

## INTRODUCTION TO THE AUTHORS

Patrick Dubosc and Pierre Chemin received different scientific training.

Both have been technical directors of two competing French companies whose activities were in the fields of penetrant testing (PT) and magnetic particle testing (MT).

They acquired their technical knowledge, at the beginning of their professional careers, at a period when the means of communication were limited to the reading of scientific works, to symposiums and privileged relations with eminent national or international experts.

Thus, Pierre Chemin had a working relationship with the British: Norman Henry Hyam, Philip Ian Brittain and David J. Lovejoy. All authors of numerous patents.

For his part, Patrick Dubosc was very quickly in a working relationship with many technical managers in the aeronautics, nuclear, surgical prostheses, etc. industries. Before joining the non-destructive testing (NDT) industry, he had worked for five years in two chemical laboratories, notably in the development of insecticide products. Thus, less than a year after entering the NDT field, of which he knew nothing at the time, he was able to develop some PT and MT materials that are still used today.

Finally, both of them were in close technical contact with Michel Toitot (1927-2013), the undisputed "French father" of MT.

The fact that Pierre Chemin and Patrick Dubosc were each active, in their own right, in different French companies that were leaders in their highly competitive markets, constituted healthy competition. This was the driving force behind a mutual and reciprocal emulation that resulted in the launch on the market of innovations aimed at improving the performance, reliability, hygiene, safety and ergonomics of products and equipment.

Throughout their careers, they have actively participated in :

- Level 3 operator training;
- The development of French, European and international standards;
- Working groups and think tanks.

They distinguished themselves through numerous articles and conferences, both in France and abroad.

They are very complementary on a technical level. The profession has particularly appreciated their integrity and ethics. Their mutual and reciprocal respect has strengthened their credibility.

Both having retired at the end of 2007, they decided, by mutual agreement, to share their practical experience, which took into account suggestions and remarks often made by "grassroots operators", remarks often full of common sense!

This is why, although some articles deal with fundamental theoretical aspects never mentioned in the literature, the majority of them are based on practice: they call upon remarks and information drawn from experience in the field, in training centres or in workshops.

Pierre Chemin and Patrick Dubosc have jointly written a little more than 300 bilingual French/English articles dedicated to PT, MT, health and safety and effluent treatment.

These articles had been published on their website which they closed at the beginning of 2019.