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The Institute evolved from the Mechanical Engineering Laboratory of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CSAS) established on 1 January 1953. Its name was changed to the Institute of Mechanical Engineering of CSAS in 1955. The present name was adopted on 1 January 1964. The Institute of Electrical Engineering of the ASCR was affiliated with the Institute of Thermomechanics on 1 January 2006. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution on 1 January 2007.

The Institute works in selected fields of technical physics, with special emphasis on the traditional fields, such as the dynamics of fluids, thermodynamics, dynamics of mechanical systems, mechanics of deformable bodies and material diagnostics, and also on interdisciplinary problems, such as interactions between liquid and solid phases, environmental aerodynamics, biomechanics and mechatronics. The study of electric power electromechanical systems is focused on electric machines, devices and other electric equipment with respect to their physical parameters, dynamics and control, and work mode.

Joint Research Centres

- Centre for Mechatronics was established in October 1997 through a contract between the Institute of Thermomechanics, ASCR, and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Technology in Brno, subsequent to their agreement of 22 April 1993 on cooperation in research and teaching. The Centre concentrates on dynamic phenomena and processes in the mechatronics of complex systems and in biomechanics.
- Centre for Power Engineering was set up in October 1998 through a contract between the Institute of Thermomechanics, ASCR, and the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, Czech Technical University in Prague. Research is concentrated on fields in which results can be applied to power systems, thermodynamics and fluid flows in particular.
- Centre for Intelligent Systems and Structures. The joint research unit of the Institute of Thermomechanics, ASCR, and the VŠB – Technical University in Ostrava was established in January 2006. The Centre is focused on research in mechanics of complex systems and related disciplines.

The Institute publishes the journal *Acta Technica CSAV* and participates in publishing the journal *Engineering Mechanics* together with the Institute of Physics of Materials, ASCR, Institute of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics, ASCR, Institute of Hydrodynamics, ASCR, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Technology in Brno and several other universities and research establishments.

More detailed information about the organisational structure of the Institute and its research and specialised units can be found at the following URL:
<http://www.it.cas.cz>