

If AE is that good why did people ever develop vibration?

This is a good question, it beats us as well !! Being serious though it's a question of evolution. Whereas AE has always been beyond the range of the human senses the vibration technique grew as an instrumented extension of them, so it's natural that it was developed first. It's analogous to the way that optical techniques were developed a long time before X-Rays. But don't forget that if you are actually interested in how your machines are 'leaping about' then vibration is the undoubted choice since this aspect of vibration monitoring is both well understood and calibrated.