level II simulation exam is offered through CASTLE Worldwide testing centers. The application steps are the same as above except you will test through the CASTLE Worldwide testing centers. Upon approval of your application your CASTLE ID and password will be mailed to you. For CCST Level II Exam locations, visit [www.isa.org/examschedule](http://www.isa.org/examschedule).

## Take the CCST Exam Free—Find out How!

ISA offers a special bonus for participants in the Certified Control Systems Technician® (CCST®) Review Course (TS00). Take the review course and then take the CCST exam electronically at the location of your choice following the course—at no additional fee. That's a \$295 savings!

The CCST Review Exam is a fast paced three-day review of the knowledge required to properly install and maintain standard measurement and control instrumentation. It is designed specifically for practicing technicians preparing for the Level I Certified Control Systems Technician® (CCST®) examination.

Certified Control Systems Technician Review Course (TS00) Schedule:

24-26 June: University of Houston, Houston, TX  
Course Registration Deadline: 9 June 2008

29-31 July: ISA Headquarters, Research Triangle Park, NC  
Course Registration Deadline: 14 July 2008

26-28 August: County College of Morris at Headquarters Plaza, Morristown, NJ  
Course Registration Deadline: 11 August 2008

16-18 September: Crown Training & Development, Inc., Merrillville, IN  
Course Registration Deadline: 2 September 2008

13-15 October: ISA EXPO 2008, Reliant Center, Houston, TX  
Course Registration Deadline: 29 September 2008  
Paper/Pencil Exam on 16 October 2008—Exam Postmark Deadline: 4 September 2008

To find out more about the review course and how to qualify for the exam, visit [www.isa.org/ccst](http://www.isa.org/ccst).

## Automation Federation Strategies Evolve Based on Accomplishments and Outlooks

**T**he Automation Federation Board of Directors engaged in its third annual strategic planning session in April to discuss the accomplishments, developments, and future plans of the umbrella organization. Federation members WBF, OMAC, WINA and ISA have been focused on the critical industry issue of workforce development, and the Federation has started to establish a strong footprint on Capitol Hill as the voice of automation.

Phase I of the Automation Federation evolution was completed recently when current Managing Director and start-up maven Bruno Kisala announced his intention to relocate to the Virginia area. Patrick Gouhin, Secretary of the Automation Federation's Board of Directors, will serve as the interim Managing Director. He has established an experienced staff team that has been working with the member organizations since the inception of the Federation. This transition team will ensure that existing programs and plans are executed and oversee the Board's creation of strategic business plans for 2009 and beyond.

**"We are definitely positioned well for ongoing success, and the board is looking forward to continuing to serve both the member organizations and the broader objectives of the Federation."**

**- Steve Huffman**

"The Automation Federation, along with its member organizations, has achieved so much during Mr. Kisala's tenure as Managing Director," said Gouhin. "Each organization has enjoyed numerous successes, and we're confident that the leadership team we have in place will transition the Federation to an even higher level of success in the future."

"The vision for the Federation has been met and exceeded in the past year, and this transition gives us an opportunity to refresh and update our strategy so that we can catch up to our accomplishments," said Automation Federation Chairman Steve Huffman. "We are definitely positioned well for ongoing success, and the board is looking forward to continuing to serve both the member organizations and the broader objectives of the Federation."

The member organizations of the Automation Federation have all experienced areas of growth in recent months. ISA has been an active participant in the Automation Federation's government relations initiatives, with ISA leaders welcoming North Carolina Representative David Price to AF headquarters recently. ISA has also defined several initiatives in an ongoing workforce development plan, working in conjunction with the other organizations of the Federation.

OMAC's Microsoft Manufacturing User Group (MsMUG) is migrating to the Automation Federation to better support industry needs as a horizontal application that sprawls across the vertical disciplines. End-users and integrators join MsMUG to have an opportunity to be part of one manufacturing voice, and moving the working group to the Automation Federation will broaden participation and establish a communication channel into the manufacturing space relative to process, hybrid, and discrete industry segments.

WBF's North American Conference, held March 24-27 in Philadelphia, boasted the "highest quality selection of presentations and papers that we've ever had," according to WBF Chairman Maurice Wilkins. WBF has also held many successful web seminars and is conducting an ongoing membership drive to attract new sponsors.

WINA joined with ISA to coordinate the technical program for the 2008 Industrial Wireless Conference in Chongqing, China, 31 March-4 April. The event represented a worldwide collaboration of leading organizations, with the Chongqing University of Posts and Telecommunications hosting.

"We have a lot of exciting work going on in the member organizations and in the Federation as a whole, and that pace will only get faster after we've had a chance to meet in April and clarify our strategy and goals for the future of the organization," commented Huffman.

The Automation Federation Board of Directors is made up of Steve Huffman, Kim Miller Dunn, Pat Gouhin, and Leo Staples of ISA; Ian McPherson of WINA; Sid Venkatesh of OMAC; and Maurice Wilkins of WBF.



*The Life and Times of an Automation Professional – An Illustrated Guide, by Ted Williams, Stan Weiner, and Greg McMillan*

## Welcome New CCSTs!

Congratulations to our newest group of Certified Control System Technicians!

### CCST Level I

Abel, Jeffrey J., Suncor Energy USA  
 Amburgey, Dennis E., Columbia Gulf Transmission  
 Ames, Robert J., Valero McKee Refinery  
 Atkins, Jeffrey G., Big West Flying J Refinery  
 Bowden, Michele N., City of Detroit Water & Sewage  
 Branstiter, John R., Bayer Corp.  
 Buchanan, Debra G., Valero Energy Corp.  
 Buchholz, Jed M., Suncor Energy USA  
 Burger, Ronald D., Agrium  
 Caillier, Paul A., Valero  
 Casey, Shawn P., Abbott Bioresearch Corp.  
 Castro, Arthur, Valero McKee Refinery  
 Chanthavong, Prisa, Bayer Healthcare LLC  
 Chesson, Christine, Valero  
 Cornelius, Jeb A., Valero McKee Refinery  
 Cruz, Ernesto Perez, Pemex Gas y Petroquimica Basica  
 Nickey Cummings, Columbia Gulf Transmissions  
 Davis, Ronald A., Columbia Gulf Transmissions  
 Dellinger, James D., Troy  
 Drew, Richard, Suncor Energy USA  
 Dube, Anthony Charles, Merck & Co Durham VMF  
 Dykstra, John V., Agrium US Inc.  
 Elie, Kevin R., Abbott Bioresearch Center  
 Felsman, Rex E., Abbott Bioresearch Center  
 Flores, Gian Carlo, Wheelabrator Group  
 Gross, Robert A., Valero  
 Henderson, James A., Suncor Energy USA  
 Hext, Jerry L., Suncor Energy USA  
 Hoff, Duane L., Suncor Energy USA

Holguin, Joaquin E., Valero McKee Refinery  
 Hyvl, Delbert, Texas A & M University Utilities  
 Keefer, Joseph E., First Energy  
 Kiskaden, Joseph A., Valero McKee Refinery  
 Main, Wesley J., Agrium US Inc.  
 Martinson, Chris I., City of Sarasota  
 Medley, Lawrence, Rohm and Haas Kentucky Inc.  
 Meredith, Chris M., Valero Port Arthur  
 Mireles, Anthony J., Suncor Energy USA  
 Mitchell, Alberto, Commerce City  
 Mras, Ben F., Hurst Technical Services, Inc.  
 Olivadoti Dominic, Mittal Steel  
 Ortego, Travis C., Gonzales  
 Owens, John C., Valero McKee Refinery  
 Pellegrino, Daniel R., Abbot Bioresearch Center  
 Pierpont, Jeff B., Alston Power  
 Plascencia, Antonio, Nestle Waters North America  
 Raymond, William Sean, Emerson Process Management  
 Rhoads, Donald C., Kastle Electric Co.  
 Rhodd, Steve C., Suncor Energy USA  
 Roberts, Curtis T., Valero McKee Refinery  
 Robertson, Michael Lee, FMC Corp.  
 Roth, Michael K., Suncor Energy USA  
 Scasta, Edwin R., Valero McKee Refinery  
 Schmehr, Ronald E., Valero McKee Refinery  
 Shelton, Paul J., ESI  
 Shropshire, Richard B., Suncor Energy USA  
 Shultz, Neil Scott, VonRoll America  
 Stacy, Leroy E., Abbott Bioresearch Center  
 Talbot, Daniel J., Agrium US Inc.  
 Talbott, Craig A., VonRoll America  
 Tanner, Steve L., Suncor Energy USA  
 Theriot, Morty, Honeywell International  
 Thompson, Michael Reed, FMC Corp.

Vick, Murray F., City of Sarasota  
 Vilo, Thomas R., Valero Port Arthur Refinery  
 Volden, Gary D., Valero McKee Refinery  
 West, Danny K., Valero McKee Refinery

### CCST Level II

Allen, David, Maverick Technologies  
 Casey, Joseph A., IBEW Local #193  
 Fairchild, Joseph H., BASF Corporation  
 Hults, Kenneth J., GE Energy  
 Johnson, Stephen C., BASF Corporation  
 Joshua Ohiolei Francis, Nigeria Liquefied Natural Gas (NLNG) Ltd.  
 Laskos, Jonathan B., Noramco Inc.  
 Lukic, Darko, Cangene Corp.  
 O'Brien, Joseph C., Thompson Equipment Co.  
 Parry, Robert H., IBEW Local #654  
 Rehkopf, Craig M., IBEW Local #461  
 Theriot, Morty, Honeywell International  
 Williams, Paul, Armstrong World Industries

### CCST Level III

Alegria, Ted P., Suncor Energy USA  
 Bennett, Mark O., Mittal Steel  
 Brechbill, Patrick N., Cobb Country Water Systems  
 Burgess, Brent, BASF Corporation  
 Cosner, Kevin M., Mittal Steel  
 Fitzgerald, Kevin E., CFM Engineering Inc.  
 Hays, Christopher W., BASF Corporation  
 Klug, John J., Mittal Steel  
 Krug, Charles W., Dyer  
 Oh, Heungmin, Spirax Sarco  
 Rome, Bryon J., BASF Corporation



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## Dated Material—Open Immediately!

**Please share this publication with others in your company:**

- Control Systems Technician
- E&I Supervisor
- Training Manager
- Control Systems Engineer

### FAQ: Renewal

#### How will I know that I need to renew?

ISA sends renewal reminders in the forms of letters, postcards, and e-mails; however, it is the responsibility of the CCST to send the paperwork in at the appropriate time. Please ensure that you keep your contact information updated with ISA so that you will receive these notifications. To update your contact information, send an e-mail to [info@isa.org](mailto:info@isa.org), call (919) 549-8411, or log on to the member section at [www.isa.org](http://www.isa.org).

#### How many points can I earn for work experience?

Each year of employment earns 30 Professional Development Points (PDPs). A minimum of 60 points is required from work experience. You can renew your certification simply by working in instrumentation, measurement and control, electrical, electronic or mechanical technologies during your three year certification term.

In order to renew through work experience only (90 PDPs), your renewal application must be received on or before your expiration date; however, you cannot claim the third year of work experience more than 90 days out. If you submit your renewal application more than 90 days prior to your expiration date, you must have at least 30 PDPs from other activities.



Founded in 1945, ISA ([www.isa.org](http://www.isa.org)) is a leading, global, nonprofit organization that is setting the standard for automation by helping over 30,000 worldwide members and other professionals solve difficult technical problems, while enhancing their leadership and personal career capabilities. Based in Research Triangle Park, North Carolina, ISA develops standards; certifies industry professionals; provides education and training; publishes books and technical articles; and hosts the largest conference and exhibition for automation professionals in the Western Hemisphere.

### Certification

ISA certification provides an objective, third-party assessment and confirmation of a person's skills, and gives them the opportunity to stand out from the crowd and be recognized. ISA currently offers three certification programs: Certified Automation Professional® (CAP®), Certified Control Systems Technician® (CCST®), and Certified Industrial Maintenance Mechanic® (CIMM®).