

## OBITUARY

### Academician Vladimir E. Fortov (1946–2020)

Vladimir Fortov passed away on 29 November 2020 in Moscow at the age of 74 due to Covid-19 infection.

Academician Vladimir Fortov was a world-renowned physicist. He was an outstanding and pioneering member of the thermophysics community. His scientific achievements in high-energy-density physics, plasma physics, shock waves, detonation, and, more generally, the physics and chemistry of extreme states of matter, are tremendous. He authored over 500 papers and 30 books. His scientific contributions have far-



reaching implications for industrial power engineering, space physics, controlled thermonuclear fusion, rocket engineering and many other applications.

Vladimir Fortov was also a member of the Editorial Board of HTHP; he supported our journal continuously since the early times of its existence.

Vladimir Fortov was born on January 23, 1946 in Noginsk, Moscow region. He studied physics at the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (PhysTech) from 1962 to 1968. After receiving the diploma, he joined the Institute of Chemical Physics (ICP) in Chernogolovka where he graduated with a PhD in 1971. In 1976, he received the second doctorate (doctor of science, habilitation) from the Academy of Sciences for the thesis “Physics of strongly coupled plasmas produced by strong shock waves”. Already in 1978 he was appointed professor of physics and chemistry at the Academy of Sciences. Since 1986 he was head of the Laboratory for High Temperatures at the Institute for High Temperature Physics (IVTAN) of the Academy, and in 1992 he was appointed director of IVTAN. Since 1991 he was also professor at PhysTech.

In addition to his scientific activities, Vladimir played also an important role in politics. He was a key figure in creating the Russian Foundation for Basic Research and helped to preserve many excellent scientific activities and to stimulate new ones. He also served as head of the State Commission on Science and Technology, and he was minister for Science and vice prime minister of the Russian Federation.

In recognition of his valuable contributions to research and international cooperation, Vladimir Fortov received many honours, among them the “Bundesverdienstkreuz Erster Klasse” (Officer’s Cross of the Order of Merit of the Federal Republic of Germany) from Germany, the “Légion d’Honneur” (Legion of Honour) from France and the “Queen Victoria Commemorative Medal” from the UK. He was also awarded 12 honorary doctorates from prestigious universities all over the world.

All colleagues who met him at conferences, international scientific committees or editorial board meetings, remember Vladimir as a good friend, an outstanding scientist and a very nice person.

Vladimir Fortov was married to Tanja; they have one daughter. The Editors and Publishers would like to extend their sincere sympathies to Vladimir Fortov’s family and friends.

Jean-François Sacadura and Iván Egry  
(Co-Editors-in-Chief)<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Based partly on the article *Contrib. Plasma Phys.* **61**(1), e202000262 (2021) by M. Bonitz, W. Ebeling, V. Filinov with permission. Photograph provided by M. Sheindlin.