In a global view, it is almost trivial to say that the world is in a change. Nevertheless, this pertains particularly to everyone who is committed to technical safety on one hand and to public security on the other hand. Numerous existing common methodological principles, the current threat situations and the ubiquitous budget constraints provide sufficient reason for a revival of the EFNDT Working Group 5 “Public Security and Safety NDT Technology” following its core commitment to bridge safety, i.e. non-destructive testing technologies and security applications. The mutual exchange of experiences should pave the way to common projects increasing the R&D efficiency by avoiding unnecessary duplications in developments while including the interests and experiences of either side.

In 2010, the vision and the idea of the WG5 PSSndtT has been presented to the German and European non-destructive testing community at two occasions, at the German Annual DGZfP conference in Erfurt in May 2010 (/1/) and at ECNDT 2010 in Moscow in June 2010 (/2/). As a first step of realisation, an informal meeting and workshop took place in Berlin on 7/8 October 2010 subsequently to a CREATIF workshop on standardisation and certification in security applications. The main purpose of this event was to become acquainted with each other and to revive the working group activities. Though it was shortly announced nearly 20 participants from several countries and various fields of activities gathered in two different meeting locations, in the lecture hall of the BAM branch Fabekstraße and the general aviation airport Schönhagen (not to forget the nice evening in a typical German restaurant). The presentations given shall be uploaded onto the EFNDT WG5 web page (/3/, coming soon) as well as the draft of a “white paper” expressing the future intends of the Working Group. As a result, it was a fruitful meeting bringing together different groups such as Fraunhofer institutes, the EU JRC in Ispra, the CEN, universities, industry and enterprises etc. This could not happen without the hospitality of BAM and the Schönhagen Airport as well as the generous support from the DGZIP.

The different provenance of the participants of the WG5 meeting has been identified as a certain strength. Particularly tackling the security matter entails a multitude of aspects to be considered, not only technological ones. From the NDT perspective, this would offer an opportunity to learn also from other fields underlining the mutual character of the dialog intended to be maintained by the EFNDT WG5. Suggestions about future events are currently being discussed.

