MANE

Pete
Champion Test
Engineer.

How long have you been in the Defence industry?

I have been in the industry for 40 years, mainly defence and now recently aerospace with Ultra.

What brought you to the defence industry? (why did you join the aerospace sector or what inspired you to join the defence sector?)

I at the time of starting I was looking for an engineering apprenticeship and the companies in the defence/Aerospace industry were the main employers in the area that I lived.

What is it about the industry that you love? (What do you find most rewarding in your career?)

I liked the type of work with the spread of technologies as I call it "State of the ark to state of the art" I love being able to sort out issues and keep equipment running no matter of its age

What would you say is the achievement you are most proud of?

My biggest achievement has been being fully employed for 40 years without a break, despite 2 redundancy threats, particularly last years when I was concerned if I may have issues due to my age

In your career, what is the biggest challenge you had to overcome?

Getting management to appreciate the issues that we get with the equipment, which after several tough battles was able to achieve at Thales

Who inspired you during your career and why?

A guy called Jim Harris at Ferranti, he wanted us to form a test/development support team which we did and he pushed and provided all the tools and inspiration we needed

What advice would you give to young people / other people working in defence?

They need to appreciate that the work is not all nice clean and rosy. A lot of defence equipment is dated and even the "newer" kit is still around 3-5 years old and probably dated as the development can take a number of years plus support requirements can be up to 25-30 years