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Vacuum Insulation Panel Association
Executive Committee Conference Call
Tuesday, 23 January 2019, 13:00 to 14:00 CET

Participants:
Gregor Erbenich, Porextherm, President
Sebastian Baars, Vaku Isotherm, Vice-President
Geert Houvenaghel, Microterm, 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. Raquel informed that Panasonic confirmed they will join VIPA international and will also attend the meeting in Leeds, UK, which is very good news!

1.3 Approval of the minutes last call 17 December 2018 and review of actions

The minutes were approved. Raquel reported all the actions were completed. The office sent formal letters to AIMT, Creek and Hongda about the unpaid 2018 fees. Hongda did not reply. Creek said they had internal issues the past months but would be paying the invoice shortly. AIMT complained that they didn't receive that much value out of membership. Members discussed this feedback and were of the opinion that this was more an excuse. However all agreed that member companies need to be contacted from time to time to ensure they are kept involved and engaged. Members agreed to emphasise this during the board meeting and to ask everyone for their expectations about being a member of the association. Raquel concluded by saying that she hopes Creek will pay the 2018 fees. She does not expect that AIMT will paid the invoice.

2. Finances

2.1 2018 annual accounts

Raquel went through the finances. In terms of income, 3 full members have not yet paid the 2018 fees. We are also still expecting payment from 2 academia members – ISE and Brunel University – but they guaranteed that payment is underway. In terms of expenses, we received an invoice late December which we were not expecting: 6,098€ for the review of the GSH quality rules. All agreed that these situations are to be avoided. The Technical WG should have informed of this expense beforehand. Raquel already asked Yoash for 2019 expenses and he said that there is nothing planned for this year.
The current figures point to a loss of 10,450€ but that excludes the 10,000€ fees that Creek said it would pay. It also excludes the last instalment of the Creek study (5.000€ minus penalties for late delivery). Raquel explained that she has asked Creek about the study's final report many times but she has not received any response. Miaotian Sun which was our main contact person is no longer working for Creek. If Creek pays the 2018 fees and we pay them the final instalment of the study, the loss would be down to 5,450€.

2.2 2019 budget

Members had no comments to the numbers presented which are in line with what was discussed at the last Executive Committee call.

3. Preparations for next Board meeting:

3.1 Kingspan

Raquel explained that Kingspan representatives declared on many occasions that they feel their opinion is not taken into account by the other members. They say that companies which are not in the VIP business such as Rockwool should not be members of the association. Kingspan prefers increasing the fees than having income coming from companies that are not part of the industry. Raquel mentioned that they haven't participated at any board meeting or conference call the past year. Justin Davies takes part in the Technical WG calls but not all the time. Members mentioned that they are looking forward to hear what Kingspan has to propose during the meeting in Leeds about the membership structure of the association. Rockwool complies with their obligations of member and pays the fees. We never received any complaints or comments about their affiliation. Raquel mentioned that Kingspan is an important member and manufacturer so it would be good to keep them as a member. Their comments might be questionable but their membership is much more valuable than the membership of Rockwool.

3.2 Standardisation: latest ISO enquiry

Raquel mentioned that the latest enquiry is open until 22 February. She reminded participants of the letter we sent in October to Prof Phalguni stating our support to the ISO standard. In addition, Panasonic is now a member of the association. Members discussed that indeed this will require discussion during the board meeting in Leeds. It might be that this time the association will simply not issue any voting recommendations to the membership.

3.3 Communications

Raquel explained that Gabriella worked on a communications strategy for 2019. She will present the strategy during the board meeting in Leeds. The main purpose is to increase visibility of the association and to get more companies to join VIPA. Members had no comments on the draft strategy shared with the meeting documents.

3.4 Statistics

Raquel explained that this item will be in the agenda of the board meeting in Leeds. Members had not concrete suggestions on next steps but were of the opinion that gathering information about Europe only would be of limited value.

3.5 Technical studies

Raquel mentioned that the revised proposal of Avery Dennison Hanita will be up for discussion in Leeds. The Technical WG recommends approving this study. Members discussed they would prefer to finances studies about applications or other type of studies that would bring more tangible results.
Raquel reminded members of the topics suggested by the Technical WG:

- studies necessary for the next standard: eg sandwich panels
- short term version of the ageing test method – 6 months
- ageing test for high temperature applications (80°C) like boilers, water tanks, district heating applications

3.6 IVIS in Japan and VIPA meetings

Raquel explained that communication with the IVIS organisers in Japan has been really bad. Raquel suggested to the organisers that VIPA members would benefit from a discount in the registration rate but they have not responded on this. Members mentioned that they also haven't received that much communication about IVIS.

Members agreed with the schedule of meetings suggested by Raquel:

Wednesday, 18 September:

- 09:00 to 15:00: Board meeting
- 16:00 to 18:00: General Assembly
- 20:00: welcome reception of IVIS (to be confirmed) or dinner with members

Thursday-Friday, 19-20 Sept: IVIS

About meeting rooms, the IVIS organisers don't have any meeting rooms available for free for VIPA. The office will look for a hotel near the Kyoto Research Center where IVIS is taking place.

4. AoB

Geert Houvenaghel explained he is leaving Microtherm and therefore the board of VIPA as well. A successor will be named soon. Members thanked him for his engagement towards the association and wished him good luck on this future endeavors.

No other item was discussed.

The conference call finished at 14:00.

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