PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Spring into action

As spring approaches we are stimulated to think about new actions. Which action is the most significant in the NDT world? We will soon be in the process of elections and endorsements of new management teams for both the European Federation for NDT (EFNDT) and the International Committee for NDT (ICNDT). Within a month of our EFNDT Berlin Week, the 18th WCNDT will be held in Durban. This will be a unique event that will again remind us of the worthy endeavour taken on a global scale aimed at positioning ourselves to face the major challenges to our societies that can only be addressed jointly and comprehensively. There is no doubt that we need to review the future EFNDT strategy following again the expectations of EFNDT’s members, but we need to make a greater commitment in a worldwide context. What to say in my President’s Message at the end of the mandate? Let me start with a question: What are the challenges for NDT people in Europe and what is our global obligation? Being aware of the considerable expectations of the people and the ambitious plans for the future in the 21st Century – to live in a world of modern technology yet, at the same time, in a sound natural environment – we in the NDT profession are the people who need to overcome the challenges of safety and security. In our scientific laboratories and companies we have to continually come up with new methods, techniques and technological solutions that will assure a sustainable development of NDT and technical diagnostics as a very important contribution to the common good. This brings to mind a very commendable saying: ’Nothing moves safely without NDT approval’.

We have to join in a concerted effort and we should be open to cooperation inside Europe and worldwide to increase the influence and importance of the NDT profession as a benefit to safety and quality of life. This is the profession with the right answers to the global problems of safety and security. NDT is able to provide solutions that can be implemented and worldwide to increase the influence and importance of the NDT profession as a benefit to society in overcoming the challenges of today and also those that lie ahead. What about the priority? Education and training are of crucial concern. It is extremely important that around the world engineering education as well as lifelong education and training should be comparable, to obtain a base of mutual recognition yet geared towards the needs of the future. We know that this is a lasting process, primarily requiring persistency in approach. Last, but not least – and to continue the opening theme – the distinction of the post of EFNDT President embraces a responsibility from which dignity springs. I have resolved to accomplish the EFNDT President’s duties with all capabilities, aiming for EFNDT advancement and better positioning to increase influence by pointing out the importance of EFNDT as a European umbrella association of partnership in safety and quality, and also to expand the scope of EFNDT activities for contribution on a global scale.

Dear colleagues, associates and friends, I am grateful for your unconditional engagement and assistance for the benefit of EFNDT and I shall always remember your precious support to me as well. I am also pleased to emphasise the significant role of the Croatian NDT Society in the results achieved, thanking it for its unequivocal support at all times during my EFNDT Presidency.

Professor Vjera Krstelj, President, EFNDT

Review and vision of the Vice President

On 8 March, the General Assembly of EFNDT is meeting in Berlin. One of the main items on the agenda is the election of the new Board, the President and the Vice President. After working for more than 11 years as Vice President of EFNDT, I will retire according to the statutes. Therefore, I take this opportunity for a short review, as well as to throw a glance into the future. In previous years, the main emphasis was put on the evaluation of NDT training at universities in Europe, under the successful guidance of our President, Professor Krstelj. Furthermore, the focus was put on the laboratories accredited according to EN 17025 and the Europe-wide partnerships – memoranda of understanding – with institutions such as EUROLAB and CEOC, both with their headquarters in Brussels. EFNDT certainly has made a lot of progress in these areas. Here, I want to congratulate Professor Krstelj, who unfortunately will not be standing as a candidate for the next period.

The upcoming periods will essentially be characterised by the new EN ISO 9712 that will already be valid this year. The EFNDT, with its 27 national NDT societies, now has to translate this common quality standard into action. Only a uniform NDT philosophy can form an adequate basis for this quality standard. Only a common European

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DGZfP and MAROVISZ hold successful PA training course in Hungary

Phased array (PA) ultrasonic testing represents one of the most comprehensive techniques in NDT. Its benefits are indubitable. The amount of PA equipment sold in Hungary is continuously increasing.

MAROVISZ, the Hungarian Society for NDT, recognising the needs of the domestic industry and the research community, contacted DGZfP, the German Society for NDT, to organise a special training course in the subject. The reason for this was that in Hungary, at least until now, PA is not included in UT courses due to a lack of qualified instructors, whilst DGZfP has a broad experience in PA training. As it is known, PA technology provides an electronically-controlled scan practically without mechanical movement of the probe, an intelligent data acquisition and graphical display. During the course that followed, the trainees were taught how to utilise this new technique in comparison with conventional UT. For the practical part of the training, the equipment (‘Omnicon’ from Olympus) was provided by DGZfP on the trainee already had PA equipment of their own, he or she was able to use it.

The course instructors wereMessrs. Uhrrich, Sidor, and Stremmer. After the course, the very sad news reached us that Mr Südmersen had suddenly passed away. We remember him as a great outstanding personality. The new BoD will have to foster the exchange of experience and the mutual support of established and young societies. In order to guarantee in the future the broad acceptance of certified NDT personnel for the industry, the NDT professions, NDT users and the public, it is necessary to promote NDT in close coordination with the ICNDT. These actions have to be focused on officials, regulatory authorities, science, research and development.

The fifteenth year after the foundation of the EFNDT in Copenhagen is going to be a thrilling one. Full of challenges, it will set the essential course for the development and status of NDT in Europe in the future. With your vote you can influence this development and initiate the necessary changes. Finally I wish the future President and Vice President of the EFNDT all the very best of luck and the continuing support of all our Member Societies.

Ing Gerhard Aufricht
Vice President, EFNDT
Executive Director/Vice and President, Austrian Society for NDT (ÖGfZP)

K. Ostleroh
The work of building the EFNDT Working Group 5 (WGS5)1, a bridge between technical safety and public security as described previously2, is in progress. However, no building is erected within a couple of days or months, and it is within the nature of living infrastructures that they are never really finished as long as they are to stay with the world. The fundaments have been Solidly renovata3 and some of the first pilars positioned4.

A further step has been accomplished recently in the form of a workshop in Berlin last September5. In a wonderfully constructive atmosphere with presentations covering more or less the whole range of activities and discussions, with the added advantage of having these discussions in a small group, everyone was able to contribute. The event was generously sponsored by DGZfP, the German NDT society. The blueprints for further work were laid down6. Although these are not drafted down into each small detail, to use the analogy once again, the EFNDT WGS has moved one more step in its development and in the ongoing self renewal cycle: One group had already found a new aim, to keep everyone informed.

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