

SPBNDT REPORT 2016

The SPBNDT requires **± R750,000** to operate. Currently we are funded by SAINT, however this is not sustainable and SPBNDT needs to generate its own income.

I would like to report on some of the activities regarding our efforts to increase income.

End Users

Harold Jansen and I have been engaging with 2 primary end users regarding the mandating of Professional status through Designation from the SPBNDT. One is showing positive intent and the other showing no intent at all. Unfortunately, the person delegated by the positive end-user has since moved from his post and we now need to engage with the new responsible Level 3.

This lack of support from the end users impacts directly on our ability to generate funds to maintain the SPBNDT. Potential income from affiliate membership and designations is estimated at **±R425,000 per annum**.

A number of roadshows were held around the country to promote the SPBNDT, however these seem to have been in vain. Until the end users mandate designations, we will continue to struggle to attract designated members and consequently affiliate members.

Service Providers

Without the End User mandate for professional designation, Service Providers appear to be reluctant to mandate designations themselves.

MERSETA

We are still engaged with MERSETA regarding the NDT qualification (NDTT). After many conversations and meetings, QCTO have informed me that finalisation of the qualification is in progress.

I am pleased to say that we have succeed in securing a separate OFO number for NDT, 2015-311703. This was one of the main objectives, as NDT was previously buried in other occupations, with a lower level number linked to its top level OFO number.

Hopefully we will have clarity soon and this should allow us to apply for funding, through various grants etc.

Radiation Protection

Following the collapse of the NMMU examinations and DOH compliant certificates, industry has been in discussion with the Regulator to find a solution. We agreed to an interim 6-month period where NECSA would supply a week's training, examination and issuance of compliant certificate. These 6 months passed without a solution and the Regulator has demanded a further 6 months to allow them time to deal with the problem. The NECSA training has been found not acceptable to industry and the training schools and is not

acceptable to the SPBNDDT therefore I have engaged a number of times with the Regulator, including 5 trips to CPT with air travel, accommodation and car hire.

SPBNDDT has made a proposal to the Regulator regarding training, examination and independent examinations and requested that we be designated by the Director General to manage this process. Unfortunately, the Regulator claims to be extremely busy and cannot deal with us now. Contrary to this claim the Regulator is participating to develop a RPO qualification being developed by EWSETA, and states that NDT radiation workers, their assistants and RPO's should be included in this NQF level 5 qualification. At a number of these work sessions I have indicated that NDT industrial radiographers, RPO, s does not fit into the qualification and all other participants agree with the exception of the Regulator. The Regulator is currently not responding to any attempts to move forward, indicating that they are involved in an upcoming visit to Tanzania and the IRRS mission, the first 2 weeks in December, and will unfortunately not be able to attend to this matter this year.

Management of this process would certainly help the funding crisis we face. Accreditation of schools, examination fees, affiliate fees and safety designations could potentially raise an initial **±R500,000** and then **± R400,000 per annum**.

National Skills

SPBNDDT submitted a proposal in December 2015 to the National Skills fund for funding to manage NDT experiential training for NDT Graduate and Students from VUT as the beneficiaries. The proposed budget of **R9,300,000** included funding for project management of **R846,600**. This would have assisted greatly in funding the SPBNDDT. In addition, it would have injected **R250,000** into the central certification body and assisted our objective of world harmonisation for NDT.

The intended beneficiaries of the project were 50 diploma students seeking experiential training. All of these students are black, both male and female and unemployed.

The specific objectives of the project were:

- To facilitate additional specific knowledge and practical training beyond that gained during the diploma course;
- To facilitate a wide range of on-site experience, by arranging visits to a cross-section of industry in South Africa, particularly SOC's. Eskom, Sasol, Transnet, Petro SA and Scaw. They would be targeted to allow this experience to be gained under direction of suitable industry experts;
- To provide to the industry a large number of qualified and competent NDT Professionals.

The proposal was not accepted; however, I am sure that the experience gained will assist us in future attempts to secure funding of this nature.

Report on other activities:

SPBNDDT endorsed and participated in a one-day conference arranged by NASA Cape town. Well done Ben Buys and your team for a successful well managed and well attended event.

I attended the NDT world conference, thanks to SAINT, TUV SUD and Sonartech for your generous contributions. The main focus of my participation was to man the SAINT stand and engage were possible including specific topics listed below:

1. Industrial radiography radiation safety;
2. Programme for the Assessment of NDT in Industry (PANI). UK Health and Safety Executive.

I engaged with various countries particularly Canada regarding Radiation Safety, and they were most helpful with content for my proposal for managing radiation safety in South Africa.

Dr Bernard McGrath the project manager for PANI shared his experience and expressed his willingness to guide South Africa if we undertake this type of project. I believe as a country we need to instigate this type of investigation with the objective of identifying solutions which will allow industry to optimise performance and minimise the magnitude of operator variation in the application of NDT inspections and satisfy the needs of the end users.

SPBNDDT has participated in the re-structuring of SAINT this year which included amending the constitutions of both SAINT and SPBNDDT.

The database to manage the registration of members has proved to be difficult. SAQA requirements to upload data to the NLRD and unforeseen problems around annual renewals forced us to re-structure the program with the normal knock on effects. In addition, changes were started around the specific needs of End Users which have still not been fully resolved. Hopefully now that the End User has a permanent Level 3 this will translate into positive actions.

Thank you to SAINT Council and Board members of SPBNDDT, in particular to Keith and Harold for your support and assistance.

Thank you Manfred for your valuable contribution to developing the National Skills proposal at such short notice, for your vision and for your wisdom.

Congratulation to the new Council, I look forward to working with you and am pleased at the cross section of the industry willing to serve on the re-structured SAINT Council. Let's work together to find a model to sustain SPBNDDT. I believe a central voice for NDT is critical and for the individuals the Professional Body should be this voice.

Thank you.

Garth Appel

Manager SPBNDDT