

New InterLab[®] system for professional testing established by 7 layers

Ratingen, Germany, 4th February 2002. Recent years have brought strong changes in the world of wireless communications technologies. After the first few years when everybody involved was spoiled with ever rising customer demand and continuously growing production rates, competition in the industry has become stronger.

Nowadays manufacturers use the same basic technologies (GSM, Bluetooth[™], 3G etc.) for their wireless communications products. The consumer expects these complex products from various manufacturers to be compatible with each other and that they function worldwide. Manufacturers must meet market demands by securing interoperability and making sure that products are compliant to the technology. At the same time they need to differentiate themselves from each other by bringing innovative products to the market as quickly as possible. Although the complexity of products is rising, regulatory demands in many countries have become less restrictive, thus leaving the responsibility for the functionality of products and services with the suppliers.

The consequence is, that demands on efficiency of product and service development have grown immensely whilst development costs need to be minimized. Efficient product development has to be accompanied right from the start by test processes, which are supportive of finding the fastest way to the global market for a new product, meeting the market demands and covering the manufacturers' quality and risk policy at the same time.

With the growing complexity of wireless communications products the amount of testing necessary during product development is rising as well. Test projects need to produce results quickly and conveniently in order to keep costly development processes under control. This makes it more and more interesting for manufacturers to establish their own in-house test laboratories, even though the job of running test laboratories is not part of their core business.

To fulfil regulatory requirements or the requirements of qualification programs (as for example for Bluetooth[™]), third party testing becomes necessary. In such case multi-purpose test houses, covering various wireless communications technologies *together with other aspects like electromagnetic compatibility etc. would be the most convenient solution for manufacturers.*

In order to meet the changes in test requirements, 7 layers has developed InterLab[®], a unique system for professional testing, that supports developers and manufacturers of wireless communication products and services as well as test houses.

InterLab® deals with all steps in a test project, from collecting basic knowledge about technology specifications etc. - via test plan generation - to the actual testing and generation of the test report. It guarantees fast and easy communication between all parties involved and gives them continuous access to all data and information necessary. 7 layers combines this with test project assistance for analysis of measurement results, support services for the laboratory team and services to maintain the high standard of all InterLab® laboratories.

Complete test laboratories or just individual test equipment can be joined to the InterLab® system. InterLab® clients can combine testing in their own labs with tests in other InterLab® laboratories. Since test plan generation, testing and test reports are all set up in the same fashion, and all InterLab® laboratories work to the same high standards, test projects can be divided between the most appropriate labs for each test.

7 layers has developed an InterLab® system software that provides users with all necessary services for professional testing. The InterLab® system software ensures that the way clients handle their test projects will always be the same, regardless of the test equipment or the technology they use. This simplifies testing considerably.

Dr. Hans-Jürgen Meckelburg, Member of the Board of 7layers AG, explains: "7 layers is already running the largest virtual test house for telecommunication testing worldwide. In addition to the 7 layers laboratories in Germany, UK, USA and China, test laboratories of manufacturers and test houses are benefiting from the 7 layers in-house test methodologies. The broad experience we have gained from running our own and our clients' test laboratories helped us to develop the new, highly efficient InterLab® system.

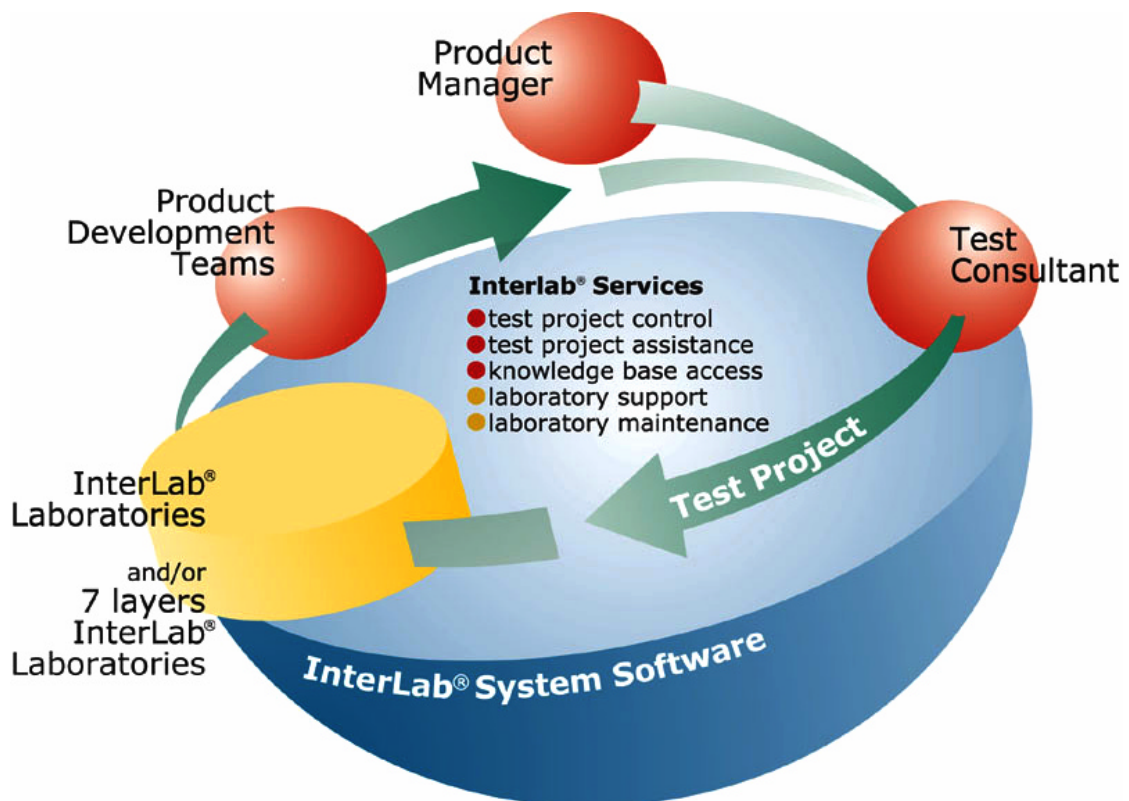
7°layers takes over the task of participating in all important committees concerned with the further development of wireless communication technologies. We make it our responsibility to keep our own and our clients labs on the highest standards and give them all the support they need should problems arise. This way InterLab® responds to changes in the market in an ideal way, making in-house test laboratories easier and more efficient to run and giving our clients room to concentrate on their real business."

About 7 layers

7 layers is an engineering company for the wireless communications industry with broad expertise in development, testing and qualification for Bluetooth™, GSM, GPRS, UMTS and others. 7 layers has service centres and laboratories in Germany, UK, USA and China.

The services include:

- Technology services like development of specifications and test cases
- Test services in the early phases of new technologies
- InterLab® services, including delivery and set up of test equipment, connecting labs to InterLab®, offering continuous InterLab® services
- Test services in the 7 layers InterLab® laboratories
- Reference design testing
- Type approval handling services for global market access



More information at: www.7Layers.com

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