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The Institute was formed in 1953 from a section of the Klokner Materials and Construction Research and Testing Institute, which had been founded in 1921. Since 2000 it has been supported by a grant from the European Commission as a Centre of Excellence ARCCHIP (Advanced Research Centre for Cultural Heritage Interdisciplinary Projects), e-mail: arcchip@itam.cas.cz 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 field of theory of structures oriented particularly to building construction. Its research is focused especially on the dynamics of various kinds of construction (stochastic dynamics, aerodynamics, aeroelasticity), experimental methods in mechanics, structural monitoring and reliability assessment, nonlinear mechanics, biomechanics, mechanics of materials and structural damage and failure, soil mechanics, historic materials and structures, and technologies for their protection and repair, and analysis and safeguarding of historical buildings and settlements.

The Institute assists in editing the international journal *Engineering Mechanics* (Inženýrská mechanika).

More detailed information about the organisational structure of the Institute and its research and specialized units can be found at the following URL:

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