



Self Calibration of NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS Test Equipment Modules

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7th August 2006

Biography: Hedrick's experience was obtained while he owned and operated a sizable calibration facility in Colorado, for more than 20 years. His company served hundreds of customers needing calibration services, and was ISO certified and A2LA-17025 accredited. He recently sold the calibration business to SYPRIS TEST AND MEASUREMENT and now continues in the test equipment rental business with a special focus on calibration equipment rentals.

Problem: Many PXI and PCI computer based instrument users do not get their modular based measuring instruments included in the calibration process. As a result many necessary calibrations are not done on the automated systems, thus rendering automation measurements less reliable.

Reason: Many calibration technicians are not familiar with the modular measuring instruments, or do not have the correct fixtures and software.

Reason: Many users of modular based measuring instruments do not have internal calibration services within their company.

Reason: There is a natural human tendency to automatically trust the output data readings from uncalibrated automated measuring devices because the output is neatly printed out in a tabular format.

Solution: Modular instruments shouldn't be exempt from the calibration process, or a company's entire quality program may be jeopardized.

- Calibration technicians need software, fixtures and familiarity with automated computer based measurements, which are all now readily available and easy to use (without learning a programming language), thanks to new calibration software from NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS.
- Users don't always recognize that computer based measuring devices are "real instruments" and must be checked with accurate accredited calibration standards to maintain the quality of measurements within their company.
- If automated measurements are being taken for the use by customers, internal users, to comply with ISO requirements, to comply with military requirements, or if the measurements are used for *any decisions* about the product or quality, then the computer based modules should be calibrated. The modular instruments are just as important to calibrate as other bench top "box instruments". The only difference is that they don't have knobs and their own readouts or displays.
- The necessary calibration equipment is usually very expensive. A full featured calibrator can cost upwards of \$40,000.00. If your company doesn't already have the calibrators, with accredited data, needed for automated module calibrations, they can be rented from INSTRUMENT RENTAL LABS, and operated by calibration or other technical personnel.

INSTRUMENT RENTAL LABS is a NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS value added reseller (VAR) and can combine the correct software, calibration equipment and fixtures to facilitate a solution for your company.

Now available! Calibration Equipment for NATIONAL INSTRUMENTS!
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