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Public-Private Team-Up Enhances Training

The Montana Manufacturing Center (MMEC) teamed up with the Montana Aerospace Development Association and Neptune Aviation Services in Missoula recently to deliver a three-day AS9100 Internal Quality Auditor Training workshop to aerospace manufacturers from across Montana. Neptune Aviation performs heavy aircraft maintenance, has an engineering/design and fabrication shop, and is involved with fire sup-



Tracy Brendal (left), Neptune's Shop Manager, shows auditor Phil Leiritz (right) from CM Manufacturing the FAA-approved documentation on structural repair.

pression aircraft. The company is committed to a quality management program and AS9100 certification.

The course covered the AS9100 quality standard (and the broader ISO-9001:2000 standard) including what formal registrars look for during registration and surveillance audits at companies certified to the standard. It explored the relationships between the quality policy, a quality manual, procedures, and supporting records, and participants learned how to document nonconformance and corrective action.

A day of live audits at Neptune's facility focused on practice auditing with checklists, evaluation techniques, and related documentation specific to AS9100 that were covered in the workshop. After course completion, 11 students were certified as AS9100 Internal Quality Auditors and will play a vital role in



Workshop participants pose beside a Lockheed P2V Neptune during the live audit practicum at Neptune Aviation's facility.

sustaining a documented quality system for their companies.

MMEC engineers served as audit coaches for the course taught by certified instructor Jeff Omelchuck from IQA Associates, Portland, Oregon.

If you are interested in attending a three-day ISO9001:2000 Internal Quality Auditor Training workshop being organized for Bozeman later this year, contact MMEC at 406-994-4507.