100 YEARS MATERIALS RESEARCH IN FINLAND

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A short review of the materials research in Finland 1917 – 2017 is given[1–4]. Mainly we consider universities and research institutes since most of the materials related research was done in the faculties universities and technical universities. Approaching the end of the review period research and development units were increasingly founded in industrial companies.

In 1917 there were only two universities in Finland, University of Helsinki and Technical University of Helsinki. Shortly after that two new universities were founded in Turku: Åbo Akademi 1918 and University of Turku 1920. In 1960s there was a rapid expansion in the higher education in Finland. Universities in Oulu, Jyväskylä, Joensuu and Kuopio were founded and technical universities in Tampere and Lappeenranta. Later Universities in Rovaniemi (1979, no physics) and Vaasa (1991, materials research only a short period) were founded.

Materials research in each site has a bit different focus or different weighting, due to the different history, contacts of the researchers and the other focus areas of the same site. For instance, a way of classifying the sites and the focusing drivers could be: University of Helsinki – 5MV ion accelerator, Technical University of Helsinki – technical applications, Åbo Akademi – materials related to chemistry, University of Turku – liquid He cryogenics, University of Oulu – spectroscopy, University of Jyväskylä – accelerators, Technical University of Tampere – Computational physics, Technical University of Lappeenranta – surfaces, University of Joensuu – optical properties, University of Kuopio – medical physics.

References