

# **EUROLAB *aisbl***

The European Federation of National Associations of  
Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories

**EUROLAB, a successful organisation  
representing laboratories**

**EUROLAB makes a difference**

**eurolab**

**austrolab**

*15-jährigen bestehen*

*2006-11-15*

# Background: The foundation of EUROLAB

**eurolab** was formed as a network of the laboratory community in connection with the evolution of the European Union.

EUROLAB is the European Federation of National Associations of Measurement, Testing and Analytical Laboratories

- created in Brussels on 27 April 1990
- since 1998 a legal entity in the form of an international association under Belgian law



aisbl: association internationale scientifique sans but lucratif

# Challenges for european laboratories in 1990

- Europe has established its New Method
- The Global approach has been approved by authorities
- Designation of notified bodies is in its first phase
- European standardisation is evaluating European standards for conformity assessment including testing, certification and inspection
- Authorities and customers ask for accreditation and certification of laboratories
- Representatives from European laboratories from all European countries meet in Bruxelles
- EUROLAB vision at the meeting in Bruxelles in 1990 was to create an organisation to be able to influence the coming evaluation within conformity assessment

## Background: EUROLAB's objectives

- **Representation** by formulating and voicing the opinion of European laboratories regarding political and technical issues having a direct impact on their activity, both on the European scene and worldwide.
- **Coordination** by interfacing with partner organisations having activities of interest to the laboratory community, and striving to avoid duplication of efforts and activities.
- **Action** by providing adequate means for exchange of information and experience, such as the publication of our Position Papers, Technical Reports, Newsletters, Seminars, and Working Groups etc.
- **Promotion** of cost-effective testing, calibration and measurement services, for which the accuracy and quality assurance requirements should be adjusted to actual needs.

# Background: Enlargement of Europe



## New EU members since May 2004:

Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, the Slovak Republic and Slovenia

The European Union now comprises a total of **25 Member States** ("EU-25")

# EUROLAB in 2006



## 22 active members:

- AUSTROLAB (Austria)
- BELAB (Belgium)
- CYPRUSLAB (Cyprus)
- EUROLAB-CZ (Czech Republic)
- EUROLAB-Danmark
- EUROLAB-Finland
- EUROLAB-France
- EUROLAB-Germany
- HELLASLAB (Greece)
- EUROLAB-Iceland
- ALPI (EUROLAB-Italy)
- LATLAB (Latvia)
- EUROLAB-Netherlands
- EUROLAB-Norway
- POLLAB (Poland)
- Relacre (Portugal)
- EUROLAB-España
- EUROLAB-Sweden
- EUROLAB-CH (Switzerland)
- SK-LAB (Slovakia)
- SILAB (Slovenia)
- EUROLAB-UK (BMTA)

## 2 associated members:

- BULLAB (Bulgaria)
- HUNGAROLAB

## 15 International Affiliates

- e.g. TURKLAB (Turkey)
- EUROLAB-Ukraine
- NLA (South Africa)
- NCSL International

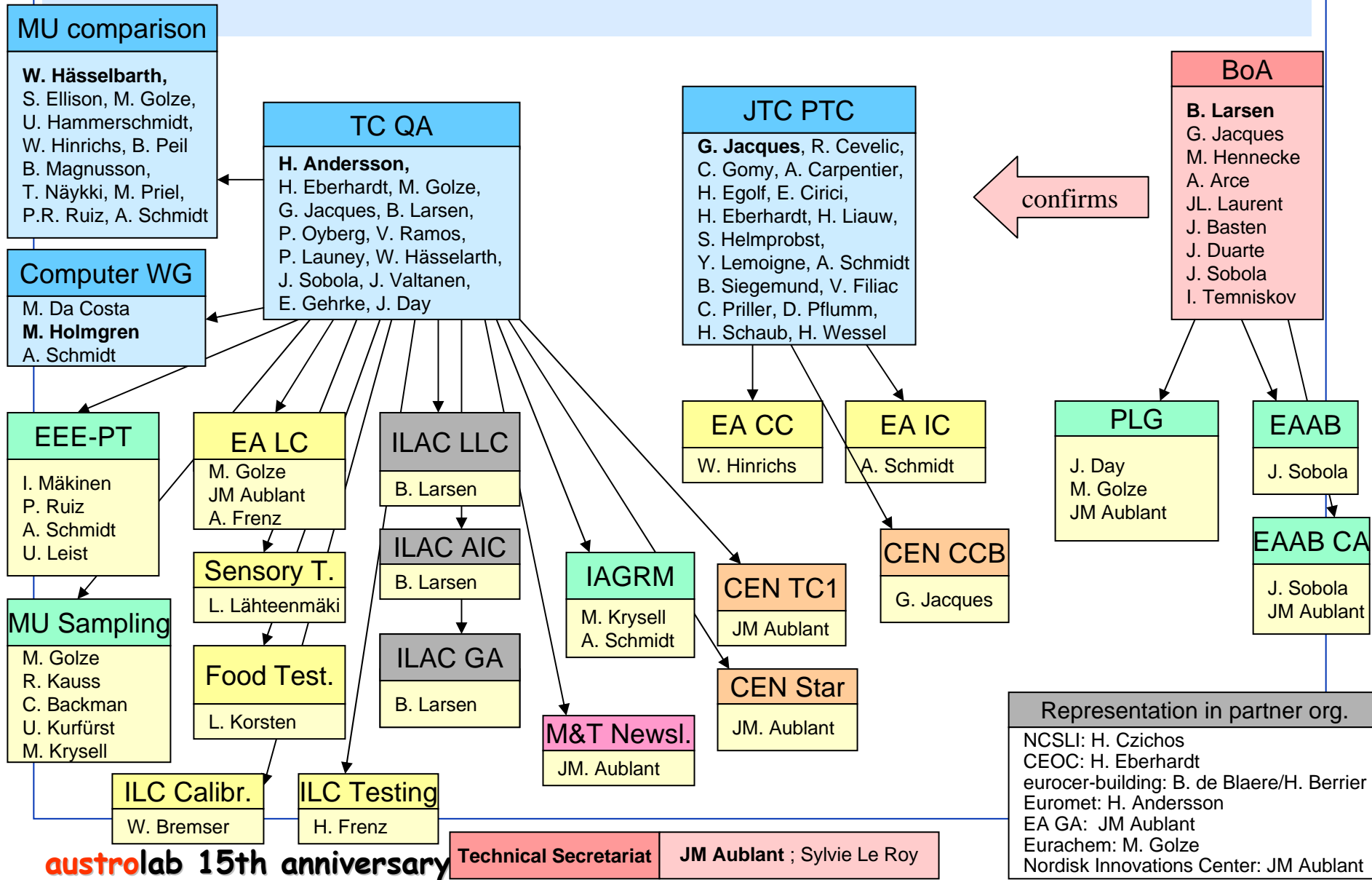
# EUROLAB 2006

## Representation and Coordination

- EUROLAB is the representative organisation of laboratories in Europe.
- EUROLAB holds a key position amongst our partners within conformity assessment.
- EUROLAB is a preferred interlocutor of public authorities and accreditation bodies in Europe.
- EUROLAB plays a role within testing, analysis and calibration and a role on the economic and political scales.



# EUROLAB GA



**austrolab 15th anniversary**

# EUROLAB 2006

## Action and Promotion

- EUROLAB holds two very active technical committees TCQA and JTCPTC. EUROLAB has published Position Papers, Technical Reports, Newsletters, and has been responsible for Seminars, Workshops etc.
- EUROLAB has influenced to achieve cost-effective testing, calibration and measurement services, for which the accuracy and quality assurance requirements are adjusted to actual needs.
- TCQA decided to develop short papers which can be used by laboratories as argumentation aid within accreditation assessments and accreditation promotion.

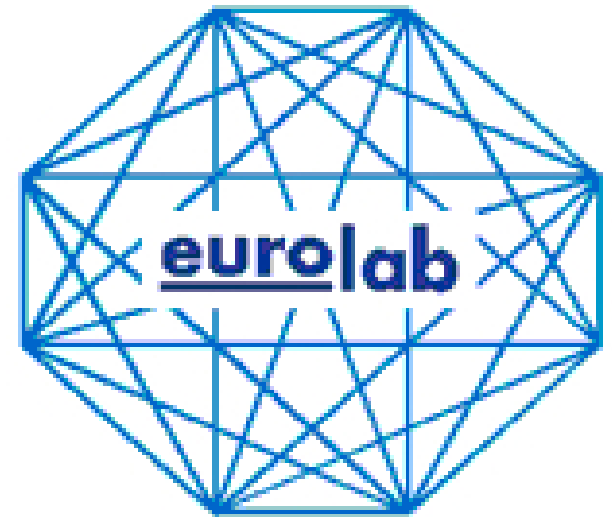
# New and ongoing activities in 2005 and 2006

## **EUROLAB Networks:**

EuroLab Networks serve as communication platforms in the internet for members within specific fields.

The first EuroLab network ENeCal on electrical calibration is hosted by Denmark.

2<sup>nd</sup> EuroLab network ACOUSTILAB NET is hosted by EuroLab Spain



# Major activities and achievements 2005/2006: technical and information activities

## **Inquiry on the accreditation of PT providers:**

The results are summarised in the  
EUROLAB Technical Report 1/2005.

## **Guideline on computerized systems:**

The guideline once approved will be  
published by EUROLAB in 2006

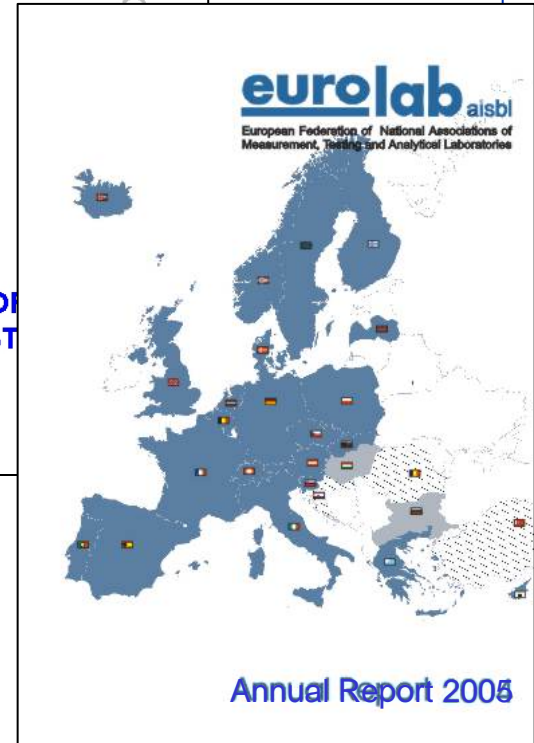
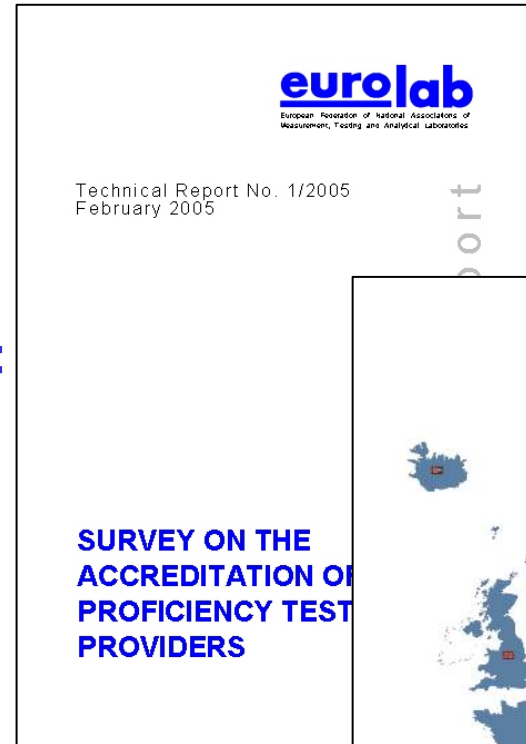
## **New PLG work programme:**

The work programme has been drafted  
and will soon be published

**Top reading list** on Measurement  
Uncertainty updated in 2006 onto  
[www.eurolab.org](http://www.eurolab.org)

## **Annual Report 2005**

Available also at [www.eurolab.org](http://www.eurolab.org)



# EUROLAB 2006

## EUROLAB influenced in

- The change of EN45001 and ISO Guide 25 to the comprehensive standard for the laboratories ISO/IEC 17025:2005
- Issuing of reasonable ILAC (IAF) and EA guidelines
- Issuing of the ISO/ILAC/IAF Communique about fulfilment of the principles of ISO 9001 for laboratories accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025:2005
- Creation of a common base for assessment and accreditation and reasonable cost of accreditation including accreditation of PT providers and RM producers.
- Issuing of the requirement for accrediting bodies ISO/IEC 17011.

In 1990 **EUROLAB** wished to be able to **influence** the evaluation with our opinion

Today in 2006 ILAC, IAF, EA, EU Commission and Authorities all **ask** **EUROLAB** our opinion within relevant issues

# Challenges for European laboratories in 2006

- Europe is revising the New Method including the Modular Approach
- Accreditation or an equivalent assessment must be used as basis for designation of notified bodies
- European accreditation EA will be given a new status closer to EU Commission and authorities
- European standardisation has been changed to international standardisation
- European guidelines are being coordinated with international guidelines
- Resources within EA are limited, technical as well as economical, and the coordination of the assessment process becomes a problem for the laboratories. Also the cost of accreditation is now comparable to the price of the product for many technical fields. This is preventing privatisation.

# Challenges for EUROLAB inside the organisation

- The knowledge about a great job being done by many EUROLAB members and the victories of EUROLAB are not informed sufficiently to all our laboratories who today benefit from this
- This raises the question: What are we getting for our money?
- Merger of laboratories, changes in education caused by routine analyses, small laboratories in severe competition
- Is the involvement of the big national reference laboratories decreasing? Or are we just having a change of generation?
- It is challenging to create big events. Almost 500 persons participated in the first EUROLAB Symposium.
- The personnel of the laboratories are busy with their everyday job



# EUROLAB 2006 - 2007

- The challenges are focused on the Board
- The next National Members meeting in Copenhagen will focus on external challenges and the work within the national Eurolabs
- We will all try to convince the next generation that the challenges are just as big as they were in 1990 only at a higher level
- We will try to activate the national laboratories to participate actively in EUROLAB and to take responsibility in our committees and in the cooperation between EUROLAB and our target groups.

I welcome **austrolab** laboratories to the coming challenging work in EUROLAB aisbl and wish **austrolab** all the best for the future.

**EUROLAB makes a difference**

2006-11-15 Bent Larsen



Visit us at [www.eurolab.org](http://www.eurolab.org)

**austrolab** 15th anniversary 2006-11-15

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