

IN MEMORIAM

Ph.D. EUGENIU NICULESCU



Ph.D. Eugeniu Niculescu was born in 1930 in Pucheni-Moşneni, Prahova. The family moved to Ploiesti, so he proudly attended courses and graduated from “Sfinții Petru și Pavel” high school. From that period on, he had a great passion for mathematics and physics, a passion that directed him to the Electrical Engineering Faculty (1950-1955). He had top teachers who contributed both to his formation as a person and to his deep knowledge of electrical engineering – Acad. Remus Răduleț, and of electrical machines – Acad. S. Gheorghiu. The Ph.D. title was obtained in 1974, with the subject of an exceptional Guy machine – a frequency converter, coordinated initially by Prof. Vasile Nedelcu and finally by Prof. Alexandru Fransua.

After graduation, he worked for 40 years with deep passion with UMEB, former Klement Gotwald Works. His career was shaped by the start of two excellent teams that perfectly matched his technical creativity. The Prototypes team and the Testing team added strong practical knowledge – as a result, after only two years, he was successfully working in the Design team. He proved to be one of the most innovative and forward-thinking electrical machine engineers. All these led to his appointment as "Constructor Șef " (head of design and production), being only 30 years old.

He has always been equally involved in both parts of production: design and production. Recognizing his amazing capacity to deliver solutions and results, he became the Technical Director of UMEB. During that tough period, 1981-1986, difficulties were added because of the poor economic environment, including a lack of energy supply. Knowing the possibilities and competencies the team in the factory had, and by state-of-the-art production flow, he succeeded once again in delivering the expected results.

In 1995 he retired from UMEB. However, their cooperation continued project-based, until 2018, when he was 88 years old: his work included motors projects, training courses for young engineers, and IT software that automated the design process.

Another project he loved much is the cooperation with ALSTOM, 1995-1999, for modernizing diesel-electric locomotives.

In his entire career, he designed nearly one thousand electric machines (motors, generators, frequency converters) for a wide range of purposes: electric traction, machine tools, elevators, pumps, metallurgical applications, and military techniques. They even tested, during the '80s, a Dacia 1300 car with an electric dc motor. Ultimately, he reached such a high level of expertise and confidence that the projects he delivered were trusted to go straight into production, saving time and costs for prototypes and tests.

He was reputed for his high technical knowledge and skills. Therefore, he often became the Romanian part's consultant for acquiring certain solutions from foreign partners.

But being a design engineer was not his only activity: he had a long career as Associated Professor with the Electrical Engineering Faculty from Politehnica University in Bucharest. From 1963 to 1990 he led the dc motors projects. He proved himself to have a high capacity to transmit knowledge, and to teach by speaking simply and clearly – many students later became close work colleagues.

Besides being a remarkable design engineer, Dr. Eugeniu Niculescu has also been fond of classical music. All his life, he had music and opera in the background. And as he always pushed on the technical side forever new and modern solutions for music, he said that “we have to listen to the music of our times”.

He was a model for us in many aspects: top design engineer, and passionate about classical music. He was so serious and involved in all he did, so creative and full of courage in using new technical solutions.