



WAKeMeUP gives the floor to...



CATHERINE LE GUET

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at Pfeiffer Vacuum (Annecy, France)*



WHAT IS YOUR BACKGROUND?

I studied physics at INPG (France), and graduated in 1982, followed by a Ph.D. in microelectronics. I then worked in Italy on thin film deposition and came back to France in 1987, in Alcatel. I worked successively in thin film deposition equipment, leak detection and on vacuum pumps applications in connection with customer needs. Afterwards, I worked on different R&D advanced development, in link with collaborative projects, the last subject being on contamination control equipment. In 2011, our company in Annecy became part of Pfeiffer Vacuum Technology and changed name to Pfeiffer Vacuum in 2015.



WHAT IS YOUR CURRENT POSITION IN YOUR COMPANY?

Now I am in charge of funded R&D collaborative projects. I lead the setting-up phase of a project to respond to a call, in contact with internal R&D people and external people. When the projects are funded, I make the technical follow-up and reporting on a large variety of subjects. It is a project management role that requires technical and financial knowledge. Currently, I am managing about 7 projects.



WHAT ABOUT GENDER EQUALITY IN YOUR COMPANY?

As the company is made up of people having expertise in mechanics, the number of men is prevalent, but there are actions in favour of gender equality for hiring more women. Some departments, such as administration, sales or HR, have a majority of women, while the technical departments have a majority of men, as it seems more difficult to hire women. In general, the management of our company is trained regarding this topic to support diversity, and to apply salary equality.



WHAT IS YOUR VISION FOR YOUR FUTURE CAREER?

This autumn, I should retire, so I will dedicate my time to other activities such as hiking, ski touring, singing and Tai Chi. During these years, I appreciated working with other companies or institutes and seeing the evolution of the technology. After WAKeMeUP, PFEIFFER will be involved in the new funded ECSEL project, called storAIge which is its continuation, a new person from our company will take over the work.

WHAT HAS WAKEMEUP BROUGHT YOU?

In WAKeMeUP we are working with ST Crolles on a pilot line of manufacturing equipment that is used during the production of wafers, on new protective materials for pumps. We also collaborate with CNRS-LTM laboratory for testing new materials. Before WAKeMeUP, we were involved in the PANACHE project, where we obtained very good results on materials for vacuum pumps. We continued this work with WAKeMeUP by developing new solutions for pump protection. WAKeMeUP allows us to work with ST Crolles and their resources to make tests in a defined frame for the demonstration of new pumps. At PFEIFFER we have a specific test bench, where we can test the material on samples with a mixture of corrosive gas but having the opportunity to take the tests in the real life is more valuable and useful to implement solutions on products.