

NANDTB News December 2010

The National Aerospace NDT Board met in conjunction with the AINDT National Conference in Melbourne in mid October. The Board collaborated with the NDT Institute to assemble an aerospace stream at the conference. Presentations from DSTO researchers, private NDT practitioners, the Civil Aviation Safety Authority, larger NDT user organisations and others made for a strong program over the two days. Probability of detection featured in several papers and generated a great deal of discussion. These were balanced with practical and application based presentations.

Following the conference, several of the attendees suggested that the NANDTB have a presence in future Ageing Aircraft meetings, and the Board will support those meetings if possible. The synergies of joint meetings like this can be very effective in advancing the objectives of common interest groups. A full report of the conference appears elsewhere in this journal.



One of the highlights for the Board was to present Malcolm Oakey with his Level 3 recognition certificate. Malcolm is the twelfth Level 3 to be recognised since this program began a few years ago. The picture shows Board Chairman Ron Quirk with Malcolm.

Also during the conference, Peter van Dyke from CASA approached the Board for assistance with his project of developing a continuous airworthiness program for older RPT aircraft in about the 10-15 seat range. From CASA's assessment there are many such aircraft still in service which were built before modern maintenance and inspection programs were in place. The Board's expertise would be called upon to identify effective and workable NDT techniques which could be used by operators of these aircraft.

The meeting of the Board was compressed a little due to the available time frame, and it was joined by John Thompson as an observer from BINDT, and current secretary to the European Forum of Aerospace NDT Boards. Following from its incorporation recently, the Board now has applied and received an ABN and tax file number. Legal identity for the Board is becoming a keystone to its future development. One of the significant issues for this meeting was the attendance of Richard Allen (pictured) who will be the new CASA observer to the Board. Richard introduced himself with a potted history of his career and stated that his priorities would be; to become familiar with the Board and its issues quickly, to continue to pursue the finalisation of an agreement between CASA and the Board, to facilitate the updating of the web site and to get the new penetrant and magnetic particle inspection procedures prepared by the Board out to industry as soon as possible.



Also, on the membership of the Board, Garrett Booth joins and Chad Morgan rejoins the Board. Despite delays since March, Ron Quirk was elected as Chairman for his second term, Tony Collier as Deputy Chairman and Colin Hockings as Secretary. These appointments are to be effective from March 2010. A revision to the procedures was approved and these will be posted on the web site as soon as practicable. The changes were mostly around improved clarity or simplification, or just adding the ABN number.

The next meeting will return to the more regular issues of strategic and forward planning as well as the promotion of the Board as a resource for both the Regulator and the industry. The web site still has active links to the Chairman and Secretary for any enquires or questions.