

FEMTO-ST^L

Colloquium

an opportunity to meet prestigious researchers

Terry Quinn

Thursday, July 4th, 2019 - 9.20

Amphi Emilie du Chatelet - ENSMM, Besançon

Terry Quinn was educated at the Universities of Southampton and Oxford, England, and then worked in thermometry and radiometry at the National Physical Laboratory (NPL), Teddington, from 1962 to 1977 where, with John Martin, developed the cryogenic radiometer, now universally used as the basis of radiometric and photometric measurements. While at NPL he made a measurement, with Tony Colclough, of the gas constant using an acoustic interferometer. He moved to the BIPM in 1977 as Deputy Director and developed his interest in balances and weighing. He was Director from 1988 to 2003. While at the BIPM, he carried out experiments with Clive Speake on the so-called 5th Force using a beam balance and measurements of the gravitational constant using a novel torsion balance. He played a lead role in the establishment in 1999 of the global Mutual Recognition Arrangement for measurement standards, which now provides international recognition of national measurement capabilities in support of innovation and trade. He was closely involved over many years with the move to re-define the base units of the SI in terms of the fundamental constants of physics. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics (UK), a Fellow of the American Physical Society, a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of London in 2002 and was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) in 2004. Since retirement he has continued to write and lecture in matters related to metrology and the Metre Convention.



The story of the kilogram

This is the story of the kilogram. It begins on 19th March 1721, when five great savants of France drew up a plan to establish units of the metre and the kilogram to be taken from nature, and ends on 16 November 2018 when the 26th General Conference on Weights and Measures adopted the new definition of the kilogram, which finally brought to fruition the grand idea of 1791.