

# Vaisala calibration services celebrate important milestones

Vaisala is well known for its technology innovations and leading products, but we also have other capabilities to be proud of. Traceable and accurate calibration of the measurement systems is a vital part of Vaisala's success. The development of measurement and calibration systems has been ongoing at Vaisala for fifty years now.

The year 2008 marks a significant milestone for the Vaisala calibration services in many ways: we have provided traceable calibration services for customers for 50 years, as well as systematic and documented calibration of Production Working Standards for 35 years. The Vaisala Measurement Standards Laboratory was founded 30 years ago, and has had a laboratory accreditation for 25 years.

## Calibration services for customers

The calibration business was launched in 1958 by purchasing two Liquid-in-Glass

Thermometer Normals (the liquid-in-glass thermometer contains a fluid that expands/contracts when it is heated/cooled and therefore rises or falls inside the thermometer) and starting the calibration of thermometers used in Radio-sonde ground check equipment.

This calibration service has continued and evolved for fifty years now. Today we have Service Centers in Finland, the USA, Japan and China - all providing and developing services for Vaisala customers.

## Internal calibration services

Production Working Standards are the references against which new products are calibrated before they're sent to customers. Systematic and documented calibration of Production Working Standards was started in 1973. However, that was not the first production quality measure taken; when the first modern calibration machines were developed and taken into use in 1960, Mr. Yrjö Toivola,

the then Managing Director, instructed that the temperature sensors of the calibration machines should be calibrated twice a year.

In 1973 the calibrations were extended to cover other parameters as well. Over the years, calibration services for several other parameters have been developed to meet the requirements of customers and the Vaisala Quality System.

## Measurement Standards Laboratory

The Measurement Standards Laboratory (MSL) was founded in 1978. The foundation of MSL was a major investment for the company at that time. New reference standards were purchased to improve measurement accuracy. All reference equipment were re-calibrated and a re-calibration scheme was created for every piece of reference equipment. The first laboratory was built in 1979. Vaisala's present laboratory facilities were taken into use in 1990.

## Authorization and accreditation

MSL was one of the first laboratories in Finland to apply for third-party recognition for its calibration activities. In 1983, when the laboratory authorization system was launched in Finland, MSL got the first authorization for pressure calibrations. The second authorized parameter was temperature in 1986, and the third was humidity in 1995.

Currently, MSL is accredited according to ISO/IEC 17025:2005. Our calibration laboratories in the USA and Japan are also accredited to provide the best available calibration services for Vaisala's customers. ■

