

## Dear intacs™ members, SPICE assessors and friends of intacs™!

A lot of work was done in the past months. The [working groups](#) (WG) have made a lot of progress and the preparation for the intacs™ general meeting is underway. It is time to update you and send out a new information letter.

We can also provide you with preliminary information on a planned update of the Automotive SPICE PAM to version 4.0 with an interim update 3.x to integrate the Cybersecurity PAM.

During the pandemic, several Gate4SPICE meetings were held to share knowledge and experiences. Take a look at these articles.

We wish you an enjoyable reading!

Christian Knüvener, Dr. Ganji Rajesh, Thomas Kömmerling  
intacs info management

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## intacs e.V. online member's convention 2021

After the 2020 general meeting has failed, the intacs e.V. Executive Board will hold this year's general meeting online.

**Date: September 10, 2021 1:00 p.m. CEST**

The preparations for this are ongoing and on schedule.

A change to the statutes is necessary for the online general meeting. The Executive Board has prepared the change to the statutes, which will be the first item on this year's agenda. The priority reports will cover the period 2019-2021.

In the interest of everyone's health, we are sure you will understand that we have chosen this permissible special form of the general meeting. Therefore, we will also carry out all important decisions such as the discharge and election of the Executive Board, the finance auditor's report, and the regular reports online. Separate rules are defined to ensure participation and authentication, and the agenda will be published on our website on time.

We all hope that this time without personal contacts will soon come to an end, without events and without meeting in the usual way and that we will see each other again as soon as possible.

Best regards on behalf of the entire intacs™ Executive Board

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## The VDA AK13 Planned update of the PAM to Automotive SPICE 4.0

The VDA AK13 announced that the group is focusing on an update of the PAM 3.1.

Planned PAM 4.0 updates / changes:

- Integration of Security PAM
- Coverage of functional safety
- Process architecture for suitable assessments (different assessment scenarios)
- Definitions for plug-ins (Mechanical, Hardware SPICE)
- New WPCs
- Update of glossary
- Change requests from practitioners

Also, the VDA Blue-Gold Book will be updated. The Guideline V2.0 will have two main parts. Part A will focus on interpretation and evaluation with focus on e.g., new assessment use cases (scenarios), iterative development. Part B will focus on adjustments to the assessment process.

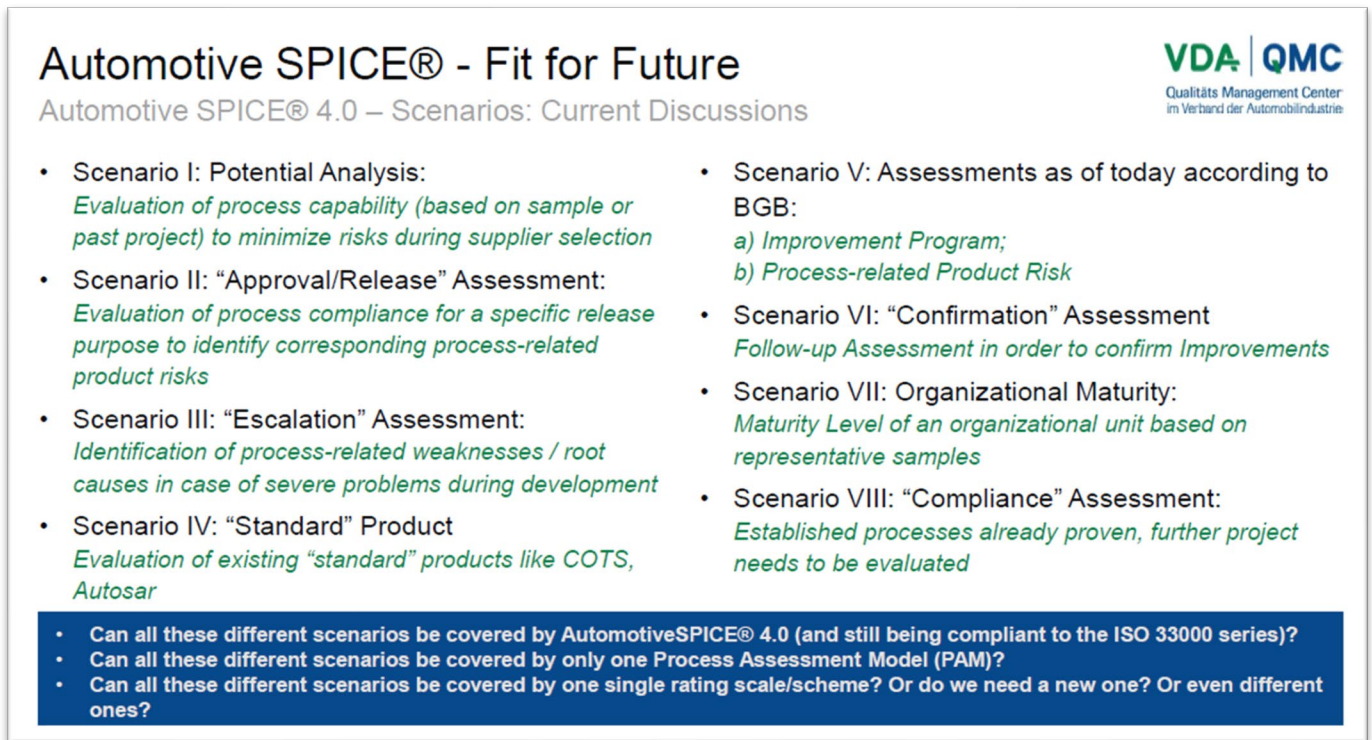


Figure 1: ASPICE 4.0: Typical assessment scenarios currently under discussion

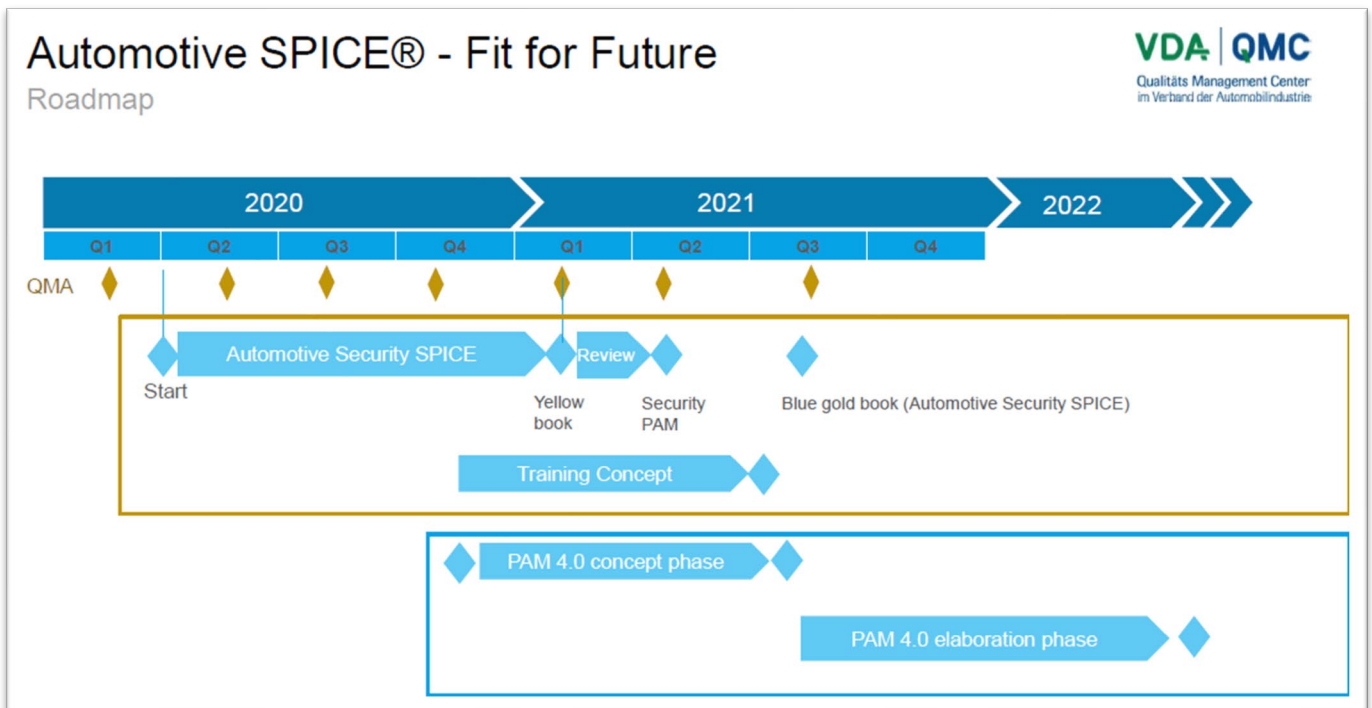


Figure 2: ASPICE 4.0 Roadmap and timeline

As a result of an update of the PAM the training concept will also be updated. For more information see chapter Status of WG “intacs™ Trainings” in this information letter.

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## Status of WG “Procedures”

### Our work in progress:

- Code of conduct updated and shared with Executive board and placed in “Released” folder on 18th June 2021
- Procedure for writing Procedures completed with internal workgroup members review and updated file placed in release for release path in SharePoint
- Time plan not yet started, awaiting complete list of existing procedures
- Identification of existing procedures, templates and forms in progress
- Naming convention agreed with in the workgroup members
- Assessor number participation guidelines updated to 4 assessors team size (in progress).
- Template for workgroup status update for member meeting (in progress)

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## Status of WG “Internationalization & Diversification”

The goal of the Working Group „Internationalization & Diversification“ - to make intacs™ visible and globalized in the world – was successfully pursued especially in this pandemic period. After a brief slowdown at the beginning of the pandemic, numerous online meetings and events were held.

Bernhard Sechser, the head of the working group, held regular conference calls every 6 weeks to exchange news and information between the intacs™ Advisory Board and all Regional Representatives. The Regional Representatives organized, moderated, and supported local community events (e.g., SPICE network meetings/conferences, Gate4Spice meetings/workshops, workshops, camps, ...), participated in national and international SPICE events (e.g., VDA Automotive SYS Germany and China, EuroSPI, ...), and took care of requests regarding any SPICE model or intacs™ procedure.

Some highlights from the past year:

- **Nippon SPICE Network**
  - 5 online Study Meetings in the previous 12 months
  - 2-day Study Camp in September 2020 with 20 participants and two main courses:
    - Considering contexts based on actual project situation
    - How to utilize Automotive SPICE PAM for process improvement
- **Korean SPICE Network**
  - International conference on November 20th, 2020, with 30 onsite participants, broadcast online afterwards, and 11 presenters from Korea, China, Japan, and Germany.
- **Chinese SPICE Network**
  - CSN conference on November 2nd, 2020, as hybrid conference, onsite and online, with more than 100 participants and presentations from intacs, major OEMs (FAW-VW and VW China), Tier 1 (Bosch and Huawei), and well-known consulting companies on topics like Automotive SPICE, ISO 26262, SOTIF, Cybersecurity, and Agile.
  - Workshop in June 2021 dealing with ISO 21434 and Cybersecurity for Automotive SPICE
- **intacs community in Hungary**
  - First Gate4Spice meeting in Hungary on May 2021 dealing with the Plug-in Concept of assessment models
- **intacs community in Czech Republic**
  - New established community in Czech Republic
- **intacs community in North (and South) America**
  - Several Gate4SPICE meetings and extension of the assessor support for Brazil and Mexico.

- **intacs community in Italy**
  - On May 27th, 2021, an online workshop was held by Automotive SPIN Italia with focus on Cybersecurity (incl. ASPICE Addendum)
- **intacs community in Romania**
  - Another Gate4Spice meeting organized by Continental in June 2021, discussing Current Challenges for Assessors
- **intacs community in Egypt**
  - A first Gate4Spice meeting is planned for November 2021
- **intacs community in India**
  - An online Gate4Spice meeting is planned for July 2021
- **4th VDA Automotive SYS Conference in China** (July 7th – 9th, 2021, Shanghai)
  - Bernhard Sechser represented intacs and talked about the new intacs™ Training Structure: Requirements for Assessor Skills and Education with upcoming Assessment Models
- **10th VDA Automotive SYS Conference in Germany** (May 10th – 12th, 2021, online)
  - intacs contributed with session chairs and speakers from the Regional Representatives community

The assessor community support will be continued and extended in the next years, with more events and conferences. Further countries will be supported with Regional Representatives.

If you need any help, you can find the current list of Regional Representatives on the intacs web page: <https://intacs.info/index.php/component/comprofiler/userslist/12-regional-representatives>

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Member of the intacs™ Advisory Board & Head of the intacs™ Regional Representatives



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## Status of WG “Organization SPICE”

The intacs WG “Organization SPICE” is going to define a model which will consist of two documents defining PAM/PRM with 4 processes (PIM.1 RIN.2 QNT.1 QNT.2) for maturity level assessment and defining a maturity level assessment approach including trustworthy procedure to get a certificate.

The principal idea is to perform a class 1 type A assessment with ASPICE VDA-process scope (for higher ML including additional processes) for an organizational unit. The lead assessor might raise that assessment in advance on the intacs advisory board, who suggest an “inspector” who is independent and experienced principal assessor. This inspector checks assessment planning and result and certifies the conformance to the intacs Organization SPICE procedure. This “certificate” shall be published online and contain an intacs logo.

Our goal is to release this model till the end of this year.

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## Status of WG “Assessor support”

Due to the global Pandemic most Gate4SPICE events could not take place as normal. We are happy to announce several events that have already taken place and are planned for this year.

Until end of July 2021 eight events took place, five as Online-Meetings and three face-to-face.

Currently 10 further events are scheduled worldwide. Eight of these meetings will be face-to-face meetings. This supports the experience- and knowledge exchange between the participants and the networking that is easier in real life than in online meetings.

However, online meetings will be a good addition to our traditional face-to-face meetings. The hurdles for participation are significantly lower and since a few months there are also an EE-EP granted for the participants.

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## Status of WG “intacs™ Trainings”

The main purpose of the WG “intacs™ Training” is to maintain the assessor education. This includes two aspects: maintain and continuously improve the existing trainings and develop new trainings to reflect the changes in the assessment model landscape. To be able to cover all the upcoming changes in the model landscape, we’ve developed a new training architecture, that includes the new model extensions as well as feedback to the existing trainings and new requirements for the basic education.

The new training architecture was already discussed and approved by the intacs™ Executive Board and the certification bodies.

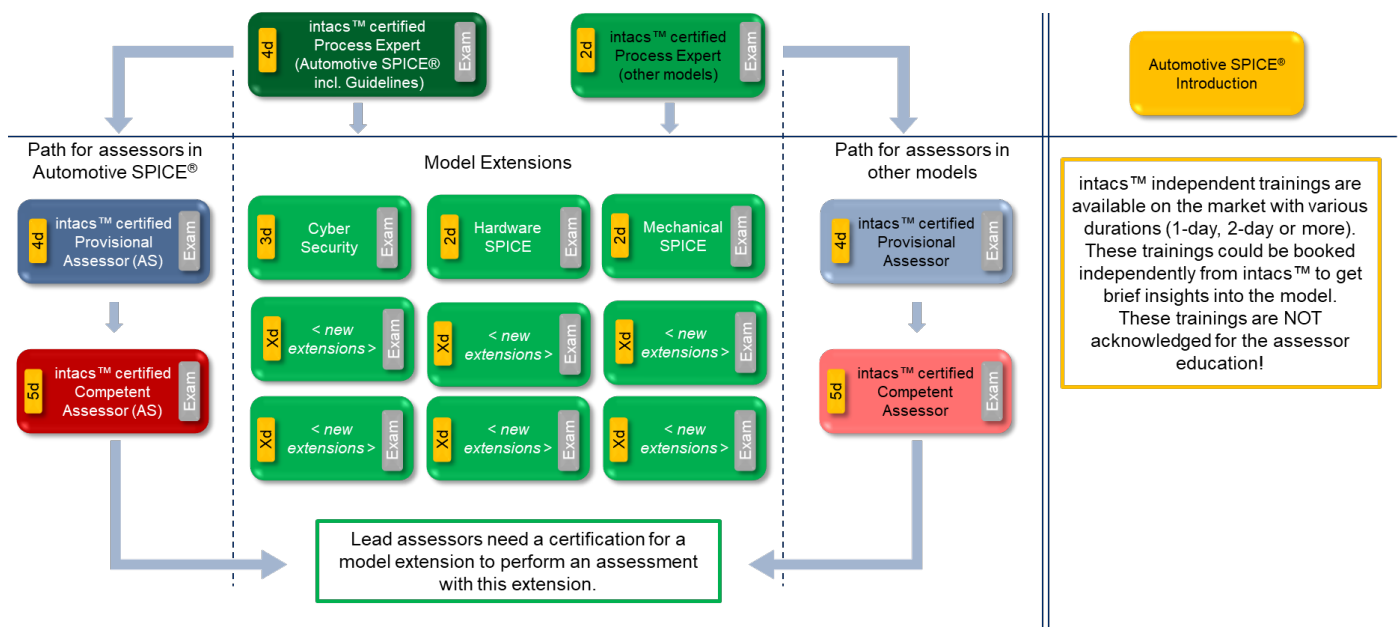


Figure 3: New training concept for assessor qualification

For the common assessor education, the three existing trainings have been restructured; a new entry stage was introduced (“intacs™ certified Process Expert”) followed by the classic Provisional and Competent Assessor trainings. For the Automotive SPICE® path, the old guideline training is now included in all three trainings with more content. To become a lead assessor, all three trainings must be visited. All trainings will include an exam and a certification.

Here you'll find a brief description of the three main trainings. These trainings are currently in development, as soon as they are finalized and approved, the community will be informed.

**intacs™ certified Process Expert:**

- Precondition: Domain knowledge as Quality Engineer, Process Manager, Project Manager, Developer, or alike
- Description: This training teaches model knowledge and supports the implementation of the main PAM in projects or organizations. For Automotive SPICE®, the interpretation of the VDA Automotive SPICE® Guidelines is included. This role supports the process improvement in the organization.

**intacs™ certified Provisional Assessor:**

- Precondition: intacs™ Certified Process Expert, at least 1 assessment as passive assessment team member, domain knowledge as Quality Engineer, Process Manager, Project Manager, Developer, or alike
- Description: This training deepens model knowledge and to act as a co-assessor in an official assessment. For Automotive SPICE® it deepens the understanding of the VDA Automotive SPICE® Guidelines. This role supports the process improvement and the assessments in the organization.

**intacs™ certified Competent Assessor:**

- Precondition: intacs™ Certified Provisional Assessor, at least 2 EE-AT (100 hours assessment time), domain knowledge as Quality Engineer, Process Manager, Project Manager, Developer, or alike
- Description: This training teaches advanced assessor skills and deepens the understanding of the model. For Automotive SPICE® it also deepens the understanding of the VDA Automotive SPICE® Guidelines. It enables to lead an assessment (including planning, preparation, execution and reporting).

Already certified assessors do not have to run through all trainings again, for them the old training structure will still be valid.

Additionally, each model extension now will be covered by a separate short training. These extension trainings are now requested for the lead assessors to perform assessments with the models. Currently there are extensions in development for SPICE for Mechanical Engineering, Hardware SPICE and Cybersecurity. Other models will follow based on the requests from the model owners.

A brief generic description:

- Precondition: any intacs™ certification as Process Expert, Provisional Assessor or Competent Assessor, Domain knowledge as Quality Engineer, Process Manager, Project Manager, Developer, or alike
- Description: This training teaches model knowledge and supports the implementation of the PAM extension in projects or organizations. It is the precondition to become an assessor for this PAM.

All trainings will be held by intacs™ certified instructors only. Currently, the training material and the exam are adapted. The pilot trainings and exams are scheduled for 2021. Go-live is scheduled for 2022.

### Working group members:

The WG members are limited to small number to avoid too much self-management effort. Only certified instructors are allowed. For course development, temporary sub teams are established with additional guest members.

The current setting of permanent members is:

- Volker Lehmann (Lead), [volker.lehmann@intacs.info](mailto:volker.lehmann@intacs.info)
- Klaus Hörmann, [klaus.hoermann@intacs.info](mailto:klaus.hoermann@intacs.info)
- Christian Knüvener, [christian.knuevener@intacs.info](mailto:christian.knuevener@intacs.info)
- Bernhard Secher, [bernhard.sechser@intacs.info](mailto:bernhard.sechser@intacs.info)
- Pierre Metz, [pierre.metz@intacs.info](mailto:pierre.metz@intacs.info)

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## Status of WG “Hardware PAM”

### Release of HW PAM v2.0

In December 2020 we released the version v2.0 of the HW PAM. This updated is based on change requests and feedback from assessments we received since v1.0 was published in November 2019. We remain with 4 processes for the hardware plug-in. A detailed rationale is given in the PAM.

### Semiconductor

Infineon representatives joined our WG, and their semiconductor perspective has now also been incorporated.

### Workshop on VDA SYS Conference

We performed a workshop for HW PRM/PAM on the VDA SYS Conference. Here we gathered further ideas and hints that will be used in future. Thanks for your input!

### Our next steps in 2021:

- The VDA AK13 started an update of the Automotive SPICE Model to result in a v4.0. For further information see the VDA AK13 slides published on the VDA SYS Conference. This updated will integrate the Hardware and Mechanical processes in the PAM. Therefore, we are in close communication with the VDA AK 13.
- A syllabus and training materials for HW processes are being created. Until an integration of hardware processes in Automotive SPICE® v4.0 has taken place, the goal is to establish a certification path with certification body ECQA.
- The evolving ISO SAE 21434 (Cybersecurity) is observed and depending on the status of this standard the HW PRM/PAM will be adapted. Note that cross-references to ISO 26262 have already been existing since v1.0 of the HW PRM/PAM.

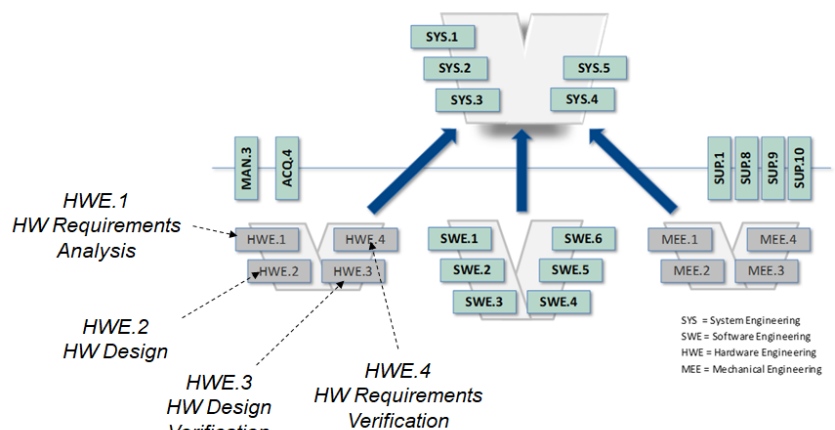


Figure 4: The HW Plug-in for Automotive SPICE

Currently these companies and persons support our WG (in alphabetic order):

ART S.p.A, Audi AG, Brose Fahrzeugteile SE & Co. KG, Continental Automotive GmbH, Car.Software-Organisation (subsidiary within the Volkswagen Group), Dräxlmaier Group, Exida Group, H. Göttel (privat), M.Glaser (privat), Infineon, ITK Engineering GmbH, Kugler Maag Cie GmbH, Lorit Consultancy GmbH, Preh GmbH, Robert Bosch GmbH, Schaeffler Technologies AG & Co., Sharpen 360, SynSpace Group, Valeo Siemens eAutomotive Germany GmbH, WABCO GmbH & Co. KG, ZF Friedrichshafen AG

Contact: Pierre Metz, [pierre.metz@intacs.info](mailto:pierre.metz@intacs.info)

## Gate4SPICE Event: 4th of June 2021, “Current Challenges for Assessors”

Organizer: Continental Automotive Romania

Written by Alina Ilin, Continental Automotive Romania, intacs Regional Representative

“Current Challenges for Assessors” is the 5th Gate4SPICE hosted by Continental Automotive Romania and the first one organized online. On 4th of June 2021, this event gathered in a virtual environment 23 participants from several automotive companies, including OEM, from different countries all around the world.

The main directions in focus were remote assessments, Agile & complex project assessments and Cybersecurity plug-in. The agenda included three plenum presentations, followed by two workshops in parallel: “ASPICE & AGILE: Challenges for SUP.1 & MAN.3” and “How to Overcome Challenges in Remote Assessments”.

The objective of the first workshop was to identify the main difficulties while assessing MAN.3 and SUP.1 process area, in complex agile (SAFe) projects. Information distribution across different project levels turned out to be one of the biggest hurdles in this kind of assessments, as it can significantly influence the length of the interview sessions and the accuracy of the results. The workshop participants discussed all respective base practices and concluded which are the most affected by the SAFe structure of the assessed project.

The second workshop’ goal was to cluster (real or presumptive) situations that impact effectiveness of a remote assessment. The remote approach brings some advantages, but it is also tied to certain lowlights which shall be addressed and handled by assessors. During the workshop, the participants identified the associated risks as well as the alternatives that may be considered to overcome these situations along all assessment phases: starting from planning, through execution, but also considering reporting.

The outcome of both workshops was documented and presented to all participants at the end of the day.

“Current Challenges for Assessors” ended with a wrap-up of the day and impressions of the participants. The event was really appreciated and received a very good feedback regarding the overall organization and the selected topics. The audience also valued the knowledge and experience of the speakers and other participants, factors that did enable fruitful and relevant discussions

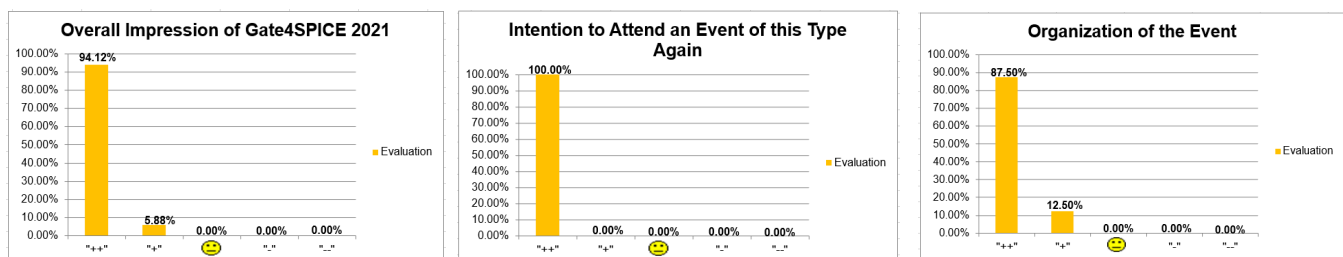


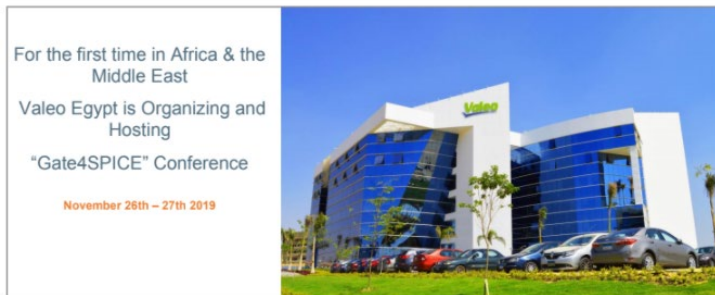
Figure 5: Positive feedback for the online format of the Gate4SPICE meeting

## Gate4SPICE Event: Evolution in Africa

Written by Samer Sameh, Valeo Chief Assessments Engineer / SPICE Expert

In the last era, there was a paradigm shift in the automotive industry especially with all these new technologies like, Autonomous driving, Artificial intelligence, machine learning, wireless communication, cyber security.

To analyze and assess the relation between ASPICE and these new emerging technologies, Valeo Egypt hosts Gate4SPICE – for the first time in Africa and the middle East - where assessors meet and share assessment experiences and discuss the outcomes.



This event was held on Nov-2019 under the theme of “Future of ASPICE in High Technology Environments”, discussing the readiness of ASPICE to be applied on the complex projects which is using the new emerging technologies such as cyber security techniques, wireless communication, Artificial Intelligence, and machine learning.

Figure 6: First Gate4SPICE Meeting in Africa & Middle East

It was also a complete 2 days, onsite event. To give the readers some insights and statics about the event:

- Total number of attendees were 81 including representatives from the whole ecosystem
- Discussions included assessors from Germany, India, China and Egypt
- Discussion included different levels of assessors, between provisional, competent and principal assessors
- In total 20 sessions were performed, between presentation and workshops

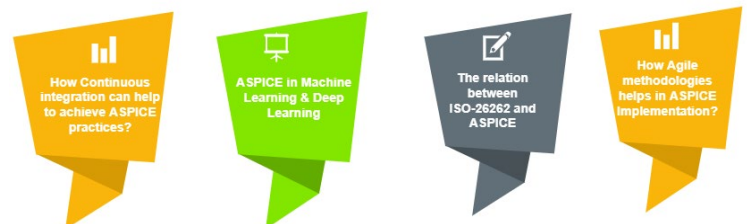


Figure 7: Discussed topics

Unfortunately, the event of 2020 was cancelled due to the Pandemic, but there is a plan to host an online event in 2021 to spot the light on “The Readiness of the Automotive suppliers to comply with the new automotive standards”, e.g., Cybersecurity SPICE, HW SPICE, Agile SPICE, ...

Stay tuned for future announcement about 2021 event!

For more information about the new 2021 event, contact:

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## Article: Assessors required skills, knowledge, and experience

*Written by Ahmed Alborae, Valeo Process improvement Expert & Valeo Egypt Process improvement and assessments Sr. Manager and Khaled Badr, Valeo Process improvement Expert & Valeo Egypt Process improvement Sr. team leader*



The successful deployment of ASPICE in the automotive industry and its use by most of the OEMs and Suppliers is imposing a huge responsibility on the ASPICE assessors community to maintain an appropriate set of skills and knowledge base that enables them to use the model appropriately whether for process improvement or for capability determination.

Which lead to one of the key points of discussion raised some years ago about the consistency between assessor's understanding of the model practices and the major differences between assessors sometimes, this issue actually had me thinking what could be the possible root causes of such differences, I was able to think of the following possible root causes:

1. Difference in skills and background knowledge between assessors
2. No material detailing the expectations of the ASPICE model
3. The comparison between different assessment results although the purpose behind the assessment in many cases is different

The release of ASPICE guidelines actually from our point of view resolved to a good extent root causes 2 and 3, however remains the major difference in background knowledge and basic skill set needed for assessors which till now is not clearly defined, especially if the future of ASPICE involves the integration of some topics like "Cyber security" as this will actually require assessors to extend their knowledge to understand at least the basics of such new topics.

But then as assessors we asked ourselves the following questions:

1. What are the basic key knowledge areas any assessor should have?
2. How can I prove being knowledgeable in any of those areas?
3. Is it mandatory to have this knowledge prior to being an assessor or can I gain it while being an assessor?
4. How to adapt my skill set as an assessor to emerging topics like Cyber security, if I don't have prior experience in the topic can i still be an assessor?

We really think the answer to those questions might really lower the level of discrepancy between assessors' understanding of ASPICE and also their assessments results, we don't claim to know the appropriate answers while writing this article.

However, we did reach the conclusion that there might be a need to apply "MAN.3.BP6: Ensure required skills, knowledge, and experience" for ASPICE assessors, we think there is a need to develop some guidelines that defines some key aspects of experience and knowledge that assessors must have not only through assessors certification training or exams but also through practical experience and even sometime technical training, some aspects of such guidelines could be:

- Required skills and knowledge areas for ASPICE assessors technical or soft skills
- For each adaptation of ASPICE there must be the corresponding guidance for assessors, what kind of skills and knowledge do they need to acquire to be able to adapt to standard updates.

## intacs™ at 4th VDA Automotive SYS Conference in China

### “New intacs™ Training Structure – Requirements for Assessor Skills and Education with upcoming Assessment Models”

On the occasion of this year's VDA Automotive SYS® Conference China, which took place in Shanghai from July 7th to 9th, 2021, our intacs™ Advisory Board member Bernhard Sechser gave an online presentation on the topic “New intacs™ Training Structure – Requirements for Assessor Skills and Education with upcoming Assessment Models” on July 8th.

Since many years, the Automotive SPICE® Process Assessment Model was the one and only model to be used for assessing development projects dealing with software-based systems in Automotive industry. This year, an additional model will be published, an extension for Cybersecurity-specific topics in development projects, that will become mandatory to be assessed. But do the existing Automotive SPICE® assessors really have the skills to understand and evaluate those processes? And this is not the only extension that is currently used by assessors with “only” an Automotive SPICE® assessor license. Others like “SPICE for Mechanical Engineering” or the “Hardware SPICE” PAM are already used by many certified assessors without additional requirements.

intacs™ is currently working on a new training architecture to support these models and integrate them into the existing – but to be modified – Provisional and Competent Assessor training. The new structure and the associated roadmap were presented.

The presentation can be downloaded from the intacs™ web page.



Figure 8: VDA Automotive SYS China participants

## Disclaimer

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## Imprint

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