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Advanced RFIC collaborates with NTU on high-end integrated circuit technology - Invests \$9 million to set up post-graduate scholarships, new research laboratory at NTU

Advanced RFIC (aRfic) Pte Ltd is investing \$9 million in a new collaboration with Nanyang Technological University (NTU). The collaboration aims to advance research and development in Radio Frequency Integrated Circuit (RFIC) technology.

The investment from aRfic will create postgraduate scholarships for NTU students. A total of \$1.44 million has been set aside for 30 scholarships, each scholarship is worth \$48K over 2 years. This is the first time that aRfic is sponsoring scholarships for university students.

Besides providing scholarships, a new laboratory dedicated to the research of RFIC technology will be set up at NTU's School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. The laboratory will contain state-of-the-art equipment, including a world-class 300mm probe system that makes modelling, measurement and characterization of nano-RF devices as well as integrated circuits and systems possible. NTU is believed to be the only university in Asia with such a system. NTU students will have the opportunity to work on the advanced equipment, which gives them an edge when they join the industry upon graduation.

The selected students will work on four key projects at the new lab over two years. Close collaborations with industry partners on projects has been a key strength of NTU.

This ensures that projects undertaken are market-focused and are in line with industry needs and trends.

(Please see attached fact sheet for details of the scholarships and projects).

RFIC is a highly specialised segment of the semiconductor industry. It involves engineering design and development for which the work is patented. It is a segment that Singapore is increasingly pursuing to move the local industry up the value chain and is seen as the next step in the local industry's growth.

RFIC technology is key in size reduction and power efficiency in a number of modern electronic applications. For example, RFIC has made it possible for mobile phones to be reduced from its bulky models of the past to pocket-sized models of today, and has enabled mobile technologies like 3G and bluetooth.

Says Professor Kam Chan Hin, Chair, NTU's School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, "The semiconductor industry remains an important economic driver for Singapore and it is crucial that we develop the talent to meet this growth. NTU has established strengths in integrated circuit design and development and has strong ties with the industry. Our research group in IC Design is considered to be among the top few worldwide. Through our research efforts, NTU has been helping to provide the critical R&D support in Singapore's push up the semiconductor value chain. With this collaboration, NTU can further provide the necessary postgraduate training to prepare our students for the higher-end market of the industry."

Says Mr Henry Liu, Chairman, aRfic, "This joint collaboration aims to further research on deep submicron nanometre devices as well as develop design software that help predict device performance; strengthening the company's R&D capabilities. Through this exchange of resources, NTU will gain access to high technological test equipment from aRfic. This earmarked collaboration with NTU marks a new milestone for both NTU and aRfic in the hope of stimulating growth in R&D activity in Singapore. We are confident that this nine million dollar collaboration will harvest greater expertise in this high technological area and more as aRfic and NTU scale greater heights together."

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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university with globally acknowledged strengths in science and engineering. The university is located in a garden campus in western Singapore, tracing its roots back to 1955.

NTU has 4 colleges comprising 12 schools. The College of Engineering comprises six schools focused on technology and innovation. Its research output ranks among the top four in the world. The College of Science pushes the boundaries of Singapore's life

sciences initiatives. The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business) offers one of the world's top 100 MBA programmes. The College of Humanities and Arts boasts Singapore's first professional art school offering degree courses in art, design and interactive digital media, the Humanities and Social Science School, and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia.

The 13th school, S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, will be inaugurated in 2007. An important component of this autonomous school is the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies, long recognised as a world authority on strategic studies and terrorism.

NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore's only teacher-training institute.

NTU has in place multi-country programmes and initiatives with established institutions worldwide. Key partners include MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, Carnegie Mellon University in USA, Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, Indian Institute of Technology in Asia, Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Europe.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg

About Advanced RFIC Pte Ltd

Advanced RFIC (S) Pte Ltd (aRfic) is an industry leader in the field of RFIC. Established in April 2002, aRfic specializes in the field of radio frequency integrated circuit design, semiconductor device characterization and modeling.

Since inception, aRfic has grown into a company with more than 30 capable staff and developed several pending patents. Staffed with a diverse mix of global talent, aRfic has successfully reached across cultural barriers, building healthy working relationships with its equally culturally diverse clientele.

aRfic collaborates with packaging houses, prestigious academic institutions and leading overseas institutions and universities in advanced research and development to stay abreast of the latest technology furtherance. A strategic partner of some of the world's leading foundries and semiconductor companies, aRfic aims to assist customers in realizing first-pass design success and fastest time-to-market.

For more information, visit <http://www.arfic.com>