

# The European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry

## A short guide

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ESTAC2010 Conference Special Issue  
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**Abstract** The first European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (ESTAC) was held in Salford, UK in 1976. On the occasion of the tenth ESTAC in Rotterdam, this article provides an overview of the history, aims and philosophy of ESTAC.

**Keywords** European symposium on thermal analysis and calorimetry · ESTAC · Proceedings

### Introduction

The European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (ESTAC) owes its origins to a decision by the UK Thermal Methods Group (TMG) to hold an international meeting on thermal analysis in the UK, following a suggestion by David Dollimore. The First European Symposium on Thermal Analysis (ESTA 1) was held at Salford University near Manchester in 1976. Since then ten Symposia have been organised and on the occasion of the tenth ESTAC in Rotterdam it seemed timely to provide a brief outline of the history, aims and philosophy of ESTAC.

### Formation

At an open meeting held during the ESTA 1 the delegates agreed enthusiastically that further Symposia should be

organised and the Thermal Analysis Society of the Soviet Union offered to host the next conference. However, by 1979 it became clear that difficulties had arisen and the TMG therefore agreed to organise the second ESTA. This was held at Aberdeen University in 1981.

At this stage the future of the Symposium seemed uncertain. However, at ESTA 2 a meeting of representatives from all the European thermal analysis societies present was organised and the ESTA Committee was formed. There was a very positive response to the organisation of future meetings and invitations to host the third and fourth ESTA's in Interlaken and Jena, respectively, were received from Switzerland and the German Democratic Republic.

### Organisation

The future of ESTA was thus ensured and ten Symposia have been organised to date, with calorimetry incorporated into the title in 1982. The sole function of ESTAC is to organise a European meeting every 4 years and a simple organisational structure has been adopted which avoids the need for complicated statutes or regulations. The ESTAC Committee is composed of representatives from all the European thermal analysis and calorimetry groups. The Committee has three officers: Chairman, Secretary and Organising Chairman of the Current Symposium. At the end of a Symposium, the Organising Chairman becomes Chairman and the current Chairman becomes Secretary. They are then joined by the Organising Chairman of the next Symposium. This ensures that all the Officers have had the experience of organising an ESTAC Meeting.

A list of the ESTAC Committee Chairman is given in Table 1. The Officers for 2010–2014 are: Chairman: Wim

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**Table 1** ESTAC Committee Chairman

1981–1985	Edward Charsley (UK)
1985–1987	Erwin Marti (Switzerland)
1987–1991	Werner Ludwig (German Democratic Republic)
1991–1994	Jean Rouquerol (France)
1994–1998	Attilio Cesaro (Italy)
1998–2002	György Pokol (Hungary)
2002–2006	Rosa Nomen (Spain)
2006–2010	Andrzej Malecki (Poland)
2010–2014	Wim de Klerk (The Netherlands)

**Table 2** ESTAC Meetings

Symposium	Year	Venue
ESTA 1	1976	Salford, England
ESTA 2	1981	Aberdeen, Scotland
ESTAC 3	1984	Interlaken, Switzerland
ESTAC 4	1987	Jena, German Democratic Republic
ESTAC 5	1991	Nice, France
ESTAC 6	1994	Grado, Italy
ESTAC 7	1998	Balaton, Hungary
ESTAC 8	2002	Barcelona, Spain
ESTAC 9	2006	Krakow, Poland
ESTAC 10	2010	Rotterdam, The Netherlands
ESTAC 11	2014	Espoo, Finland

de Klerk (The Netherlands); Secretary: Andrzej Malecki (Poland) and Organising Chairman ESTAC 11: Vesa-Pekka Lehto (Finland).

**Table 3** ESTAC Proceedings

ESTA 1	D. Dollimore (Ed.), Proceedings of the First European Symposium on Thermal Analysis, Heyden, London, 1976, 485 pp.
ESTA 2	D. Dollimore (Ed.), Proceedings of the Second European Symposium on Thermal Analysis, Heyden, London, 1981, 617 pp.
ESTAC 3	E. E. Marti, H.-R. Oswald (Eds.), Proceedings of the Third European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, <i>Thermochim. Acta</i> , 85 (1985) 3–583.
ESTAC 4	D. Schultze (Ed.), Proceedings of the Fourth European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, <i>J. Thermal Anal.</i> , 33 (1988) Nos. 1–4, 5–1277.
ESTAC 5	R. Castanet, E. Karmazsin (Eds.), Proceedings of the Fifth European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, <i>J. Thermal Anal.</i> , 38 (1992) Nos. 1–4, 5–1027.
ESTAC 6	I Kikic, A. Cesàro (Eds.), Recent Advances in Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry. A Selection of Papers presented at the 6th European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, <i>Thermochim. Acta</i> , 269/270 (1995) 1–844 A. Cesàro, G. Della Gatta (Eds.), Invited and Selected Lectures presented at the 6th European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, <i>Pure and Appl. Chem.</i> , 67 (1995) 1789–1890.
ESTAC 7	J. Kristóf and C. S. Novák (Eds.), Proceedings of the Seventh European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, <i>J. Thermal Anal. Calorim.</i> 56 (1999) Nos. 1–3, 1–1478.
ESTAC 8	R. Nomen and J. Sempere (Eds.), Proceedings of the Eighth European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, Volumes 1–3: <i>J. Thermal Anal. Calorim.</i> 72 (2003) Nos. 1–3, 1–1174.
ESTAC 9	A. Malecki and B. Malecka (Eds.), Proceedings of the Ninth European Symposium on Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry, <i>J. Thermal Anal. Calorim.</i> 88 (2007) Nos. 1–3, 3–891.

## Symposia and philosophy

The Symposium has travelled widely round Europe as can be seen from the list of venues in Table 2. The meetings aim to provide a pleasant friendly atmosphere in order to promote both the formal and informal exchange of information. This is aided by allocating one afternoon of the programme to a social outing. To ensure as wide participation as possible, it is intended that both the registration fee and the accommodation costs should be reasonably priced. The National Group organising a Symposia has total responsibility for organising the meeting and also for the meeting finances since ESTAC has no funds of its own.

## ESTAC proceedings

Full Proceedings have been published for all the ESTAC conferences and these are listed in Table 3. With the exception of the first two Symposia, these have been published in special editions of the specialist thermal analysis and calorimetry journals. The Proceedings to date comprise more than 8,000 pages and have made a major contribution to the thermal analysis and calorimetry literature.

## ESTAC stones

During a stroll on the sea shore in Aberdeen during ESTA 2, Erwin Marti and Hans Oswald from Switzerland collected some pebbles from the beach. They then had the idea that these could become the symbol of the Symposium and



**Fig. 1** The ESTAC Stones

had them mounted in an acrylic container (Fig. 1). Thus, the ESTAC Stones were born and are presented by the ESTAC Chairman to his or her successor at the closing dinner.

### **ESTAC and the International Confederation for Thermal Analysis and Calorimetry (ICTAC)**

Since the sole purpose of ESTAC is to organise a conference in Europe every 4 years, its activities are complimentary to

those of ICTAC, which has a wide range of international scientific activities. There is close collaboration between ESTAC and ICTAC and after 1988 the organisations synchronised the dates of their conferences so that there is a 2 years interval between them. This has the additional benefit that reciprocal facilities can be provided for hosting committee meetings before the start of the Symposia.

### **The future**

The future for ESTAC looks very bright since there continues to be considerable support from the European National Groups. This was reflected in invitations from Finland, France and Romania to host ESTAC 11 with the choice falling on Finland who will hold the meeting in Espoo, Finland in August 2014. In addition to a wide European representation the Symposia continue to attract a substantial number of delegates from further afield and there were some 30 countries represented at ESTAC 10. Thus, the original aims of ESTAC of providing a scientific meeting of high standard in a friendly atmosphere at a reasonable cost have been fully realised.

**Acknowledgment** The author would like to thank Ing. Wim de Klerk of TNO for providing the photograph of the ESTAC Stones.