

## EPSC Award 2020 to Professor Stoessel

The European Process Safety Centre EPSC - industry working together for process safety - yearly honors a person that has made extraordinary contributions in the field of technical chemical safety. The EPSC Award aims to put a spotlight on outstanding scientific, and technical work that has an impact and gets applied in our member companies.

The 2020 EPSC award is presented to Professor Dr. Francis Stoessel as a symbol of Board's recognition, and appreciation of a life-long career of outstanding contributions to comprehensive process safety risk analyses, and thermal, and chemical process safety analyses, and solutions that are being applied by EPSC members. One beneficial module was his development of the criticality scale for exothermic chemical reactions, for which he specifically received the EPSC Award in 2009.

Professor Stoessel had a long lasting, intensive career in thermal, and chemical process safety, and on process risk analyses, concurrently in research, industry, consultancy, and teaching as Professor at the University EPFL Lausanne/Switzerland (Swiss Federal Institute of Technology) - in teaching both students and industry understandably on how to deal with the hazards of thermal, and reactive chemistry, and with process safety risks. By synergy effects of these pillars, he managed combining research with developing solutions for industry, and combining sharing comprehensive knowledge clearly with getting it applied effectively, also by cooperating between various disciplines. Industrial and Academic activities in parallel allowed, and realized a useful cross-fertilization:

- During consulting activities in industry non-solved problems arise.
- At University, solutions are elaborated in research, and in the frame of Master and PhD thesis.



*Professor Dr. Francis Stoessel (left) receives the EPSC Award 2020 safely from EPSC Board Member Margit Hahn on 6 October 2020*

Professor Stoessel provided a sound theoretical framework that shaped the way how we look at the safety of chemical and thermal reactions and instabilities. He developed practical tools, and methods to evaluate such exothermic reactions and predict their behavior. He taught industry the concepts of how to safeguard such reaction systems in an effective way, for example with energy or pressure release, the use of inhibitors or emergency reaction killers in protection strategies.

Professor Stoessel is always looking at the chain from theory, as well as from industry problems to practical application, and solutions, and that is what industry needs, and EPSC values in his work.