Speech by

MR. K. TEZUKA,
President, Mitutoyo Corporation, Japan

At the opening of NANOFRONTIER PTE LTD

13 May 2005

Good morning,

Dr. Vivian Balakrishan,
Minister for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Second Minister for Trade and Industry.

Dr. Su Guaning,
President, Nanyang Technological University,

Mr Kenichi Suganuma,
Minister and Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of Japan.

Mr. Jason IaTorre,
Trade Commissioner of Canadian High Commission,

Mr. Masao Tetsuya,
Managing Director of Sumitomo Corporation (Singapore),

NTU Colleagues,
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Mitutoyo – A World Leader in Metrology

Mitutoyo is a world leader in precision measuring equipment, with its headquarters in Kawasaki, Japan. Over the years, Mitutoyo has set up a worldwide network of over 100 offices and 65 Mξ Solution Centres in 38 countries. Last year, we celebrated our 70th Anniversary marking a remarkable achievement with a series of events, including an in-house exhibition, which attracted over 5000 guests worldwide.

Mitutoyo Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd. (MAP) is the headquarters for South-East-Asia and the marketing arm of Mitutoyo Corporation, Japan. As the market leader in the field of precision measurement, Mitutoyo has always led the pace in the industry in the field of metrology. By combining key technologies from different fields, such as electronics, mechanical, encoder, MEMs, optomechatronics, inspection, evaluation, error compensation, and other area of specializations, Mitutoyo delivers innovative products beyond all expectations. This is the result of the enormous investments Mitutoyo has put into our Research Centres spearheaded by our operations in Japan, Germany and USA. Over 530 researchers and engineers are constantly engaged in new product development in our Global Research and Development Centre.

In Japan, Mitutoyo has taken the lead and embraced Nanotechnology with the development of “Nano Master 1600”. It is an ultra high accuracy length measuring system with a measuring length of 1.6m, the longest world systems using vacuum laser interferometer. This system adopts the latest technology and is capable of stabilising wavelength and decreases the uncertainty of measurement to the nanometre level.
NanoMetrology Centre
This NanoMetrology Centre, in partnership with NanoFrontier, is part of Mitutoyo's commitment to contributing to the science of metrology. More importantly, it will play a part in developing the industries in Singapore and the region. It aims to provide metrology support to Singapore's local industries in nano-measurement, which are still in its infancy.

The NanoMetrology Centre currently houses 4 advanced precision measuring instruments which are worth S$2 million in total. In the future, other new and innovative metrological equipment will be added, giving local industries a competitive edge.

This partnership is the first in Asia outside Japan. We are very proud to be part of this cooperation, and feel honoured to be associated with such prestigious partners. As manufacturing industries make smaller and smaller products, they will need more precise measurement equipment and tools for calibration. It is our hope that our contribution to this important project will help to advance Singapore in the fields of nanotechnology and nanoscience.

About the MOA
Today, MAP will sign an agreement with NanoFrontier to complete the setting-up of the NanoMetrology Centre to provide metrology support to local industries in nanomeasurement. We will also assist to develop together an innovative nanoprofiler instrument capable of measuring fine features on semiconductors at nano-resolution. The developed instrument will make use of an advanced technique to capture images with high resolution, and will be vibration resistant. It will extend Mitutoyo's product range of surface profilers, increasing our market share in minute measurement.
The MOA is important for both organisations, and is the beginning of more future endeavours. We are confident that Singapore will take advantage of these facilities and continue to upgrade and propel Singapore industries to the next level.

Thank you.