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Paulo M. S. T. de Castro obtained a first degree in Mechanical Engineering from the Faculty of Engineering of the University of Porto (FEUP) in 1973, a master's degree from Imperial College London in 1977 and a PhD from Cranfield Institute of Technology (now Cranfield University) in 1980.

He is currently a full professor in the Department of Mechanical Engineering at FEUP. His research interests are mainly in the field of fatigue, fracture and structural integrity, particularly of aerostructures. Through a number of r&d projects funded by the European Union, a substantial part of his research in recent years is related to aeronautics, formerly riveted structures and, more recently, integral structures, particularly those made with FSW. He is a member of the editorial board of the journals *Fatigue and Fracture of Engineering Materials and Structures*, *International Journal of Structural Integrity*, *Mechanika*, *UPB Scientific Bulletin Series D: Mechanical Engineering*, among others. He had sabbaticals as Fulbright Scholar at the University of California at Berkeley, and as visiting scholar at Lehigh University, and presented invited lectures at Imperial College London, Lehigh University, Univ. California at Berkeley, Univ. of Maryland and Univs. Federal of Rio de Janeiro, Coimbra, Lille, Napoli, and Salerno, among others. He was *professeur invité* of the Université des Sciences et Technologies de Lille, and consultant for Univ. Eduardo Mondlane (Maputo, Mozambique).

He has a diversified experience as evaluator of R&D for the EU and several national organizations (Germany, Italy, South Africa, ...), and of monitor for EU programmes or projects, including the recent large EU aeronautics project LOCOMACHS. Currently he is a member of the Scientific Committee of Clean Sky 2 Joint Undertaking.