

Vacuum Insulation Panel Association Board Virtual Meeting
Monday, 14 September 2020, 15:00 to 17:30 CET
Video Conference Call

Participants:

Gregor Erbenich, Porextherm, VIPA International President
John Balazs, Panasonic, VIPA International Vice-President
Gary Chalkley, Camvac, VIPA International Treasurer
Sebastian Baars, Vaku Isotherm
Sebastian Gralla, va-Q-tec
Flávia Almeida, va-Q-tec
Thomas Heckard, C-Safe
Michel Chauvois, Rexor
Tadej Sekavčnik, Turvac
Vladimir Pogač, Turvac
Aviv Sotto, Avery Dennison Hanita
Tony Scott, Kingspan
Raquel Ponte Costa, VIPA International Executive Director
Huw Longton, VIPA International Communications Manager
Stefan Gielis, VIPA International Certification Manager

Apologies:

Stuart Elliot, Kevothermal
Mark Connell, Kevothermal
Marko Meglic, Knauf Insulation
Uroš Cotelj, Knauf Insulation
Avi Amar, Avery Dennison Hanita
Yoash Carmi, Avery Dennison Hanita
Tom Martens, Microtherm

MINUTES

Summary of Actions & Decisions:

Actions:

- Partnership with European branch of the AIA to be further discussed once there is more clarity about face-to-face events.
- Technical WG to work on the idea of developing an app or tool that calculates the energy savings brought by VIPs taking into account different variables (energy cost, floor cost, CO2 emissions, etc).
- Maria Dinis to extend the google ad campaign for another month using different keywords
- Office to discuss with the Digital Communications WG next steps to the offers from the marketing agencies sent by Gregor Erbenich and Tom Heckard.
- Office to discuss with RAL how to expand reach of the current VIP label, including the use of other laboratories outside Europe to be used for certification.
- Office to investigate further the requirements of a keymark label.

- Technical WG to look at parameters that need to be included in a future label.
- Office to launch call for volunteers to join IVIS Task Force which will look at speakers, topics and other practical details of the VIPA Intl session during IVIS next year.

Decisions:

- Participants approved the sponsorship agreement with the Brunel University about IVIS (10,000€). It was agreed that if the event only takes places virtually, VIPA Intl will only pay 50% of the sponsorship amount. All participants agreed with this decision and no one opposed.
- Members agreed not to finance Christoph Sprengard fees and expenses so he can act as convener of the CEN TC 88 WG11. All members agreed, no one opposed.

1. Welcome

1.1 VIPA International antitrust compliance statement

Raquel Ponte Costa welcomed participants to the call and reminded them of the competition law principles that need to be respected during the call. Raquel give a special welcome to Aviv Sotto who will replace Yoash Carmi in the Board.

1.2 Approval of the agenda

Raquel asked to add to the agenda the chairmanship of the CEN TC88 WG11. Members approved the agenda with this addition.

1.3 Approval of the minutes of the virtual meeting 14 May 2020 and review of actions

The minutes were approved with no additions. Raquel reported to members about actions (see presentation slides) and explained some of them are pending because they have been scheduled to take place later in the year. The office received information about the marketing agencies and this will be discussed by the Digital Communications WG. About the EU-funded project Innovip, Raquel explained the final report is not yet available. Once it is published, FIW will be able to submit a proposal to the Board about the tool to calculate energy savings from VIPs.

2. Activities

2.1 VIP quality certification project

As follow-up to the 14 May Board meeting, Stefan Gielis reported on the work regarding the potential development of a VIPA quality certification scheme. Such a scheme should ideally cover all VIP applications and be applicable on an international scale. Several options of developing an international quality certification

scheme were proposed: (1) VIPA creates own certification mark, (2) extend RAL globally see slide, and (3) European keymark, with international additions.

Stefan explained some background on the EU Certification Mark, which is recognized by the EU trade mark Regulation as a mark that is 'capable of distinguishing goods or services which are certified by the proprietor of the mark in respect of material, mode of manufacture of goods or performance of services, quality, accuracy or other characteristics, with the exception of geographical origin, from goods and services which are not so certified.' (Article 83(1) EUTMR). Developing a VIPA quality certification scheme as an EU Certification Mark would leave the possibility to include all applications. However, this would entail quite some work, since all Regulations of Use would need to be developed. Moreover, this would need to go hand in hand with extensive external communication and marketing.

The second option proposed was to extend RAL globally. In theory, RAL is a European organization and opening discussions with GSH and RAL could result in a truly European perception. Moreover, discussions with GSH and RAL could also result in even a global scope, by (potentially) allowing testing and thus certification globally.

The last option would be to develop a scheme through the European Keymark, which is a voluntary European certification mark demonstrating conformity with European Standards. It is owned by the European standardization organizations CEN and CENELEC and is issued by empowered Certification Bodies. As a consequence, this is very much linked to European Standards. However, it would still need to be further researched in how far testing could be allowed globally (in case laboratory would apply for 'keymark laboratory group') and whether it could be complemented with ISO standards for a global certification.

Based on the presentation on the abovementioned options, a discussion with the Board took place and resulted in further investigation of the possibility to extend RAL, as well as the option of the European keymark.

Actions:

- Office to discuss with RAL how to expand reach of the current VIP label, including the use of other laboratories outside Europe to be used for certification.
- Office to investigate further the requirements of a keymark label.
- Technical WG to look at parameters that need to be included in a future label.

2.2 IVIS 2021

Raquel reported she discussed with the Brunel University the sponsorship to IVIS 2021. Prof Harjit was very collaborative and accepted to take down references to aerogels from the website of the event. It was also agreed that no session on aerogels would be organised. Raquel brought to the attention of the members all the conditions included in the draft agreement sent with the Annexes. She asked members what to do in case the event takes place only virtually? The covid-19 situation is still very uncertain so she asked if we shouldn't ask to pay only 50% of the sponsorship fee if the event only takes place virtually since visibility and networking will be very much reduced. Participants agreed with Raquel's suggestion to only pay 50% of the amount in case the event only takes place virtually.

Decision:

Participants approved the sponsorship agreement with the Brunel University about IVIS (10,000€). It was agreed that if the event only takes places virtually, VIPA Intl will only pay 50% of the sponsorship amount. All participants agreed with this decision and no one opposed.

About the 1h30 session that VIPA Intl has to organise, Raquel asked members about format, topics and speakers. It was agreed to give a positive tone to the session, showcase good examples of where the product is being used and to address all 3 applications. Some concrete suggestions were made like:

- Invite the appliances association (APPLiA) to speak about new energy labelling requirements for appliances
- Transportation needs of the pharmaceutical sector during the pandemic – look at speakers of cool chain conference

Raquel explained she will launch a call for volunteers to join the IVIS Task Force so we can look at speakers and topics for the VIPA Intl session during IVIS. One member asked how the selection is going to be done. Raquel suggested asking all members who wants to have a speaking slot and then make a selection based on objective criteria (to be defined by the Task Force).

Action:

Office to launch call for volunteers to join IVIS Task Force which will look at speakers, topics and other practical details of the VIPA Intl session during IVIS next year.

2.3 Communications

Huw Longton provided a brief update on activities (see slides enclosed). The video of VIPs used in building applications will be published next month – the video agency just circulated the final draft. Overall the number of visits to the website is lower but users stay on the website for longer which is positive news. About LinkedIn

the number of new followers is growing gradually but the engagement has increased this year compared to last year. Members had no questions about the communication activities.

2.4 Standardisation and technical matters

Raquel reported the Avery Dennison Hanita study about the effect of moisture content on the thermal conductivity of different fumed silica powers was extended until end November this year. Avery Dennison Hanita explained they received more samples than expected for testing. Testing was delayed by covid-19 which explains the delay in finalising the project. The Executive Committee discussed this extension and decided to accept it without applying any penalty because of these two reasons.

About the sensor project with the Slovenian company Strips, Raquel reported that they went silent since May and never came back to any of the emails or voicemails Raquel sent them. Raquel said she was surprised as they were rather enthusiastic on the phone when they first spoke in April. On the other hand, the project seemed quite uncertain and certainly very costly.

With regards to standardisation, EN will be published on 21 October but it is still not sure if the Commission will publish the standard in the Official Journal of the EU. It is not clear what the impact of non-publication is. On the ISO side, there are no news. A new ballot was supposed to come out in September but so far nothing has happened.

With regards to the CENTC88 WG11 Raquel reported that the current convener Mr Ulrich Passon is stepping down. The group discussed succession and felt that Christoph Sprengard would be the ideal candidate but FIW is not willing to finance this. One of the members of the group suggested VIPA Intl to finance Christoph Sprengard fees and expenses so he can act as convener of the group. Christoph Sprengard informed this would represent roughly 4300€ plus expenses from here until the end of 2021. Members discussed this and did not feel comfortable with VIPA Intl financing this since not all members are part of the CEN WG 11. Members also mentioned this would open a precedent in the usual operations of the CEN WGs. Members agreed that the group should look for financing alternatives internally.

Decision:

Members agreed not to finance Christoph Sprengard fees and expenses so he can act as convener of the CEN TC 88 WG11. All members agreed, no one opposed.

3. Elections to Board and President position

Raquel reported that different companies showed interest in the position of President but in the end only Sebastian Baars decided to present himself for election. He gave a few words to the group. Everyone supported Sebastian's application to take over from Gregor as President of the Board. The elections will take place on

Thursday during the General Assembly. In addition, some board mandates are coming to an end and will also be renewed during the meeting. Raquel invited members to join the webinar.

4. Membership & Finances

4.1 Resignation of Knauf Insulation

Raquel informed members of the resignation of Knauf Insulation which takes effect from 1 January 2021. They haven't paid the 2020 membership fees yet but promised to do so before the end of the year.

Decision:

Participants in the meeting acknowledged the resignation of Knauf Insulation.

With regards to membership Raquel informed she called several times the office of Siltherm in Ireland but never got a response. She also emailed Roy Wang but he never responded about membership. About the prospect associate member Chereau, they will take a decision the next weeks.

4.2 Status 2020 finances and year-end estimations

Raquel went through the financial situation of the Association. Two regular members have not yet paid the 2020 fees (Knauf and Kingspan) as well as three Academia members. The office has sent various reminders and will continue doing so. On the side of the expenses, the fees to the GSH will be much lower than anticipated due to the resignation of 5 members. Also the fact that no face-to-face meetings are taking place will result in some savings. Raquel estimates to finish the year with a positive surplus of 15,000€.

Members had no questions about the finances.

5. Any other business and date of next virtual meeting

Participants discussed that next meetings will continue taking place virtually. The office will send a doodle for a conference call towards the end of the year. Raquel invited members to attend the General Assembly on Thursday.

No other business was discussed. The meeting ended at 17:30 CET.
