EF European Federation for Non-Destructive Testing
NDT

WG5 PSSndtT

EFNDT WG 5 and the 11th ECNDT
Upcoming events 2014

Dear Colleagues,

As already reflected in numerous EFNDT WG 5 documents, it was and is always a matter and commitment of this group to bring together the two different application areas of identical physical principles, technical safety and public security. Both sides are committed to make a safer world, i.e. to reduce risks. Though even sharing commonly used tools such as the radiology technology, these two areas encounter both, rather common problems and differences. Appearing in a different context, the activities in both areas are inevitably combined with efforts, costs and impairing ongoing processes. Everyone travelling by air encounters the tedious security measures at every airport. Likewise, industrial processes e.g. have to be interrupted by maintenance and inspection breaks causing a halt in the production. Though cargo is doubtlessly threatened from various sides any security interrogation is rather unpopular whenever it involves delays in the logistic delivery chain. As a result, it is an increasing challenge to balance swiftness of processes, particularly commercial ones, on one hand with technical safety as well as with security on the other hand. This aspect should be included in the working group's mission in building a bridge between the existing different institutions of safety and security. As an upcoming occasion of discussing all these matters there will be the 11th ECNDT congress in Prague in October 2014 with a dedicated EFNDT WG 5 session (http://ecndt2014.com).

Another aspect was raised in this context with the invitation to the WINS workshop on the security of radioactive sources used for industrial radiography mentioned in the last mail. On one hand, it is quite understandable to care for the security of sealed radiation sources since they really represent dangerous materials with a potential of being misused for malicious purposes. However, among all possible threats radiating sources could be deemed as the easiest detectable threat due to their radiation. Only some radioisotopes are difficult to detect such as beta-radiation emitters or certain special nuclear materials. But those are not the sources used for radiological purposes in NDT. Representative radiation sources for such interrogations are e.g. ^{192}Ir or ^{60}Co, i.e. high energy gamma-rays emitter. They remain indispensible for routine NDT of pipes and armatures in industrial plants (e.g. chemistry and energy production) for the maintenance of safe operation. Restricting their handling and transport for security reason would in turn raise other risks, i.e. leaving certain threats undetected – a vicious circle. This is, of course, a subject also to be included in the scope of subjects for the EFNDT WG 5. Therefore, a discussion with the WINS would be of mutual interest (www.wins.org).

Kind regards
Kurt Osterloh
Convenor, EFNDT WG 5

WG5 PSSndtT NDT Technology for Public Security and Safety
c/o BAM Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, Berlin, Germany
Tel: +49 30 8104 3654, Fax: +49 30 8104 4657
e-mail: kurt.osterloh@bam.de;
URL: http://www.efndt.org/Organisation/WorkingGroups/WorkingGroup5.aspx