The world from a different angle
Fernand Petzl and Pierre Chevalier meet. Together, these two cavers from Grenoble will revolutionize vertical progression methods.

A nylon rope designed by Pierre Chevalier is first tested as a replacement for caving ladders. This new technology will come to form the basis of nearly all vertical safety techniques.

**TIMELINE**

1936

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1943

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**Petzl: solutions for safety and mobility**

For thirty years Petzl's mission has remained constant: To offer people practical solutions that maximize their safety and mobility in the vertical world.

**Our three areas of expertise:**
- vertical sports: equipment for mountaineering, climbing, caving, etc.
- work at height and rescue: solutions for progression and safety in difficult-access worksites and in technical rescue
- headlamps that provide hands-free lighting.

Through our ongoing search for improvements in safety, comfort and simplicity, **Petzl has greatly contributed to the emergence and evolution of new vertical disciplines**, in sport, industry, and rescue.
“Caving was the beginning…”

The family company originated with my father, Fernand Petzl, and his passion for caving. One of the leading experts of his generation, he spent his life experimenting with new vertical progression techniques and invented equipment that radically changed the status quo. The Petzl company quickly applied these underground tools and solutions to other vertical environments: to the mountains first - rock climbing and mountaineering - and then to the professional sector, with work and rescue at height. Petzl is now known as the leading innovator in the vertical world and has been associated with all major underground, alpine and Himalayan adventures since the 1970s.

While closely involved with outdoor sports enthusiasts and professionals, we remain true to our core values and ways: listening to and valuing our customers, taking innovative and practical approaches and demanding the highest quality.

Paul Petzl, Founder, President
Innovation through expertise

Each Petzl product is designed to meet a precise need found in the real world. Our product development process favors simple, ergonomic and reliable solutions. All possible uses and their associated risks (incorrect or inappropriate use) are analyzed. Once this step has been satisfactorily completed, prototypes are tested and inspected for their performance in the field. Through this development process, innovative products emerge that further the art of vertical progression.

1968
Our first rope ascenders and descenders (Basic, Simple) are brought to market under the name “Produits Fernand Petzl” (Fernand Petzl Products).

1973
The first Petzl mountaineering headlamp is invented.
Petzl establishes its headquarters in Crolles, France. This is the beginning of the Petzl manufacturing. The first Petzl harnesses are produced.

- **Diversified industrial expertise**

Building a Petzl product requires expertise with a large range of different materials (textiles, metal, plastics, electronics), as well as with specific technologies (plastic processing, sewing, injection molding, forging, etc.). For example, the acquisition of Charlet Moser in 2000 brought with it an extensive knowledge of selection and fabrication techniques for the steel used in our ice axes and crampons. Our requirements for this steel are so rigorous that certain material suppliers refer to it as “Charlet Steel.” This expertise allows us to design equipment that fully meets the technical requirements for its use in vertical activities (resistance to shock, wear, extreme temperatures, etc.).

- **Stringent production criteria**

To further its expertise, Petzl continues to maintain production facilities in France. This way the company keeps control over the different skills involved. French suppliers, as well as those from around the world, are chosen according to technical (production quality) and ethical (working conditions) criteria.
Safety without compromise

For sports enthusiasts and work and rescue professionals, safety is a principal concern. At Petzl, everyone in the company shares this preoccupation. This is a fact supported throughout the product's lifetime, from the research phase to after-sales service.

Petzl equipment consists of tools designed to facilitate safe progression, and to provide protection in case of a fall; reliability, comfort and ergonomics guide our research and innovation.

At each stage of development and manufacturing, products undergo numerous tests and inspections in the lab, in the field, and on the production line, in accordance with the company's stringent quality control process.

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Early 1980s

Petzl expands its offering from caving to other vertical sports, including rock climbing, mountaineering, etc.

1981

Introduction of the ZOOM headlamp.
Our requirements exceed current standards

For example, the standards for harnesses are based on static testing. To further guarantee the integrity of our products, Petzl has added systematic dynamic (fall) testing. Moreover, Petzl also individually tests numerous products. Individual numbering guarantees that each unit we produce can be traced back to the day of its production.

The testing lab

To ensure the highest degree of safety, Petzl was the first company in its sector to equip itself with a testing lab. The test tower is the key piece of equipment; it is designed to – as realistically as possible – reproduce the conditions in which our products will be used. The performance of the products under different loads and stresses, their changes in strength over time, and their potential wear and deformation are all reviewed with regard to international norms and Petzl’s own requirements. In addition, product component prototypes (slings, buckles, etc.) are tested in the tower to validate material selection and manufacturing techniques.

1986

The Petzl team establishes the R&D department and testing tower. Creation of the Petzl team.
We feel that a product delivered without technical information – or without a demonstration of its use – is incomplete. Beyond providing the required instructions, Petzl is continually working on educating its customers. Our goal: providing information that allows them to **pursue their activity independently and under the safest possible conditions**. We have invested many years in the production of technical drawings that explain the correct use of Petzl products and detail the major technical situations encountered in the field. To reach the maximum number of users, these diagrams are published in all of the brand’s communications: instructions for use, packaging, catalogs and on the web. This strategy is complemented by field training (crevasse rescue, rope access, etc) and by a multimedia PPE inspection tool.
The Petzl Foundation

The creation of the Petzl Foundation in 2006 marked a new phase: through this organization, Paul Petzl, its president, wished to give back to the environment and to the community that allowed his company to flourish.

In the sport, work-at-height and rescue sectors throughout the world, this foundation will support and participate in projects in three areas: education and prevention, environment, and research.

Research into the relationship between humans and their environment (cultural, economic, ecological) is at the heart of the foundation’s mission.

www.petzl.com/fondation

Dedicated to the practice

One of Petzl’s priorities is to encourage the practice of vertical activities. To this end, we take action in several ways:

- organizing and supporting gatherings around the world (e.g. Targassonic, Festiglace, Assurtech)
- providing gear to establish and re-equip climbing routes, and help with site maintenance.

1998

The TIBLOC, an ultra-compact emergency rope ascender, is launched.
An expertise arising from passion

Petzl's history is one of passion – passion for the vertical world and exploration. This passion can of course be found among our customers (sports enthusiasts and professionals) and among our many partners who climb, mountaineer or cave.

Being true to this passion requires expertise and professionalism from all the company’s employees.

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2000

Acquisition of ice axe and crampon manufacturer, Charlet Moser.

First ultra-compact LED lamp: the TIKKA.

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2002

First leashless ice axe with angled grip: the QUARK ERGO.
The Petzl Team, our ambassadors

Petzl has assembled a team of the most talented and charismatic climbers; they are pushing the limits of the sport and opening up new climbing areas. We support them throughout their projects requiring equipment: putting up routes, traveling into the vertical. While attaining some of the highest achievements, these climbers also know how to share their passion with other enthusiasts, as well as to the general public. At Petzl RocTrips, they come to celebrate the sport with climbers of all levels. In short, the expertise of the members of the Team is priceless to the company. From close collaboration with the R&D department and from their personal experience, they contribute to the design and improvement of Petzl products and techniques.

The future is being designed today

Pascal Bonino, passionate about the mountains and innovation, and known for his extensive industrial expertise, became director of the Petzl group in 2006. Since then, he has been guiding the company towards a future along the paths of performance and orientation defined by the President, Paul Petzl. Led by the management team, the company today revolves around four key values: to be authentic, responsible, enterprising and innovative. These values will enable Petzl to successfully meet tomorrow’s challenges.
**A leader**

...yesterday, today, and tomorrow

Many of Petzl’s developments have represented important stages in the evolution of sport and professional disciplines. These developments have produced totally innovative products and techniques.

Petzl equipment is distributed in 45 countries and sold throughout the world. It has played a role in all the great modern expeditions (from the Gouffre Berger to the Himalayas, from the Alps to the North Pole), at all the great worksites (from tops of buildings to art installations), and in numerous action and intervention sites (rescue, etc.).
■ Benchmarks

■ The GRIGRI. This self-braking belay device with rotating cam makes belaying easier and more secure. Invented in 1991, it remains the top choice for rock climbing.
■ The TIKKA. Introduced in 2000, this is the first LED headlamp. It is ultra-compact and provides uniform white lighting with an exceptional 120 hours of light duration at only 78 g. The TIKKA headlamp range has won many devotees in the climbing world, and beyond.
■ The concept of the “all on the head” headlamp, which allows hands-free lighted mobility in the dark.

■ The QUARK ERGO. This leashless ice tool with angled grip allows ice climbers to move more freely, approximating more closely the movements of rock climbing. This tool symbolizes the strong collaboration between the R & D department and the members of Petzl team.
■ The ASAP. A mobile fall arrest device for workers on ropes. Thanks to an innovative toothed wheel system, it automatically follows the worker’s movements so that they can concentrate on the task at hand. It automatically brakes in case of a fall or excessive speed.

■ An international presence
The Petzl Range

For vertical sports

Mountaineering, rock climbing, ice climbing, caving, via ferrata.

Product range: harnesses, helmets, belay devices, descenders, carabiners, ice axes, crampons, anchors, pulleys, ascenders, packs and accessories.
■ For work at height and rescue

Rope access, work on pylons and antennas, arborism, confined space work, carpentry and roofing, etc. Technical rescue, tactical operations, etc.

**Products:** harnesses, helmets, lanyards and energy absorbers, carabiners, connectors, descenders, mobile fall arrest devices, pulleys, anchors, accessories.

![Images of VERTEX® BEST, ASCENSION, I’D®, NAVAHO®](image)

■ Headlamps

■ Sport and the outdoors.
■ Work and Industry.
■ Rescue.

![Images of E+LITE®, TIKKA® PLUS, DUO® ATEX, MYOBELT XP](image)
Profile

2006 sales:
75 million euros, 80 % outside of France

Number of employees: 400

Locations:
- Main Office: Crolles (France)
- Branches: Crolles, Rotherens, and Eybens (France), Clearfield, Utah (USA)

ISO 9001 Certification

Brands

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