

The UK Research Centre for Non-Destructive Evaluation (RCNDE) - Twenty Years of Delivering Value to Industry

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The UK Research Centre for Non-Destructive Evaluation (RCNDE) has recently celebrated twenty years of operation. Research is performed by eight universities and is directed by fourteen Full Industrial Members representing the nuclear, power generation, oil and gas, aerospace, manufacturing, defence and transport sectors. There are also nearly fifty Associate Members who are able to translate developments into products and services that can benefit industry. Industrial impact has always been a key driver for RCNDE. An analysis of past projects has shown that 48% have been implemented in some form by the industrial members, and several spin-out companies have been formed to capitalise on developments. The direction for research is provided by a “Vision for NDE” obtained by surveying the members every five years. This process ensures that research projects focus on the current and future industrial needs, and embrace emerging ideas and technologies from other fields. The latest Vision was created during 2021/22 and published in Insight in November 2022. It defines a variety of research topics that are of interest to the industrial members, subdivided into three broad themes (i) desired improvements in NDE capabilities, (ii) asset-based inspection challenges, and (iii) topics related to NDE 4.0 ideas. The presentation will provide an overview of RCNDE and a summary of the latest Vision for NDE.