



## Flow Chemistry Highlights

### Flow Chemistry Network

Introducing a new CHIMIA column

#### An interview with Alain Georg



For this Flow Chemistry Column, we are happy to interview Alain Georg, Head of R&D and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Fluitec mixing + reaction solutions AG.

#### **Flow Chemistry Network:**

What brought you to the field of flow chemistry, and what made you stay and contribute to the area?

#### **Alain Georg:**

I have been working in flow chemistry since the very beginning of my professional career. Looking back, it was one of those pivotal moments in life where small decisions shape the future. When I took my first job, I had three options – and I chose the one that I could reach by bicycle. That simple, practical choice brought me into contact with flow chemistry by chance. What made me stay, however, was conviction. Early on, I developed an idea that I strongly believed in and decided to follow that vision. In 1993, I founded Fluitec – young, without financial resources, but driven by a clear belief in the potential of flow technology.

#### **Flow Chemistry Network:**

To your mind, what have been the major developments in the field over those years?

#### **Alain Georg:**

Over the years, flow chemistry has advanced significantly, especially in terms of efficiency, safety, and industrial adoption. Our key contribution is the Fluitec mixing heat exchanger, the CSE-XR – a combination of a shell-and-tube heat exchanger and a static mixer. It enables efficient heat transfer and mixing in one unit. I believe this innovation will outlast me and continue to contribute to the field.

#### **Flow Chemistry Network:**

What are the exciting innovations in the field today which you think could have an even greater impact?

#### **Alain Georg:**

Today's most exciting innovations in flow chemistry are focused on integrating technologies to achieve higher efficiency and better process control. In many cases, progress comes from optimizing details – improving mixing, heat transfer, and reaction control – rather than from entirely new concepts. These refinements are key to making processes more robust and economically viable at scale.

#### **Flow Chemistry Network:**

What should a young researcher/industrial chemist keep in mind when embarking on using flow processing?

#### **Alain Georg:**

A young researcher or industrial chemist should above all enjoy what they are doing – passion is essential. Equally important is what I would call 'business elegance': the ability to collaborate effectively with other people and organizations. Flow processing often requires interdisciplinary thinking and strong partnerships. In my view, this strength in collaboration is something we have especially in Europe, and it is a key factor in turning good ideas into successful industrial solutions.

#### **Flow Chemistry Network:**

Flow chemistry is already considered as a mature technology. What is left to do to make this a standard tool for chemists and chemical engineers?

#### **Alain Georg:**

Flow chemistry may be considered a mature technology, but it still needs to become a natural first choice in everyday practice. To achieve that, it must be simpler, more flexible, and economically convincing. One important step in this direction is flexibility – this is where our second major vision comes in: the concept of Contiplant. Instead of fixed, rigid production systems, we need modular and adaptable solutions that can be configured to different processes and changing needs. In the end, it is not just about technology, but about creating practical, flexible systems that deliver real value. If we achieve that, flow chemistry will naturally become a standard tool for chemists and chemical engineers.

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**Would you like to propose a Flow Chemistry Highlight topic here?**

Please contact Christophe Allemann or Claudio Battilocchio, E-mail: [christophe.allemann@hefr.ch](mailto:christophe.allemann@hefr.ch); [Claudio.Battilocchio@syngenta.com](mailto:Claudio.Battilocchio@syngenta.com)