

EUROPEAN FORUM FOR NATIONAL AEROSPACE NDT BOARDS

The 5th European Forum for NANTB was held in Fürth (Nürnberg), Germany, Wednesday 3rd December 2008.

The first part of the meeting was 'closed', i.e., only for members of the Forum. The second part of the meeting was open to observers.

Unconfirmed minutes of the 'closed' part of the meeting (09h00)

- 1) The meeting was opened by the Chairman, Patrick Auge, who welcomed delegates to the meeting. Ralf Holstein from the German Society for NDT (DGZfP), the host organisation, also welcomed delegates to Fürth, a good place for meetings, and the home of the Fraunhofer Institut, dealing with industrial radiology and also active in the aerospace industry. Delegates were invited to an evening reception and tour of the facilities of the Society.
- 2) Introductions of attendees and apologies for absence were offered (and are recorded at Annex A).
- 3) The agenda was confirmed, and one additional item was proposed for discussion during the closed part of the meeting (item 7 below).
- 4) The Secretary introduced a draft revision of ANDTBF/01 (the Forum's constitution). This took the form of a document detailing a procedure for electing or appointing the Forum Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary. This document was proposed, seconded and accepted as an Annex to the existing ANDTBF/01.
- 5) The Minutes of the 4th (Amsterdam) meeting were accepted as an accurate record of the meeting, and the Secretary summarised progress in terms of completion of assignments. There was a discussion concerning the uploading of photographs of Forum members' representatives to the Forum's web pages; there was no enthusiasm for individual photographs being displayed, but it was agreed that group photographs, as and when available, taken at meetings of the Forum could be uploaded without explicit permissions being sought. There were no other matters arising from the minutes that were not already covered by the agenda.
- 6) Membership and appointment of officers
 - a) The meeting noted minor revisions to the list of members of the forum ([ANDTBF/02](#))
 - b) The meeting which, with the attendance of representatives of 8 of the 21 members of the Forum, was quorate, agreed to extend the period of office of the present Chairman (P. Auge), Vice Chairman (J. Biddulph) and secretary (J. Thompson) until 31st December 2008.
 - c) Nominations for the offices of Chairman and Secretary were received unopposed, and the meeting agreed these appointments, in accordance with ANDTBF/01 and ANDTBF/01 – election of officers.

Officers:

President: Dr J M (Mike) Farley mfarley@mitsuibabcock.com
Vice-President: Professor V (Vladimir) V Klyuev spektr@co.ru
Secretary: Mr M (Matt) E Gallagher matt.gallagher@bindt.org

Secretariat:

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- i) Mr. Jon Biddulph was proposed (by the UK), seconded (by Ireland) and unanimously accepted by the meeting as Chairman of the Forum (for two years, effective from 1st January 2009).
 - ii) Mr. John Thompson was proposed (by the UK), seconded (by Switzerland) and unanimously accepted by the meeting as Secretary of the Forum (for a further two years, effective from 1st January 2009).
- d) Two proposals for the office of Vice Chairman were accepted: Messrs. Auge (proposed by Italy and seconded by Ireland) and Podlech (proposed by Germany and seconded by Switzerland). Tellers Minas J. Fytos and Zbynek Zavadil were appointed and a secret ballot was conducted. The results of the ballot of the 8 members present at the meeting were as follows:
- i) Mr. Patrick Auge received 3 votes.
 - ii) Mr. Manfred Podlech received 5 votes.

Manfred Podlech was therefore appointed Vice Chairman for one year (in order to introduce an overlap between the offices of Chairman and Vice Chairman), effective from 1st January 2009

- 7) There followed an extended discussion concerning the work of the Forum, called for by Luigi Merletti (Italy), who expressed concern that attendance at meetings was declining, and that this may be linked to a lack of progress in important work areas. Mr. Klieber also queried what the Forum had achieved in its two years of existence.

a) General discussion

- i) It was considered vital to harmonise the provision of aerospace NDT training and audits of Outside Agencies in order to achieve homogeneity in the activities of the member national boards. Mr. Auge suggested developing and approving a constitution for a working group to achieve this objective.
- ii) Mr. Merletti suggested that training syllabuses already exist, but he wished to know whether those members represented at the present meeting believed that we have agreed an adequate work plan for the Forum in order to make progress.
- iii) The Secretary referred to the Forum's action plan, conceding that although some work remained outstanding, much had already been achieved and reminding the meeting that the completed proposal from Mr. Wottle was on the table for approval later in this meeting.
- iv) Ralf Holstein spoke of the 15 years existence and implementation of central certification in compliance with EN 473. He stated that this certification delivered some degree of confidence in basic knowledge on a common level, but that it fails to adequately define the employer's responsibilities, or to ensure that those employer responsibilities *that are defined in the standard* are implemented. Mr. Holstein confessed his admiration for the way that EN 4179, backed up by third party audits, addressed this deficiency. He went on to say that harmonization of aerospace training syllabuses was problematic, since many Outside Agencies delivered only training of a general nature. Mr. Holstein stated that it would be helpful to know what NDT training schools were approved by NANDTB in each member country.
- v) Mr. Fytos described the system implemented by Olympic Airways, which was audited by the FAA against EN 4179. Olympic has a WP including a specific training syllabus, which is provided to its designated Outside Agency, which is approved by the NANDTB in the UK.

b) The meeting then discussed three New Work Item Proposals (NWIP):

i) Training syllabuses

The Chairman considered it important to harmonise aerospace specific training in all member states across the sector through the development and publication of a syllabus, followed up with NANDTB audits of qualifying agencies to ensure the consistent implementation of the syllabuses in training programmes.

The Secretary suggested that most countries already had published training syllabuses, and pointed to the existence of CEN TR 25107, a training syllabus developed by experts to cover a number of NDT methods at three levels, which was accepted as the basis for development of an aerospace (general) specific syllabus, but which did not include a job-specific training syllabus – as defined in the company Written Practice by the Responsible Level 3. This proposal was accepted by the meeting, with the addition of an aerospace specific training syllabus covering Product Technology.

It was agreed to set up a WG comprising representatives of Italy, France, Switzerland and Germany, under the governorship of Manfred Podlech, who would define the scope of the work, including timelines for completion of the various phases (NDT Methods), a report of which would be presented to the next meeting together with a completed draft syllabus covering aerospace Product Technology. The Secretary volunteered to assist if required.

Action 2008/01: Manfred Podlech.

ii) Dissemination of information

With the assistance of the German Society for NDT (DGZfP), the Forum had established pages on the EFNDT web site for the purpose of informing its members, other NDT professionals and the general public about the work of the Forum. These pages also provided opportunities to establish links to the individual members' own websites. It was also proposed to encourage members to provide links from their own to the Forum's web pages. Mr. Holstein volunteered to co-ordinate the provision of two-way links to improve information flow. **Action 2008/02: Ralf Holstein.**

iii) Raising the profile of the Forum

It was suggested that the existence and the work of the national aerospace NDT boards, as well as the Forum itself, needed to be better publicized, and that this could be achieved by regular submissions for publication in national journals and on national websites, as well as on the web pages of the Forum itself.

There were also ways in which, through judicious use of search engines such as Google, the profiles of the Forum and its members could be raised, and Mr. Holstein undertook to discuss this with Mr. Stefan Cullmann of the DGZfP, and to report back to the next meeting with proposals. Mr. Thompson (Secretary) undertook to request the assistance of the membership at large in the generation of general interest material for publication in journals and on websites. **Action 2008/03: Ralf Holstein and John Thompson.**

The Secretary was tasked with incorporating the above into the Forum's action plan.

Action: John Thompson.

The meeting was suspended for lunch at 11h45, and the following is a record of the 'open' part of the meeting from 13h00 onwards.

- 8) This part of the meeting was attended by fifteen individuals, ten of which represented members of the Forum. Each attendee introduced themselves.
- 9) The meeting received the report of M. Auge on the dialogue between EASA and the ANDTBF representatives concerning applicable regulation (Part 145).
 - a) On regulation parts 21 and 145, EASA had no recollection of the origins or rationale for the content of the AMC, but the position was clear: it is not an EASA responsibility to harmonise parts 145 and 21 and, unless there is a valid safety case, or concerted pressure from collective national authorities, it would not do so.
 - b) EASA recognises the Forum, and undertakes to attend at least one Forum meeting per annum. It was stated that, additional interfaces are required, the Forum is invited to send a delegation to the offices of EASA for further discussions.
- 10) The Secretary conducted a review progress on the Forum's action plan, summarising the background and progress for each item, and including new action plan items that had been agreed in the closed part of the meeting.
- 11) The completed paper on Harmonisation of operations, submitted by Mr. Roman Wottle (Austria), was introduced by the Secretary, who offered it for acceptance. A motion to approve the document was proposed and seconded, and the meeting unanimously agreed to its publication and implementation.
- 12) The Secretary summarised the status of applicable standards (NAS-410 & prEN 4179), inviting requests for interpretations or guidance for employers, and information on alternative Accepted Means of Compliance with the applicable regulations, either now or at future meetings.
- 13) The meeting then reviewed the status of ANDTBF documents, and members were requested to review and comment on the ANDTBF web pages, offering articles of general interest concerning national implementation for publication on the Forum's web pages.
- 14) The following relevant conferences were noted
 - a) The 52nd annual ATA Non-Destructive Testing Forum will be held in North America next year from 21-24 September 2009. A presentation on the work of the Forum is to be offered by Thomas Grybäck and/or René Klieber.
 - b) The 4th European-American conference on Reliability in NDT will be held at BAM Berlin, June 24-26 2009.
 - c) A meeting celebrating the 25th anniversary of the French NANDTB will be held in Bordeaux, France, 1st October 2009.
- 15) There was no other business to conduct, and the date and location for next meeting was agreed as 23rd June 2009, Berlin, Germany (subject to confirmation by 31st December 2008).

Annex A – register of attendance and apologies for absence

Representative(s) attending	Nation member (status)
Zbynek Zavadil	Czech Republic (full member)
Patrick Auge	France (full member)
Rudi Henrich and Ralf Holstein	Germany (full member)
Minas J. Fytos	Greece (full member)
Declan Kenihan and John Mc Clorey	Ireland (full member)
Luigi Merletti	Italy (full member)
Dick Dam (afternoon only)	Netherlands (full member)
René Klieber and Jürgen Lindgens	Switzerland (full member)
John Thompson	United Kingdom (full member)
Thomas Grybäck (afternoon only)	Sweden (full member)
Apologies for absence received	Nation member (status)
Roman Wottle	Austria (full member)
Joseph Bernadi	France (full member)
Albert P. Muscat	Malta (observer)
Jon Biddulph	UK (full member)
Marko Ylitalo	Finland (full member)
Bogdan Zajac, Jan Mottl and A. Wilczynska	Poland (full member)
Ante Tomasovic	Belgium (full member)
Pekka Manninen	Sweden (full member)
Sérgio Nascimento	Portugal (full member)
Ian Wyles	EASA (observer)
Janez Grum	Slovenia (observer)
Georgy Batov	Russia (full member)
Peter Juhasz	Hungary (full member)

Annex B – assigned actions

Reference	Action agreed	Assignment and timescale	Remarks
2008/01	Set up a WG comprising representatives of Italy, France, Switzerland and Germany, under the converynership of Manfred Podlech, who would define the scope of the work, including timelines for completion of various phases, a report of which would be presented to the next meeting together with a completed draft syllabus covering aerospace Product Technology.	Manfred Podlech; 2009-06-01	
2008/02	It was proposed to encourage members to provide links from their own to the Forum's web pages. Mr. Holstein volunteered to co-ordinate the provision of two-way links to improve information flow.	Ralf Holstein; 2009-06-01	
2008/03	Through judicious use of search engines such as Google, the profiles of the Forum and its members should be raised, and Mr. Holstein undertook to discuss this with Mr. Stefan Cullmann of the DGZfP, and to report back to the next meeting with proposals. Mr. Thompson undertook to request the assistance of the membership at large in the generation of general interest material for publication in journals and on websites.	Ralf Holstein and John Thompson; 2009-06-01	
2008/04	Mr. Thompson to incorporate the above actions into an updated Forum action plan.	John Thompson; 2008-12-31	