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Editorial

EWF as the representative of the welding community in Europe has as its aims to promote the exchange of the scientific and technical information, encourage projects for co-operative research and contribute to the removal of technical barriers.

EWF has since its foundation in 1992 organised international conferences every three years to facilitate the technical transfer as one of the actions undertaken with the referred above. The EUROJOIN Conference series, which is now coming to its 5th instalment, has created an environment for exchange of ideas, goals, state-of-art of joining technologies and strategies for the future.

The Technical programmes are lead to promote the industrial use of innovative joining techniques where the topics addressed cover innovative joining processes, new materials and applications, design and fabrication aimed at providing useful information for the reduction of production and management costs in the companies using welding and joining as fabrication technology.

The EUROJOIN conference organisers have established a pattern of a high quality conference in friendly environments where participants not only attend technical sessions but are also welcome to organise private and smaller meetings or workshops with their peers to discuss topics of their own interests. Several of these meetings have lead to the creation of consortiums for European projects, preparing of proposals, undertaking technology foresight exercises and discussing European standards.

EUROJOIN conferences also attract professionals in joining technologies as engineers and researchers and create a forum for welding students to present the results of their MSc and PhD and discuss them with international experts in their field of work.

The first EUROJOIN conference took place in Strasbourg – France in November 1991. Since then the conferences have been held in Florence – Italy in May 1994; in Bern – Switzerland in March/April 1998 and in May 2001 in Dubrovnik – Croatia.

2004 will bring another of these events, EUROJOIN 5, organised by SZA-Schweisstechnische Zentralanstalt; which will take place in Vienna, in May. The conference will include a technical programme focusing innovation in different areas: "Welding, joining and cutting processes and equipment"; "Materials and their behaviour during welding" and "Fabrication, application engineering". In parallel it will include brokerage events related with the conference programme to promote opportunities within the EU 6th Framework programme and workshops for dissemination of projects results.

Luisa Quintino
EWF Chief Executive

Meet the International Authorised National Bodies



SZA The Austrian Welding Institute
(Schweißtechnische Zentralanstalt)
The Austrian ANB



The Austrian Welding Institute (SZA) was established in 1930 and is a founder member of IIW. The main services provided are training, education, qualification and certification of welding and inspection personnel.

SZA has an analysis laboratory and carries out strength testing on for example rail vehicles and other machine components. The research centre for efficient welding processes like laser welding and robot processes.

SZA still includes 17 permanent staff and 100 external consultants with industrial specialists that work worldwide. The SZA staff is made up of qualified engineers and instructors.

To date SZA has issued 3000 European and International diplomas. The annual total income is 2.5 Million Euros and the profits are used for our research facilities.

As well as being the Authorised National Body in Austria, we also act as ANB for Iran and Indonesia and we qualified 100 welding personnel in accordance to the IIW-Guidelines.

More information on SZA can be found on the website www.sza.info.

WTIA-Welding Technology Institute of Australia

The Australian ANB



The Welding Technology Institute of Australia (WTIA), created in 1989 by the amalgamation of the Australian Welding Institute with the Australian Welding Research Association, is the peak Australian industry body for welding and related activities and has issued since 1999 the following IIW diplomas: 11 International Welding Engineer, 17 International Welding Technologist, 206 International Welding Specialist and 25 International Welding Practitioner.

To date, most of these have been issued under transitional arrangements for personnel with existing Australian qualifications to be recognised under the IIW program.

A total of 17 training providers are working with the WTIA and have been audited to become Authorised Training Bodies (ATBs). These ATBs are spread across the country, and form a network of training excellence to support industry. Courses leading directly to IIW qualifications are currently being introduced, with graduates being able to demonstrate both Australian and international qualifications to prospective employers.

The recent introduction of the new International Welding Inspection Personnel was well-received by industry, and has been promoted through the Institute's Australasian Welding Journal, web site www.wtia.com.au and other media. Already over 20 people have applied for transition from existing Australian qualifications when the new IIW qualification comes into effect in January 2004.

The WTIA, through its Executive Director, Chris Smallbone, Chairman of Working Group 13, has taken a leading role on Commission XIV and in the initiation, development and promotion of the IIW program of qualification. WTIA is a champion of the program and a proponent of its value, not only in Australia but also in all regions throughout the world. Through its OzWeld Technology Support Centres Network and various networking projects, the WTIA is linking Australian industry to local and international centres of excellence and promoting innovation, competitiveness and a culture of respect for skills.

IAB 2003 – 2004

The ANB network comprises a total of 32 countries, 4 of which are applicant ANBs: Bulgaria, Canada, Iran and Thailand. It is expected that their authorisation process will be concluded during 2004.

The "International Welder Guideline" was approved in July 2003, in Bucharest, Romania.

The "International Welding Inspection Personnel Guideline" replaced the "European Welding Inspection Personnel Guideline"

At the present, the IAB Group A is developing 3 more Guidelines:

- "International Welding Instructor Guideline"



NEWS

PROJECTS

Projects promoted by the EWF Secretariat with the participation of EWF members:

NETFRAME

The NETFRAME project started in May 2002 and it is now at midterm stage. Aiming to "establish a documented framework for over the net concurrent engineering and cooperation between large industrial auto and aeronautical companies and SMEs", the consortium has raised a reference set of best practices according to which the audit tool was constructed.

The NETFRAME Advisory Board has already validated the developed self-assessment tool during a meeting in Antwerp on the 14th October 2003. At the present, the consortium has been involved in the Repository development.

EUROWELD

The EUROWELD Project, aiming to define a harmonised certification system for welding personnel, is now near its midterm stage. During its first year of development the partners were involved in the identification of its national certification system and in the definition of a common system to be implemented for the certification of welding personnel. The experience and different realities among 6 European countries of the consortium (Belgium, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Portugal and United Kingdom), has promoted a wide discussion about the system to be implemented, which will be defined by a Guideline. The Guidelines for the different categories of welding personnel are also in advanced stage of development.

The Consortium is now working on the technical revision of about 2600 questions and answers, which will be translated in six languages in order to be included in a software database to be used as common examination system.

CONTINUED

The CONTINUED Project – Continuing Education of Welding Engineering and Welding Inspection Personnel, has been promoting several workshops among the partner countries. Up to this moment, 4 workshops were held and 2 more are envisaged. A second project meeting will be held on the 10th December 2003, where capabilities of Welding Inspector and Welding Engineer, Competences profile and Capabilities in relation to educational products will be addressed.

In the scope of European Programmes such as LEONARDO DA VINCI and SOCRATES, EWF has submitted European Projects in the fields of European Training and Qualification, ICT applied to manufacturing technologies, health and safety, ergonomic welding structures and improved welding technologies.

In the scope of the 6th Framework Programme, EWF has been participating in Collective/Co-operative Research Projects in the above-mentioned fields.

INTERVIEWING...
**Dr. Christian Ahrens
Chairman of IAB Group A**


You have been directly involved in Education, Training and Qualification. How relevant is, in your opinion, the international harmonisation of qualification of welding personnel?

For nearly 20 years I have been in the SLV Duisburg and head of the Education and Training Department. Due to the ever increasing number of requests, specially from foreign countries, it has been difficult to describe and advertise the DVS (German) System to our customers.

In the meantime we have found that international education and training of welding personnel is more or less the same. Therefore it is much easier now to refer to the international harmonised qualification system.

Additionally for our customers it is much easier (seeing the globalisation of industry) to get also welders from foreign countries with welder certificates which are in future internationally harmonised.

You are the Chairman of IAB Group A. What is the most difficult job during the meetings? Which have been the most significant achievements?

The job of chairman of IAB Group A is, from the personal view, easy because all group members have the same aim to improve the international education and training system in welding. The minor problem is that in general the members speaking the English language as their mother tongue often speak too fast and with a vocabulary that sometimes is not easy to understand for the other people speaking only a "simple" international English.

This year you were nominated and re-elected to continue your Chairmanship until July 2005. How do you feel?

Simply said: I am really proud to be re-elected. That gives me the feeling that in the last term as chairman I did an acceptable job.

How do you foresee the future of the IAB?

We have already six guidelines ready and are planning more. Member countries are educating and training more than three thousand people per year and this number is increasing. I think that in future we will have much more success in harmonising and expanding the international education and training system in welding.



EUROJOIN



5th European Conference on Welding, Joining and Cutting

by EWF and IAB members
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The EUROJOIN 5th European Conference combined with the welding fair Intertool/Schweissen will take place in Vienna, Austria, from 11 to



The Conference aim is to show recent and future welding, joining, cutting and testing technologies in theory and practice. This Conference is specially organised for users of welding and joining technologies, designers, plant engineers, welding coordination

personnel, inspectors, personnel for non-destructive testing methods, salesmen and buyers.

GENERAL PROGRAM

Wednesday – 12 May

06:00 p.m. – Opening Ceremony

Thursday – 13 May

09:30-10:40 – Section 1 - Simulation
10:40-11:00 – Coffee break
11:00-12:40 – Section 2 – High efficiency materials and their joining
12:40-14:00 – Lunch break
14:00-16:00 – Section 3 – Automotive Lightweight constructions
16:00-16:20 - Coffee break
16:20-17:30 – Section 4 – Dissimilar Welding

Friday – 14 May

09:00-11:00 – Section 5a – Steel constructions
09:00-11:00 – Section 5b – Automation and Robotics
11:00-12:20 - Coffee break
11:20-13:00 – Section 6a – Quality assurance
11:20-13:00 – Section 6b – High efficiency welding techniques, Economy

Registration:

Schweisstechnische Zentralanstalt (SZA)
Arsenal Objekt 207, A-1030 Vienna, Austria
Mr. G. Idinger
Fax: +43/(0)1/798 26 28-28 / Mail: weld@sza.info

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

“15th Technical Sessions on Welding”

Madrid – Spain
March 9–11 – 2004
www.cesol.es

“6th International Conference” Beam Technology

Halle (Saale) – Germany
SLV Halle GmbH - DVS
April 26-28 - 2004
Contact: tagungen@slv-halle.de

“EUROJOIN 5”

SZA – EWF
Vienna - Austria
May 11-14 – 2004
Contact: sza@aon.at

“ITSC 2004”

Osaka – Japan
May 10-12 – 2004
Contact: DVS, tagungen@dvs-hg.de

“Welding in Maritime Engineering”

3rd International Conference – Croatian Welding Society
Hvar – Croatia
June 2-5 – 2004
Mail: hdtz.cws@fsb.hr
<http://hdtz.fsb.hr>

“7th International Conference on Brazing and Diffusion Bonding (LÖT 2004)”

Aachen - Germany
June 15-17 – 2004
Contact: DVS, tagungen@dvs-hg.de

“IIW Annual Assembly”

Osaka – Japan
July 11-16 – 2004
www.iwes.or.jp

“Welding and Joining 2005”

Frontiers of Material Training
Tel-Aviv – Israel
January 25-28 – 2005
www.bgu.ac.il/me/convention/welding/welding2005.html