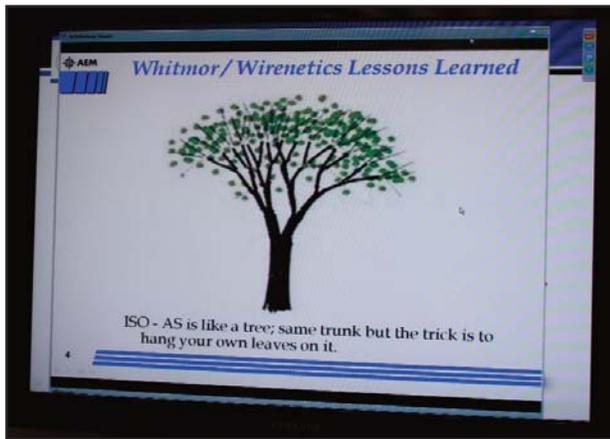Cable Corporation; and Bhaskar Yalamanchili, Gerdau Ameristeel.

## Webinar showed how company was able to 'branch' out from ISO AS9100

WAI's webinar series for 2011 ended with recollections and advice from Whitmor/Wirenetics President Michael Weiss, who on Dec. 6 shared his company's experience developing and living with ISO 9001/AS9100.

AS9000, the predecessor to AS9100, the "aerospace" standard, was first published in 1997 by SAE International. The AS9000 standard evolved via an international effort to AS9100, which is now recognized by all major aerospace OEMs. In his webinar, "12 Years with ISO 9001/AS9100 - Reflections on Benefits, Challenges and the Future," Weiss explained the challenges and benefits of AS9100. Also, taking part in the webinar was Doug Anton of AEM Consulting



*The roots of the "family tree" at Whitmor/Wirenetics include the company's ISO 9001/AS9100 certification.*

Group, Inc., who guided Whitmor through the ISO/AS process and discussed the methodology used to design, document, implement, maintain and improve their system.

Whitmor/Wirenetics, a custom cable manufacturer founded in 1959 and now based in Valencia, California, today provides high-performance wire, cable and tubing to the military, aerospace and satellite industry. The company became ISO 9001 certified in 1998 and AS9100 certified in 2003.

As Weiss explained, he chose to be proactive about the certification as he believed it was inevitable that the business would need to pursue AS9100 for its aerospace business. Following advice from AEM Consulting, the company recorded its current processes, gathering documents and constructing a flowchart; assessed current process to the company's needs; reviewed requirement for the ISO 9001/AS9100 standards; and redesigned, documented and implemented the process. The results, he said, were that the project was delivered on-time and within budget. Some of the lessons that were learned, he said, is that quality is a never-ending

responsibility; QA, in a small shop, is hands-on, not just pushing paper; and there is a cost for quality, but it's worth it.

Weiss has a saying about the certification. "ISO - AS is like a tree; same trunk but the trick is to hang your own leaves on it." He said it also provides an excellent opportunity to examine processes. In terms of results, he said that revenues for Whitmor/Wirenetics have grown well, and that to some degree ISO AS9100 was a contributor. It is also of value in terms of preparing for the future, he said.

Observed Doug Anton, who helped Weiss through the process, "the implementation went smoothly for Whitmor/Wirenetics, largely because it was a deliberate application of the standard. Whitmor refined and documented what they were already doing; they didn't just create paperwork. Additionally Whitmor benefited from the involvement of the people working with the processes."

For more details on Whitemore/Wirenetics, go to www.wireandplastic.com. To contact Doug Anton at AEM Consulting Group, www.aemconsulting.com, call tel. 541-488-0202, e-mail anton@aemconsulting.com.

## Sparks the focus at Jan. 19 webinar

WAI's 2012 series of webinars starts Jan. 19 with a program on spark testing and related safety issues sponsored by WAI's Southeast Chapter. The hour-long program will be presented from 11 am to noon (EST) by David Carroll, applications engineer, Clinton Instrument Co., with support from the Southeast Chapter.

"The Southeast Chapter believes that there is no better topic than safety and hopes that companies will take this opportunity to share best practices," said chapter President Art Deming of Superior Essex.

The webinar is not going to focus on specific models but instead will look closely at the safety aspects of grounding and the problems that can arise from ungrounded products. The testing technology, as long as it is adjusted to the correct setting, will work well, in part because of electricity's inherent desire to resolve from high potential to ground.

## 2011 article index is up for review

An index of news articles published by *WJI* in 2011 can be accessed at www.wirenet.org by clicking on *"WJI"* then "*WJI* Article Indexes."

There, readers can view/download the PDF version of the article indexes dating back to 2006. Sections include Industry News, WAI News, Chapter News, Exhibitions and Conferences and Technical Articles and features.

## Feb. *WJI* to list best 2011 tech papers

As of press time, the WAI's Paper Awards Committee had not completed the scoring of technical papers presented at CabWire World Conference, which was put on Nov. 7 in Germany by five industry organizations that include WAI.

The final scored list will include papers presented at