

# NEWSLETTER

October 2010



Dear EFEE members.....	1
The EFEE-Newsletter .....	2
EFEE welcomes BEF as a new Company Member!.....	3
The 2 <sup>nd</sup> ESSEEM Conference on European Shotfire Training .....	4
EU Directives Committee .....	5
The 6 <sup>th</sup> EFEE World Conference .....	6
A visit across the boarder – invited to a big bang in France .....	7
Upcoming events.....	12

[This Newsletter contains the above articles \(Click on the headings to jump to the article\)](#)

## Dear EFEE members

*Words from and introduction of the president.*

First I have to present myself. I started 1979 in Nitro Consult after my M.Sc. Mining & Mineral education at KTH Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm. Since then I have been steady in the Company as Blasting & Vibration Consultant and the last thirteen years as President & CEO.

I am really flattered and honoured to be elected as President for EFEE for the coming year when so many important things are happening.

At the last EFEE Council meeting held in London October 8-9<sup>th</sup> there were twelve national members represented. I will point out some of the topics which were discussed intensively and have been worked through our Committees in EFEE during the last years.

*Shotfirer Certificate; the Shotfirer Committee has been working on since 2001 to get a training document which can cover same education for all our members in EFEE. This work has been adopted and financed to some part by EU. The ESSEEM project “European Shotfirer Standard Education for Enhanced Mobility”, which was a part of all this work, had there last meeting in September 24<sup>th</sup> -25<sup>th</sup> in Dresden which you can read more about in this Newsletter.*

*The purpose of all this work and what EFEE try to manage in future is to translate this fantastic training document and hopefully get it out to be an EU standard for education.*

*Another important topic on the Council meeting agenda, which has been discussed and been worked on in the EU Directives Committee, is the “new” directive 2008/43/EC “Identification and Traceability of civil explosives”. This is an important Directive on how to track and trace explosives and ignition application in consequence to avoid terrorism. But it will also have enormous influence on the working activities of our members in the future.*

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*EFEE members agree to this importance but are also afraid that the activity date April 5<sup>th</sup> 2012 for this Directive can be too short to get it all in place. Therefore EFEE has now asked by letter the European Commission to postpone that date three years forward. See more about the contents of the Directive further in this Newsletter.*

More of this will also be a topic in our next EFEE World Conference in Lisbon September 2011 which I welcome you all to be part of and send in abstracts to, and please support your National Committees to invite students for applying to "The Student Competition Award". I am looking forward to a very interesting year and enjoy meeting you out there.

*Donald Johnson, President of EFEE.*

## **The EFEE-Newsletter**

This issue includes information about:

- A presentation of the BEF, the latest company to join EFEE.
- A description of the ESSEEM conference on European Shotfire Training.
- An update on the development on the EU Directives Committee.
- The 6<sup>th</sup> EFEE World Conference, in Lisbon Portugal September 2011.
- A story on joint German and French cooperation in creating a big bang.
- And notifications about the upcoming events in the world of explosives.

We in EFEE hope you will enjoy the present EFEE-Newsletter. The next edition which will be published in May 2011, please feel free contact the EFEE secretariat:

- If you have a story you want to bring in the newsletter.
- If you have a future event for the next EFEE-newsletter upcoming events list.
- If you want to advertise in a future newsletter.
- Or any other matter.

*Johan Finsteen Gjødvad, Chairman of the Newsletter committee and member of the board*

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

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# **NEWSLETTER October 2010**

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## EFEE welcomes BEF as a new Company Member!

*Swedish Rock Blasting Contractors Association (BEF).*

The Swedish Rock Blasting Contractors Association (BEF) was established in 2001. BEF currently has approximately 100 member companies spread throughout Sweden. The member companies account for 85% of the surface blasting in Sweden.

The association also includes a section for active supportive partners such as suppliers of significance to the rock blasting industry. Currently BEF has 25 active supportive partners, for example Atlas Copco, Sandvik, Orica, EPC and Maxam.



Through industry collaboration BEF is working actively to improve the conditions for their member companies. The aim of the association is to support the financial interests of their members by working to achieve a more stable position in the industry and society.

BEF is a referral body to the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency, the Swedish Work Environment Authority and the Police Authority as well as a member of the Council for Blasting Practice Training, EFEE – European Federation of Explosives Engineers, the Swedish Construction Federation, Swedish Rock Construction Committee (BK) and the network BERGSAM.

A priority issue is to convey existing provisions to member companies as well as taking an active role in influencing new provisions. BEF is active in supporting their member companies in day to day issues and long-term development projects. Once every fourth months, BEF publish a newspaper which is highly regarded by the industry. It provides information about the latest in rock blasting and articles of interesting projects.

BEF is currently working on a major project whose concept will change the rock blasting industry. BEF implemented an authorization of their member companies, which means that many of Sweden's rock blasting contractors will be an Authorized Rock Blasting Company. There are major benefits with an accreditation. The customer should feel comfortable with the job done safely and professionally. Authorization is a mark of quality that the company and its staff have the necessary skills and follow the Swedish laws properly. Continuous support and training takes place in these issues. Additional information of BEF can be found on their website <http://www.bef.nu/in-english.aspx>

*Roger Holmberg, EFEE*

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

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## NEWSLETTER October 2010

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## The 2<sup>nd</sup> ESSEEM Conference on European Shotfire Training

Dresden 22<sup>4</sup><sup>th</sup> of September 2010

### Background

The aim of the conference was to present the results of the ESSEEM to the general public. A project supported by the European Commission within the Leonardo da Vinci programme.



It is the aim of the ESSEEM project to define principles as well as contents of authorised blasters trainings enabling a comparability and therefore mutual acceptance of the training parameters in the different European countries. The achievement of the project will be a considerably higher flexibility for the authorised blasters concerning their work places carrying out blasting operations. This project includes 12 partners in 6 European countries. The idea of this project was born by EFEE especially by Aslak Ravlo and Karl Kure from Norway. For more information please visit our website: [www.esseem.eu](http://www.esseem.eu)

### Target group/Participants of the conference

The conference was addressed to all persons occupied and interested in the sector of authorised blaster training and advanced training. Furthermore, the projects and results presented during the conference were of special interest for authority representatives as well as the industry. More than 30 people from European countries joined the conference in Dresden.

### Conference content

During the conference the participating partners presented exemplarily the results of the altogether 14 work packages. The topics covered:

- Principles of geology, mineralogy and materials relevant for blasting
- Drilling plans, procedures and equipment,
- Blasting theory, Explosives, Initiations systems
- Excavation blasting in quarries, Blasting of buildings (demolition), Blasting for tunnelling and
- Safety and environmental aspects

In the course of the separate presentations the participants of the conference got a broad insight into the compiled documentation. Excerpts of the prepared Power Point training presentations were demonstrated by the partners of the project. The ESSEEM project output will in the end be one set of training material where text parts are written in English. Shotfirer training shall, however, take place in the domestic language. Translations to several languages must therefore take place. This work is beyond the capacity of the ESSEEM project and it is the aim of EFEE and the other partners of ESSEEM to find a possibility to realize this next step. The project ends on 15.November 2010.

Jörg Rennert , Vice President EFEE

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

---

## NEWSLETTER October 2010

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## EU Directives Committee

*Status from the EFEE meeting in London Heathrow October 2010*

During London conference the EU directive committee presents an official letter to the president of the working group on explosives for civil uses at the European commission, Mr. Mike Schmahl. The letter was made in order request “postponement” of the directive on “track and traceability” on the approved agenda for the next group meeting. The idea is to postpone the execution date of the full implementation of the directive from 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2012 to three years forward to the 5<sup>th</sup> of April 2015.

Within the framework of activities, analysis and all the measures taken the group defined that the directive 2008/43/EC of 4<sup>th</sup> of April 2008, on “Identification and Traceability of civil explosives” will have enormous influence on the working activities of our members in the future.

The EFEE European Federation of Explosives Engineers with 24 national associations together with FEEM Federation of European Explosive Manufacturers made a research and came to the conclusions that directive 2008/43/EC is still not part of the legislation in many countries although there are still too many opened, unsolved questions to distributors or end users:

- supply chain,
- educational level of responsible people,
- labeling of small articles,
- software for “data recording”,
- health and safety issues and
- economic effect.

Therefore a postponement on its implementation should be raised on the next meeting held in Brussels on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of Oct. 2010.

*Damjan Kovač, Member of the EFEE EU-Directives Committee.*

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

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## NEWSLETTER October 2010

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## The 6<sup>th</sup> EFEE World Conference

### *On explosives and blasting Techniques*

The 6th World EFEE Conference on Explosives and Blasting Techniques will be held in Lisbon, 18th – 20th September 2011, at the Corinthia Hotel. The Conference will be arranged in cooperation with the Portuguese Association of Studies and Engineering of Explosives (AP3E). EFEE expect near 500 professionals from over 50 different countries to participate and thereby create a great possibility to meet colleagues from the construction, demolition, quarrying and mining industry to build network and exchange information news and technique both for users and manufactures of explosives and drilling operations as well as for Consultants and Clients.

The Conference will start on Sunday with registration, workshops and welcome reception followed by technical sessions and exhibition on Monday to Tuesday. The conference will focus on practical papers on the following themes:

- EU Directives and Harmonisation Work
- Health, Safety and the Environment
- Technical Development • Shot Hole Development
- Blasting Covering Experiences from Projects
- Clearance & Decontamination of Deserted Plants Areas
- Management Covering Blast Design
- Explosive Detection for Security
- New Applications & Training

During the Conference a social program for participants and accompanying persons has been arranged. Proposals covering the main touristic attractions around the Lisbon area will be proposed. Lisbon is the western capital in Europe. Located in the west of the country, on the Atlantic Ocean coast at the point where the river Tagus flows into this Ocean Lisbon offer a pleasant climate throughout the year. The charm of Lisbon exists in its strong links to the past; renovated palaces, magnificent churches and an impressive castle mirror the city's rich cultural heritage. Lisbon is not only culture and history; Bairro Alto is the center of nightlife with various restaurants and bars where melancholic traditional Portuguese music, Fado, can also be listened.

A Lisbon Conference student competition is accessible for graduate students from countries of national EFEE members. The basic criteria for selection of the students, who will be able to participate in the EFEE Conference without paying, any fees will be:

- Academic merits or similar
- Qualifications of the candidate and their previous experience in the field of Explosive and Blasting Technique
- Actuality of the article they would like to present during the conference.

A call for papers and student completion is available at <http://efee.eu/student/index.html>

*Jose Gois, past EFEE president*

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

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## NEWSLETTER October 2010

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## A visit across the boarder – invited to a big bang in France

### *Explosives and blasting Techniques*

Three members of the German Association of Explosives Engineers followed an invitation of French colleague Yves Canessa to participate at the blast of three blocs of flats at Sartrouville, a suburb southwest of Paris.

The blocs had a volume of approximately 80.000m<sup>3</sup> and were up to 48 m high.

The aim of the blast operation was a vertical collapse of the three structures, which were in a good condition. The blast levels were on 4 respectively 5 floors. So far this is worldwide standard.

The German specialist could remark some interesting differences in the applied techniques.



*The sequential exploder*



*“Pool” for dusting reducing with a second use*

The French colleagues used as Explosive “CISALEX”, an emulsion in plastic tubes with diameters of 13 and 17 mm and weight of 104 to 190 g/m. The charge was initiated by a detonating cord of 12 g/m, which was tied on the whole length. Only a big column inside was charged with EURODYN. The total weight of the charges summed up to 313 kg.



*The “blast” 1*



*The “blast” 2*

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

---

## NEWSLETTER October 2010

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The charges were initiated with 1462 electric detonators, which were connected in 14 circuits and initiated by a sequential exploder with 1 master and 1 slave. All this was written in the “blast bible”, a comprehensive instruction manual – including the preceded pre weakening.



*The “blast”3*



*The result and team with Sauveur Guglielmino (SMD, Marseille France)*

The protection against fly of debris with mesh wire and geo textile was exemplary, as well as the evacuation of the 3000 neighbours. This was executed with the help of 400 policemen, 200 employees of the customer, a house building company, and the city administration as well as an additional 100 persons of ambulances. To enable a good view on the site for a secretary of state some big trees had been felled.



“CISALEX” explosive

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

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**NEWSLETTER October 2010**

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At the Sunday morning – two hours before the scheduled blast time – a heavy thunderstorm passed the site. The French colleagues just cut off the main connecting cable and waited until the lightning had gone.

Interesting is the method to fight dust. 22 self erecting pools - each with a volume of 8 m<sup>3</sup> - were filled up with water. The water was sprayed by spirals of 15 m of detonating cord (70 g/m) laid under.

Precisely at 10:00 h the three blocs sank down with a big bang in a cloud of dust. No severe damage had occurred. Congratulations to the French colleagues and thanks for the opportunity to get more experiences.

*Walter Werner, EFEE.*

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

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[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

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[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

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## Upcoming events

2010	Nov. 5	World Demolition Summit 2010, Amsterdam, NL	<a href="http://www.khl.com/events/demolition-summit">www.khl.com/events/demolition-summit</a>
2011	Feb 6-9	37 <sup>th</sup> ISEE Annual Conference on Explosives and Blasting Technique, San Diego, USA	<a href="http://www.isee.org">www.isee.org</a>
	May 21-22	World Tunnel Congress 2011, Helsinki, Finland	<a href="http://www.wtc11.org">www.wtc11.org</a>
	May 26-27	BLASTING TECHNIQUES 2011	Contact: <a href="mailto:blast.mine@stonline.sk">blast.mine@stonline.sk</a>
	Sep. 18-20	6 <sup>th</sup> EFEE World Conference, Lisbon Portugal	<a href="http://www.efee.eu">www.efee.eu</a>
2012	May 28-30	EUROC 2012, Stockholm, Sweden	<a href="http://www.isrm.net/conferencias/detalhes2.php?id=2974&amp;show=conf">www.isrm.net/conferencias/detalhes2.php?id=2974&amp;show=conf</a>

[\[BACK TO TOP\]](#)

# NEWSLETTER October 2010

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