

Information Guide

14TH VACUUM SYMPOSIUM UK



nu-tech
exhibitions + events



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Chairman's Report 2025

After joining the 17th European Vacuum Conference in Harrogate last year, we are delighted to return to Daresbury Laboratory for VS14. This is our third time at Daresbury, having first held VS1 here in February 2010.

Vacuum Symposium UK remains an independent and registered charity. We continue to value and welcome the support of the Institute of Physics and our industrial sponsors.

Building on the success of previous years, we are once again collaborating with Nu-Tech Associates to stage a one-day exhibition, held in a marquee adjacent to the meeting rooms.

The Vacuum Symposium Committee has put together a technical meeting featuring a full day of oral presentations covering a broad range of topics and applications. These are delivered by leading scientists, invited speakers, and experienced users who bring practical knowledge and insight.

Our training courses remain very popular. They are delivered by trainers selected by the Vacuum Symposium Committee, with attendees receiving a certificate of attendance and a copy of the training materials.

The poster session continues to grow alongside our technical meetings, with the Vacuum Poster Prize awarded on the day and open to all attendees and exhibitors.

This year, we are once again proud to present the **Harry Leck Memorial Medal**, and I would like to offer my warmest congratulations to **Nigel Harris**, this year's deserving recipient.

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you all back to Daresbury and to VS14. I encourage you to take the opportunity to visit the exhibition and engage with our sponsors and exhibitors.

Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the **Vacuum Symposium Committee** for their dedication and hard work in bringing together this meeting, and to all our sponsors and supporters for making this event possible.

Robin Hathaway
Vacuum Symposium Chair

Reception – VS14, Tuesday 24th June 2025

Join us for nibbles and drinks in the Walton Room from 17:30.

We will then enjoy informal presentations designed to inspire and highlight the opportunities that vacuum science and technology encompass.

17:40 – STFC and Business: Opportunities at Home & Abroad

Katharine Robertson, Business and Innovation Directorate (BID)

An introduction to the Sci-Tech Daresbury Campus – a unique ecosystem that brings together businesses with world-class science infrastructure, tailored business support, and state-of-the-art office and laboratory space. The talk will also explain the UK's relationship with major international facilities, including CERN, how this can help bring UK companies into the Big Science supply chain, and how STFC can support these efforts.

18:00 – Presentation of the Harry Leck Memorial Medal to Nigel S. Harris

Introduction: Dr Andrew Chew (2022 award winner)

Presentation: Robin Hathaway, Vacuum Symposium Chair

18:10 – A Career in Vacuum

Nigel Harris, 2025 Harry Leck Memorial Medal recipient

18:30 – Refreshments available until close at 19:00

19:00 – Close

Full Timetable 2025

DAY 1 – 24th June 2025

Event	Location	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00	17:00	18:00	19:00
Registration	A-Block Foyer								
VTC4	Thomson Room								
VTC5	Walton Room								
VTC6	Walton Room								
VTC7	Thomson Room								
Tours	A-Block Foyer								
Reception	Walton Room								
Harry Leck Award	Walton Room								

DAY 2 – 25th June 2025

Event	Location	09:00	10:00	11:00	12:00	13:00	14:00	15:00	16:00
Registration	A-Block Foyer								
Technical Meeting	Thomson Room								
VTC1	Lecture Theatre								
VTC2	Lecture Theatre								
VTC3	Walton Room								
VTC8	Walton Room								
Exhibition	Marquee								
Poster Prize	Marquee								

Training Timetable 2025

Course	Trainer	Day	Time	Room
VTC1	Dr Stuart Astin	Wednesday	09:30-11:30	Lecture Theatre
VTC2	Dr Richard Pilkington	Wednesday	14:30-16:30	Lecture Theatre
VTC3	Dr Keith Middleman	Wednesday	09:30-11:30	Walton Room
VTC4	Stefan Lausberg	Tuesday	13:00-15:00	Thomson Room
VTC5	Mitchell Leonard & Paul Hawes	Tuesday	13:00-15:00	Walton Room
VTC6	Dr Graham Cooke	Tuesday	15:30-17:30	Walton Room
VTC7	Adam Ross & Raj Das	Tuesday	15:30-17:30	Thomson Room
VTC8	Stefan Lausberg	Wednesday	14:30-16:30	Walton Room

Harry Leck Award Memorial Medal 2025

Nigel S Harris



Nigel S. Harris a retired Chartered Physicist (CPhys), he started his working career at ERA Technology and was mainly involved in the experimental vacuum impregnation and life testing of thin film capacitors. The high-vacuum process plant used consisted in part of a liquid nitrogen trapped mercury diffusion pumped system with a mercury McCloud gauge. Nigel then spent several years working in the Medical Physics Departments of the Royal Marsden & Guys Hospitals using radioisotopes for diagnostic purposes.

Nigel joined Edwards High Vacuum in 1970 as a Development Engineer/Physicist. He spent six years on the development of vacuum pumps including the Diffstak and a porous-element flash boiler vapour booster pump (a tripartite project with Edwards, Reading University and the Atomic Energy Establishment Harwell). The latter pump was the subject of a paper presented at the 7th International Vacuum Congress & 3rd International Conference on Solid Surfaces at Vienna in 1977. During this early stage of Nigel's career he had the pleasure of being mentored by vacuum experts B.D. Power and N.T.M Dennis, both who became Technical Directors at Edwards and who were well known for their vacuum books published by Chapman & Hall. Also during this period Nigel attended (on a part-time basis) Sir John Cass College of Science & Technology, London, where he gained an MSc in "Vacuum Science & the Physics of Solid Surfaces and Thin Films". His supervisor was Dr E. H. C. Parker. As part of the MSc degree he wrote a 20,000 word critical survey on the "Back-streaming of oil vapour from rotary and diffusion vacuum pumps". This later formed the basis of several articles encouraged by Professor John Yarwood for publication in the journal "Vacuum".

Nigel then decided to apply his knowledge and experience of vacuum science and technology in a training role within the company. He

became Deputy Manager and then Manager of their UK Vacuum Training facility. As Edwards business grew to become a fast-expanding global division of BOC, and with a staff of six built up over several years, he reshaped the then named International Training Department from not only a training delivery team but also into a skilled training material preparation team. This standardised the appearance of global training material, reduced duplication of effort and made training more readily available (delivered by local trainers trained in the UK). He pioneered the introduction of technical e-learning into the Company and prior to his retirement in 2001 he was promoted to Corporate Technical Training Manager, BOC Edwards. (now Edwards). His accountability was to define and articulate the strategic priorities for corporate technical training both for employees and customers and to ensure the delivery of training to meet business demand.

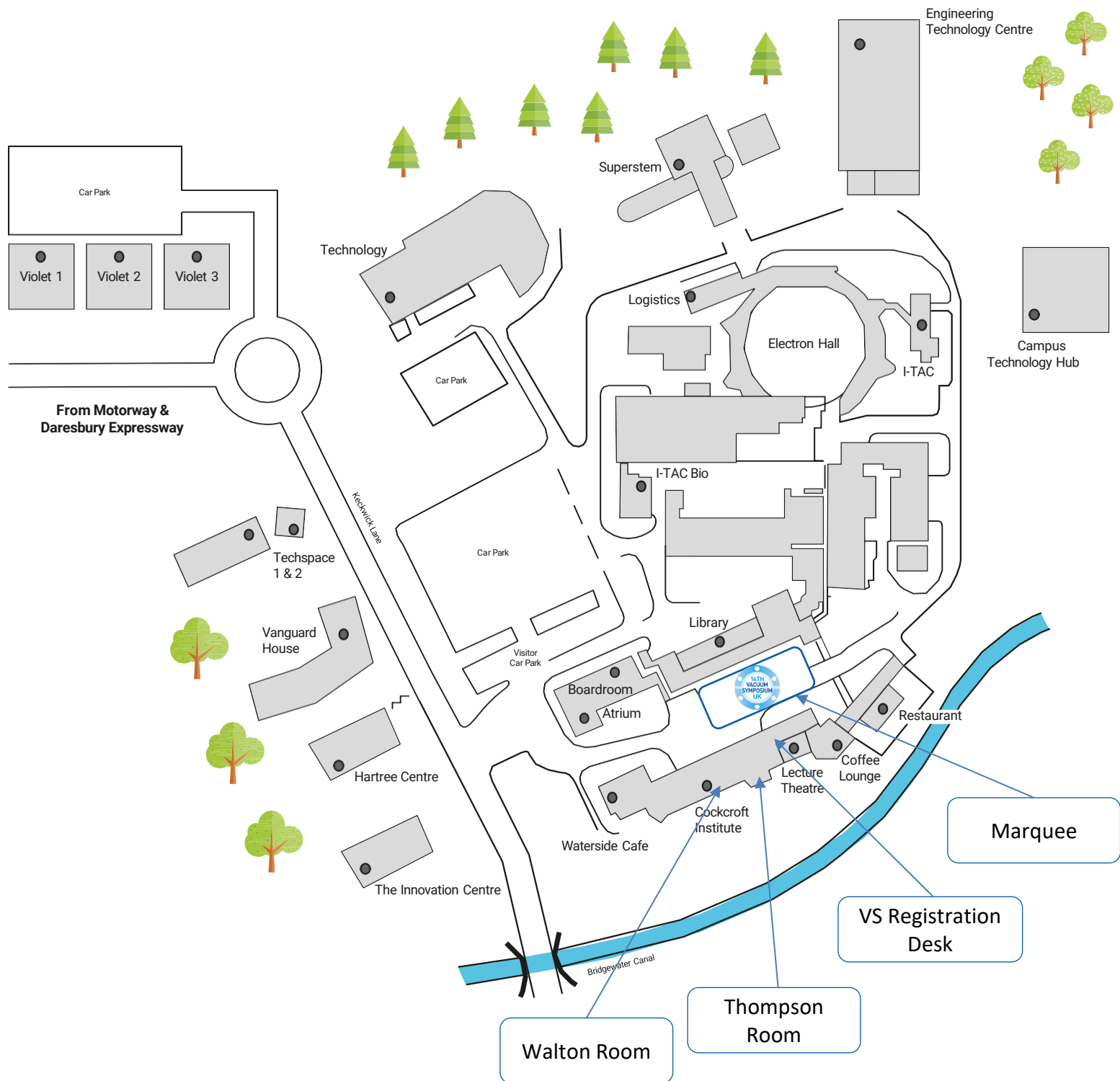
VS14 Technical Meeting

Programme

09:55	Welcome & Scope
10:00–10:30	The DIAMOND II Vacuum System Matthew Cox, <i>Diamond</i>
10:30–10:50	Vacuum Upgrades & Developments at ISIS – The UK Muon and Neutron Research Facility Sunil Patel, <i>STFC RAL</i>
10:50–11:15	Vacuum Technology in Nuclear Fusion: Challenges and Innovations with a focus on STEP Antulio Tarazona, <i>UK Industrial Fusion Solutions</i>
11:15–11:35	Vacuum Delivery of the PIP-II Cryomodules Oliver Poynton, <i>STFC Daresbury</i>
11:35–12:00	Vacuum System Design of CLARA Keith Middleman, <i>STFC Daresbury</i>
12:00–14:00	LUNCH / EXHIBITION / NETWORKING / POSTER PRIZE @ 13:15
14:00–14:20	NEG coating developments at Daresbury Laboratory Eleni Marshall, <i>STFC Daresbury</i>
14:20–14:45	SRF Thin Film Developments at Daresbury Laboratory Dan Seal, <i>STFC Daresbury</i>
14:45–15:05	Photocathodes for use in Modern Accelerators Hugh Churn, <i>STFC Daresbury</i>



Daresbury Laboratory map



Poster Session

Posters are on display in the Exhibition Marquee from 2:00pm on Tuesday to 2:30pm on Wednesday. The £100 Poster Prize sponsored by Leybold will be awarded at 1.15pm on 25th June

Scan the QR code below for list of Posters.



Exhibitors List

25th June 2025, 10:00 to 14:30

In association with Nu-tech Associates there will be a one-day exhibition featuring manufacturers of vacuum products and allied technologies.

Exhibitors in bold denote Sponsor of Vacuum Symposium

Allectra Ltd

Alrad Instruments Ltd
Ansys
APC Technology Group
BGEN
BKW Instruments Ltd
CFMS
Dylan James Scientific

Edwards Ltd

Equipment Support Company Ltd
Facility Monitoring Systems Ltd
Foremost Electronics Ltd
Glenair UK Ltd

Hidden Analytical Ltd

HORIBA
iCenta Controls Ltd
Invacua Ltd
Jacarem Ltd
Korvus Technology Ltd
Kurt J Lesker Company Ltd

Leybold UK

Lighthouse (UK) Ltd
LoneStar Fasteners Hydrobolt Ltd
Luso Electronics
McLennan Servo Supplies Ltd
Nikalyte Ltd
Pfeiffer Vacuum+Fab Solutions
Pi-KEM Ltd
ROHDE & SCHWARZ UK Ltd
Scanwel Ltd
Scientific Vacuum Systems Ltd

SS Scientific Ltd

STFC UK Industrial Liaison Office
Sumitomo SHI Cryogenics of Europe Ltd
System Devices UK Ltd
Technical Moulding Projects Ltd
Teledyne GmbH
The Magnetic Gateway
UHV Design Ltd
United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority - RACE Division

Vacuum Symposium 2026



Vacuum technology is an essential component of many scientific and technological advancements, ranging from semiconductor manufacturing to space exploration.

The next Vacuum Symposium, VS15, is scheduled for June 2026 at the Rutherford Appleton Laboratory (RAL) Harwell Campus (Didcot, UK).

RAL is home to four of the UK's key research facilities - Central Laser Facility (CLF), the ISIS Neutron and Muon Source, RAL Space and Diamond Light Source, all of which have different vacuum requirements and challenges.

We invite professionals who work with vacuum technology or are interested in learning more about it to attend and participate in this exciting event that will feature a commercial exhibition, training courses, posters and facility tours.

Please register on the website to find out more information about next year's event. We look forward to seeing you in 2026!



Vacuum Symposium 2025

Sponsors

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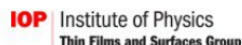
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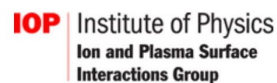
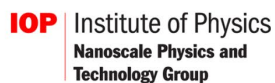
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POSTER SESSION SPONSORS



MEETINGS SUPPORTERS



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