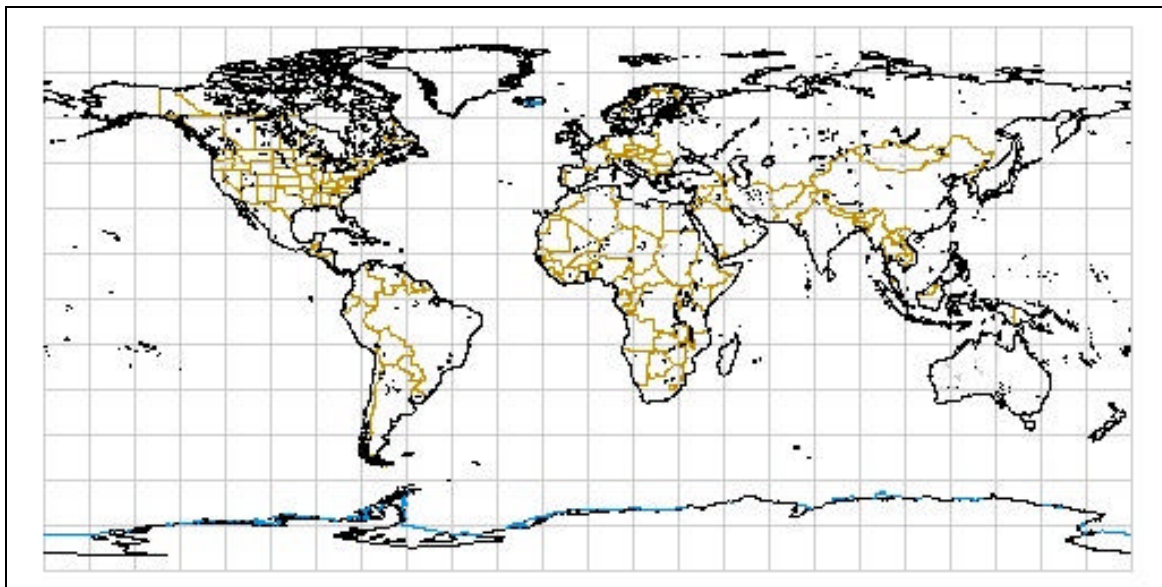


NATC evaluates vehicle performance and durability for worldwide markets

A combination of global experience and formal cooperative agreements with proving grounds in Europe, Russia, China, Canada, and South Africa gives NATC the resources necessary to evaluate vehicles against standards appropriate for the intended market. We have developed an extensive data base of terrain, road roughness, and climatic conditions for geographic regions found around the world, allowing accurate correlation with actual user duty cycles.



Operating Environment Simulations

Using information from the database - obtained through on-location studies, satellite imaging, and data exchange with other organizations - NATC has created test courses at the main proving ground that accurately simulate the operating environments in those countries and areas. NATC's Dynamic Force Measurement Vehicles provide three-dimensional road roughness profiles, and NATC's location offers a spectrum of soil types which allows accurate representation of conditions found for roughly 85 percent of the earth's land surface. By taking into account other factors such as seasonal climate changes, high-altitude operation, and level of maintenance typical for the operating environment, NATC can correlate test cycles to match conditions found around the globe. This real-world approach to testing provides reliable data for warranty prediction and validation and can isolate problem areas such as crack propagation early in the product development cycle.

Advantages for the Customer

NATC's international experience, combined with extensive on-site resources including engineering staff, computer modeling, finite element analysis, and fabrication and repair shops, offers a client with international markets complete testing, modification, redesign and retest services in one location. In addition, by applying Accelerated Life Cycle testing methodology, NATC can complete a program in less time and at lower cost than conventional one-for-one mileage durability testing. Aside from the savings in time and money, the manufacturer of the vehicle or component gains knowledge of the performance of the product against a representative duty cycle.



TM

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Real Time, Real World Solutions™