This is a brief summary of the ExTAG Meeting in Edinburgh on 18th September and 19th September 2023.

Jasmin Omerovic and I welcomed all members, observers, and guests and thanked the organization team (Christine Kane, Maria Brodel, Mark Amos, Geoff Slater and Chris Agius) for the preparation of the meeting.

After approval of the agenda and reports of the last meeting, including our action list, we received a verbal report from the Secretary on an overview of the IECEx Equipment Scheme activities since the last meeting in September 2022. Positive feedback was received from ExTAG on the impressive, continued growth of the Equipment Scheme, including new participants.

During the section **Technical Items for general discussion** Dr. Munro gave a status report on the progress of the 2.0 Edition of ISO/IEC 80079-38 by ExMC WG15 and MT 80079-38. ExTAG recommends to ExMC that when the 2.0 Edition of ISO/IEC 80079-38 reaches the FDIS stage, ExMC WG15 will be tasked with making a recommendation to ExMC on the suitability of the document for use for certification.

A comprehensive discussion about the application of the IEC 60079-7 took place with respect to definition of equipment and components. The members agreed to include an agenda item for the 2024 ExTAG meeting regarding a follow up on the issues raised in Mr Neleman’s presentation to the 2023 ExTAG meeting and progress in addressing these (for example, by IEC TC31 and the IECEx Secretariat).

Regarding **the performance feedback between ExCBs and ExTLs and the co-operation between IECEx Bodies** members noted the importance of cooperation and were reminded of the obligations of the bodies under Section 10.1 of IECEx 02.

On the next item **the status reports of activities of ExTAG Working Groups** were received**:**

* WG01 (Preparation and Maintenance of ExTRs): The Convener Mr. Scott Kiddle gave his report on WG01 activities. He reported about the current updates on the linkage of Decision Sheets to ExTR blanks. The question was raised regarding the necessity of having three signatures on the ExTR cover sheet. The meeting requested ExTAG WG01 in cooperation with ExMC WG1 and ExMC WG18 to consider revisions of IECEx OD 010-2 and possibly IECEx OD 009 (noting previous work and solutions for Ex ‘s’ independent verifiers in OD 233) to clarify requirements regarding signatories on ExTR Cover Sheets.
* WG03 Convenor Mr. Ron Webb, gave a report on the ongoing work regarding maintaining OD 017 *Drawing and Documentation Guidance for IECEx Certification – for use by Manufacturers and ExTLs*.
* WG06 is responsible for *Rules of Procedures for Testing at other Locations*. Mr. Chris Agius (Convener) reported on the status of IECEx OD 024 draft Edition 5.0 mainly the definition of a “Third Party Test Facility” and that the WG has not met last year but plans to organise a meeting for later this year to progress the draft revision of OD 024..
* WG10 deals with Proficiency Testing Scheme. The Convener Mr. Tim Krause reported on the progress and results of the latest Proficiency Testing Programs FJ (Flameproof Joints) and SCT (Small Component Temperature) of the Program Cycle 2021/2022, which has been finished. The new programs for the Cycle 2023/2024 EP (Explosion Pressure) and CJB (Connection and Junction Boxes) were introduced. The test samples will be sent to the participants within the next weeks.

I would like to thank all the Convenors and members of these WGs for their effort and work on all these essential matters.

An important topic is the **Collaboration with Technical Committees (item 8)**. IEC TC31 Chair, Martin Thedens gave a report on Standards development and maintenance matters currently underway within IEC TC 31 that may have impact on the IECEx 02 Certified Equipment Scheme. Mr. Tim Krause was introduced as the new IEC TC 31 IECEx Liaison Officer.

Chris Agius, the Secretariat gave a report on the collaboration with TC31 AG55 and outlined proposals for ExTAG to consider. ExTAG supported the proposed actions. I would like to express my appreciation for the excellent work of the team.

The meeting was informed about the liaison of IECEx with ISO TC 197 SC1 “Hydrogen Technologies” with Thorsten Arnold as the IECEx Liaison Officer.

The next item (9) includes the work on the **ExTAG decisions sheets.** The relevance and the use of ExTAG decision sheets was explained. The group noted the list of the new published decision sheets (5 in total) published since the 2022 ExTAG meeting, agreed by correspondence.

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The members discussed the need to include a maximum timeframe of 8 weeks for Originators to respond to comments received and agreed to recommend this minimal change to ExMC for inclusion in the OD 035, I would like to report to the 2023 ExMC meeting. It is intended to submit a draft Edition 3.1 of OD 035 for voting by correspondence including aspects of

* implementing a time limit of 8 weeks for Originators to respond to collation of comments
* if no response is received after 8 weeks, the ExTAG Officers decide how to proceed
* minor editorial adjustment to the Form F-014 to align with OD 035 requirement for Originators to advise, in the form, how they recommend existing certified products be dealt with.

Following DS are in process including preliminary drafts:

* The ExMC WG02 Convenor Katy Holdrege introduced the new DS on “Verification and Operation Climate Chambers”, which the members agreed on publishing.
* A draft DS ExTAG/699/CD about the “Applicability of erosion and non-transmission tests on cable glands and conduit sealing devices sealed with setting compound in case of leakage” needs further discussion due to concerns about the modification of requirement of an existing standard.
* A discussion about testing of the “Thermal conductivity of dust” took place and will need further examination before further proceedings.
* The introduction and discussion of the use of standards (IEC 60079-0) with respect to non-electrical equipment by NEPSI resulted in an agreement that this matter is more appropriately dealt with by a revision of IECEx OD 280 (instead of an ExTAG DS) and the members requested ExMC to task ExMC WG15 to consider an update to OD 280. The meeting also recorded a decision supporting the principles and approach detailed in the NEPSI preliminary Draft DS, ExTAG(Edinburgh/NEPSI)03.

A discussion on the DS 2014/001 “Treatment of Ex-Components covered by CoC issued to older editions of standards” resulted in tasking ExTAG WG01 to clarify or establish requirements or processes for the certification of equipment comprising certified components. We recommend to ExMC to task ExMC WG01 to include the work of ExTAG WG01 in a revision of IECEx 02.

The members noted the report by the Executive Secretary on the collaboration with IRENA and accepted the verbal report (copy of notes will be available as a Green Paper) from ExTAG Deputy Chair Mr. Omerovic regarding ISO TS 17012 (Guidelines for conducting remote audits of management systems) developments and noted the advice from Mr. Duffy on mechanisms for providing comments on this work both via the National Committees but also via the IECEx Secretariat thru the CAB (Conformity Assessment Board) process.

The ExTAG members agreed on the preference to convene the next meeting of ExTAG in conjunction the next ExMC meeting in Brazil, 2024 September 23th to 27th, and also to continue to meet in conjunction with the ExMC and noted the offer from CN to host 2026 annual meetings.

***Many thanks for your attention***

***Frank Lienesch***

***ExTAG Chair***