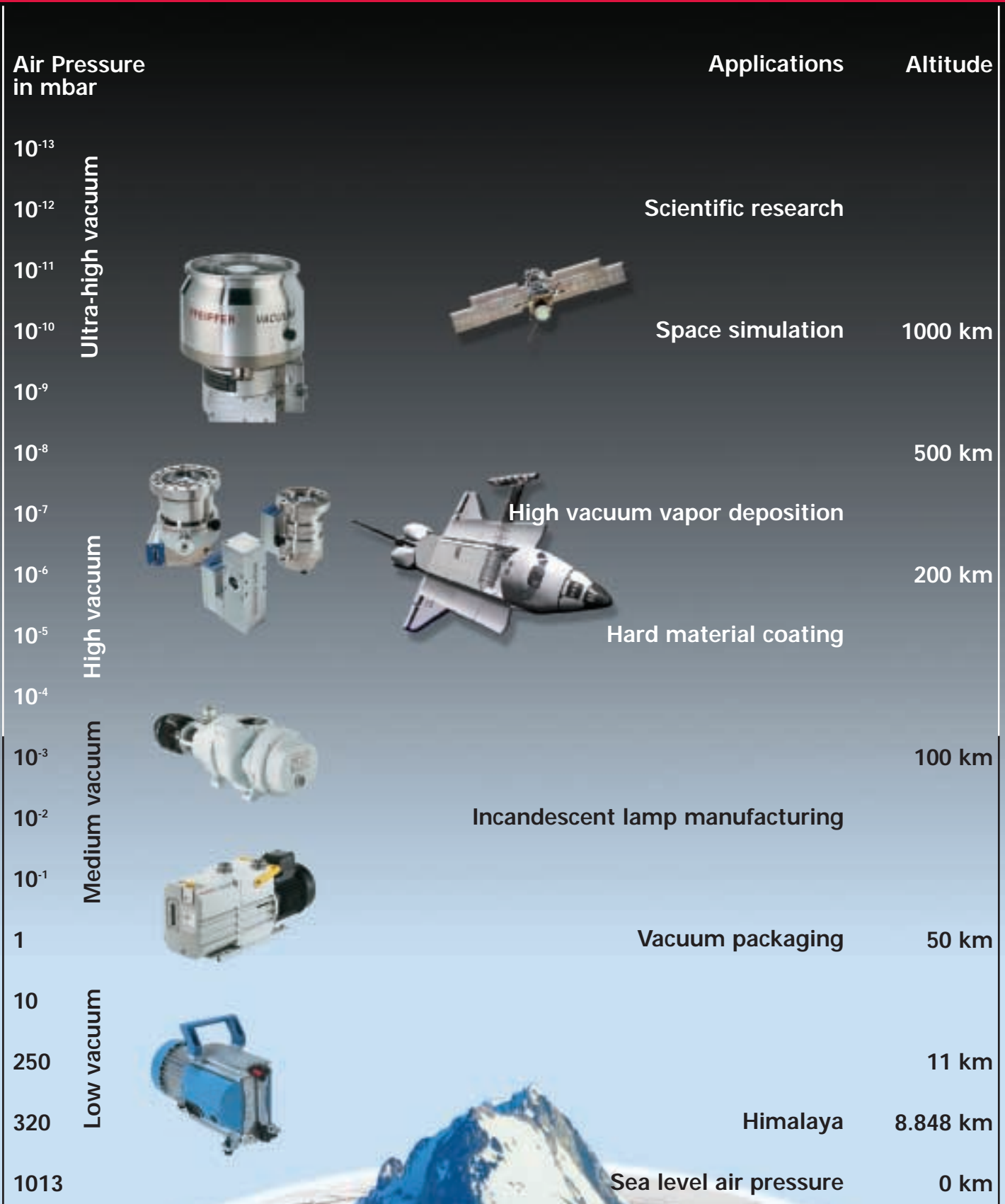


What is vacuum?



Vacuum is defined as a space that is entirely devoid of matter, i. e. an enclosed volume that is not filled with air or any other gas. Ideal vacuum conditions are found in inter-stellar space, where a particle density of one atom per cm^3 prevails. Various types of vacuum pumps are used to produce vacuum in the

laboratory or in industry. Depending upon the application in question, different requirements are placed upon the quality of the vacuum. A distinction is, therefore, made between low, medium, high and ultra-high vacuum. Our graphic portrays the various vacuum ranges and applications:

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