

Statutes

of the Gesellschaft für Tribologie e.V. (GfT) (Society for Tribology)

§ 1

Name, seat

1. The name of the Society is
Gesellschaft für Tribologie e.V. (Society for Tribology) – abbreviated GfT.
2. The Society is registered in the register of associations at the responsible registry court.
3. The seat of the Society is located in Aachen.

§ 2

Purpose of the Society, non-profit status

1. The Society shall pursue exclusively and immediately charitable, non-profit objectives within the meaning of the clause “tax-privileged objectives” of the Ordinance Pertaining to Taxation (*Abgabenordnung, AO*).
2. The purpose of the Society is to promote science and research in the interdisciplinary field of tribology.
3. The objectives specified in the Statutes are achieved especially by the following individual activities:
 - Promoting the exchange of experience and knowledge between research and industrial application,
 - Promoting, extending, and propagating knowledge in the field of tribology,
 - Making tribological knowledge available for systematic application in all fields of technology,
 - Providing information for taking ecological standpoints into account in designing tribological systems,
 - Co-operating with technical-scientific associations and institutions at home and abroad,
 - Offering courses for education and training,
 - Participating in the preparation of technical rules and standards,
 - Representing the specialized interests of tribology and tribologists in government and society.
4. The Society is active on a disinterested basis and does not pursue primarily profit-making objectives.
5. All technical and scientific results of work performed by the Society shall be published.

§ 3

Society resources

1. The Society resources are provided by membership fees, donations, and other funds.
2. The Society resources shall be employed only for the purposes set forth in the Statutes. Use of resources in this context also includes expenditures for the procurement or manufacture of property items for the purposes set forth in the Statutes. The resources shall be employed in due time. The members do not receive any grants from Society resources.
3. No person shall be benefited by expenditures which are not consistent with the purpose of the corporation or by excessively high remunerations. In particular, a remuneration is not excessively high if it does not exceed the current market value of the service for which it is intended.

§ 4

Business year, place of jurisdiction

1. The business year is the calendar year.
2. The place of performance and the place of jurisdiction are the same as that of the business office.

§ 5

Membership

1. Natural or juristic persons who are interested in the objectives of the Society can become members.
 2. The Society for Tribology has the following members:
 - Regular Members,
 - Honorary Members,
 - Other members.
- 2.1 Regular Members:
- a) Persons at home and abroad who can furnish proof of a completed education at a university, college, or technical college, or of specialized activity in the field for at least four years,
 - b) Students at home and abroad who are enrolled at universities, colleges, or technical colleges,
 - c) Companies, public authorities, institutes, or corporations at home and abroad, who appoint a natural person in writing as representative for asserting their interests and rights with respect to the Society for Tribology.

2.2 Honorary Members:

Persons who deserve special merit for their services to the Society for Tribology or for their work in the field of tribology can be designated as Honorary Members of the Society at the meeting of members upon proposal by the Executive Board.

2.3 Other members:

A natural or juristic person who does not satisfy the requirements specified in § 5 2.1, but who appears to be suited for membership, can be admitted as an "other member".

3. Members shall be admitted by application in writing by the Executive Board of the Society for Tribology.

§ 6

Rights of the members

1. All members are entitled to vote at the meeting of members.
2. Only natural persons who are Regular Members (§ 5 2.1) or Honorary Members (§ 5 2.2) can be elected for the Executive Board.
3. All members can participate in work groups.
4. All members can introduce motions at the meeting of members.

§ 7

Obligations of the members

1. Regular Members have the financial obligation of paying annual membership fee.
 - 1.1 For natural persons, the annual membership fee shall be determined at the meeting of members.
 - 1.2 For juristic persons, the amount of the annual membership fee shall be subject to agreement with the management; for this purpose, the management shall take into account the decisions on annual fee at the meeting of members.
2. Bearers of the Georg-Vogelpohl Award and Honorary Members do not pay any fee.
3. Other members shall pay fees in an amount subject to agreement with the management of the Society in each individual case.
4. The membership fee shall be paid during the first three months of each calendar year.

§ 8

Termination of membership

1. Membership shall be terminated by the following:

1.1 Death of a natural person or dissolution of a juristic person

1.2 Resignation of membership:

- a) The declaration of resignation shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board no later than the 30th of September of the current calendar year.
- b) A declaration of resignation can be assumed to be effective if the behaviour of a regular or other member over several years (at least three years) indicates that he or she is no longer interested in the Society for Tribology.

The Executive Board shall decide on such a termination of membership. The member concerned shall be notified of the result of this decision.

1.3 Expulsion:

A member can be expelled at the request of the Executive Board by a decision at the meeting of members, if this member has behaved in a manner which is detrimental to the purpose of the Society or has injured the reputation of the Society. Prior to passing of the resolution, the member concerned shall be given the opportunity to explain his actions or position. The member concerned shall be notified of his expulsion by registered mail.

2. Termination of membership does not affect the obligation of paying membership dues for the current calendar year.

§ 9

Organs of the society

1. Organs of the Society for Tribology are:

- a) the meeting of members,
- b) the Executive Board,
- c) the Technical-Scientific Advisory Board,
- d) work groups,
- e) the management.

2. The minutes of each meeting of members, of the Executive Board, and of the Advisory Board, including a record of all resolutions, shall be kept on record. A copy of the minutes shall be signed by the Chairman of the meeting and by the Secretary.

§ 10

Meeting of members

1. An ordinary meeting of members shall be held once every business year.
2. A special meeting of members shall be held,
 - a) if the Executive Board considers this meeting to be necessary,
 - b) if at least one-third of the members demand this in writing with an indication of the reason(s).
3. Meetings of members shall be called by the management in writing with an announcement of the agenda at least 30 days before the scheduled date of the meeting. A meeting of members constitutes a quorum if it has been called in due form, if more than one-half of the elected members of the Executive Board are present, and if in addition at least as many other members are present. Further items can be added to the announced agenda, with the following exceptions:
 - a) Amendments to the Statutes,
 - b) Determination of fees for personal members (according to § 5 2.1 a and b),
 - c) Expulsion of members,
 - d) Dissolution of the Society.
4. Every member can request a supplement to the agenda. For this purpose, the request shall be submitted in writing to the Executive Board no later than two weeks before a meeting of members. At the beginning of the meeting, the Chairman of the meeting shall announce the requests for supplements thus received. Prior to entry into the agenda, the assembled members shall decide on the acceptance of these requests.
5. At the meeting of members, the assembled members shall decide on the following:
 - a) Formal approval of the activities of the Executive Board after presentation of the report on the completed business year and the report by the Cash Auditors,
 - b) Election of the Executive Board,
 - c) Election of the Cash Auditors,
 - d) Use of the Society resources after acceptance of the budget proposal,
 - e) Nomination of Honorary Members,
 - f) Election of the Advisory Board members,
 - g) Expulsion of members,
 - h) Amendments to the Statutes,
 - i) Determination of dues for personal members,
 - j) Dissolution of the Society.
6. Elections, resolutions, and supplements to the agenda require a simple majority of the members present who are entitled to vote. Every member who is entitled to vote has one vote. Personal representatives who simultaneously represent juris-

tic persons shall cast two votes separately. In the case of equality of votes, the vote cast by the Chairman of the meeting shall be decisive. Resolutions concerning amendments to the Statutes, expulsion of members, or dissolution of the Society shall require approval by at least three-fourths of the votes cast.

7. Voting by written ballot externally to the meeting of members is permissible. The result of the vote by written ballot is valid if more than one-half of the members have voted before the scheduled deadline.

§ 11

Executive Board

1. The activity of the Executive Board is honorary.
2. The Executive Board shall comprise no more than nine, but at least five members. The Executive Board shall include members from the fields of science, industry, and service. The members of the Executive Board shall be elected at the meeting of members for a period of three years. After the end of their official term of office, they shall remain in office until the next election or re-election at the next meeting of members. A single, direct, non-recurrent re-election is permissible.

If a member of the Executive Board resigns from office or ceases to be a member of the Society for Tribology, the corresponding post on the Executive Board shall remain vacant until the next meeting of members.

3. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the members of the Executive Board from the members of this board for a period of three years. They shall represent the Society for Tribology in legal matters. After their term of office, they can be re-elected directly into the Executive Board by a single non-recurrent vote.

If the Chairman or Vice-Chairman resigns from office during his or her term of office, or ceases to be a member of the Society for Tribology, the corresponding post shall be filled by direct voting by the Executive Board for the period until the end of the regular term of office.

4. The Chairman or, in the case of his or her inability attend, the Vice-Chairman shall preside at the meeting of members and at the sessions of the Executive Board. Contracts and other declarations which result in legal obligations for the Society for Tribology require joint action by the Chairman with the Vice-Chairman.
5. The Executive Board shall present the report and settlement of accounts for the preceding year as well as the budget proposal for the following business year at the meeting of members.
6. The Executive Board shall pass its resolutions by simple majority. It shall provide its own rules of procedure for the performance of its functions.
7. The Chairman of the technical-scientific Advisory Board shall be invited to the sessions of the Executive Board.

§ 12

Technical-Scientific Advisory Board

1. The Executive Board shall be assisted by a Technical-Scientific Advisory Board (designated as 'Advisory Board' in the following). This board shall consist of twenty elected members of the Society for Tribology, at the most, as well as the Chairmen of the work groups. The members of the Advisory Board shall be elected at the meeting of members upon proposal by the Executive Board. If at all possible, one-half of the Advisory Board members should represent the sciences, and one-half should represent the industries and services. The following persons can be elected at the meeting of members:
 - a) Honorary Members and Regular Members
 - b) Representatives of juristic persons under private and public law, as well as associations and institutions which decisively contribute to the performance of the Society's functions by appropriate support.
2. The activity of the Advisory Board is honorary.
3. A Chairman and a Vice-Chairman shall be elected by the members of the Advisory Board from the members of this board. The Vice-Chairman shall represent the Chairman of the Advisory Board in all matters.
4. The term of office of the elected members of the Advisory Board shall begin with their election and shall end after a period of three years. They shall remain in office until the next election. Re-election is permissible. The term of office of the Advisory Board Chairman shall end after a period of three years. A single non-recurrent re-election is permissible.
5. The Advisory Board shall assist and support the Executive Board in all technical and scientific matters. The procedure and tasks shall be determined by the Executive Board for the Advisory Board with an appropriate set of procedural rules.

In particular, all tasks which are associated with potential support of research and which contribute to the preparations for a decision by the Executive Board on project execution shall be assigned to the Advisory Board.

§ 13

Work groups

1. For the performance of individual tasks, the Advisory Board can establish regional or specialized work groups.
2. Participation in the work groups is honorary.
3. The Advisory Board shall appoint the Chairman of the work group.
4. The tasks of a work group shall be specified by the Advisory Board. These tasks can involve the acquisition of tribological knowledge (specialized work groups) or the transfer of tribological results (regional work groups).
5. The chairmen of the work groups shall report the results of the work-group activities to the Advisory Board at regular intervals.
6. A work group can be terminated by the Advisory Board at any time.

§ 14

Management

1. The function of the management is to perform all current administrative tasks for the Society for Tribology, including handling of the cash, within the scope of the resolutions passed by the Executive Board.
2. A Secretary shall be appointed by the Executive Board. The Secretary can receive an expense allowance. He or she shall participate as Secretary at the meeting of members and at the sessions of the executive and Advisory Boards.

§ 15

Cash Auditors

1. Two Cash Auditors who are not members of the Executive Board in the Society for Tribology shall be elected at the meeting of members for examining the annual accounts. This function is honorary.
2. The term of office of the elected Cash Auditors shall be for two years. Re-election is permissible.
3. The Cash Auditors shall report the results of the jointly performed examination at the meeting of members.

§ 16

Honoring of deserved specialists

1. Deserved specialists from the field of tribology can be honored; at present, this can be accomplished with the "Georg-Vogelpohl Award", with an Honorary Membership, or with a Promotion Award. Further honors can be specified at the meeting of members upon proposal by the Executive Board.
2. The Executive Board shall establish rules of procedure for selecting those to be honored and for conferring the honors.

§ 17

Dissolution, voidance of the Society's purpose

1. Dissolution of the Society shall require a corresponding resolution at the meeting of members or voting of the members by written ballot as specified in § 10.
2. For dissolution, a majority of three-fourths of the members present is necessary.
3. In the event of dissolution or disincorporation of the Society, or voidance of tax-privileged objectives, the assets of the Society shall be transferred to the Deutscher Verband Technisch-Wissenschaftlicher Vereine DVT e.V., Berlin, which shall employ these assets immediately and exclusively for charitable, non-profit objectives for promoting science and research in the field of tribology.

§ 18

Lapse of time, amendments to the Statutes, law governing societies, liability

1. These Statutes shall remain in force for an indefinite period.
2. Amendments to the Statutes can be adopted by a majority of three-fourths of the votes cast at the meeting of members, if the intention and purpose of the amendments have been indicated in the agenda upon calling of the meeting. The Executive Board is authorized to independently adopt amendments which are demanded by public authorities or which are of purely editorial nature and which do not affect the essential content of the existing Statutes. The Executive Board shall decide on the alteration of the text by unanimous majority. The members shall be informed of the amendments to the Statutes at the meeting of members which follows the resolution.
3. The law governing societies is applicable. §§ 705 to 740 BGB are not applicable.

§ 19

Entry of the Statutes into force

1. These Statutes were enacted on 27th September 2016 and had become effective on the day of entry into the register of associations.
2. The elected members of the executive and Advisory Boards upon entry of these Statutes into force shall be considered to be elected for the current term of office of three years.