

France
Member of ICHMT, AIHTC, EUROTHERM

(1) Overview

(Central European Time Zone, CET: UTC+1 (winter) and UTC+2 (summer), Population: 67.4 million)

1. Organizations

Most scientists and and engineers specialized in thermal sciences and heat transfer in France belong to Société Française de Thermique (SFT).

SFT was founded in 1961 as a non-profit organization. The organization published “La Revue Générale de Thermique” until 1995, before its publication by Elsevier as the “International Journal of Thermal Sciences”.



Its purpose is :

- Development and enhancing the influence of thermal sciences,
- Study of miscellaneous problems, of public interest linked to thermal sciences in a direct or indirect way, such as the study of the use of diverse energy sources for example
- Link to associations and French groups of thermal scientists, as well as to other scientific fields
- Animation and promotion within the community of thermal sciences in industry, teaching and research
- Exchanges and diffusion of knowledge between their creators and their users
- The representation of thermal sciences and of thermal scientists at the national, European and international levels

President of SFT (2021-2023): Christophe Le Niliot, Aix-Marseille University (christophe.leniliot@univ-amu.fr)

2. Members

- 450 individual members in the year book
- 30 collective members: University /CNRS research labs, and companies

3. Structure and communication

SFT is organized around an administration board, a scientific committee and thematic groups. The main organization is described below

- An elected board, with a two year mandate for the President and for the head of the scientific committee with four meetings per year.
- A scientific council in charge of the congress
- 3 organic commissions for:
 - Scientific foresight
 - Programs to organize the scientific seminars
 - Communication and education to promote the association and the scientific activities
- 19 thematic groups in charge of the animation of a scientific activity such as: radiation, heat exchangers, transfers in porous media ... The list of the topics is presented on the website <https://www.sft.asso.fr/>

- A website with upcoming meetings and open access to proceedings of the yearly conference, of seminars and advanced schools, as well as a directory of members: <https://www.sft.asso.fr/>



- A LinkedIn Page:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/sftasso/?viewAsMember=true>

- A YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7oTIDvIAA8U&t=53s>
- Edition of four newscasts per year containing all the informations about the association: minutes of meetings, conclusion of the commissions, calls for papers from national and international upcoming conferences and seminars

4. Major meetings

- One 3.5 day yearly conference (late May, early June) organized by about 15 rotating labs in different cities of France,
- Prize and awards: during the yearly conference, the scientific committee awards the best paper-oral presentation to a young scientist. This award called “the Biot-Fourier award” was created in honor of two French scientists: Jean-Baptiste Biot (1774-1862) and Joseph Fourier (1768-1830), both known for their major contribution in thermal sciences.



- about ten scientific *SFT seminars* of 1 or 2 days per year within the scope of the thematic groups or with other organizations: companies or academic associations such as the SFGP (Chemical Engineering) or AFM (Mechanics)
- participation to the organization of advanced schools, with CNRS, Eurotherm, ICHMT. In the past years SFT sponsored international seminars in the domain of: nano heat transfer, inverse techniques and thermal measurements, radiation ...

5. Education

- The French University system is based on the *Bologna Process* introduced to harmonize higher education in European Union. It is based on three levels:
 - The first (lowest) level is a bachelor’s degree, typically lasting three to four years.
 - The second level is a master’s degree, typically lasting one to two years.
 - The final level is a doctorate (PhD) which usually lasts three years
- The French University system is supplemented by engineering schools specializing in the major fields of engineering including thermal sciences. These studies lead to an engineer’s degree equivalent to a Master’s degree.

6. Major Public/Private Research Institutes

- Most major labs in thermal sciences and heat transfer depend both on their local University and on the National Center for Scientific Research (CNRS)
- The National Research Agency (ANR) is a public administrative establishment, placed under the supervision of the Ministry of Higher Education, Research and Innovation. The Agency implements the funding of research projects, for public operators in cooperation with each other or with companies.
- The Investments for the Future Program (PIA), steered by the General Secretariat for Investment (SGPI), was set up by the State to finance innovative and promising investments in the territory, in order to enable France to increase its potential for growth and jobs.



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