

Helena Durnová
Masaryk University

"It should have been called EC 1120"

When he came back from the USA in 1946, Antonín Svoboda wanted to make his country a superpower in computers. The group of enthusiastic people he led until his emigration in 1964 shared his vision and continued his dream. In 1965, the group became part of a production enterprise and in 1968 participated in the joint effort of Comecon countries to build IBM-compatible computers. They became known all around the country simply as VUMS, Research Institute for Mathematical Machines. Pooling for bright researchers among undergraduates, VUMS became the leading institution in the field of informatics / computer science. Their last project was finished in 1989, but only a prototype of the computer was built before VUMS split into a number of private companies. Their last computer should have been called EC 1120.