

# Towards a Society for Tomography

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**Abstract.** In the past most learned societies have been created around a common focus of interest. Society members may belong to a scientific (sub)discipline, they may use the same research tools and techniques, or they may even be organised on a national or regional basis.

Since the 'computed tomography community' has grown to maturity, perhaps time has come to think about the creation of a 'CT Society' for non-medical applications as applications of CT for 'living materials' seems to be covered sufficiently.

## Introduction

Discussions during GeoX 2010 in New Orleans (USA) and 3D IMS 2010 in Hourtin (France) made clear time has come to consider the establishment of an international society, bringing together all players in the field of computed tomography (CT). During previous international meetings like EUG 2001, EGU 2005 and 2009, IGC 2004 and 2008, and GeoX 2003 and 2006, CT was already high on the agenda. The X-Ray Imaging community is now well-established in academia and research institutes as well as in industry and in companies. All major geoscience and engineering geology disciplines make now use of CT that became a readily available research tool thanks to its non-destructive character.

## The creation of a Society

### *1.1 Justification*

The creation of such a Society having an imaging technique as central focal point seems justified and timely. Just like e.g. the Society for Microscopy brings together all players in the fields of e.g. optical and scanning electron microscopy, a Society for Tomography could gather all players in the field of non-medical CT (X-ray CT, neutron CT), covering a wide range of applications in the non-medical domain, hardware and software research, scanning techniques, standardization and calibration, imaging, service to other disciplines, etc.

### *1.2 Benefits*

The creation of a 'Society for Tomography' will a.o.:

- provide continuity for the actions of its community partners because loose structures mostly collapse after time when their active components disappear;
- develop a community spirit by offering the CT community a performant platform based on close cooperation between academia and industry;



- prevent loss of information by organising flexible links and channels that can provide adequate and quality-controlled information;
- create opportunities for international contact and for interdisciplinary exchange of ideas by structuring its outreach activities;
- promote the use of CT and X-Ray Imaging in various non-medical domains;
- foster standardization and calibration e.g. in hardware problems.

### *1.3 Stepwise approach*

Following the preliminary discussions at GeoX 2010 and at 3D IMS 2010, a stepwise approach will be used to establish the Society, based on a broad and in-depth consultation of all CT players:

- establishment of a ‘Founding Committee (FC)’ empowered to prepare a ‘Position Paper’ on aims and structure of the Society-to-be;
- reflection of the FC on the Position Paper and preparation of Articles of Association and Bylaws of the Society-to-be;
- reflection of the FC on the Articles of Association and Bylaws, and preparation of the ‘de jure’ establishment of the Society;
- election of Officers of the Society at the next international meeting on CT (Ghent 2013).

### *1.4 Next step*

For the first step, several things come to mind in order to herald the initiative and to gain interest and attention from all partners in the ‘non-medical’ CT community:

- launch of a website to increase the visibility of the initiative;
- creation of an electronic Newsletter for easy and rapid exchange of information;
- construction of a network of interested partners in CT-minded countries;
- launch of the discussion on the Position Paper through an electronic enquiry amongst interested partners;
- and finally ... looking for some seed money to cover the first expenses ...