

# 100 Members Now – But With No Intention Of Stopping There

By Eng. Gregorio Mangano, AIISA President

**O**n Monday, July 20, 2020, AIISA reached the significant milestone of 100 members. In effect this is 25% more than we had at the beginning of 2020. Along with this there has been a significant increase in a number of ASCS certified technicians to 250 certified technicians — 25% more than we had at the beginning of the year. By any measure this is a considerable landmark. AIISA has been operating since 2004, and partner of NADCA since 2006. At this point in time, AIISA is now NADCA's biggest partner outside the USA.

## How Did We Get Here?

Strategically speaking, AIISA has always believed that hygiene, maintenance and the right indoor quality of air is a fundamental part of our way of life. From the outset, company culture has underlined a standard procedure and a final validation of cleaning through accepted standards and global benchmarks, meaning the NADCA Vacuum Test. In order to correctly implement these measures, technicians must be trained to the required level through ASCS certification and, for those attaining an even higher level, CVI certification.

This solid foundation put us in a position, despite the obvious challenges encountered this year, to grow in the face of adversity. Following hospital sanitation procedures successfully carried out during the COVID-19 threat, other companies consequently came to understand that our demonstrated standards work,

which helped them recognize the need to be on board with AIISA. This resulted in 170 requests for information in just one month and a total of 20 new members in the last three months. When we talk about cleanliness and hygiene we talk about health. If we also manage to raise awareness of our skills and competence in the market area of technical inspection and the cleaning of HVAC systems, thereby positioning the cost as indispensable in the long term, then all members will both profit and grow. Our aim is to safeguard the health of those operating within indoor environments in which there are HVAC systems. In this way working together ethically and sustainably we will endure now and into the future, cultivating and expanding our ever-growing network.

## Special Thanks

All of this would never have been possible without the professional,

tireless and patient contribution of Raffaele Caruso, AIISA Managing Director, and Stefania Silvaggi, AIISA Assistant Director. To them goes our deep felt appreciation and gratitude from the AIISA Board of Directors and all Members.

THANK YOU RAFFAELE, THANK YOU STEFANIA



Eng Raffaele Caruso, AIISA Managing Director, and Eng. Gregorio Mangano, AIISA President



The History of AIISA: Growing Together



Dallas, March 8, 2006, agreement between AIISA and NADCA, signed by Eng. Giorgio Ziragachi, First President of AIISA, and Bill Lundquist, NADCA President.

## 2004

AIISA has been operating since 2004 out of the founders desire to provide adequate rules to raise the quality standard in the market of assessment and restoration of HVAC systems. AIISA had already established an important relationship with NADCA. NADCA was a source of inspiration with a tried and tested technical culture.

## 2006

AIISA and NADCA signed an agreement that allowed AIISA to run ASCS courses and NADCA certification in Italy. AIISA is the first association to provide this service outside the United States.

## 2007



The first ASCS exam session took place in Rome on October 5, 2007.

Italian legislation promotes the "Technical protocol and Guidelines for the rules of maintenance regarding HVAC systems" and incorporates the NADCA Vacuum Test as a technical

reference standard when defining cleanliness. All AIISA members refer to these procedural indicators.

## 2008

AIISA organized its first annual event, ANAM (AIISA NADCA Annual Meeting). ANAM is now a much anticipated event, which takes place once a year. It offers both training (course and ASCS exams) and technical culture input (keynote speakers). This runs alongside commercial opportunities for sponsors and exhibitors of equipment and services.

## 2013

The years from 2007 to 2013 were years of growth and consolidation for AIISA. In 2013 NADCA published ACR, the NADCA Standard, and presented the new CVI (Certified Ventilation Inspector) certification course. AIISA published the first version of the AIISA Operating Protocol for the inspection and sanitation of HVAC systems. The AIISA Operating Protocol became an immediate point of reference for operators in the sector. It represents the synthesis of knowledge in the field of hygienic maintenance of HVAC systems. It originates from ACR, the NADCA Standard, and implements Italian and European technical regulations. Another characteristic of the document is that of providing useful knowledge to customers in the drafting of technical specifications in relation to the tender.

## Between 2013 and 2016

Many things continued to happen in partnership between NADCA and AIISA:

- Additional training for ASCS certifications.
- The Ventilation System Mold Remediation (VSMR) is introduced in Italy.
- AIISA initiates the professional qualification procedure for

ordinary members through IQC certification, verifying the company's professionalism.

- In view of the new CVI certification, AIISA has been promoting and organizing the new "HVAC engineering training for ASCS" since 2016 with the aim of improving the ASCS knowledge of plant engineering issues.

## 2017

In 2017, thanks to an agreement with INAIL (National Institute for Occupational Accident Insurance), the brochure "HVAC Systems: Health and Safety in Inspection And Remediation Activities" was published. The document examines the different construction phases, identifying specific risks in each of them. For each risk, the relevant PPE is identified and outlined.

## 2017 – 2018

AIISA launched the CVI certification in Italy, which ended in 2019 with the revision of course content and the inclusion of the topics related to Italy and Europe (laws, technical standards, etc.).

## 2019

The innovative project was launched: the Certificate of Hygienic Efficiency of the HVAC System. It is a method of evaluating the hygienic efficiency of HVAC systems and assessing how the HVAC system meets air quality requirements. This is based on the project and how it was made. It is a service that only a CVI certified technician can use.

AIISA also ended the revision of the contents of the ASCS VSMR certification course, with the introduction of specific Italian and European technical contents (laws, technical standards, etc.). ●