



PRESS RELEASE

François Anceau, Founder of CMP, passed away

Grenoble, France – March 6th, 2020 - François Anceau, Founder of CMP, has died. He was 80.

François Anceau was a pioneer of Multi-Projects Circuits (MPC) programs. The name of CMP (Circuits Multi-Projets) is still today the identity, part of the DNA of CMP.



The principle of MPC is to share the area in a mask-set to share its costs and then allow Universities and Research Labs making integrated circuits at a reasonable and affordable price. Today the terminology for this principle is known as Multi-Project Wafers or Shuttle runs.

The decision to launch the first MPC run in France was done within the CNRS-LETI-CNET Group for Silicium Integrated Circuits (GCIS) at the beginning of 1981. The responsibility for setting it up has been entrusted to the Computer Architecture Research Team of the IMAG Laboratory, led by François Anceau.

The first realization was the run CMP81 with 3 design projects. The run has been a collaboration between IMAG and UCL (Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium).

Following this, a second run had 2 designs in 1982, and a third one in 1982 with **27 projects** issued from 11 Labs and Universities.

That was the starting point of a successful operation of CMP, as in 1983 the fourth MPC run was launched with **48 projects** (25 circuits for academia, and 23 circuits for research).

Technologies used were : 8 μ NMOS in 1981, 6 μ NMOS in 1982, and 4.5 μ NMOS in 1983.

These achievements could not have taken place if there was not a supply of CAD tools. Here again François Anceau and CMP team provided the Computer Aided Design tool called LUCIE which was widely distributed to Universities and Research Labs together with scalable design-rules.

LUCIE was a framework CAD tool used by academia and research. Different developments around LUCIE allowed to adapt several design approaches like CIAO, EMILIE2, LUCIFER, VISTA2, etc ...

This is only some words of the CMP genesis. The expansion that we know today at CMP would not have been possible without these achievements done by François Anceau.

"Today is a sad day for the entire CMP family," CMP's Director Kholdoun Torki said. "François was a visionary, he influenced generations of microelectronic developments in France. François has been a great inspiration throughout my career even if I have never worked directly for him."

CMP's Former Director Bernard Courtois added "It has been a privilege and a honor to serve as Director of CMP for 30+ years, moving from a NMOS 3.5 micron to advanced processes like FDSOI, etc. The most exciting part of the job, the most risky in turn, was to decide for new processes to be introduced. Not only risky for the Service is to introduce a new process, but also a very important question is about the legitimacy to influence communities of students, teachers, researchers, managers of SMEs, to move to new processes. It has been a challenge, but so rewarding. I am very indebt to François Anceau to have been a pioneer in the late 70s/early 80s."





About François Anceau

François Anceau holds an engineering degree from INPG Grenoble in 1967. He immediately started a career as a researcher in computer architecture, then microprocessors in Grenoble where he passed a State Doctoral Thesis in 1974. He started teaching in 1975 with an interruption 12 years at BULL where he supervised researchers on formal verification of hardware and software. In parallel with this industrial interlude, he was teaching at Sup-Telecom and 14 years at the Ecole Polytechnique.

In 1996, he held the position of professor holding a Chair at the CNAM, while he was making research in the PICM laboratory of the Ecole Polytechnique, then in the SOC department of Lip6 since 2004. At the same time, he got a lot of interested in other subjects such as the scientific nature of consciousness as well as other phenomena.

Before he died, he was a CNAM Professor Emeritus and a volunteer collaborator in the SOC department of Lip6 where he was collaborating on the HODISS-HERODOTOS research project.

Most relevant books he wrote :

- The architecture of micro-processors, Addison-Wesley, 1986
- Vers une étude objective de la conscience, Hermes-Science, 1999
- Conception des circuits VLSI- Du composant au système, with Y. Bonnessieux, Dunod, 2007

About CMP

CMP, Circuits Multi-Projets®, is a service organization in ICs, Si photonics, Smart Power and MEMS for prototyping and low volume production. CMP enables prototypes fabrication on industrial processes at very attractive costs and offers great technical expertise in providing MPW and related services for Universities, Research Laboratories and Industrial companies' prototyping. Chips are normally untested and delivered packaged or not. Advanced industrial technologies are made available in CMOS, SiGe BiCMOS, HV-CMOS, SOI, BCD, Si-Photonics, MEMS, 3D-IC, NVM, etc. Since 1981, 645 Institutions from 71 countries have been served, more than 8,300 projects have been prototyped through 1,140 runs, and 74 different technologies have been interfaced. For more information, visit <https://mycmp.fr>

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