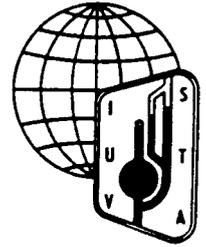


UNION INTERNATIONALE POUR LA SCIENCE, LA TECHNIQUE ET LES APPLICATIONS DU VIDE
INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR VACUUM SCIENCE, TECHNIQUE AND APPLICATIONS
INTERNATIONALE UNION FÜR VAKUUM-FORSCHUNG, -TECHNIK UND -ANWENDUNG



IUVSTA and New Vacuum Societies

IUVSTA is a Union of Vacuum Societies and does not admit individuals to membership. However, one of the aims of IUVSTA is to assist scientists and technologists who work in the fields of interest to IUVSTA, and in whose countries there is no Vacuum Society, to form such a body with a view to becoming a member of the Union.

Our Statutes require us to recognise only one body or Vacuum Society (“National Committee” in the language of our Statutes) in any one country (or group of countries) and we have to be satisfied that it is sufficiently representative of all the scientists and technologists in that country who work in the fields of interest to IUVSTA.

Additionally, as an Associate Member of ICSU (the International Council of Scientific Unions), IUVSTA can only recognise Societies in countries which are recognised as independent nations by the United Nations Organisation.

Why join IUVSTA?

There are many reasons why it is useful for a Society to be a member.

Firstly, it is an excellent agency for networking. Each member Society is entitled to be represented at the twice yearly meetings of the Executive Council (ECM) by their nominated Councillor or Alternate Councillor. There they will meet with representatives of our 32 Member Societies, as well as people from the Society hosting the ECM. These will often be very distinguished people in their field. Attendance also leads to some understanding of the way that science works in different countries of the world, in different cultures, with different funding arrangements.

Secondly, it opens the door to some financial and other assistance for organising workshops, schools and training courses. The range of these (and the differences between them) is described on our website www.iuvsta.org.

Thirdly, through representation on the eight Divisions that make up the Scientific and Technical Directorate, member Societies can influence the scientific program of the Union, especially the content (and location) of our major conferences.

Finally, among other benefits, should a Society choose to host an ECM, it will be attended by world experts in their fields who could be used at minimal cost as invited speakers should there be an appropriate conference or meeting at the time.

What is the procedure for becoming a member?

In the first instance, assuming that there is a person or group of persons interested in joining, then they should discuss the matter with the Chair of the IUVSTA Emerging Societies Committee, the Secretary General or any of the Officers of the Union.

Once it is decided that there is sufficient interest in proceeding, the first step is to bring a National Vacuum Society into existence, remembering that the word “vacuum” embraces a wide variety of science and technology that makes use of vacuum or vacuum related techniques in some way.

Ideally, there will be sufficient interest that a “critical mass” of scientists, engineers and technicians can come together to form a viable Society, drawing up a set of Statutes (sometimes called a Constitution), admitting suitably qualified members, electing Officers and putting the Society on a sound financial basis. IUVSTA can provide advice and guidance on all these steps.

Should there be insufficient qualified people to form a viable Society, then there are two other possibilities. If there is a neighbouring country, or group of countries, in a similar position, then they can come together to form a joint Society. If this is impossible, then it might be possible to form a specialist Division within a larger Society, such as a national Physical Society. In this case IUVSTA will have to be sure that the Division is sufficiently autonomous to function as a proto-Society. For example its members must elect an independent President or Chairman who would have the power to liaise with IUVSTA over nomination of Councillors, etc.

Once all this is in place, the Society can apply for Provisional Membership of IUVSTA, which can be granted by the Executive Council. The Society will have to supply the following documents –

- A certified copy of the original Statutes of the Society.
- A certified translation of the Statutes into English.
- A letter from a senior independent person, e.g. a Government Minister or senior official, or the President or other senior Officer of the equivalent of a National Academy of Science. This letter should certify that the Society operates as an independent body and represents all of the areas of science and technology of interest to IUVSTA in the nation, and that there is no other such body which could be so recognised.
- A statement indicating how many shares that the Society wishes to hold (this is approximately related to the size of the Society). The number of shares determines the annual subscription the Society pays and the number of votes it can exercise at General Meetings. The details of this will have been discussed before the application is made.

When Provisional Membership is granted, the Society can send representatives to the meetings of the Executive Council, but without the right to vote and no subscription needs to be paid.

At the next Triennial Ordinary General Meeting of IUVSTA, the current members will decide, by secret vote, if the new Society is to be granted Full Membership. If accepted the Society then has full voting rights and needs to pay its subscription.

Ron Reid

Secretary General

November 2010