POSITION PAPER #3
SEPTEMBER 1988

ASNT POSITION PAPER ON GENERAL TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

Purpose

To provide a coherent and efficient methodology for generating general NDT technical publications.

- ASNT Headquarters staff shall establish the working policy to initiate and manage all general technical publications of the Society.
- Revising the General Dynamics books shall be the first case.

Rationale

- ASNT has one of its mission statements that of providing NDT information to its membership and the NDT community.
- Revenues have been declining due to market saturation of current publications and councils' inability to generate new materials.
- ASNT Headquarters is authorized to operate with contracted projects.

Advantages

- The councils will continue to serve as the technical liaison and review agent.
- The council members will be freed from the responsibility of generating text and this will enable them to discharge their functions more efficiently.
- Volunteers can be more involved in their major interest areas.
- This is the proper time to enforce a new procedure.
- This method would provide a quicker method of getting materials published, resulting in revenues being generated quicker.
- This method would put Headquarters publishing skills and ASNT money to work more effectively.

Disadvantages

- Several publications currently in progress (NDT Handbook) are committed to volunteer services.
- Paying authors may not solve the problem of getting materials written on time as the money offered may not be worth the effort.
- Once authors are paid, the Society will no longer be able to count on volunteers.
- The recommended procedures are unproven and may not solve the problem of untimely, expensive, or inadequate text generation.

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Implementation

- The policy and procedure, when written, shall contain provisions to preclude the possibility of any ethical problems. This will ensure that qualified authors are contracted through a publications proposal review committee.
- If approved in principle, the implementation will be subject to favorable financial review.
- Technical Council (TC), Education and Qualification Council (E&Q), and Section Operations Council (SOC) are technical liaisons for publication projects. They (including Headquarters) will generate publication topics, based on market need, generate a generic outline of topic, and provide technical reviewers. ASNT Headquarters will solicit bids for completion of manuscripts. Bids will include cost and turnaround time. The author will provide a specific, topical outline for approval by TC, E&Q, and SOC representatives. Headquarters will edit and process text material for peer review. Council peer review will determine required changes. Headquarters will produce, publish, and market the book.

Resources

Additional Headquarters staff will be required.