

THE BRITISH VACUUM COUNCIL (BVC)

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The British Vacuum Council (BVC), which came into existence in 1959 under its original name Joint British Committee for Vacuum Science and Technology (JBCVST), is the body which was established by a number of professional, scientific and technological institutions (Institute of Metals, Institution of Electrical Engineers, Institute of Physics, the Faraday Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry) to co-ordinate meetings and similar activities of members interested in vacuum in the several Institutions. It is moreover, the British national vacuum body affiliated to the International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications and the official channel through which vacuum workers in the United Kingdom can collaborate with their colleagues overseas.

The need for a national body to serve the interests of the scientists and engineers engaged in expanding the field of vacuum science and technology in the UK became apparent in 1959. Because of the inter-disciplinary nature of the subject no single Professional Institution could be expected to give a complete service to all vacuum workers. Accordingly discussions took place between representatives of nine Institutions culminating in a meeting in June 1959 at which it was agreed not to recommend the formation of a new autonomous vacuum society but, instead, to set up a joint committee composed of representatives of the participating Institutions. It was further agreed that the Institute of Physics would provide a permanent secretariat for the Committee, which would be paid for from a small annual subscription levied on each participating Institution. The JBCVST held its first meeting in October 1959 at which Dr. R. W. Sillars (representative of the Institute of Physics) was elected as the first Chairman with Dr. H. R. Lang (Secretary of the Institute of Physics) being appointed Secretary.

Further examination of the role of the JBCVST after several years' operation led to the conclusion that it should continue but with the formulation of a proper Constitution to regularise its existence. As part of this reform the title was changed on 10 April 1969 to The British Vacuum Council. Apart from minor changes this Constitution still remains and, on 18th November 1985, it was accepted by the UK Charity Commissioners, giving the BVC charitable status (Reg No: 292999).

The original members of the BVC were: The Institute of Physics and the Physical Society, The Institution of Electrical Engineers, The Royal Society of Chemistry, The Institute of Metals, The Institute of Petroleum and The Institute of Chemical Engineers. Owing to changes in the member Institutes and their own members' interests, only the Institute of Physics and the Faraday Division of the Royal Society of Chemistry now remain as members of the BVC. The Institute of Metals withdrew in 1993. Membership of the BVC is open to other UK societies and associations having an interest in the field of vacuum science and technology.

The aims and objects of the BVC are to promote and advance the understanding and teaching of vacuum science, technology and its applications by:

- co-ordinating and promoting conferences, seminars and courses and publications in these fields,
- encouraging excellence amongst postgraduate and other young research workers in these fields, and

- representing the UK on the International Union for Vacuum Science, Technique and Applications.

The Charity Commissioners have to receive in writing and to approve any changes in these aims and objects or constitution.

The BVC is a founder member of IUVSTA and has been actively involved with the IUVSTA since its formation. The BVC hosted the 4th IUVSTA IVC in Manchester in 1968 and the 14th IVC in Birmingham in 1998 and has also hosted 12 ECM's . Professor J. Yarwood helped draft the resolution establishing the IOVST which later became IUVSTA. He served as Councillor and was for many years Recording Secretary of the IUVSTA Executive Council. Mr. A. S. D. Barrett was Secretary General of the IOVST and IUVSTA Councillor. Professor L. Holland served as President of the Union during the period 1977-1980. Professor J. S. Colligon was Recording Secretary from 1986-1989 and Secretary General from 1989-1998. Professor D. P. Woodruff was Scientific Director from 1992-1995 and President from 1998-2001. Other Councillors have been Professors C. J. Todd, D. A. King, D. P. Woodruff, J. H. Leck, R. W. Joyner, Dr G. J. Davies and Dr R. J. Reid. The BVC currently is represented on nearly all Divisions of the IUVSTA.

In 1970 the Council introduced into its calendar a special lecture to be given annually by an outstanding worker in vacuum science or an allied subject. The first lecture was given by Professor L. Holland. In the early 1970's this annual lecture was presented at a special meeting held in London and hosted by one of the constituent bodies. More recently the format has been changed so that the lecture is now held in conjunction with a major national or international conference held in the UK.

In 1971 the Council, at the invitation of the Directors of Pergamon Press, took over editorial responsibility for the journal "Vacuum". The duties handed down included the appointment of the Editor and his editorial advisors. The council has been fortunate in its selection of editors. The first was Professor J. Yarwood from 1971 to 1980 who was followed on retirement by Professor J. S. Colligon (1981-9) and, subsequently, Dr R. K. Fitch. All were extremely energetic in carrying out the general policy established by the council and in developing the International standing of the Journal. In 1995 Elsevier, who had taken over the publication of "Vacuum" from Pergamon, terminated this agreement and its associated royalties. During the period where royalties were received the income had allowed the BVC to give financial support to postgraduate students in the UK to enable them to attend scientific meetings both at home and abroad.

To encourage the awareness of young scientists and engineers of the subject, the Council instituted in 1977 a prize to be presented each year to a young scientist or engineer working in a UK laboratory, adjudged to have presented the best scientific paper in that year. In 1981 the Council was pleased when Dr. C. R. Burch agreed to allow his name to be attached to the prize in recognition of his pioneering work in vacuum science particularly in developing Apeizon oils some 50 years earlier.

In 1988 the BVC established an annual John Yarwood Memorial Medal and Prize to be presented for distinguished contributions to British scientific research in the fields of vacuum science, surface science, thin films or any related topic in which vacuum science and engineering play an important role. Since 1998 the person nominated for this award has also given the Annual Address.

The BVC has sponsored short courses on vacuum and related topics over the years, including a very successful training course on Vacuum Technology, run by Drs Chambers, Fitch and Halliday, which was first held in Glasgow in March 1986 and has since been repeated at various venues many times.

THE HUNGARIAN NATIONAL COMMITTEE OF IUVSTA
Nemzetközi Vákuumtechnikai Unió - Magyar Nemzeti Bizottsága

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From the first years of this century there has been a strong interest in vacuum science and technology in Hungary, due mainly to the use of vacuum by Tungstam Ltd. Some of its early achievements include the Tungsten lamp in 1903 and the Krypton lamp in 1935. An independent vacuum society has not been established in Hungary but vacuists have found a home within the Mathematical and Physical Society. After World War II when scientific life was reorganized the structure remained similar. Vacuum and Thin Film Sections have been established in the Roland Eötvös Physical Society, in the Scientific Society for Telecommunication and in the Society for Optics, Acoustics and Cinema Techniques. Lectures and discussions were organized by these Sections. The cooperation of these sections is prompted by the Coordinating Committee for Vacuum and Thin Film Techniques of the Association of Scientific and Technical Societies in Budapest which is the umbrella organization of the societies. Hungarian vacuum scientists contribute regularly to international vacuum periodicals and conferences.

Several vacuum experts became individual members of IOVST and a delegation participated in the Namur Conference in 1958. After its reorganization into the IUVSTA as an international body of national committees in 1959, Hungary became a member and in 1962 the Hungarian National Committee of IUVSTA was established by the Technical Sciences Section of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences. Prof. G. Szigeti, first secretary and later chairman of the Hungarian National Committee, was for many years the most ardent promoter of organized vacuum activities in Hungary. He also took a lively part in the corroboration of the international profile of IUVSTA.

Prof. J. Antal, the Chairman of the Hungarian National Committee of IUVSTA became president-elect of IUVSTA in 1980 and acted as president of IUVSTA in the triennium 1983-1986.

The National Committee, having had at first about a dozen members, now has a strength of 35. It is composed of vacuum science and technology experts associated with industry, academic research and educational institutions. Chairmen of the Committee have been E.