

### **1.10.32. A PROGRESS REPORT ON THE AIMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE EUROPEAN FORUM OF NATIONAL AEROSPACE NDT BOARDS**

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European standard EN 4179: 2005 (Aerospace series; Qualification and approval of personnel – non-destructive testing) defines, at clause 3.17, a National Aerospace NDT Board as an “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”.

The responsibilities of such a Board are briefly described in the standard as follows:

- ... may include participation in certification (3.17);
- 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 (4.5.2);
- ... training shall be conducted in accordance with a detailed course outline approved by the responsible Level 3 or NANDTB (6.1.1).

There are further references, throughout the standard (as above), to the activities of the Responsible Level 3 or the NANDTB.

A proposal to establish a Forum for NANDTB was presented and agreed at the 9<sup>th</sup> European Conference on NDT, Berlin, in September 2006. This paper will discuss the aims and objectives, constitution and method of working of the Aerospace NDT Board Forum, and highlight the achievements of the Forum in the four years since it was agreed to proceed with the formation of a European Forum for National Aerospace NDT Boards (ANDTBF).