

ISO 27001 Certification Client Interview with Lisa Ekman

The topic of ISO 27001 certification has become vital for companies managing cyber-attack risk. Here at Continuum GRC, we've been helping organizations of all sizes manage their ISO 27001 certification and documentation for many years.

Lisa Ekman is the co-founder of [Ekman Associates](#). Her firm is an IT solution provider and consults with executive recruiting companies. We had the chance to interview Lisa about her experience working with us on her ISO 27001 certification project.



Lisa's ISO 27001 Certification Project Interview

Q. Millions of companies working in the digital landscape are becoming more vigilant trying to reduce their cyber risk. Lisa, what were the deliverables you wanted us to provide Ekman Associates?

A. Lazarus Alliance used the IT Audit Machine (ITAM) and provided us with security policies my organization has to obtain and have on file to ensure that we are, from a policy and procedure perspective, compliant with industry standards.

Q. With so many firms in the security space, why did you choose Lazarus Alliance and Continuum GRC?

A. There were a variety of events that took place that aligned us with your organization. We were seeking a security organization to work with from two perspectives.

One; to become compliant for the work that we were looking to obtain in new business, and number two; it was an area of expertise that is not within our wheelhouse.

Q. The ISO 27001 certification process can be complex. What were you looking for in a security firm?



A. We were looking for a security firm to partner to help us become compliant as it relates to security. I do not have a security CISO on site. And we needed to have those policies here. So when we were going through our due diligence, we were interviewing several companies.

This was at a time when we met your organization back in 2014. We did have a list of companies that we were looking at. One of my executives was in contact with you through a networking group. He said, "Lisa, I

don't know Michael at all but since we're doing our due diligence we should see if he's someone we would like to work with in the future."

You and I talked on the phone and we decided to bring you on board. You were kind enough to help me with the security policies (ISO 27001 certification compliant) I needed to have developed. We were very fortunate to have someone to talk to like you.

Q. What was it like working with us here at Continuum GRC?

A. We did everything virtually and by telephone. We would go through the project as it related to our RFP. You helped us develop the policies that needed to be developed from a security perspective.

You also shared your product, ITAM, which is an automated system that helps us produce the volume of policies and procedures that are necessary to manage ISO 27001 certification documentation.

Q. Lisa, how complex was the process?

A. The IT Audit Machine (ITAM) was actually silly easy. You made it so user-friendly. To be quite frank, you and I never had a past working relationship so we did not have a track record of understanding each other, but it was just wonderful. You were incredibly professional. Your organization understands security extremely well. I like to think we can work together in the future and I have recommended you to others.

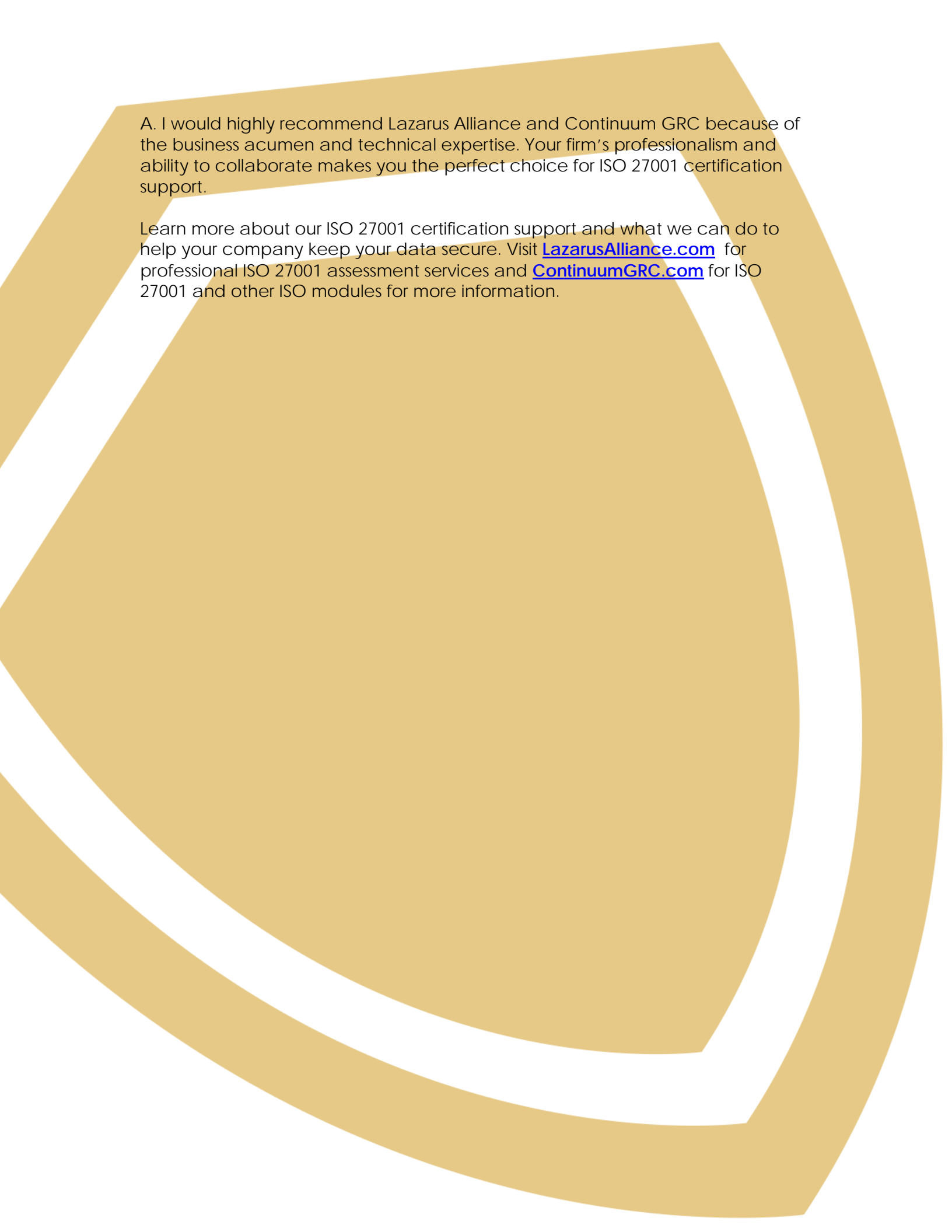
You have a series of services and expertise. There are a lot of firms out there that are not as astute from a business perspective as well as a technical perspective as your firm.

Q. Too many ISO 27001 certification firms overwhelm businesspeople with technical jargon. Were we able to translate the necessary tech-speak into concepts you could apply to your business needs?

A. What companies run into today is you get a consulting firm and they're just too technical. And companies just don't have that area of expertise and have no clue what they're talking about.

Then you have companies that are too philosophical making the business confusing even more. What I have seen, albeit on limited occasion, is that they have the business acumen as well as the technical expertise and professionalism like your firms. You're able to talk with the client holistically and strategically to ensure that whatever is necessary is done right.

Q. Any last comment?



A. I would highly recommend Lazarus Alliance and Continuum GRC because of the business acumen and technical expertise. Your firm's professionalism and ability to collaborate makes you the perfect choice for ISO 27001 certification support.

Learn more about our ISO 27001 certification support and what we can do to help your company keep your data secure. Visit LazarusAlliance.com for professional ISO 27001 assessment services and ContinuumGRC.com for ISO 27001 and other ISO modules for more information.