

## CATLab – 30 years and growing

November 1988, I was leading a Mod 300 DCS installation project at Eastman Kodak Company, Rochester, NY. One evening, Taylor Instrument Company's (now ABB) Vice President, Mike Flanagan, invited me to dinner at one of the local hangouts, The Red Creek Tavern, to discuss future projects. After sharing my plans to start a company and assemble a qualified project team, he proposed a 12-month contract. We jotted down terms on a bar napkin and signed it, and at that moment Control Automation Technologies was born. Over the next few months, I wrapped up existing projects, opened an office in my single-car garage, and hired our first employees. On August 14, 1989, our company became an official North Carolina Corporation.



Red Creek Inn, Rochester, NY



In the 30 years since, CATC has employed over 100 technicians, engineers, and support staff who designed and installed process control systems at facilities in Tunisia, Panama, Jamaica, Hong Kong and throughout the United States. Building a maintenance group in 1992, we provided process instrument calibrations and helped many manufacturers create their quality systems. Subsequently, CATC became the first instrument service company in the south to earn UL Registration to ISO 9000.

In 1994, we purchased our first offices, a 4000 sq. ft. building in Kernersville, NC where we opened a fabrication shop, building control panels to be installed in factories around the globe. In 1998, after dealing with long delays, documentation errors, and expensive services of third-party labs to calibrate our technician's test equipment, we built CATLab and became the first test equipment calibration lab in the southeast to earn ISO/IEC Guide 25 accreditation (now 17025) through the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation.



CATC Kernersville Office

In that same year, Control Automation Technologies Corporation (CATC/CATLab) was named 'North Carolina Small Business of the Year' by *Business North Carolina* magazine and in 1999 was a finalist for the national 'Blue Chip Enterprise Award' through the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.

Faced with growing contracts and a shrinking qualified workforce, we accepted an offer by another service organization to purchase our field service division in 2005. With our focus now on laboratory services, CATLab expanded its operations to Virginia, opening a lab in Charles City County. In 2008, we purchased and built out a new facility in New Kent County, and just last year acquired the adjacent building to double its laboratories, offices, and shipping area.

Today, CATLab serves over 500 clients throughout the U.S. and abroad through two A2LA accredited calibration labs in Winston-Salem, NC and New Kent County, VA. Our scope covers a wide range of precision electrical, pressure, torque, dimensional, and analytical test equipment. We also have one of the most capable accredited thermodynamic scopes in the industry sourcing a temperature range from  $-196^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $1700^{\circ}\text{C}$ , operating two Thunder Scientific humidity chambers for high accuracy humidity calibrations and a Michell Dew Point Calibration System to provide accredited calibration of dew point sensors reaching  $-100^{\circ}\text{C}$ .



We are proud of our many long-standing partnerships with some of the most recognized names in Pharmaceutical, Chemical, Paper, Aerospace and numerous other manufacturing industries. We're proud to support all 5 military branches along with other DOD facilities, Homeland Security, state agencies and universities. And, we value the many contractor and service companies, large and small, that rely on CATLab to assure the accuracy of their test equipment. Soon, we will announce a pending-new partnership, likely to become the largest individual client in CATLab history.

At CATLab, we've built our business by building relationships, keeping promises, and putting our client's needs above our own. Sitting at that table on a snowy November night in Rochester, I remember telling Mr. Flanagan "we're in this for the long haul". I'm proud to say, they were too. After 30 years, ABB is still a customer.

We are grateful for that relationship and we are grateful for yours.

