

# The Role of the Forum for National Aerospace NDT Boards

J. THOMPSON, BINDT, Northampton, United Kingdom  
P. AUGÉ, EADS, Suresnes Cedex Paris, France

**Abstract.** National Aerospace NDT Boards (NANDTB) have been formed in many countries around the world as a direct result of European Aerospace Safety Agency (EASA) regulation part 145, which mandates the implementation of European Standard EN 4179 (2005 Aerospace series - qualification and approval of personnel for non-destructive testing) by maintenance organisations subject to the regulation.

EN 4179 describes a National Aerospace NDT Board as

“an independent national aerospace organization, representing a nation’s aerospace industry, that is chartered by the participating prime contractors and recognized by the nation’s regulatory agencies to provide or support NDT qualification and examination services in accordance with this standard. Such services may include participation in certification”,

and clause 4.5.2 states

“When used, the NANDTB shall administer procedures for qualification and certification of NDT personnel according to the requirements of this standard. It is entitled, in conjunction with the employer, to recognize equivalencies of qualification and certification, and may be requested to provide general guidelines in accordance with this standard regarding facilities for NDT training, course outlines, examination questions and exam procedures. For countries where no NANDTB exists, the employer may use the services of other NANDTBs.”

So, this effective mandated the widespread establishment of NANDTB, and it was recognized that, without some form of harmonizing influence, the various NANDTB would address the above requirements in diverse ways. Therefore an open meeting of interested parties was held during the 9th European Conference on NDT in Berlin on 29th September 2006. Following a round table discussion of the pertinent issues, this meeting, which was attended by 31 interested parties, unanimously agreed to establish a European Forum for NANDTB under the umbrella of the European Federation for NDT.

The inaugural meeting of the Forum for NANDTB was convened in Paris during December 2006, and was attended by over 40 individuals representing established NANDTB as well as interested individuals from countries that had not yet established a national board. The Forum discussed in some detail the common objectives of the members, and established documented procedures covering its constitution, terms of reference and methods of working.

This paper will elaborate on the agreed objectives of the members of the Forum, and will discuss likely timescales for achieving those objectives. The paper will also discuss the possible future roles of the Forum in the areas of regulation, contribution to standards development and potential relationships with international bodies that have an influence on the qualification and certification of NDT personnel in the European aerospace sector.