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The Institute was created from the Laboratory for Water Management of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, which was founded in 1953, and was renamed the Institute for Water Management of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences in 1957. The current name was adopted in 1958. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The Institute carries out theoretical and experimental research in the following fields:

- hydrodynamical processes in fluids and two- and multi-phase systems in laminar, transition and turbulent regimes,
- rheological properties of non-Newtonian materials (emulsions, suspensions, polymers, biomaterials, etc.),
- modelling of changes in the water regime and transport of contaminants in the biosphere influenced by climatic variability and human activity,
- simulation of rainfall-runoff processes and extreme water events by means of mathematical models using geographical information systems.

The Institute publishes two journals: The quarterly *Journal of Hydrology and Hydromechanics* in cooperation with the Institute of Hydrology of the Slovak Academy of Sciences. *Engineering Mechanics* is co-published in cooperation with several institutions, which are listed with the Institute of Thermomechanics of the ASCR.

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.ih.cas.cz>