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The Institute was created from the Laboratory for the Study of the Properties of Metals of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences, which was founded in 1955 and changed to the Institute of the Properties of Metals in 1963. In 1969, the name was changed to the Institute of Physical Metallurgy. The current name was

adopted in 1994. Pursuant to Act No. 341/2005 Coll., the Institute became a public research institution as of 1 January 2007.

The work of the Institute is focused on the interdisciplinary field of materials science. The major work is carried out in basic research on metallic materials. The Institute is concerned with the physical nature of processes occurring in metal materials during creep, fatigue and interaction of creep with fatigue and other types of mechanical loading, and with research on the structure and selected physical properties of materials. In both these fields, an attempt is made to elucidate the relationship between the behaviour and properties of materials and their structural and microstructural characteristics.

The Institute co-publishes the journal *Kovové materiály* (Metallic Materials).

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.ipm.cz/>