

# **File formats in NDE, an enabler for getting connected**

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Integration of digital processes and the information resulting from these processes is ongoing in many industries. In several industries digitalization landscape diagrams have been published, in which NDT and inspection activities are included. In real life there is a big gap however in the development of practices which allow the integration of information to actually take place, although this is of course different for every industrial sector. One practice which is underdeveloped is the digital exchange of NDT data, and the integration of this data into engineering, manufacturing and maintenance processes. One of the missing links is the lack of a widely supported open data format. In this paper the initiative towards an open data format in various industrial sectors and industry organizations will be described, including initiatives from the Aerospace, Refining, Nuclear and Pipeline industries, as well as NDT equipment manufacturers. The properties and design choices, such as data formats, dictionaries, incorporation of engineering information and incorporation of raw data, of the different initiatives are compared. The background and necessity of these choices is explained. Suitability of the existing DICONDE format will be discussed. Conclusions will be drawn, and recommendation made, to progress towards harmonization of initiatives and taking next steps.