**SECOTA starts New Year with Comparison Test**

**Six laboratories participate in a holistic comparison test according to EN 1143-1**

**Frankfurt/M. –** December 2018. **As part of this year's ESSA General Assembly, the SECOTA working group, which was set up in October 2018, was officially introduced for the first time. The working group, consisting of international representatives from all sectors of the physical security and insurance industry, has set itself the goal of making laboratories more comparable in the future. Already in the spring of 2019, the first steps – in the form of a comparison test – should be substantiated.**

SECOTA - Security, Equivalent, Certification, Organization, Testing and Auditing - has set itself the task of making testing and certification in Europe comparable and comprehensible to all communities of interest. Within just a few weeks, the international working group, consisting of 25 participants from 12 countries, has already developed and coordinated the first concepts for holistic comparative tests.

In the spring of 2019, the first SECOTA comparison test will take place with the six interested test laboratories. Overall, the comparison includes 35 partial tests on specimens of different resistance grades, which are subsequently evaluated by the working group. The test specimens are provided by SECOTA.

The focus of the evaluation in this first comparison test will be mainly on the handling of the permissible tools according to EN 1143-1 and the different attack techniques. In the further course, a second comparison test is planned as a holistic test. In addition to the handling of the tools, the evaluation should also consider the preparation of an all-encompassing test strategy and the follow-up in form of a test report. The anonymized results are then shared with all participating laboratories and the working group in order to make a general statement about the test quality of the laboratories.

Until 15 January 2019, other interested laboratories can register for the first comparison test. An application can be submitted informally to ESSA.

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**Background ESSA**

ESSA – The International Security Association based in Frankfurt/Main is the leading international association of the security industry. At present, the ESSA has 125 members from 37 countries.