



Alain ROURE (1947-2013)

We are very sad to announce the death of our colleague and friend Alain Roure, his illness overcame him on the 4th of May 2013.

He was a research engineer, a pioneer of active control in acoustics and vibration and was awarded the cristal medal of the CNRS in 1993 for his many realizations and technological transfers. He spent his whole career in the Laboratoire de Mécanique et d'Acoustique (LMA) in Marseilles.

After having graduated as engineer, he defended his Phd in 1976 on guided waves. This Phd thesis under the supervision of Aimé Bergassoli, shall give birth twenty years later to the said "multimodal" method with which evanescent modes in tubes of variable section can be treated and which is widely used today in acoustics, elasticity and equally in quantum mechanics. Not long after his Phd, Alain Roure joins the group "active acoustic absorption" of the LMA. At that time the principle of what was then called "anti-noise" was well known, the difficulty lay in estimating at each instant the signal to be canceled. Before Alain Roure this was done in a analogical way which restrained the possible variety of signals to be treated. Alain Roure, using the newly built microprocessors, introduced a temporal algorithm which could take into account signals of large bandwidth.

A CNRS-EDF patent was filed in 1982 concerning air-conditioning shafts, followed in 1986 by another CNRS patent concerning the active anti-noise headphones, now very popular among transport users. The regulators become multi track and the algorithms that Alain produced became more and more complex. He then applied noise reduction to a number of various situations (inside of cars, vicinity of power stations, plane and helicopter cockpits, radiation of reactors, vicinity of airports, etc...). Alain Roure as well as producing high performance algorithms, loved accomplishing scientific missions outside the laboratory in order to back up his concepts and algorithms.

For his collaborators and all those who met him, Alain Roure was also, and essentially, a very likeable person, always ready to listen and of great modesty. He looked after and guided the young in a near paternal way. His passion, his enthusiasm, his interest in all that was new had no bounds – and he transmitted them to all those around him, sharing generously his know-how, his resources and his ideas (he had at the very least one idea a day...). All those that accompanied him on his experimental campaigns can remember his good humor whatever the circumstance and even in very critical situations: he gave self confidence to all those who worked with him. His loss shall be a burden despite all the good memories he has left us.

His colleagues