

## Introduction

The High Pressure Science and Technology Committee was formed to advance work in the field of high pressures in Great Britain. It was soon realised that although a great deal of work was already in progress throughout the country, the extent of it was not at all widely known. It was accordingly made a first priority to bring out this Directory, with the aim of making it easier for those working in the field of high pressure to be aware of each others activities.

Generally, the Directory has been restricted to pressures above 1 kilobar, but where it was felt relevant, work at somewhat lower pressures have been included. We have tried to reduce the confusion which would arise from quoting a variety of pressure units. We felt that a metric unit should be used, and initially it was urged that this should be the officially recommended standard unit : Newton/metre<sup>2</sup>. This however, was felt to be inconvenient as well as unfamiliar and after much discussion the bar/kilobar was chosen as being both metric and practical. A table is appended to facilitate conversion to and from a number of other pressure units.

This is not claimed to be an exhaustive survey (the Committee has no financial support which could ensure this), but with some hundred organisations included we feel that it represents reasonably well the state of the field. We hope that any omission will be remedied in a later edition, and we would appreciate receiving relevant information.

We are of course, most indebted for the help given by Standard Telecommunication Laboratories with the printing of this first edition. We are most grateful too, for the co-operation of all the organisations who filled in forms. We have, however, been asked by two industrial organisations to include in this introduction a statement that the furnishing of information in this Directory must not be taken as implying that further information, advice, or service would necessarily be made available to enquirers. We trust that the users of the Directory will duly note this. We believe, however, that this is more a statement of principle than an attempt to discourage any contact, and feel that in most cases enquiries will be well received.

We hope that this Directory will prove useful. Please let us have suggestions for improving it.

C.H.L. Goodman

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