

## NEWS NEWS

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Technical Committee;  
IIW/EWF Lead  
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## Editorial

The EWF – European Welding Federation for Welding, Joining and Cutting, created in 1974 as an European organisation aimed at joining the interests of EU countries, was later enlarged to include all countries in the European Community and, in 1992, to include the EFTA and Eastern European countries.

Training and Qualification of Welding Personnel was the first issue addressed, namely due to the need of better serving EU industry, by creating harmonised courses and a European Diploma that has proved to be a recognised “quality mark”. Technical people with EWF diplomas are nowadays required by industry in all EU countries.

The network set up by EWF has created a pattern of what is possible to achieve in Europe through the collaboration of alike organisations.

EWF has, since its creation, been active in EU projects, namely in the field of Leonardo da Vinci – Community Vocational Training Action Programme. This activity has been developed by EWF members, who would join a consortium, to pursue a given idea in an EU sponsored project. Examples of deliverables of such projects are CD TIG where TIG welding process is widely explained and CD WELDICTION, a multimedia-welding dictionary with the most relevant welding terms allowing users to have access to video sequences, animations and pictures, related to the selected issue, in seven languages.

In the last two years, EWF has taken the decision of promoting EU projects as a European Association, by preparing proposals, in collaboration with its members for different EU programmes, or by participating in projects proposed by other organisations, aiming to disseminate its final results through EWF members. This decision has led to the development of a new activity that now comprises the participation of EWF in projects in the fields of training and certification of personnel, in full and transfer of technology.

The projects approved so far involve 10 EWF members and generate products and know-how beneficial of EWF activities. The participation in full projects, as Netframe, opens EWF to the experience of collaborating with organisations and companies in the aerospace and automotive sectors and the EWF members involved will be responsible for auditing the software tools developed within the project.

EWF has been active in the 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme where two Leonardo projects were approved: EUROWELD, which aims to define a harmonised Certification System for Welding Personnel and a harmonised evaluation system for two welding categories (EWE- European Welding Engineer and EWT – European Welding Technologist); and CONTINUED, which aims to make available continuing vocational education for welding engineers and welding inspectors to maintain their skills and knowledge, and thus to allow a regular assessment of their competences.

The collective research proposals have also been evaluated in early 2003 and from the two submitted projects, EWF has one approved for the second phase of evaluation. A cooperative research project was also submitted and is now at an evaluation stage. According to the ideas and interests of EWF members, is envisaged the submission of more cooperative research projects in future calls.

The results achieved by EWF in this new area of activity are definitely promising and indicating that the development of this activity will continue as one of the core EWF strategy.

**Luisa Quintino**  
EWF Chief Executive

## Presenting the International Authorised National Bodies



**TWI Certification Ltd.**  
**The UK ANB**



TWICL is a subsidiary company of The Welding Institute. It was created in the early 90s in order to isolate certification activities from training and consultancy services. This enabled TWICL to gain national accreditation under the EN 45000 series of standards.

TWICL look over the Certification Scheme for Welding and Inspection Personnel (CSWIP), which had existed since 1970. Many thousands of people, mainly welding inspectors and NDT personnel have been CSWIP certified.

TWICL was therefore the logical home for the UK IIW/EFW ANB. It was the first ANB to be accredited in 1993. Its scope covers: the International and European Qualification for Welding Engineers, Technologists, Specialists and Inspectors; the EWF Personnel Certification Scheme and the EWF EN 729 Certification Scheme for Companies.

To date TWICL has issued some 4.000 European and International Diplomas.

For more information about TWICL, visit [www.cswip.com](http://www.cswip.com). More information on The Welding Institute may be found at [www.twi.co.uk](http://www.twi.co.uk).

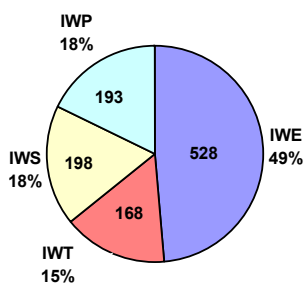


**The Japan Welding Engineering Society**  
**The Japan ANB**



Dr. Yuzuru FUJITA  
Chairman of Governing Board of J-ANB  
President of JWES

JWES has been established in 1949 to promote publications, standardisation, cooperative R&D for industries, education and training, advice / instructions to industries / government and certification / qualification. Since then it has been continuing to establish certification of welding personnel and accreditation of welding inspection companies.



At present the total number of certificates is about 220.000 for welders, 34.000 for welding engineers, 1.200 for welding practitioners, 3.000 for micro soldering specialists such as engineers, instructors, inspectors and operators for manufacturing electronic instruments, 100 for arc welding robot operators and 170 for inspection companies.

Japan – ANB has been established in 2000 inside of JWES in cooperation with other welding related societies and associations in order to implement the IIW qualifications. By the end of April 2003, Japan ANB has issued 1.087 diplomas.

### IAB 2002 – 2003

The ANB network comprises a total of 31 countries, 3 of which are applicant ANBs: Bulgaria, Canada and Thailand. Iran recently joined the system.

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

- “International Welders Guideline”
- “International Welding Instructor Guideline”
- “Distance Learning Guideline”



## NEWS

**PROJECTS**

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

**NETFRAME:**

European Project started in May 2002 aiming to improve efficiency in concurrent engineering processes amongst large industrial manufacturers and their Small to Medium size enterprises (SME) suppliers. At the current stage of development the concurrent engineering best practices (addressed to both Technology and Production Processes) having been defined and its validation phase is now starting. This will be achieved by presenting a questionnaire to a large number of industrial representatives of Automotive and Aeronautical sectors (in Europe) hoping to collect their opinions and remarks. The EWF members collaborating in this project (Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovenia) have identified companies that will be involved in the evaluation phase now starting.

The second meeting of this project is scheduled to 26-27 June, aiming to evaluate the work already done and to define the next steps.

**INNOVATIONQUEST:**

InnovationQuest is a software tool designed by IRC – Innovation Relay Centre ([irc@isq](mailto:irc@isq)) – Portugal to help structure the identification of innovation related capabilities and maturity within an Organisation. Specially directed to SMEs, it aims to evaluate industrial capability to innovate by giving indications about what methods and procedures that should be adapted to satisfy specific needs and improve Enterprises competitiveness.

This Audit tool was already been presented to CESOL, who showed interest in promoting it among its associates. Evaluating the weaknesses and strengths of European industry in Innovative Processes will allow collecting data about European Innovation and comparing it at regional, national and European level.

**This tool is now available to be presented and used by any interested to EWF/IAB members and their associates.**

**INTERVIEWING...**

*Eur Ing Tim Jessop  
Chairman EWF Technical Committee  
IIW/EWF Lead Assessor  
Associate Director, TWI Ltd., UK*

**You have been closely involved in the system of controlling the implementation of the European and the International Training and Qualification Schemes since the beginning. How did it all start?**

*After the first Training Guidelines had been developed and published, the members of EWF decided that it would be an injustice in relation to the level of effort that had gone into the Guidelines to leave their implementation to chance. Therefore, a set of implementation rules was developed based on EN 45013 "Criteria for Certification Bodies Operating Certification of Personnel". By complying with these rules and demonstrating it through audit, National Bodies could achieve authorisation by EWF to: approve training courses, conduct examinations and to issue diplomas in accordance with the EWF Guidelines. The first ANB audits against the rules were conducted in 1993.*

**How did the Scheme develop itself there?**

*More and more Guidelines were developed over the years and the rules had to be continuously updated to accommodate them. For example the EWF Guidelines for Welders contain special requirements for instructors and examiners and these requirements had to be covered by the rules.*

**How were auditors selected and trained?**

*I was appointed as the first Lead Assessor but even now I am not really sure why! However, I had already had some experience with implementing EN 45013 and I had done some training courses in conducting assessments. For each ANB audit the Lead Assessor was accompanied by a second Assessor, nowadays called Peer Assessor, from another country to support the Lead Assessor. Second Assessors were normally selected on the basis of them being able to provide assistance in the local language of the ANB. A significant improvement was introduced when the IAB was formed in 1997. A formal system for evaluating and training Lead and Peer Assessors was introduced and the Annual Assessors' Workshop was established. This provides initial training for new Assessors and refreshing training for existing Assessors. There are now 18 Lead and Peer Assessors in total.*

**How is harmonisation of the qualification achieved?**

*Each ANB must have a Quality Management System (QMS), which complies with the EWF rules. The ANB has to demonstrate that this is operated in a proper way by providing evidence of the required control measures covering approval of courses, conduct of examinations and issue of diplomas. Of course this does not guarantee that all the qualification issued are exactly equal but it gives an acceptable degree of assurance that a level of qualification is being maintained.*

## Continuing.....

Each ANB is re-assessed every five years with a surveillance audit in between. Efforts are continuously being made to improve harmonisation and a significant current project is to develop a central bank of examination question, which all ANBs will be obliged to use.

### Tell us about the company certification activities of EWF.

EWF developed a system for the assessment and certification of companies involved in the manufacture of welded products. The scheme is accompanied by Guidelines for the European co-operation for Accreditation. The take-up of the scheme has been patchy. But more and more application standards and Company specifications are now calling up EN 729 and therefore the take-up is expected to increase.

More recently, the scheme has been extended to include assessment and certification of a company's environmental management system. In future this may be extended further to include health and safety. The schemes and details of the certified companies can be found in the EWF web site ([www.ewf.be](http://www.ewf.be)).

### What does the future hold for EWF/IAB?

The achievements to date have been remarkable. Welding is the only profession which has an internationally harmonised system of training and qualification, and the system is under constant review and improvement.

It is hoped that even more countries will join the system, for example, it can be noted that we do not have yet any ANBs in South America. Enquires about joining are welcomed by the IAB Secretariat!

The number of training guidelines is increasing and this will continue producing the opportunity for more and more people in welding and related professions to benefit from an internationally recognised diploma.

The number of diplomas being issued is also growing, and as very few people are self-financed, this shows that employers are also seeing the benefit of well recognised qualifications for their staff.

There is no doubt that competence management is being given a higher priority in companies than ever before and the availability of an international qualification system provides a convincing pillar of support for competence assurance.

Finally, there is a duty on all those involved in the system to raise its profile so that it is very visible to those involved in writing standards and specifications and those responsible for the procurement of goods and services.

## USEFUL INFORMATION

### INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

#### “BIL-NIL International Seminar – Welding Week 2003 ”

Antwerp – Belgium - October 14 – 2003  
[www.weldingweek@fairtec.com](http://www.weldingweek@fairtec.com)

#### “Italian Welding Days”

Milan – Italy - November 11-12 – 2003  
E-mail: [giornate.saldatura@iis.it](mailto:giornate.saldatura@iis.it) - [www.iis.it](http://www.iis.it)

#### “Beijing Essen Welding 2003 Exhibition”

Shanghai – China - November 26-29 – 2003  
[www.dvs-ev.de/termine/events](http://www.dvs-ev.de/termine/events)

#### “International Welding Congress”

Tehran – Iran – December 1-3 – 2003  
E-Mail: [icw2003@yahoo.com](mailto:icw2003@yahoo.com)

#### “15<sup>th</sup> Technical Sessions on Welding”

Madrid – Spain - March 23–25 – 2004  
[www.cesol.es](http://www.cesol.es)

#### “AWS – International Welding and Fabrication Exposition”

Chicago – USA  
April / May 2004 (to be announced)  
AWS and DVS



## EUROJOIN 5



### 5th European Conference on Welding, Joining and Cutting

Quality Assurance Materials, Welding processes, and  
Non-Destructive Testing  
**Vienna, Austria 11-14 May 2004**



Authors who wish to present their contributions are kindly asked to submit the title of the paper and abstract before November 2003.

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