

In Memoriam Jean-Claude Sabonnadière



On Saturday 9 May 2015, Jean-Claude Sabonnadière passed away.

Jean Claude, tireless worker, since entering university life after his studies as electrical engineer at ENSIEG, has had a lasting impact on the development of Electrical Engineering in France during almost half a century.

At the beginning of his career, he developed the numerical methods applied to electrical engineering. Then, during many years, he was the director of his laboratory, first GIS Ampère with its activities in Lyon and Grenoble, and later the Laboratoire d'Electrotechnique de Grenoble (LEG) from 1991 to 1997. A little earlier, he started the team 'electrical grid' and in 1994, to everybody's surprise, a team 'magnetic microsystems'.

During this period, he was also very active in the field of Power Electronics, and, as such, participated in the steering committee of the EPE Conference in 1985, organised the 2nd edition of the conference in 1987, in Grenoble and was founding member of the EPE Association. He served the association as Vice president, from 1988 to 1991 and as president from 1991 to 1993.

Further, during his second mandate as Director of the LEG, Jean-Claude Sabonnadière joined the French Ministry of Higher Education and Research under the leadership of Hubert Curien. His impact was considerable as he allowed for unprecedented recognition of the field of Electrical Engineering. This led to a sensible increase of research money for our field.

All his life has been devoted to the development of the field of electrical engineering and power electronics, at national level as well as at international level. His vision was to bring together the university and the industry to improve and professionalise research in the field. We here recognise the EPE motto! With this aim in view, he created the GIE "Inventer la Distribution de l'Avenir" with Schneider Electric, EDF and the LEG later G2Elab, he was head of during 12 years.

Among other success stories, let's mention CEDRAT, company of about 100 employees that he largely contributed to launch.

In 2013, he received the EPE Outstanding Achievement Award. By this document, the EPE Association Executive Council and Power Electronics Community expressed their gratitude for the lifelong support and inspiring contribution to the EPE Association and field of Power Electronics, for his carrier and activities as an academic and an entrepreneur in the domain of power electronics, for his role as a one of the founding members of EPE, president of the EPE Association and as the organiser of EPE 1987 in Grenoble.

Dear Jean Claude, we will never forget your incredible sense of the future in our field. The results of your intense activity are still there to testify of the important impact of your action.

The members of the EPE Executive Council offer their sincere condolences to his wife, his children and his family.