

## Birth certificate of EPERC

# EPERC - European Pressure Equipment Research Council

The European Pressure Equipment Research Council (EPERC) is a European Network of industries, research laboratories, inspection bodies and governmental institutions set up to foster cooperative research for the greater benefit of the European pressure equipment industry.

EPERC's main objectives are to:

- Establish a European Network in support of the non-nuclear pressure equipment industry, and SMEs in particular;
- Establish the short and long-term research priorities of the European pressure equipment industry;
- Coordinate cooperative research in the domain of pressure equipment, and identify funding sources for this research;
- Foster technology transfer of research results to the European industry and standardization bodies.

EPERC is organized on the basis of national networks. The European network is coordinated and animated through the Structural Integrity Unit of the Institute for Advanced Materials (JRC-Petten). The network draws together European expertise in the pressure equipment field and provides a unified representation and improved image of the European pressure equipment industry.

In its first year of operation EPERC has undertaken extensive surveys of the pressure equipment industry in order to establish a list of priority R&D needs. These priority

needs have in turn been instrumental in the setting up of EPERC's four Technical Task Forces (TTFs) on the following subjects:

- Fatigue design;
- High strength steel for pressure equipment thickness reduction;
- Harmonization of inspection programming in Europe;
- Flanges and gaskets.

EPERC would welcome any individuals or companies with an interest in formulating the program of technical actions within these TTFs, or indeed in participating in the R&D activities. The EPERC General Assembly, to be hosted by the Institute for Advanced Materials (JRC-Petten), The Netherlands, on 9 December 1997, will also provide an excellent forum for those wishing to know more about the work of EPERC.

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