1. Searching for Literature (Bibliographic databases)

In the past, EFNDT has provided an inquiry of publications in the field of NDT, welding and allied processes, castings as well as steel and iron materials in the common database of national and international publications collected by the German institutions: DVS-Verlag (publishing house of the German Society for Welding and Allied Processes, Düsseldorf), VDG (Association of Casting Experts, Düsseldorf), VDEh (German Iron and Steel Institute, Düsseldorf) and DGZfP (German Society for Non-Destructive Testing) e.V. (Berlin).

This database was connected with an online shop where copies of publications could be ordered directly. While searching for bibliographic data was free of charge, ordering was charged according to the number of pages.
Unfortunately, this service was not used very frequently, so DGZfP decided to close this service by end of 2007. However, similar opportunities are offered by other organisations and these links are now provided on the EFNDT webpage.

2. Platform Standardisation

The information platform for standardisation includes various information on technical committees of national, European and international standards institutes with respect to the technical area of non-destructive testing.

It presents results of actual national, European and international standards work. All new standards or revisions of standards are listed on the first page of the information platform. For quick information

The information platform on standardisation is integrated in the quality system of many NDT companies and service providers as it allows the staff of these organisations to quickly receive an overview on any modification in the NDT standard collections and on upcoming draft standards.

The heart of this information platform is a database including number, title and further information about national and international standards, guidelines, technical legislation and technical regulations which are related to non-destructive testing and neighbouring fields (e.g. welding and allied processes, casting or destructive testing).

Access to this platform is restricted for DGZfP and EFNDT members only. The corporate members of the DGZfP agreed to support the operation and updating of this online tool by an increased annual membership fee. The support was limited for a period of 5 years but there is no doubt that it will be extended during the general assembly in 2012.

The information platform on standardisation was made accessible for members of societies which are member of the EFNDT after translation of all application tools and
extension of the database by titles and comments of technical regulations in English (for those which are available in English at DGZfP). This task was and is supported by EFNDT.

3. Trade Marks and Patents
Two possibilities to search for patents are presented:

3.1 Trade Marks within Europe
Searching for trade marks on the Internal Market could be performed best using the services of the webpage of the Office for Harmonisation in the Internal Market. Among others the following services are offered with respect to searching for trade marks:

CTM-ONLINE
CTM is a Community Trade Mark Consultation Service. Please find below the example print out for searching for the still open application of DGZfP with respect to applying for acceptance of the trade mark NDT Master on European level. On German level that trade mark is accepted but the application for European level is still pending.

RCD-ONLINE
RCD database offers Community Design Consultation service. The use of both database, CTM and RCD, is handsome und free of charge.
**FINDREP**

Under FINDREP one can search for representative consultation services in the EU which can assist in the application of own trademarks or patents.

**EUROACE**

EUROACE is a database with descriptions of goods and services that are immediately accepted by the office. By using these expressions the applicant can be assured that the office will raise no objections, therefore greatly reducing the application processing time as there would be no need for the applicant to respond to
official correspondence. All expressions are in accordance with the 9th edition of the International classification of goods and services established by the Nice Agreement.

EUROLOCARNO

Furthermore, the webpage offers several support tools for the correct classification of products.

3.1 Patents within Europe

The European Patent Office (EPO) provides a uniform application procedure for individual inventors and companies seeking patent protection in up to 37 European countries.

![Fig. 5: Homepage of European Patent Office under http://www.epo.org](http://www.epo.org)

The Office's core activity is the examination of patent applications and the grant of European patents. Other activities include the provision of patent information and training services.

The figure below shows the result information given by the database when looking for the search item “aluminum”. The information is provided in the three languages English, French and German. 712 documents in a collection of 22086 documents match this query.
3.3 Trade Marks and Patents within USA

The webpage of the United States Patent and Trademark Office allows searching for trademarks and patents as well.

The webpage offers a simple or extended search mask. The service is free of costs.

Below is shown the first page of the results of a patent inquiry. On further pages the detailed description of the product is given.
4. Links

Additional to EFNDT’s list of links to European and international organisation dealing with NDT, attention should be called to two specific pages which are quite new:

European Forum for National Aerospace NDT Boards

This page presents the work and results of the European Forum for National Aerospace NDT Boards which was founded during the 9th European Conference on NDT in Berlin on 29th September 2006 under the umbrella of EFNDT.

Fig. 8:
Patent search result
(first page)

Fig. 9:
European Forum for National Aerospace NDT Boards)
Pressure Equipment

Information about EFNDT documents related to pressure equipment is given here. Furthermore links to national and international webpages dealing with pressure equipment, e.g. the webpage of the European Commission are listed on this site.