

VIPA International - Vacuum Insulation Panel Association
Technical Working Group Conference Call
Monday 20 October, 11:00 to 12:00 CET

Participants:

Roland Caps, va-Q-Tec
Matthias Geisler, Evonik Industries
Liat Suari, Hanita Coatings
Pascal Rousset, Rexor
Raquel Ponte Costa, VIPA Secretariat
Francesco Gattiglio, VIPA Secretariat

Apologies:

Justin Davies, Kingspan
Yoash Carmi, Hanita Coatings

Minutes

1. Opening of meeting

Governance statement

Raquel Ponte Costa welcomed the participants to the conference call and reminded them of the governance rules that apply to the meeting.

Approval of the agenda

The agenda was adopted without changes.

2. Follow-up of the CEN TC88/WG11 meetings in October in Berlin

Roland Caps reported on the outcomes of the recent standardisation meetings of the CEN TC 88/WG11. The impact of humidity on the thermal conductivity of the panels was among the topics of discussion. Two Taskforces have been created to study the impact of humidity and gas pressure on the thermal conductivity of the panels and how to measure gas pressure with the lift off method. Roland mentioned there are two experiments being done at the moment to test the thermal conductivity of the panels: one with temperatures of 50 °C and 70% of humidity; and another one with high temperature (80°C) and a dry atmosphere. The objective is to understand the behavior of the panels under these circumstances and the impact on their performance. Roland clarified that for instance in Asia the humidity is normally much higher than in Europe so we need to understand the performance of the panels under these conditions, because the standards will be used internationally.

Another parameter also being tested is the performance and ageing process depending on the different envelope material. Hanita and va-Q-Tec already did some tests and got similar results, but additional experiments are required to verify the increase of thermal conductivity over time, especially beyond 20 years of usage. Roland Caps mentioned that institutes like FIW and EMPA could perform these experiments for the association.

Raquel Ponte Costa asked participants in the call if all companies take part in these standardisation groups. Only Hanita, Kingspan and va-Q-Tec are members of the Standardisation Groups. The remaining companies are not member of these groups and would like to receive information.

Action:

Roland Caps send to the secretariat the draft text of the standard and any reports of the meeting. The VIPA secretariat will circulate them among the members.

3. Discussion on budget of the association to be used in studies and reports (EUR 18,000 in 2014)

Raquel Ponte Costa informed members that in the VIPA International's 2014 budget, a total of 18,000 EUR was allocated to external studies and reports. The Board of VIPA asked the Technical WG to prepare a set of recommendations for studies and reports which could be funded by VIPA in 2014. Raquel clarified that 2014 is soon coming to an end so if this budget is not used in 2014, it will add up to the 2015 budget. The 2015 budget will be discussed in the next Board meeting on 4 December in Brussels. It is likely that a higher amount will be made available for studies and reports, but this will only be known after the December's meeting.

Before asking members for their input to this discussion, Raquel Ponte Costa reported that Owens Corning suggested investing the budget of 18,000 EUR on a market study outlining the current status of VIPs worldwide.

Participants discussed the possibility of funding market studies as compared to technical studies and concluded that market studies could be useful, but they are less urgent than the technical ones. The technical studies could support and speed-up the standardization work of CEN.

Raquel Ponte Costa asked participants in the conference call if there are many market studies available already that the association could use. Participants reported that existing market studies are generally of very low quality, and it would be difficult to extract valuable data or analysis from them. One participant said that a Chinese company published one market report but the information was not too reliable.

Action:

All participants to send to the Secretariat any studies or market reports related to VIPs.

Participants discussed these four possibilities for the 18,000 EUR budget available for 2014:

- ageing process - accurate measurement of the continuous increase of thermal conductivity of the VIPs (within some days) to get information on the extrapolated value beyond 20 years
- finding the best (most relevant) acceleration conditions (with special emphasis for refrigerators) in thermal conductivity tests
- Measurement of VIPs internal pressure using liftoff technique
- Characterization of getter used in VIP

Participants mentioned that the 18,000 EUR budget should be enough to cover the expenses for the study, or at least to finance preliminary tests. These tests should not take longer than one year period.

Raquel Ponte Costa suggested circulating these four options to the other members of the Technical WG so they can consider these and/or send other suggestions. In case we receive other suggestions, Raquel Ponte Costa proposed to organize another conference call to go through all suggestions and make a selection of these, based on priority and urgency. Members agreed with this approach.

Action:

Secretariat to circulate the four options to the members not present at the meeting and collect their opinions. Another conference call could be scheduled by the end of November to discuss eventual additional proposals of other members.

4. Discussion on thermal conductivity and ageing process

This topic was discussed under item 2.

5. AoB

As explained by Raquel Ponte Costa, we will wait for the feedback of the other VIPA members to see if another conference call needs to be set-up before the 4 December Board meeting.

Roland Caps mentioned the next CEN meeting will take place on 18 December. Participants agreed it would be useful to have a conference call after this meeting so they can be informed about the discussions.

No other items were discussed.

The meeting ended at 12.00.
