

European Conference on Thermophysical Properties: The First 50 Years (1968 to 2018)

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Abstract This paper presents the story of the initial 50 years of the European Conference on Thermophysical Properties, a successful series of events that started in 1968 and is still going strong. The aim is twofold: to make the story known and to pay gratitude to all those who helped in this endeavor. It also serves as a nice memory of good times for many of us and intends to be a tribute to many colleagues no longer with us.

Keywords European Conference on Thermophysical Properties · History

1 The First 10 ECTPs (1968 to 1986)

Thermophysical properties gained increased importance in the scientific community in the 1950s because rocket science and space exploration required accurate data. The 1st Symposium on Thermophysical Properties (STP) [1] took place in 1959 at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana, USA. The location was the home of the Thermophysical Properties Research Center (TPRC) founded by Professor Yeram S. Touloukian just a few years before. The symposium was concerned with the theoretical, experimental and applied aspects of the thermophysical properties of gases, liquids and solids. The event covered thermodynamic and transport properties, optical and thermal radiative properties, interfacial properties and data correlation. Five years after,

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in 1964, the National Physical Laboratory (UK) organized an international conference on thermal properties in Europe.

In the late 1960s a group of European scientists involved in the Advisory Group for Aerospace Research and Development (AGARD) project for the measurement of high temperature properties of solids needed a suitable forum and decided to organize a conference to present their work. The 1st European Conference on Thermophysical Properties (ECTP) was held on November 11 to 13, 1968, in Baden-Baden (Germany), see Table 1, sponsored by the Deutsche Keramische Gesellschaft. In total, 137 scientists from 10 countries took part, the majority being from Germany. The organizers were F. Bollenrath (Germany), E. Fitzer (Germany), H.J. Goldsmith (UK), R. Lallement (France), H.J. Oel (Germany), G. Ruffino (Italy) and H.E. Schmidt (Euratom, Germany). This group may be considered the first International Organizing Committee (IOC) of the event. The Proceedings were published in a hard cover volume (titled in German) with articles written in German and English. The initial ECTP was mainly concerned with the properties of solids at high temperature in relation to the scientific interests of the founders. Later editions extended the temperature range, but it took

Table 1 ECTPs (1968 to 2020)

ECTP	Year	Date	City	Country	Chairman	Participants
1	1968	Nov. 11 to 13	Baden-Baden	Germany	E. Fitzer	137
2	1970	Apr. 7 to 10	Salford	UK	A. Stuckes	102
3	1972	Jun. 20 to 23	Turin	Italy	G. Ruffino	91
4	1974	Sep. 4 to 6	Orleans	France	F. Cabannes	128
5	1976	May 18 to 21	Moscow	USSR	A.E. Sheindlin	
6	1978	Jul. 26 to 30	Dubrovnik	Yugoslavia	K. Maglić	149
7	1980	Jun. 30 to Jul. 4	Antwerpen	Belgium	R. De Coninck	
8	1982	Sep. 27 to Oct. 1	Baden-Baden	Germany	H.E. Schmidt	196
9	1984	Sep. 17 to 21	Manchester	UK	R. Taylor	180
10	1986	Sep. 22 to 26	Rome	Italy	G. Ruffino	120
11	1988	Jun. 13 to 16	Umea	Sweden	G. Backstrom	
12	1990	Sep. 24 to 28	Vienna	Austria	W. Neumann	
13	1993	Aug. 30 to Sep. 3	Lisbon	Portugal	C.A. Nieto de Castro	175
14	1996	Sep. 16 to 19	Lyon	France	J.F. Sacadura	307
15	1999	Sep. 5 to 9	Wurzburg	Germany	J. Fricke	370
16	2002	Sep. 1 to 4	London	UK	W.A. Wakeham	340
17	2005	Sep. 5 to 8	Bratislava	Slovakia	L. Kubicar	210
18	2008	Aug. 31 to Sep. 4	Pau	France	J. L. Daridon	394
19	2011	Aug. 28 to Sep. 1	Thessaloniki	Greece	M.J. Assael	315
20	2014	Aug. 31 to Sep. 4	Porto	Portugal	L.Santos, J. Coutinho	391
21	2017	Sep. 3 to 8	Graz	Austria	G. Pottlacher	390
22	2020	Sep. 14 to 17	Venice	Italy	A. Muscio	

about twenty more years for the conference to include other states of matter (fluids and gases).

The 2nd ECTP was held on April 7 to 10, 1970, at the University of Salford (UK) organized by the Institute of Physics and the Physical Society in collaboration with the British Ceramic Society and the Society of Chemical Industry. The organizing committee was made of H. Kronberger (UK, Chairman), A.D. Stuckes (UK, Scientific Secretary), F. Cabannes (France), E. Fitzer (Germany) and G. Ruffino (Italy). A.D. Stuckes did most of the organizational work. The Proceedings were published in two issues of the *Revue Internationale des Hautes Températures et Refractaires* (Vol 7, issues 3 to 4) and were bound together as a Proceedings Volume sent to participants.

The 3rd ECTP took place on June 20 to 23, 1972, in Torino (Italy) organized by G. Ruffino with F. Righini as Scientific Secretary. A Russian delegation, led by A.E. Sheindlin, participated in the ECTP for the first time. The association of the ECTP with the journal *High Temperatures-High Pressures* (HTHP) started with this edition because the peer reviewed papers were published in Volume 4, issues 4 to 5 to 6 of HTHP with some late papers appearing in Volume 5, issue 1. At that time E. Fitzer was the joint Editor for the high temperature part, with J. Lees being the joint Editor for the high pressure part of the journal. It should be noted that from that year ECTPs and HTHP have worked together for long times, with the owner of PION (A. Gelbtuch) being very supportive of the early ECTPs and attending most of the conferences. The reviewed papers appeared as normal journal contributions in various issues, and reprints were bound together as a Proceedings Volume sent to participants much after the event.

The 4th ECTP was held on September 4 to 6, 1974, in Orleans (France) organized by F. Cabannes with B. Piriou as Scientific Secretary. The Proceedings were published in the *Revue Internationale des Hautes Températures et Refractaires*, Volume 12 and were bound together as a Proceedings Volume sent to participants.

A permanent IOC of the conference was set up and included the following names: F. Cabannes (France), E. Fitzer (Germany), G. Ruffino (Italy), R. Taylor (UK), A.E. Sheindlin (USSR), K. Maglić (Yugoslavia) and A. Cezairliyan (representative of US Conferences). It was further decided that the Chairman of the Local Organization Committee would act as the Chairman of International Organization Committee during the period between two subsequent conferences and that all conference chairs will be members of the IOC. K.D. Maglić was chosen as the first Permanent Secretary of the IOC and held this position until 1990. The duty of the Secretary was to maintain contact among the IOC members, between the IOC and the Local Organizing Committee, and to act on the IOC behalf when decisions had been reached. The Secretary was asked to draw up a proposal for the IOC working rules sending a draft to the Members for comments before October 1, 1974.

The initial ECTPs were related and supported by the older US Thermal Conductivity conference series. A sort of informal partnership between these two events existed until 1988. The ECTP organized its event in agreement with the Thermal Conductivity one, with one conference being held in the even years and the other one in the odd years from 1973. This scheme was abandoned after the Umea ECTP, adopting a 3-year interval. The development of three different conferences with a continental base, the ECTP, the Symposium on Thermophysical Properties (ASME) and the Asian Thermophysical

Properties Conference (ATPC), suggested to organize one event per year, without any date conflict among them.

The 5th ECTP was organized by A.E. Sheindlin in Moscow on May 18 to 21, 1976. At an IOC Meeting held 1 year before in the UK and in the meeting held in occasion of the event, the role of the ECTP in relation to (a) UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), (b) CODATA (Task Group on Thermophysical Properties), (c) US Conferences on Thermophysical Properties and (d) working procedures for the ECTPs was examined. A. Cezairliyan, representative of the US conferences, reported on past and future conferences in the USA. He also informed about some contacts among the governing bodies of three US events: Thermal Conductivity, Thermal Expansion and ASME Thermophysical Properties Conferences, and about the discussions regarding the possibility of the formation of a single coordinating body for thermophysical property events in the US.

K.D. Maglić organized the 6th ECTP on July 26 to 30, 1978, in Dubrovnik, Yugoslavia. The conference included 11 scientific sessions, with 18 lectures and 58 scientific papers. One session was devoted to the review of the state of the art in temperature measurement presented by experts from leading national metrological institutions. The attendance consisted of 149 participants from 22 countries. As a result of discussions during the event, the IOC decided to start an international activity for the recommendation of standard procedures for the measurement of thermophysical properties. The activity was planned in two stages. The first one should involve the preparation of a concise yet complete reference work describing current thermophysical and thermo-optical property measurement techniques. In the second stage, the best and most reliable measuring techniques would be selected and described with sufficiently detailed information to provide potential users with instructions for building measuring equipment. It was also planned to suggest recommended measurement procedures, which should provide reasonable accuracy and data reproducibility for materials important for engineering applications. A Commission was nominated consisting of: K.D. Maglić (Chair and editor-in-chief), M.L. Minges and E.E. Shpil'rain as Members (co-editors). During its first meeting, the Commission co-opted A. Cezairliyan as its fourth member.

A. Cezairliyan informed about the formation of the Thermophysics Congress in the USA (which could represent the nucleus of a future coordinating body among different thermal property conferences in North America), about its intentions and objectives and the expected trend of future development. An interest for establishing relations with the European Conferences was also indicated. A. Cezairliyan, the first Chairman of the Thermophysics Congress and also an IOC member, would keep the committee updated about progress in the Congress activity. The IOC was interested in the advancement of relations with thermophysicists in North America and would welcome some scientific cooperation with US thermophysics events.

The IOC Chairman informed about negotiations with UNESCO. The sponsorship provided by the UN Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organization had resulted in a grant to the 6th ETPC, which enabled the participation of four scientists from developing countries: India, Mexico, Egypt and Portugal.

The 7th ECTP was held in Antwerpen, Belgium from June 30 to July 4, 1980, organized by R.D. De Coninck. In the IOC Meeting, following a presentation by A.

Cezairliyan, it was agreed to join the “Joint International Thermophysical Properties Conference—The Congress.” Each joining conference should maintain its total independence and be ruled by its own committee, publishing separate proceedings. The advantage might reside in some organizational efficiency, in the minimization of costs and possibly in some financial aid. A future body might be considered for coordinating the different series of events in thermal and thermophysical properties in Europe and North America.



8th ECTP—Opening session (IOC Members, left to right): K.A. Yakimovich, R. Taylor, G. Ruffino, K. Maglić, E. Fitzer, A. Cezairliyan, F. Cabannes, R. De Coninck, H.E. Schmidt

During the 8th ECTP organized by H.E. Schmidt in Baden-Baden, Germany, from September 27 to October 1, 1982, it was agreed that English, French, German and Russian were the official conference languages, but it was recommended that the working language be English. Besides, all efforts should be made in order to facilitate communication in technical and organizational matters by using the language that was most easily understood by all correspondents. Furthermore, the IOC approved the work of its Commission on Standardisation of Thermophysical Property Measurement Methods in the first phase, i.e., the preparation and completion of the Compendium on Thermophysical Property Measurement Methods, Volume 1 [2]. The IOC also approved the proposed schedule of activities and contents in preparation of Volume 2 of the Compendium [3], which should contain recommended practices for a selected number of measurement methods for thermophysical properties, as presented in the Commission report at the event.

The idea that the IOC should sponsor a “European Thermophysics Award” was generally accepted. The award, not necessarily with financial backing, should honor

Table 2 ECTP Awards

Lifetime Awards	ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Awards
1986 Eric Fitzer (Germany)	
1988 Francois Cabannes (France)	
1990 Raymond E. Taylor (USA)	
1993 Giuseppe Ruffino (Italy, posthumous)	
1996 Hans E. Schmidt (Germany)	
1999 Roy Taylor (UK)	1999 Steffen Rudtsch (Germany)
2002 Kosta D. Maglić (Serbia)	2002 Brian Monaghan (UK)
2005 Ronald P. Tye (UK)	2005 Maria José Vitoriano Lourenço (Portugal)
2008 Akira Nagashima (Japan)	2008 Juergen Brillo (Germany)
2011 William A. Wakeham (UK)	2011 Robert Hellmann (Germany)
2014 William A. Haynes (USA)	2014 Mara G. Freire (Portugal)
2017 Francesco Righini (Italy)	2017 Andriy Yakymovych (Ukraine)

individuals for outstanding contributions to progress in thermophysical research. H.E. Schmidt was asked to propose a statute for the award.

R. Taylor was the Organizer of the 9th ECTP that took place in Manchester, UK on September 17 to 21, 1984. The Conference was attended by 180 delegates from 25 different countries. There were 123 contributed papers and invited lectures. A general discussion ensued concerning the scope and breadth of the conference. The debate centered on the inclusion of papers on fluids and on extending the temperature range to cryogenic temperatures. It was agreed that papers on fluids would not be discouraged that thermophysical properties of condensed phases be considered and that correct emphasis be obtained by suitable wording of the conference title, e.g., preference for solid materials. It was agreed that papers on data obtained at cryogenic temperatures would be welcome.

A. Ceairliyan announced that the Japanese Thermophysics group had agreed to join the Congress and this meant that five conferences were included in the Congress. It was announced that plans, largely under the initiation of B.X. Wang and N. Seki, were progressing to hold an Asian Thermophysical Property Conference, the first event to be held in 2 to 3 year time.

H.E. Schmidt circulated a document detailing the purpose, form and criteria for the selection of candidates for the European Thermophysical Properties Award. K.D. Maglić announced that Volume 1 of the Compendium “Survey of Measurement Techniques” was available. It was hoped to have work on Volume 2 completed by the end of 1986.

The 10th ECTP was organized in Rome, Italy by G. Ruffino on September 22 to 26, 1986. Eric Fitzer (Germany) was the recipient of the first ECTP Lifetime Award, see Table 2. The IOC Meeting was attended by G. Backstrom, R. De Coninck, E. Fitzer, S. Klarsfeld (on behalf of F. Cabannes), K. Maglić, G. Ruffino, R. Taylor, with A. Gelbtuch (PION) as observer.

In the same year, the 1st Asian Thermophysical Properties Conference (ATPC) was held in Beijing, China [4,5]. The event was organized by B.X. Wang of Tsinghua University, P.R. China following discussions with N. Seki of Hokkaido University and A. Nagashima of Keio University.

2 From the 11th ECTP to the Present Day (1988 to 2018)

G. Backstrom organized the 11th ECTP on June 13 to 16, 1988, in Umea, Sweden. F. Cabannes (France) was the recipient of the Lifetime Award. Discussions were held during the IOC meeting on date conflicts with other conferences, as well as on the scope of future editions. Two major issues dominated the discussions:

- a. The first one was the emergence of the Asian Thermophysical Property Conference and a request from N. Seki that thermophysics events be rationalized on a worldwide basis between Europe, Asia and North America.
- b. The second one was an eloquent plea from W.A. Wakeham (UK) that a forum should be found within the ECTP to accommodate fluids. This was agreed and C.A. Nieto de Castro, active on fluids, was proposed as the host of a future event.

After this decision the ECTP format became very similar to the ASME Symposium and to the Asian Conference. To avoid future date conflicts, the IOC decided to hold the ECTP every 3 years after 1990. C.A. Nieto de Castro agreed to organize the 1993 conference in Lisbon, Portugal.

The 12th ECTP was organized by W. Neumann in Vienna, Austria on September 24 to 28, 1990. The Lifetime Award was given to R.E. Taylor (USA). Since A. Cezairliyan had effectively represented the North American Thermophysical Property Conferences in the IOC for many years, it was proposed that a representative of the Asian Conference on Thermophysical Properties be co-opted in the IOC. That was unanimously accepted and A. Nagashima was invited to join the committee. He accepted and held that position until 2017. In the IOC Meeting of September 25, 1990, W. Neumann was chosen as the new IOC Secretary and held that position from 1990 to 2002.

The 13th ECTP was held in Lisbon, Portugal from August 30 to September 3, 1993, organized by C.A. Nieto de Castro in the new campus of the Faculty of Sciences of the University of Lisbon. It was the first ECTP including both fluids and solids. There were 175 participants. The Lifetime Award was assigned posthumously to G. Ruffino (Italy).

In the IOC Meeting V. Fortov (USSR), K. Maglić (Yugoslavia), A. Nagashima (Japan), G. Neuer (Germany, observer), W. Neumann (Austria), C.A. Nieto de Castro, Chairman (Portugal), F. Righini (Italy), J.F. Sacadura (France) and R. Taylor (UK) were present. In order to increase the number of representatives from the fluid area, it was proposed to include W.A. Wakeham (UK) and H. Van den Berg (Netherlands) in the IOC. It was unanimously accepted, with invitations to be issued for the next committee meeting.

Lyon, France, was the location of the 14th ECTP, organized by J.F. Sacadura on September 16 to 19, 1996. H.E. Schmidt received the Lifetime Award. There were 307 participants from 35 countries. From the 250 presented contributions, after a selective review process, 155 full-length papers, 6 keynote papers and one workshop report were

published in High Temperatures-High Pressures and then collected in the 14th ECTP Proceedings. The contributions on solids and fluids were approximately balanced. This edition included a session on “inverse approach” or “parameter estimation” which was well received.

It was decided to establish a Thermophysical Properties Prize to a young scientist for his/her outstanding work in the field of thermophysics. The procedure should be discussed in detail and decided at the next meeting. The next year the IOC met in Pittsburgh, USA, on October 27, 1997. The ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Award was established, in cooperation with the firm Netzsch. A tragedy occurred during that event: A. Cezairliyan passed away suddenly (Oct 28, 1997).

On September 5 to 9, 1999, the 15th ECTP took place in Wuerzburg, Germany, organized by J. Fricke. The number of participants reached 370. The Lifetime Award was given to R. Taylor (UK), while the first ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Award was assigned to S. Rudtsch (Germany). In the IOC Meeting W.M. Haynes, NIST (USA) was proposed as a new IOC Member and as Liaison Officer to the Symposium on Thermophysical Properties.



15th ECTP: R. Taylor receiving the ECTP Lifetime Award (left: W.A. Wakeham, right: J.Fricke)

The 16th ECTP took place in London, UK, on September 1 to 4, 2002, organized by W.A. Wakeham, with the help of J. Redgrove, J.P.M. Trusler and V. Vesovic. The conference included 159 oral and 133 poster papers. All submitted contributions, oral and poster were included in a CD-ROM. The papers were published in one of three journals, Fluid Phase Equilibria, or High Temperatures-High Pressures or International Journal of Thermophysics, depending upon the author choice and a satisfactory review. The Lifetime Award was presented to K.D. Maglić (Serbia), while the ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Award was given to B. Monaghan (UK).



Fig. 1 ECTP logo adopted in 2004

During the IOC meeting, F. Righini was appointed as the new IOC Secretary. In March 2003, the first ECTP newsletter, *ECTP NEWS*, was circulated in an effort to improve communication among IOC members in the period between conferences. An open competition for the ECTP logo was announced. On March 2004, the ECTP logo shown in Fig. 1 was adopted. The logo was prepared by a professional designer, a painter who teaches an industrial design course at Constantine the Philosopher University in Nitra, Slovakia. He explained his proposal as follows:

- The colors symbolize thermal conditions (cold-blue, hot-red),
- The letter ‘C’ symbolizes fire, turbulence, and it is up because of this condition,
- It follows contemporary modern trends in design,
- It is simple concerning the shape, but with enough contrast to draw attention.

The 17th ECTP was organized by L. Kubicar, with the help of J.L. Daridon and L. Vozar, in Bratislava, Slovakia on September 5 to 8, 2005. The Lifetime Award was presented to R.P. Tye (UK). His award lecture was titled “From Armco Iron to Pyroceram 9606 and Back”. Maria José Vitoriano Lourenço (Portugal) received the ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Award. In total 210 participants were present from 25 countries. During the IOC meeting, some updated Lifetime Award procedures were discussed and the usefulness of the Award Committee was confirmed. It was further decided that

- *Lifetime Award* The Award should continue to recognize lifetime achievements by peers, with no direct financial reward to the person. All the costs for the presence of the award recipient should be covered by the conference organizers.
- *Young Scientist Award* Contacts should be made with Netzsch to implement the following changes for the future:
 - a. Citation to be modified to “ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Award”
 - b. The format of the award certificate should be jointly agreed
 - c. The certificate should be signed by the current IOC Chairman and by a Netzsch representative.

The 18th ECTP took place at the University of Pau (France) from August 31 to September 4, 2008. The organizers were the University of Pau, with the help of people from the University of Bordeaux (France), Constantine the Philosopher University of Nitra (Slovakia) and the Institute of Physics, Slovak Academy of Sciences (Bratislava, Slovakia). The chairman of the organizing committee was J.L. Daridon. In total, 400 people from 40 countries attended the conference. 526 abstracts were submitted that were reduced after review to 494 presentations (207 oral, 287 posters). A. Nagashima (Japan) was the recipient of the ECTP Lifetime Award, and J. Brillo (Germany) received the ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Award.

Old City Publishing, based in Philadelphia, PA, USA, acquired from Pion (London, UK) the journal High Temperatures-High Pressures. The new co-editors were I. Egry

(Institut fuer Materialphysik im Weltraum, DLR, Koeln, Germany) and J.F. Sacadura (INSA Lyon, France). They were helped by a number of regional Editors and by an Advisory Editorial Board representing a broad spectrum of the thermophysics community.



18th ECTP: Poster session

M.J. Assael was the organizer of the 19th ECTP held in Thessaloniki, Greece, from August 28 to September 1, 2011. There were 315 participants from 31 countries, resulting in 211 oral and 161 poster presentations. The ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Award was received by R. Hellmann, (Germany), and the ECTP Lifetime Award was given to W.A. Wakeham (UK). By now the IOC consisted of the following 17 members: M.J. Assael (Greece), J.C. Batsale (France), J.L. Daridon (France), H.P. Ebert (Germany), V.E. Fortov (Russia), J. Fricke (Germany), W.A. Haynes (USA), W. Hohenauer (Austria), I. Medved (Slovakia), N. Milosevic (Serbia), A. Nagashima (Japan), C.A. Nieto de Castro (Portugal), G. Pottlacher (Austria), F. Righini, Secretary (Italy), J.F. Sacadura (France), L. Santos (Portugal) and W.A. Wakeham (UK).

The 20th ECTP was organized by L. Santos and J. Coutinho, in Porto, Portugal, from August 31 to September 4, 2014. In total, 391 participants from 40 countries attended the event, resulting in 175 oral and 199 poster presentations. The ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Award was received by M. Freire (Portugal), and the ECTP Lifetime Award was given to W.M. Haynes (USA).

During the IOC meeting, F. Righini proposed that “the IOC nominates for the 2014–17 period a two-person Secretariat, both to assure a smooth transition and to guarantee adequate continuity. The two-person Secretariat should act together on IOC-related matters, sharing the work and the responsibilities as the situation demands”. M.J. Assael was suggested as the co-Secretary. The proposal was approved, and M.J. Assael accepted the co-Secretary position. Finally, a serious discussion concerning the future of the IOC took place.



19th ECTP: Presentation of Lifetime Award to W.A. Wakeham (from left to right C.M.B.P. Oliveira, M.J. Assael, W.A. Wakeham, C.A. Nieto de Castro, V. Vesovic, F. Righini)

The 21st ECTP took place in Graz, Austria on September 3 to 8, 2017, organized by G. Pottlacher. In total, 390 participants from 33 countries attended the event, resulting in 216 oral and 132 poster presentations. The ECTP-Netzsch Young Scientist Award was received by A. Yakymovych (Ukraine), and the ECTP Lifetime Award was given to F. Righini (Italy).

During the IOC meeting F. Righini retired from the Secretariat after serving for 15 years. The IOC members presented him an honorable plaque with thanks. M.J. Assael became the IOC Secretary for 2017 to 2020.

The 22nd ECTP will take place in Venice, Italy, on September 14 to 17, 2020, organized by A. Muscio.

3 Conclusions

This paper presents the story of the European Conference on Thermophysical Properties, a very successful series of events that started in 1968 and is still going strong. This historical record has several aims:

- a. It is a tribute to the founders, colleagues no longer with us, who started this conference series with a good foresight of the scientific future.
- b. It is a thank you to all the researchers who attended the ECTPs over the years, presenting their work and interacting with colleagues from all over the world.

- c. It wants to express our gratitude to all the ECTP Organizers and to those who helped them in every edition of the event because a successful conference series depends on lots of work going on behind the scene.
- d. It is a nice memory for many of us, remembering papers, colleagues and good times much appreciated over the years.

A lot of additional information including pictures is available at <http://www.thermophysicalpropertiesconferences.com/>.

Acknowledgements The ECTP story reported above is based mainly on the minutes of the IOC meetings and partly on recollections of participants to early events. Thanks are due to everybody who prepared the minutes of the IOC meetings and helped to keep alive the history of these events that have contributed to the development of an international thermophysics community.

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