Pierre Schmitt graduated from Ecole Centrale de Lyon (1975) and Université Scientifique et Médicale de Grenoble (1976), where he obtained a Master Degree in Soil Mechanics, before entering the Solétanche company to which he devoted his 41 years career.

He essentially acted as design or research and development engineer in French or international subsidiary companies, before becoming design manager of Soletanche Bachy Egypt (1993-2000), then director of Solexpert International (2000-2002) and Solétanche Bachy France design office (2002-2012), then finally Soletanche Bachy group engineering and scientific director (2012-2018).

He acted as soil mechanics and geotechnics teacher in several engineering high schools (such as Ecole Spéciale des Travaux Publics and Ecole Centrale de Paris).

He is a co-auteur of the French standard for the calculation of embedded retaining walls (NFP 94 282), and acted as a member of EC7 project teams for the design of anchors and retaining structures.

Finally he wrote many articles relative to the design of retaining structures, and proposed a specific formula to evaluate realistic values of subgrade reaction moduli, based on an intense practice of geotechnical monitoring and observational method.