



members

Member Advisory Forum

6th MEETING MINUTES

20 February 2024
MS Teams videoconference

Member Advisory Forum (MAF) Meeting Update

The sixth Members Advisory Forum was held virtually via MS Teams videoconference on **20 February 2024**

Outcomes in relation to the major topics discussed were as follows:

The forum welcomed a new member Mr Graham Smith, Managing Director of Abstec Calibrations Australia Pty Ltd.

An update was provided by Melinda Spinks, GM Business Services, on the NATA Accreditation Matters 2024 conference being held on 25 and 26 June 2024 in Sydney. Melinda highlighted the sponsors, exhibitors, presenters, and the NATA Excellence Award.

Danielle Dicker, Technical Manager, presented "Preserving Our Volunteer Technical Assessor (TA) Pool" and highlighted the key initiatives. NATA's key strength is the technical knowledge and experiences our TAs possess. The proposal includes initiatives around recognition and rewards, TA communication and portal enhancement, and building the next generation of TAs.

MAF members supported the proposed initiatives and provided valuable suggestions and commented that the shift towards electronic documentation using the NATA portal is commendable.

The forum discussed the current membership and agreed that the current number of MAF members is adequate and the contribution to the forum should increase from two to three years of participation. As a result, the Terms of Reference (ToR) will be updated to reflect the change. The group also agreed that MAF membership could be flexible and new members could be sought in the future to address specific issues requiring particular expertise.

During the meeting, another interesting topic discussed was the potential impact of artificial intelligence (AI). It was highlighted that while AI has become a useful tool, it needs to be managed like any other tool. While AI features can be helpful, they should be used to complement human efforts rather than replace them. It was also emphasised that confidentiality and software verification or validation, as appropriate, should be prioritised when using AI.

It has been discovered that some testing reports in the environmental sector have been fraudulently modified. To prevent the falsification of their reports, some accredited facilities are taking proactive measures such as developing QR codes.

Members of MAF expressed their satisfaction with the latest NATA flyers following their recommendations. The flyers "ISO/IEC 17025 as Quality Management System (QMS)" and "Congratulations on using a NATA-accredited facility" were included in the NATA News January and February editions respectively. These flyers can be used by all NATA members to promote their accreditation to current and potential customers.

The next MAF meeting is scheduled for 26 June 2024 in person during the NATA Conference in Sydney.

NATA thanks all Forum members for their continuing strategic contribution and looks forward to working together in 2024 to benefit NATA, its members, and the community.