



Inspection Trends

Dear Readers,

I recently returned from Montreal where I had the opportunity to attend the 16th World Conference on Nondestructive Testing. It was a huge event with a technical program that included more than 700 oral and poster presentations and an exhibition that showcased the products and services of about 175 NDE-related companies and professional organizations.

During the opening ceremony of this nearly week-long event, Guiseppe Nardoni, president of the International Committee for Non Destructive Testing, asked two questions: Why the conference was important and why approximately 3000 NDE professionals from all over the world would, or should, bother to attend. He answered both questions with one statement: "Because NDE makes the world safer." That sense of responsibility for the safety of the general public has been one of the ideals that has impressed me about the welding NDE professionals I've talked with and it permeated the presentations at the conference.

I spent my time listening to as many technical presentations as possible, visiting with exhibitors, and helping to staff the American Welding Society's booth at the show. I got the opportunity to speak with some of the readers of *Inspection Trends*, to meet several authors who have contributed articles to the magazine face to face for the first time, to become reacquainted with others, and to introduce myself to some potential new authors.

I learned something else about welding at the conference that impressed me. As you know, welding is often portrayed as a "mature" industry, one that sometimes is even seen as stodgy and stuck in its ways. Yet as I listened to presentations about the latest developments and techniques in ultrasonics, eddy current, radiography, and other NDE processes, and viewed the displays in the exhibition area, I realized that welding has already been exploring the use of all these new technologies.

Here at AWS, we've tried to keep you abreast of all these developments through the pages of this magazine. This issue focuses in part on what's happening in the power industry. In "Inspecting Upgraded Hydroelectric Generators," Stan Light explains how today's more robust power plant upgrades require expanded inspection programs. John Lindberg's article, "Nuclear Power Industry Strives to Achieve Updated UT Requirements," explains the challenges of qualifying UT procedures for examining nozzle to safe-end dissimilar metal welds according to the requirements of ASME Section XI, Appendix VIII, Supplement 14. This issue also gets back to basics through Tom Neumann's primer on the use of weld gauges and Clifford Mankenberg's discussion of "Tubular TYK Fabrication and Inspection."

As always, I'd like to hear how useful you find this issue and whether there are any other topics you'd like to see covered. So send me an e-mail or give me a call at the e-mail address or phone number below. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

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