

APIEZON® Distributor Newsletter

Shaping the next Century

To celebrate 100 years of Apiezon, we will be launching Apiezon Insights - a market research survey aimed at end users.

Every Picture tells a Story

We want our customers to celebrate with us by sharing their Apiezon stories together with a product photo.

Celebrate our Centenary with us!

We will be promoting our 100 years campaign via various channels, make sure you get involved!



100 APIEZON®
1926-2026

In 1926, Cecil Reginald "Bill" Burch developed the world's first low vapour pressure oils to improve vacuum technology. He named the product "Apiezon" from the Greek for "low pressure".

Celebrating 100 Years of Apiezon

As we mark a century of Apiezon, we're proud to celebrate the people, innovation, and dedication that brought us here. From pioneering vacuum technology in the early 1900s to supporting cutting-edge science and industry today, Apiezon has always stood for quality, reliability, and progress.

This year, we're honouring that legacy through meaningful activities that celebrate our past while engaging with the wider vacuum science community. As a Gold Sponsor of the Vacuum Symposium, we'll be connecting with partners and users who have shaped our journey. We're also launching the Apiezon Insights survey, inviting people across the industry to share their experiences and help guide our future. Alongside this, we're welcoming personal Apiezon stories. Throughout the year, these stories will highlight the real-world impact of Apiezon products and the people who rely on them every day.

Thank you for being part of the Apiezon journey. Here's to a remarkable past - and a future focused on exceptional vacuum performance.

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100 APIEZON®

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The Apiezon 100 campaign officially launches in April 2026, supported by a **dedicated web page** featuring a timeline video, and links for the **Apiezon Insights** survey and **Customer Stories**, echoed across the wider site.

A **press release** will go out to local press and trade magazines in April to announce the campaign and each month we will add an Apiezon 100 post to **LinkedIn**. We will also promote the two initiatives mentioned above via **Reddit**, which will generate Apiezon 100 content to share across the social media platforms and our website.

In May, we will send a targeted e-blast via **International Labmate** to promote Apiezon 100 and our Apiezon Insights survey. This will be followed by an A4 advertisement in the June edition of the publication. During the same month, we will also be sponsoring and exhibiting at the **Vacuum Symposium 2026**, taking place at Harwell Campus in Oxfordshire, UK.

We Need You!

We would truly appreciate your support with our Apiezon 100 campaign. We can provide you with an A4 leaflet promoting the various initiatives surrounding the campaign and we can offer exhibition materials, too (artwork and giveaways such as pens, notebooks, USBs and mugs).

If you require copy and images for email campaigns to your mailing list, this is something else that our marketing team can help you with.

Keep your eyes peeled for LinkedIn posts promoting **#Apiezon100**, your engagement with these posts (likes, comments and shares) will spread our message further.

We look forward to celebrating our centenary with you!



Apiezon 100

Press Release

Manchester Company Celebrates 100 Years Supporting World-Changing Science

Manchester's M&I Materials is celebrating a remarkable milestone in 2026 as its globally renowned Apiezon product range turns 100 years old.

Manufactured in Manchester and exported worldwide, Apiezon has played a critical role in some of the world's most significant scientific and technological breakthroughs since it was first developed in 1926 by British research engineer Cecil Reginald "Bill" Burch.

While working at Metropolitan Vickers, Burch set out to improve the strength of pressboard by impregnating it with transformer oil under vacuum. In the process, he made an unexpected breakthrough: the low vapour pressure oils he developed could replace mercury in diffusion pumps. Burch christened his new products "Apiezon" (pronounced Ap-ee-ay-zon), from the Greek for "low pressure", which led to the creation of the very first oil-filled diffusion pump - marking a milestone in vacuum technology. Now produced by M&I Materials, the range supports advanced research and industrial applications across aerospace, cryogenics, semiconductor production and other industries.

Over the past century, Apiezon products have supported pioneering scientific research and advanced engineering applications around the world. The range has been used by organisations including NASA, Boeing, and Honeywell, as well as CERN, home of the Large Hadron Collider in Switzerland.

In the 1930s, Apiezon products were used by John Cockcroft and Ernest Walton at the University of Cambridge in experiments that contributed to the first successful splitting of the atom. Cockcroft and Walton were awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1951 for this work.

Now exported worldwide through an established network of distributors, Apiezon continues to be manufactured in Manchester, maintaining its heritage while supporting cutting-edge innovation across the globe.

Dr. Neil McSporran, MD of Speciality Products at M&I Materials said "reaching 100 years is an extraordinary achievement for any product range. We are immensely proud that Apiezon, developed in Britain in 1926, is still trusted today in some of the most advanced scientific and industrial environments in the world.

From early atomic research through to modern space exploration and high-energy physics, Apiezon has consistently supported groundbreaking work. That legacy speaks to the quality of the product and to the dedication of our team here in Manchester, who continue to manufacture and supply it to customers across the globe."



Left to right: Steve Marsh (Team Leader, Apiezon), Neil McSporrán (MD, Speciality Products), Ethan Marsh (Production Operative, Apiezon), Adam Hulse (Production Operative, Apiezon) and Giles Salt (CEO, M&I Materials).

“Celebrating Apiezon’s centenary is a proud moment, but it also coincides with a wider milestone for M&I Materials, which has been manufacturing specialist materials for industry and science for 125 years,” said **Giles Salt, CEO of M&I Materials**. “Our long heritage underpins our ability to support innovation across many industries, and Apiezon’s 100-year legacy is a perfect example of how our commitment to quality and performance has stood the test of time. We look forward to continuing this journey, helping customers achieve breakthroughs well into the future.”

As part of the centenary celebrations, M&I Materials is inviting customers, researchers and industry partners to share their experiences of working with Apiezon products over the decades. The company hopes to showcase stories of innovation, discovery and technical advancement made possible with the support of the product range.

As global demand for high-performance materials continues to evolve, M&I Materials is looking ahead to the next chapter in Apiezon’s story, building on a century of scientific contribution while continuing to innovate for the future.

For more information about Apiezon and its 100-year history, please visit: apiezon.com/apiezon100

Shaping the Next Century of Apiezon Products

For 100 years, scientists, engineers, and researchers have relied on Apiezon products to deliver outstanding vacuum performance across industries worldwide.

As we celebrate this milestone, we want to make sure the next generation of Apiezon products continues to meet the needs of our customers.

To do this, we're inviting customers to take part in our **Apiezon Insights Survey**. By gaining a greater understanding of their experiences, preferences, and uses, they'll help guide the future development of Apiezon greases, oils and waxes – from performance and usability, to new applications.

As a thank you for taking part, those customers that complete the survey will receive an exclusive **Apiezon 100 notebook and pen**, and their name will be entered into a quarterly prize draw for the chance to win a **£50 GoGift gift card** (GoGift is a gift card platform that offers a global product assortment that can be redeemed worldwide).



Splitting of the Lithium Nucleus

In 1932, John Cockcroft and Ernest Walton combined their expertise to create an innovative voltage multiplier, the Cockcroft-Walton Accelerator, capable of generating the high energies needed for nuclear disintegration. On April 14th of that year, they achieved the first human-made splitting of an atom, producing alpha particles by bombarding lithium with protons - an experiment that confirmed Einstein's theory of relativity. Their breakthrough not only laid the foundation for future particle accelerator technology but also highlighted the essential partnership between industry and scientific research, ultimately leading to the development of even more powerful accelerators in the years that followed.



John Cockcroft at the controls of the Cockcroft-Walton Accelerator.
Image Credit: AIP Emilio Segrè Visual Archives, Bain

Find out More on our Website!

The QR code below will take you to our Apiezon 100 landing page. Here you will find an Apiezon timeline, telling our story through the decades. A video version is also included.



Apiezon Centenary Gifts

To celebrate 100 years of Apiezon, we have had a number of promotional gifts produced. The items available include:

- Notebooks
- Pens
- Mugs
- USBs
- Pin Badges



on Accelerator in Cavendish Laboratory, first half of 1934.
bridge Collection

“It is the first step which counts.”

This is what Lord Rutherford stated following the historic splitting of the lithium atom in 1932 by Cockroft and Walton. He described their work as taking “a watch to pieces to see how it works”.

Cockroft and Walton used Apiezon oils and diffusion pumps to accelerate protons and split the lithium nucleus. This pioneering work won them the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1951.

Our Apiezon Q Compound, the oldest product in our range, was developed on the recommendation of Cockroft, who was looking for an effective temporary vacuum sealant to assist with his experiments in the 1930s.



International Labmate

We will run an email campaign with International Labmate in May, followed by an A4 advert featured in the June edition of the publication. Together, these activities will promote Apiezon 100 and our Insights Survey to the following audience figures:

- 53,000+ printed/digital magazine circulation
- 30,000+ e-Bulletin readers monthly with a 61% open rate
- 70,000+ active website users monthly

The June edition of International Labmate also contains the 2026/27 Buyers Guide.

Vacuum Symposium 2026

We are gold sponsors of the Vacuum Symposium this year, which is taking place on the 16th and 17th of June at Harwell Campus, Oxfordshire, UK.

We will be promoting Apiezon 100 and the initiatives surrounding it, and members of our technical team will be on-hand to answer any questions from visitors to our stand. We will promote our attendance via our website, email campaigns and LinkedIn.

If you are attending this year, make sure you come and visit us!





Every Picture Tells a Story: Show us how you use Apiezon!

As part of our centenary celebrations, we're launching a **Customer Stories** campaign to showcase Apiezon in action around the world.

We're inviting customers to share a snapshot of Apiezon at work. Whether they're in a research lab, production facility, or cleanroom, we want to see how Apiezon fits into their day-to-day routine.

Along with a photo, we will ask customers to tell us:

1. What they use Apiezon for
2. How they use it
3. Why they choose Apiezon

Customers will be able to email us their story via this email address - apiezon100@mimaterials.com, or alternatively, they can tag us in a post on LinkedIn, including the hashtag **#apiezon100**.

As a thank you for taking part, participants will receive an Apiezon 100 USB stick and pin badge. In addition, for every story received, we will **donate £5** to M&I Materials' chosen charity for this year, **Lifeshare**.



A Century of Apiezon Stories

Occasionally, customers share stories that offer a fascinating snapshot of how laboratories once worked - and how far science, and Apiezon, have come since.

One such story surfaced a few years ago on Reddit, shared by user Moloko_Drencon. The image showed an unopened tube of Apiezon L Vacuum Grease that had sat in a university laboratory inventory for around 50 years. According to the post, the tube was brought from the United States to Brazil in the early 1970s when a faculty member joined the department.

At that time, Apiezon products were commonly used not only as vacuum greases but also as stationary phases in packed gas chromatography columns. As the user explained, GC columns were prepared in-house, long before capillary columns became commercially available - a reminder of a very different era of laboratory practice, and the role Apiezon played within it.

This story perfectly captures what this anniversary is about: the continuity of science, the evolution of laboratory techniques, and Apiezon's place within that journey. We look forward to hearing more stories!

Seeing the L Grease photo made us reminisce about Apiezon's branding over the years. Not much has changed in terms of our distinctive orange, however our logo has undergone many a transformation - as can be seen by the selection opposite. These logos range from the 1980s to the 2000s.

Page 11 features examples of marketing collateral and product packaging from the last century. The front cover of the 'art palette' brochure was a concept devised in the 1990's by our Marketing Manager at the time, Steve Jeffery. Steve retired in 2020 after 31 years with M&I Materials.



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APIEZON



APIEZON®



HIGH VACUUM PRODUCTS

OIL
The Apiezon product range consists of oils, greases and waxes for use under high vacuum conditions. The oils are used in vapour diffusion pumps and can operate in a range of pressures down to 10⁻¹⁰ torr. AP 201 is a long life oil specifically developed for use in vapour coating pumps, which offers a high resistance to oxidation.

GREASE
The range of Apiezon greases covers a wide band of temperatures and pressures. Typical uses in vacuum systems include lubrication of glass/metal taps, sealing of polymer joints and lubrication of optical surfaces. The greases, which include radiation-resistant grades, are frequently used in high technology projects and hold approvals from Mars Mission, NASA, and US Navy, amongst others.

WAX
The waxes are primarily used to create temporary seals in a vacuum system. However a recent development has been their use in the electronics industry where the wax has been used as a mounting media during the manufacture of microcomponents or as a temporary protective coating during etching processes.

FOR SCIENCE & INDUSTRY

This brochure featured our very own Stephanie Stockton, who many of you may already know. Stephanie has been part of the M&I Materials team for an incredible 47 years. She began working with Apiezon as a Lab Technician around 1987, before moving into the role of Sales & Quality Administrator in 2003, where she worked within the Quality Control Department. In 2009, Stephanie transitioned from the laboratories to join our Customer Services team. Throughout her career, Steph has played a major role in shaping and supporting the Apiezon story.



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