

Bylaws of the “European Thermoelectric Society”

§ 1 Name

1. The name of the Association is “European Thermoelectric Society”.
2. It will be registered in the register of Associations, thereby assuming the designation e.V. (abbreviation for “eingetragener Verein”, German for “registered Association”).
3. Domicile of the Association is Stuttgart.
4. The working language is English.

§ 2 Aims

1. The “European Thermoelectric Society” based in Stuttgart is an Association of industrial and academic persons with interest in the phenomenon of thermoelectricity and its usage.
2. The Association answers exclusively and directly public benefit purposes in accordance with the paragraph “Steuerbegünstigte Zwecke” (German for “tax-deductible purposes”) of the German Fiscal Law.

Purpose of the Association is the advancement of science and research on thermoelectricity.

The statutory purpose will be fulfilled particularly by

- a) promoting cooperation and the exchange of information and ideas between individuals and groups with interest in thermoelectricity;
 - b) organizing conferences and training courses on the subject of thermoelectricity for members and other interested persons;
 - c) encouraging collaboration in thermoelectricity in applied and fundamental research and in teaching;
 - d) representing Europe in international thermoelectricity organizations;
 - e) promoting research projects in the field of thermoelectricity;
 - f) assisting graduate and PhD students working in the field;
 - g) awarding prizes for outstanding merits or achievements in the field of thermoelectricity.
3. The Association is a not-for-profit organization; it does not primarily pursue economic or commercial interests.
 4. The funds of the Association may only be used for the statutory purposes. Members do not receive allowances from the funds of the Association.
 5. Excessive payments or spending not in accordance with the purposes of the Association are prohibited.

§ 3 Membership

1. The Association is open to individual persons with activities or interests in thermoelectricity from industry or academic institutions.
2. Admission of new members requires the agreement of the Executive Committee and begins after payment of the membership fee.
3. Registration for the *European Conference on Thermoelectrics* (ECT) involves an obligatory one year membership of the “European Thermoelectric Society”. The membership fee will be covered by the conference registration fee.
4. The Executive Committee may appoint a person as honorary member in recognition of his achievements.
5. Resignation takes automatically effect at the end of the period covered by the membership fee.

§ 4 Organs

1. The organs of the Association are:
 - The General Assembly;
 - The Executive Committee;
 - The Extended Committee;
 - The Auditors.

§ 5 The General Assembly

1. The General Assembly consists of all individual members of the Association.
2. The General Assembly will meet once a year (opening session of the ECT).
3. A General Assembly or other Assemblies may be held virtually via audio- or videoconferencing as well as in an internet chat room (e.g. ETS website). If required, the vote will also be taken via internet (e.g. e-mail).
4. Decisions of the General Assembly will be made with a simple majority. Changes of the bylaws and dissolution of the Association require a two-thirds majority of the members present at the assembly.
5. The General Assembly will elect the members for the Executive and Extended Committee for a term of three years.

§ 6 The Executive Committee

1. The Executive Committee consists of a president, secretary, and treasurer.
2. The Executive Committee manages and represents the Association. Every member of the Executive Committee is authorized to solely represent the Association. The Executive Committee implements the decisions of the General Assembly and decides on all questions not covered by the General Assembly. In addition, it is responsible of accounting.
3. Decisions of the Executive Committee will be made with a simple majority and communicated to the members.
4. Once a year, the Executive Committee summons the General Assembly in writing two weeks in advance. The announcement of the ECT (*European Conference on Thermoelectrics*) published on the internet is deemed to be the invitation.
5. Voluntary work: The members of the Executive Committee work in a voluntary capacity and are not eligible for refund.

§ 7 The Extended Committee

1. The Extended Committee acts in an advisory capacity and comprises a minimum of 6 and a maximum of 11 persons. It consists of
 - a. Elected Members
 - b. Born Members: The chairmen of the last, this and next year's *European Conference on Thermoelectrics* (ECT).
2. Together the Executive and the Extended Committee form the "board".
3. The board meets at least once a year. The meeting will be summoned by the president combined with the announcement of the agenda.
4. The business plan and invoices of the previous year as well as budget and membership fees for the following year will be resolved by the board.

§ 8 The Auditors

The Auditors are annually elected by the Extended Committee from within its ranks and are responsible for auditing last year's financial report. They present the audit to the Board.

§ 9 Financing

The aims of the Association will be financed through membership fees, sponsoring by companies, and donations. Only the Association assets are liable.

§ 10 Dissolution of the Association

Should the Association be disbanded or abolished, or its tax-privileged status revoked, all Association assets will be transferred to a corporate body under public law or a tax-privileged foundation. Said assets will be used for the purpose of advancing science and research. Distribution to the members is excluded.

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Harald Böttner

Franck Gascoin

Juri Grin

Jan König

Antoine Maignan

Eckhard Müller

Peter Rogl

Anke Weidenkaff