



Introduction of CINDE's First Non-Canadian Board member

Erica Schumacher, Vice President, Extende Inc. (right) with Past CINDE National Chair Laura Obrutsky (President - M&O Tech Inc.)

Ms. Erica Schumacher has a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering and a Master of Science in Industrial Engineering from Rutgers University plus over 20 years of NDT experience in both commercial and military environments, and years of experience in manufacturing and quality assurance. She was previously qualified as a NAVSEA 250-1500-1 and MIL-STD-2132 test examiner in PT, MT, UT and RT.

She is Vice President of Extende Inc, distributor of CIVA NDE simulation software and TraiNDE NDE Simulators, where she supports customers throughout the US and Canada. She has over 15 years' experience with CIVA software, including teaching dedicated training classes on its use.

She is a member of the ASNT Research Council, and contributor to the ASME FMC Training manual that is in the works.

And now, Erica is the newest member of the CINDE Board of Directors!

Erica is the first non-Canadian Board Member in CINDE's history and we are enjoying the fact that she is an American, from a French company, serving on a Canadian Board. This international flavor represents the essence of the NDT industry. We work in a global market where people, ideas and technology flow around the world.

We asked Erica how she first got interested in NDT.

"In 1998 I was offered NDT training as part of my role as a quality engineer for a Navy contractor. I liked what I was learning, and our senior NDT guy encouraged me to become certified as an NDT Examiner in their program. He seemed to really like what he did, had more autonomy than other engineers in the building, and took pride in his work. I thought that if I gained similar job satisfaction out of working in NDT that it would be a good field to be in. In March 1999 I gained my first certification as an Ultrasonic NDT Examiner."

Erica and EXTENDE first came to my personal attention over the years because of their diehard support for CINDE activities and events. We could always count on Erica and EXTENDE to be sponsors, exhibitors and speakers. Who better to be a champion on our Board helping CINDE set and execute our future direction? This is also combined with the fact that EXTENDE is a leader

in using virtual reality to shape the future of NDT training for years to come.

Several years ago the CINDE Journal interviewed Erica about advice for people entering the NDT field. She said, *"Be willing to rock the boat, because if you do your job well, which at times involved audits of other NDT personnel, you will rock the boat. At some time you will find an indication that causes manufacturing delays to remove and repair a critical flaw."* Obviously, this is the heart of the high ethical standards that we expect in our NDT inspectors. If you see something, say something, but good Boards also have people who are willing to rock the boat, devil's advocates who aren't afraid to express their ideas.

We asked Erica how she believed she could help CINDE in her time on the Board.

"I see many exciting opportunities on the horizon for CINDE in the coming years particularly with people, events and technology. Regarding people, I want to use my energy and experience to help attract and guide the next generation of NDT professionals. We all believe the demand for inspectors will grow and we just need to convince the world that this is the best career ever, which of course those of us already in the industry, know that it is! Regarding events, I am really excited about the upcoming PANNDT 2025 in Niagara Falls. Having been to Niagara Falls a few times, I can attest to it being a one of a kind locale highlighting the beauty of both Canada and America. I participate in many shows and conferences globally and believe I can help CINDE host one of the best international conferences Canada has ever hosted in NDT. Then there is technology. As a representative of a leading-edge technology company, I would like to assist CINDE and Canada in adopting new technologies and making sure Canadian technologies are available to the world."

This is an exciting time for Erica to join the CINDE Board and we look forward to working with her to take CINDE to new heights. Please join me in welcoming Erica.

By Glenn Tubrett, CEO, CINDE