

Minutes

NANDTB Meeting 11th September 2008
DSTO Laboratories
506 Lorimer St. Fishermans Bend
Melbourne

1. Opening: Chairman Ron Quirk opened the meeting at 0925.
2. Present: Brian Tydeman (BT), Ron Quirk (RQ), Tony Collier (TC), Peter Virtue (PV), Colin Hockings (CH), Gavin Smith (GS), Garry Bowden (GB), Gary Martin
Observers: Keith Johnston (KJ), Jed Murray (JM), Jeff Lowden (JL)
Apologies: Shayne Flynn (SF), Jason Maitland (JM), Neil Joiner (NJ), Chad Morgan (CM), Malcolm Oakey.
Guests: Trevor Rowlands. (for Malcolm Oakey)
3. Adoption of the agenda and other business – Additional items from KJ and TC
4. Disclosures of interest – No disclosures of interest.
5. Acceptance of previous minutes of March 2008 GS/BT
6. Business arising from the minutes and not included in the main agenda –
ALL to provide material to JM to assist his Outside Agency audit guide (30/5)-
Closed
JM to provide members with a copy of the PPT presentation on RTOs/AFF (30/4) –
Closed
SF/GM to report on the progress of including aerospace NDT into the Manufacturing Engineering Module. (Next Meeting); GM stated a letter has been written to review the modules Metals industry council – **carried forward. SF/GM**
TR to attempt to make the web link to the Boards web site from the CASA links page easier to find. TR reported Leanne Foggarty is working on it. Closed
TR to provide a “wish list” of possible Board projects - **Carried forward KJ/TR.**
7. Correspondence in / out – CH circulated a summary of correspondence.
8. **Chairman’s report** – RQ reported on his contact with Trevor Robinson and asked that all members stay in regular contact with him. **Action All**
RQ summarised the CASA MOU meeting report based on previous info circulated. This included the incorporation of the Board to facilitate our dealings (MOU) with CASA. He also reported on the production of a draft agreement with the AINDT, and suggested that the benefits were tangible for the Board. Finally, he advised that TR sent the AWBs for comment by all, and that the Board’s suite of procedures would be tested with the application by Qantas to have its in-house training recognised.
9. Sub-committee reports – NA

10. General business

10.1 Strategic planning document – GB introduced the discussion paper. The direction and intention of the document was acceptable, however certain changes to the text were agreed. CH to incorporate those changes and circulate to members. JM agreed to assemble his comments and provide these to the board. **Action JM/CH**

10.2 Incorporation of the NANDTB – RQ introduced the item, noting the process to be followed and the advantages of incorporation for the Board. KJ offered CASA view on the benefits of incorporation. TC suggested a “trading scheme” between the Board and CASA for work done on behalf of CASA. After some discussion it was agreed to leave such arrangements at an individual level. Some discussion on the liability of members followed, noting that members may be liable notwithstanding incorporation, albeit unlikely – RQ to continue with the incorporation process.
BT/RQ – Carried **Action RQ**

10.3 Note new procedures and, changes to existing procedures due to Incorporations Legislation – CH outlined the changes introduced to the procedures and the reasons for them. CH/BT carried.

JM suggested a sub-committee be formed to review procedures periodically to ensure they remain relevant and accurate. The Board is to consider this suggestion.

Action All

There followed some discussion about the prescriptive nature of training hours for NDT technicians, and the difficulty in achieving the required hours. The ability for the Board to influence NAS/EN standards committees was determined to be minimal, so it was left to the MT7 committee of Standards Australia to determine the final form of any changes to the AS3669 standard.

10.4 MOU with CASA. RQ/KJ RQ reviewed the outcomes of the meeting in Canberra in April. The process may continue whilst awaiting incorporation. CASA will receive the MOU for consideration and respond. TC also noted that a return on the Board’s work on behalf of CASA should be included in any considerations. Sources of funding were discussed with overall agreement being that individuals should not be contributing directly to funding the Board, but other sources (CASA or corporate sources) would be more appropriate. Board to pursue the MOU further
TC/GB Carried. **Action RQ**

10.5 Agreement with AINDT – SF; In the absence of SF, RQ introduced the discussion and CH also outlined the reasoning behind the proposal. TC expressed concerns about the apparent conflict of interest for some members being members of both the AINDT and the Board. PV, GM and other members offered an alternate view and that the objects of the two groups are complementary yet separate. Also, that there was no known intention for the AINDT to exercise “control” over the Board. After much discussion it was agreed that the most recent version of the agreement document be reviewed by BT and resubmitted to the Board for their consideration. TC and CH suggested that the agreement may be better expressed as a MOU, rather than an alliance. **Action BT**

10.6 Web site update – CH presented an update on the work done by Leanne Foggarty. He also suggested that all members visit the web site in about two weeks time to view the changes and send comments for improvements to CH. **Action All**

10.7 AS 3669 interpretation document RQ/GS The discussions noted the changes to the NAS 410 standard, including training hours, vision examination. Acknowledging that there is now some differences between NAS 410 and EN 4179 it was agreed to await issue of revised EN 4179 before approaching Standards Australia to amend AS3669.

10.8 NANDTB Forum report – CH referred members to the report he previously circulated. TC offered to attend the next meeting if he was available. CH to contact John Thompson re next meeting details and circulate to members. **Action CH**

10.9 Membership – RQ expressed some concern about the inability of some members to attend Board meetings. GS asked the status of NJ. TC offered to contact NJ to ask if he was able to attend future meetings. JM suggested a period of inactivity could be considered as a cause to replace a member. It was agreed that if a member shows no involvement with the Board for 12 calendar months, this will be automatically raised as an agenda item for discussion at the next meeting following that period. GS also suggested NA-003 be amended to accommodate the occasions when a member changes employer during his/her term. CH to draft some procedural amendments and circulate to members. **Action CH**

GM noted that future prospective members could come from Aerostructures (Rod Lockett) and also Southern NDT (Shane Wilson) may show an interest.

10.10 CASA Report – KJ

(1) KJ reported on the progress of recovery for TR, and that he extends his thanks to the Board for their contact and kind thoughts.

He also reported that the replacement AWBs for CAO 108.8 & 108.10 have been forwarded to the airworthiness engineering branch and awaiting comment. The CAOs can not be cancelled until the AWBs are issued. There was also an AWB drafted for the use of colour contrast dye penetrant.- This AWB is also awaiting comment from airworthiness engineering branch.

NDT/Board Information Brochure – Awaiting input from TR.

(2) JK asked to discuss the concept of limited approvals to be issued by CASA. A proposal had been forwarded to Gregg Hood for CASA to issue NDT Authorities for Level 1 and Level 1 “limited” NDT tasks. Applications would need to be endorsed by the employer and a Level 3 attesting to the person’s competence. The discussion that followed noted that CASA could do this now except that the involvement of a Level 3 was new. TC noted that there is anecdotal evidence in some instances that in the past, CASA NDT authorities have been issued without regard to the experience requirements of AS3669. CH offered that there would need to be a consistent approach taken by the regional CASA offices. KJ circulated a draft procedure and application form for comment. Board members may add to the comments already offered through direct email to KJ. It was suggested that CASA MA renewals should also follow the same process of showing ongoing experience and competence assessed by a level 3. The form should state initial/renewal in its title.

(3) TC asked to discuss an opinion paper on NDT and AS3669 prepared by CASA, and known to some members. KJ described the paper in general terms and noted that it is still considered to be within the CASA organisation.

10.11 RAAF Report – JM advised that this would be his final meeting and will be taking up a new position with 33 Squadron. In regard to the NDT training package

information. He stated that contact had been made with Les Watts of the metals industry group with respect to developing a national NDT training package. The course subjects may be left in the MEMs but not much happening at this time. From 18-20 November NDISL to have NDT section heads meeting in Amberley for those who supply the ADF these services. SPO chief engineers have been advised to send out invitations. JM thanked the Board for their co-operation and wished the best to the Board and to JL who will be replacing him.

11. Election of officials- N/A

12. Agreed actions (summary)

12.1 SF/GM to report on the progress of including aerospace NDT into the Manufacturing Engineering Module.

12.2 TR/KJ to provide a “wish list” of possible Board projects.

12.3 JM/CH to incorporate those changes to the strategic plan and circulate to members.

12.4 RQ to continue with the incorporation process.

12.5 All to consider the formation of a sub-committee to review procedures periodically to ensure they remain relevant and accurate.

12.6 RQ to pursue the MOU with CASA further.

12.7 BT to review the AINDT agreement document (latest version) and comment back to the Board.

12.8 All to review the web site in about two weeks time and send comments for improvements to CH.

12.9 CH to contact John Thompson re next NANDTB Forum meeting details and circulate to members.

12.10 CH to draft some procedural amendments to NA 003 and circulate to members.

13. Schedule of next meeting- Sydney (Timken, Kingsgrove), March 2009. GS noted that CASA regional officers should be invited as was previously agreed.

14. Close: RQ thanked PV for his assistance on the day and closed the meeting at 1410.

Chairman