

In memory of Edoardo Capello

“Keep your mind always open when working, more questions to yourself and not to me help to do it better.”

E. Capello



In Greek mythology, Mentor was a friend of Odysseus. When Odysseus left due to the Trojan War, he placed Mentor in charge of his son, Telemachus, and of his palace. When Athena visited Telemachus, she took the disguise of Mentor to hide herself from the suitors of Telemachus' mother Penelope.

Nowadays, this noun is used to denote a trusted friend, counsellor or teacher, a more experienced and wiser person and we are deeply convinced that there are no more appropriate words to better describe one of the Italian research Manufacturing Leaders, Prof. Eng. Edoardo Capello, who passed away on 14 March 2009 at the age of 43.

Edoardo Capello was a Full Professor at Politecnico di Milano, Department of Mechanical Engineering, where he was the Coordinator of a research group in the manufacturing field, with particular focus on non-conventional processes. Since 2000, he was the head of the SITEC – Laboratorio per la Applicazioni Laser (applied Laser Lab), where he coordinated research activities in several fields: mainly cutting, welding, heat treatment and laser micromachining.

Under his guidance, a strong effort was devoted to the innovation of the laboratory equipment to take research activities to the leading edge of the laser technology. The climax of this application was in 2007, with the purchase and start-up at the SITEC of the 1-kW fibre laser, the first one for an Italian research centre. In particular, the experience of the SITEC Lab in fibre laser processing is probably one of the most advanced in Italy.

The most recent research activities were devoted to micromachining, with the installation in the SITEC Lab of the first fibre laser for micromachining for an Italian research institution. The research activities, both scientific and industrial, have led to the publishing of a book on laser processing and laser systems.

During his career, he has been the National Coordinator of University and Research Italian Ministry's funded projects and responsible for the Politecnico di Milano unit of an EU GROWTH project on the machining of aeronautic components. He was the Principal Investigator of several basic and industrial research projects, funded by European Commission, Italian Ministries and Italian regions. He was an Author and Co-author of more than 90 papers, which are mainly published in international refereed journals. Moreover, he was a Reviewer for several international journals as the *International Journal of Machining and Machinability of Materials*, of which, he was an Editorial Board Member too. He was one of the Reviewers for the CIVR, the Italian commission who evaluated the Italian research system; Advisor for the University and Research Italian Ministry for the evaluation of research projects of national relevance and Advisor of the Economic Development Italian Ministry for the evaluation of innovation research projects. He was a member of the Scientific Boards of several national and international conferences; a member of the Welding Committee of the Italian Metallurgy Association;

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ASME and AITEM (Italian Association of Manufacturing Engineering) member. Within AITEM, he was the Coordinator of the laser machining working group, called Promozione L@ser (L@ser Promotion).

But, above all, Edoardo Capello was much more than this. To his wife Barbara, his daughters, and his family a touched hug from the whole community that will never forget his gentle, clever and intelligent features.