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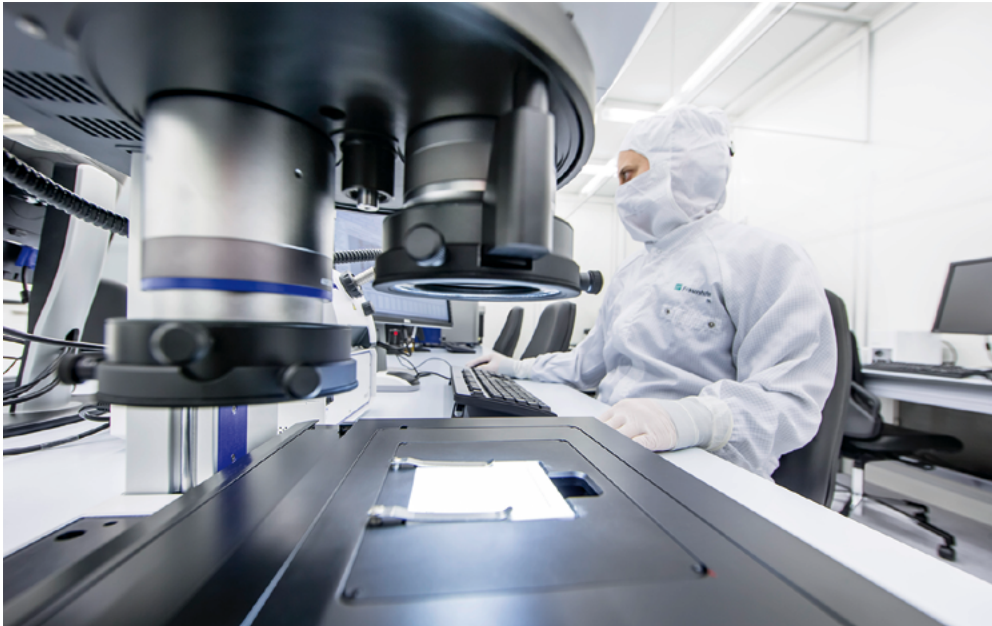
International training concept on technical cleanliness inspection

There have been fixed standards regulating technical cleanliness inspections of component parts in the automotive industry for over a decade. These are codified in the German Association of the Automotive Industry (VDA) vol. 19.1. So that companies can inspect components in accordance with policy, laboratory managers should be qualified "Technical Cleanliness Inspectors". To this end, Fraunhofer IPA has been offering the required training for over ten years now. Given that demand abroad has risen substantially on account of the unabated globalization of automotive industry, English-speaking instruction seminars for trainers will take place in future. They will be trained as "Technical Cleanliness Tutors".

VDA 19.1 contains comprehensive guidelines and support outlining how technical cleanliness should be assessed. These cleanliness tests are demanding lab activities which require not only extensive knowledge of equipment and methods, but also necessitate a good deal of finesse. For this reason, Fraunhofer IPA has been organizing up to five seminars per year centered on the subject of technical cleanliness since the release of VDA 19. Participants will receive a certificate stating that they are a qualified "Technical Cleanliness Inspector" after two training days and successfully passing an exam. These events are often fully booked.

Qualifications are in high demand

As ever more companies involved in the automotive and supplier industries have shifted their production facilities abroad, VDA 19.1 is now also applicable in a rising number of countries outside Germany, with the cleanliness of the relevant components being evaluated. Dr. Markus Rochowicz, Group Manager of Cleanliness Technology at Fraunhofer IPA: "We need skilled staff to confront this development." However, it costs both time and money for non-German companies to send their employees to Stuttgart. "It would be better to offer seminars on site at prices typically seen in the respective countries," explains Dr. Rochowicz. The VDA has suggested a solution to this issue: "The VDA Quality Management Centre (QMC) engaged us to develop a training concept for Technical Cleanliness Tutors." Participants from around the world are to be instructed at Fraunhofer IPA's facilities in Stuttgart, Germany, in order to pass on their knowledge to people in their own countries.



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Extracting particles from components following VDA volume 19.1.
(Source: Fraunhofer IPA)

The seminars abroad are based on IPA training courses. Dr. Rochowicz highlights that the only difference is in the practical section: "Participants at IPA in Stuttgart carefully examine real components, whereas tutors abroad will explain the process using images." Fraunhofer IPA employees have also recorded video clips which can be shown in place of laboratory testing. Dr. Rochowicz believes that "working through the program with the qualified tutor means that participants can put the processes into practice at a later date." The inaugural tutor training will take place during the traditional (albeit in English for the first time) training seminars for Technical Cleanliness Inspectors on December 8 and 9, 2015. If you wish to become a tutor, you will be required to attend a further training day on December 10, 2015.

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With nearly 1 000 employees, the **Fraunhofer Institute for Manufacturing Engineering and Automation IPA**, Fraunhofer IPA, is one of the largest institutes in the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. It has an annual budget of approximately 60 million euros, of which more than one third derives from industrial projects. The institute's research focus is on organizational and technological aspects of production. We develop, test and implement not only components, devices and methods, but also entire machines and manufacturing plants. Our 13 departments are coordinated via six business units, which together conduct interdisciplinary work with the following industries: automotive, machinery and equipment industry, electronics and microsystems, power industry, medical engineering and biotechnology as well as process industry. The research activities of Fraunhofer IPA aim at the economic production of sustainable and personalized products. We regard cyber-physical production processes as topics of the future.