**DESCRIPTION**

*Vacuum* is an international rapid publications journal with a focus on short communication. All papers are peer-reviewed, with the review process for short communication geared towards very fast turnaround times. The journal also published full research papers, thematic issues and selected papers from leading conferences.

A report in *Vacuum* should represent a major advance in an area that involves a **controlled environment** at pressures of one atmosphere or below.

The scope of the journal includes:

1. **Vacuum**: original developments in vacuum pumping and instrumentation, vacuum measurement, vacuum gas dynamics, gas-surface interactions, surface treatment for UHV applications and low outgassing, vacuum melting, sintering, and vacuum metrology. Technology and solutions for large-scale facilities (e.g., particle accelerators and fusion devices). New instrumentation (e.g., detectors and electron microscopes).
2. **Plasma science**: advances in PVD, CVD, plasma-assisted CVD, ion sources, deposition processes and analysis.
3. **Surface science**: surface engineering, surface chemistry, surface analysis, crystal growth, ion-surface interactions and etching, nanometer-scale processing, surface modification.

The aim of the short communications is to enable researchers to rapidly share their most exciting work with their colleagues. The expected time from submission to final decision is approximately **6.4 weeks**.

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Surface Scientists, Materials Scientists.

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

INTRODUCTION

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3. Surface science; surface engineering, surface chemistry, surface analysis, crystal growth, ion-surface interactions and etching, nanometer-scale processing, surface modification.


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Vacuum will consider three types of peer-reviewed manuscripts:

1. Short Communications: should have the format of a letter (main text without headings) and are intended as brief reports of significant, original and timely research results, which require rapid publication. The submitted manuscripts should be kept concise and short; the number of figures and tables should also be kept to a minimum. See below for details. In considering a manuscript for publication, particular attention will be given to the originality of the research and the desirability of speedy publication and the clarity of the presentation. The editors will aim for a rapid review process and only manuscripts that need no changes or only minor revisions will be accepted.

2. Full Research Papers: should be full reports including in-depth analysis and extensive discussion. The described research should be complete and thorough, and there are no limitations to text length or number of figures/tables, as long as they add to the understanding of the described research. Criteria for publication are completeness, novelty, and clarity. Manuscripts may be accepted after major revisions. The editors will aim to apply a thorough review process.

3. Besides these two types of manuscripts, Vacuum will publish reviews, thematic issues and a selection of conference papers. These contributions must have the Full Research Paper structure. Such contributions must be prepared in consultation with the special issues editor and can only be submitted after invitation by the guest editor for that issue.

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This journal accepts two different types of unsolicited manuscripts with different subdivision of text: Short Communications (Letters) and Full Research Papers.
1. Short Communications
Short Communications should be kept concise and short, the number of figures and tables should also be kept to a minimum. The main text of the manuscripts should not exceed 2,500 words, and the number of combined tables/images/figures should not exceed 5. Abstract should contain less than 150 words. The main text should not contain any headings. The main text should end with a concluding statement and optional acknowledgement.

2. Full Research Papers
The described research should be complete and thorough, and there are no limitations to text or number of figures/tables, as long as they add to the understanding of the described research. The main text of your article should be divided into clearly defined and numbered sections with appropriate headings (Introduction, Materials and Methods, Theory/Calculation, Results, Discussion, Conclusions). Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

Introduction
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

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Provide sufficient details to allow the work to be reproduced by an independent researcher. Methods that are already published should be summarized, and indicated by a reference. If quoting directly from a previously published method, use quotation marks and also cite the source. Any modifications to existing methods should also be described.

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A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.

Results
Results should be clear and concise.

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This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

Conclusions
The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

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List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder’s requirements:

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Units to be used in 'Vacuum'

Pressure: Authors are asked to use bar (bar), millibar (mbar) or the pascal (Pa).

The SI unit of pressure is the pascal (Pa), the special name for the newton per square metre (N m⁻²). The standard atmosphere (atm) is defined in ISO 31/111-1978 (E) as exactly 101.325 kPa. The standard atmosphere should only be used to define a reference environment and not as a pressure unit. The 'bar' has become widely used as a unit of pressure in vacuum measurement.

1 bar = 10⁵ Pa exactly
1 millibar (mbar) = 100 Pa exactly.

Other units of pressure are sometimes to be found in published literature but their use is deprecated in ISO 31/111-1978(E) and in some countries their use is unlawful for certain purposes. A table of conversion factors for such units is given below to allow authors to change their units to pascals or millibars.

The pascal can be combined with other SI units to give the units for other quantities commonly measured in vacuum science and technology. Some examples of these quantities are given below.

Pump speed: Authors are asked to use cubic metre per second (m³ s⁻¹), cubic metre per hour (m³ h⁻¹), or, litre per second (l s⁻¹).

The SI unit for volumetric rate of flow such as is used when expressing the speed of a vacuum pump is cubic metre per second (m³ s⁻¹). The speed of most mechanical pumps is expressed in terms of cubic metre per hour (m³ h⁻¹).

1 m³ h⁻¹ = 1/3600 m³ s⁻¹ 0.000278 m³ s⁻¹).

The speed of most high vacuum pumps such as diffusion and turbomolecular pumps is expressed in terms of liter per second (l s⁻¹).

1 l s⁻¹ = 10⁻³ m³ s⁻¹.

Leak rate: Authors are asked to use pascal metre cube per second (Pa m³ s⁻¹) or millibar litre per second (mbar l s⁻¹).

The SI unit for leak rate is pascal metre cube per second (Pa m³ s⁻¹). Other commonly used units of leak rate with their conversion to the SI unit are given in the table.

Outgassing rate: Authors are asked to use pascal metre cube per second per square metre (Pa m³ s⁻¹ m⁻²) or millibar litre per second per square centimetre (mbar l s⁻¹ cm⁻²).

The SI unit for outgassing rate from surfaces is pascal metre cube per second per square metre (Pa m³ s⁻¹ m⁻²). Other commonly used units of outgassing rate with their conversion to the SI unit are given in the table.

1 (1) Quantity measured in (2) Multiply by (3) Resulting number in (4) Multiply column (3) by (5) Resulting number in

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</tbody>
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Table of conversion factors
**Artwork**

**Electronic artwork**

**General points**
- Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
- Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
- Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar.
- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
- Provide captions to illustrations separately.
- Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
- Submit each illustration as a separate file.
- Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision.

A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available.

You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

**Formats**

If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format.

Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'Save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):

- EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings, embed all used fonts.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.
- TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/halftone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.

**Please do not:**
- Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
- Supply files that are too low in resolution;
- Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

**Color artwork**

Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF), or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article. Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

**Figure captions**

Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

**Tables**

Ensure that each table has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the table. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text. Place footnotes to tables below the table body and indicate them with superscript lowercase letters. Avoid vertical rules. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in tables do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article.

**References**

**Citation in text**

Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the
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