

Choose The Right Test Laboratory

Deciding to work toward validation of the conformance of your product against standards such as FIPS 140-2, FIPS 140-3, Cryptographic algorithm validation, Personal Identity Verification and SCAP and GSA FIPS 201 procurement standards represents a substantial commitment, and no part of that decision is more important than choosing the right test lab to evaluate your product for validation and certification.

What questions do you need to ask to ensure that you choose the best partner to help you achieve your goals?

Is the test lab an industry leader, helping to promote and shape the standards?

atsec's leadership in the security testing industry is demonstrated by our commitment to helping shape the standards themselves. Our consultants helped develop FIPS 140 over a decade ago and have since been actively involved in the review stages of FIPS standards and NIST Special Publications including the drafts of FIPS 140-3. atsec consultants take leadership roles in the organizations that create and promote open IT security standards, including the ISO-sponsored standards such as ISO/IEC 19790 which is based on FIPS 140-2.

Does the test lab have a proven record of successful, on-time tests?

atsec has completed many testing projects and we leverage our experienced staff to produce quality results, on-time and on budget. To further enable sponsors to reap the maximum benefit from their certification projects, we have pioneered techniques to test complex products in parallel with their development so that those products achieve certification almost at the same time the products hit the market.

Is the test lab able to pursue a range of certifications through multiple programs and schemes?

Most of our customers need different certifications for different reasons. This can include cryptographic module testing, cryptographic algorithm testing, PIV identity verification, inclusion on the GSA FIPS 201 approved product List, Common Criteria or a variety of other validations. In addition to being accredited by NIST and NVLAP for all the IT security testing methods, atsec is also fully qualified according to rigorous accreditation requirements to conduct evaluations for Common Criteria certification through the German, Swedish and US Schemes.

Does the test lab go beyond simple testing; does it also add value by improving the customer's product and processes?

atsec's reports reveal thoughtful analysis of the content of document evidence presented (not just a cursory look at the titles of documentation evidence). The reports provide real value to sponsors, going well beyond simply filling out a checklist of requirements to achieve certification. The depth and scope of our examination can result in a better product and more robust processes.

Does the test lab let you reuse your test reports?

When possible, atsec share copyright of valuable test reports with the sponsor. The benefits of evaluation including the often-overlooked value of having access to test reports are

summarized in this [invited lecture](http://www.zisc.ethz.ch/events/ISC2005Slides/KurthCertifications.pdf) by Helmut Kurth, atsec Chief Scientist, at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology: (www.zisc.ethz.ch/events/ISC2005Slides/KurthCertifications.pdf).

☑ Is the test lab able to offer expertise and evaluation experience in many different technologies?

atsec's consultants are experienced in standards-based testing and evaluation across a broad range of products. Our staff's collective experience lets us bring the appropriate level of expertise to any project. What's more, because our experts are experienced in many types of IT security-related projects, they frequently catch vulnerabilities and issues that other evaluators might miss.

☑ Is the test lab financially independent?

atsec is financially independent, with no debt or dependence on external partners for financial support. Our business model is to self-finance company growth. In addition, we neither develop nor resell any hardware or software from any vendor.

☑ Is the test lab able to offer service around the world?

atsec has offices in the US, Europe and China. We are often chosen because we can assist teams locally and are talk to technical developers in several languages.

☑ Who are the test lab's customers?

atsec is the laboratory of choice for leading global customers who could go to any other laboratory, like HP, IBM, Red Hat, Microsoft, Honeywell, Apple, Oracle and VIA technologies. We also work with some academic institutions.

These customers have the industry leadership position to engage any vendor they want for IT security testing and consulting services ... and they selected atsec.

So ... challenge candidate test labs to answer each of these questions. We're confident that no test lab can match atsec's proven record of successful, quality cryptographic security testing. Contact us today!