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Obituary: Alain André Roche

Dr. Alain A. Roche died on October 8, 2005, at the age of 57. He was working as a Research Director for the French National Centre for Scientific Research (CNRS) and was based since 1994 at the Laboratoire des Matériaux Moléculaires at Lyon (France). His major field of research concerned the adhesion of organic coatings onto metal substrates. He was Chair of the Adhesion Division of the French Vacuum Society (SFV) and had been serving IUVSTA as member of the Applied Surface Science Division Committee (1998-2004), Councillor for the SFV (2001-), Secretary (2001-2004) and Chair (2004-) of the Publication Committee.

Alain Roche graduated in Material Physics from the University of Lyon (France) in 1977. Following an 18 month stay at the Air Force Materials Laboratory (Ohio, USA) he joined the CNRS in 1980. He earned his PhD at the University of Lyon in 1983. He initially conducted research on the characterisation of metal surfaces and surface treatments before focusing on organic coatings and more particularly on the specific properties of the phase boundary between the coating and the substrate. One of his major achievements is the development of the 3-point bond test, a mechanical test which gives reliable quantitative information on the practical adhesion properties of thin organic coatings such as paints and varnishes deposited onto metal substrates. This test is now commonly used in both industrial and academic environment.

Alain Roche was author or co-author of a number of scientific publications, patents and scientific short films and was involved in the organisation of many national and international meetings on adhesion. He was a member of the Editorial Advisory Board of the Journal of Adhesion Science and Technology. His constant dedication to the common good was clearly evidenced when he served as Mayor of Saint-Jean de Niost, the town he was living in.

Alain Roche was highly appreciated by his students and colleagues for his professionalism and enthusiasm. His generosity and loyalty will be missed by his many friends.