**After first defining test objectives, acquisition of valid shock data in severe environments requires, as a minimum, the thoughtful implementation of the following sequence of events.**

1. **Selection of the type and range of the measuring accelerometer**
2. **Interface of the accelerometer to the test item (UUT)**
3. **Customization of the design of the remainder of the instrumentation system**
   1. **cable selection and tie down**
   2. **signal conditioning amplifier**
   3. **data filtering**
4. **Selection of the appropriate data acquisition system**
   1. **sample rate and resolution**
5. **Documentation of the instrumentation system noise floor**
6. **Assessment of data quality**
7. **Implementation of the appropriate data analysis**

**Often expensive tests are performed with little or erroneous results obtained. This is due to the lack of a comprehensive approach to measurement system design. This seminar provides guidance to correct this deficiency enabling valid shock data to be acquired.**