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Vacuum Insulation Panel Association
Executive Committee Conference Call
Tuesday, 31 March 2020, 14:00 to 15:00 CET

Participants:
Gregor Erbenich, Porextherm, President
John Balaz, Panasonic, Vice-President
Gary Chalkley, Camvac, Treasurer
Raquel Ponte Costa, VIPA International Office

MINUTES

1. Welcome

1.1 Governance rules

Raquel Ponte Costa welcomed participants to the call and reminded them of the competition law principles that need to be respected during the call.

1.2 Approval of the agenda

The agenda was approved with no changes.

1.3 Approval of the minutes last call 8 January and review of actions

Members approved the minutes of the previous call in January. The actions were completed. On the list of prospect associate members, one member asked if other members have sent any new contacts to be approached. Raquel reported she has not received that many new contacts and will send a reminder out shortly. The same member commented that getting associate members means getting customers to the group so some members might be reluctant to do this. Raquel clarified that the Kellen proposal for 2020 did not include any time for searching for new contacts and companies. What is included is to send twice a year one promotional mailing just to stay in touch with prospect members.

2. Next steps co-operation with GSH

Members discussed this issue at length and agreed on 5 options. Raquel will discuss these options with all members individually ahead of the next board conference call. Members felt that we won't find a solution that pleases everyone. Nevertheless we need to make progress on this and move on with other activities.

Action:
Raquel to circulate 5 options to the Board and to have individual calls with all members about it.

Members also discussed the long-term position of the association on quality. The agreement with the GSH was a way of showing VIPA Intl's commitment to quality but if the agreement is now questioned, then the group needs to define a new position. Raquel reported FIW offered to prepare a proposal on how to set-up the EU keymark to VIPs. This European certification system for products is well known in some industries. The first requirement is to have a standard in place so FIW can only work on this once a standard is published. Members agreed this is a good idea even though they were not so familiar with the keymark framework. A European system would already be wider than the RAL which is mostly known in Germany.

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Action:
Office to contact FIW and ask them a quote to develop a project on how the EU Keymark could be used for VIPs.

3. Preparations for next Board meeting:

3.1 Finances

Raquel went through the 2020 budget. The invoices were just issued so we still need to wait until we get some income. One company mentioned that due to the corona situation the invoice will be paid later than usual. Raquel was not informed of other issues with other member companies. In terms of expenditure, the GSH invoice will be reduced since they agreed to charge half of the fees to the companies that cancelled their membership this year. The invoice of the GSH will be of 10,750€ which gives VIPA Intl additional 7,000€ to spend this year.

Members had no questions about finances.

3.2 R&D Activities

Raquel reported FIW offered to put together a project proposal using the calculation methodology developed by the EU-funded project Innovip. The objective would be to add more parameters and locations depending on what the Board wants. One possibility would be to turn this into an app or tool that customers could easily use to calculate the value of VIPs. Members agreed this is a good idea and asked Raquel to coordinate this with the Technical WG.

About the idea to invite Strips, members encouraged organising a joint session with the Board, the Technical WG and Strips to discuss with them co-operation possibilities. The exchange will have to be done virtually via webinar given the current travel restrictions.

Actions:
- The Technical WG to discuss FIW's idea of a calculation tool or app to measure the value of VIPs.
- Office to contact Strips and to set-up a virtual meeting with them together with the Board and Technical WG.

3.3 Membership

Raquel reported she had a very positive call with the French company Chereau a manufacturer of refrigerated bodies for heavy duty vehicles. They are interested in the networking possibilities and on getting additional info on VIPs to improve their business. They will take a decision soon. They would join as Associate member (5,000€ fee).

Raquel said she had no news on Siltherm and will contact them again to know when the office in Europe will be operational.

4. AoB

Under any other business, Raquel asked members about the meetings planned in the UK in September. A meeting room was booked on Thursday 17 September but members asked to organise the Board meeting the day before 16 September and to leave enough time for discussion with the Brunel University about IVIS on 17 September. Members also asked for the office to organise a social event and dinner.

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Action:
Office to book another meeting room on 16 September at the Brunel University and to plan a social event and dinner on 17 September.

About the Board conference call replacing the meeting in Utrecht it was decided to organise it on Thursday 14 May starting at 14:30 CET.

No other item was discussed.

The conference call finished at 15:30 CET.

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