Singapore, 18 May 2005

SPEECH BY ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ER MENG JOO, DIRECTOR, INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS CENTRE, AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING CEREMONY OF THE INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS CENTRE (INTELLISYS) ON 18 MAY 2005

Mr Tan Pheng Hock, President and CEO of ST Engineering

Professor Er Meng Hwa, Deputy President of NTU and Dean of School of EEE, NTU

Mr Fong Saik Hay, Chairman of IntelliSys Management Committee

Distinguished guests

Fellow colleagues

Ladies and gentlemen

A very good morning to all of you. First of all, on behalf of the Intellisys Team, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to you to the Official Opening of Intelligent Systems Centre (IntelliSys).
Many friends and colleagues ask: What does Intelligent Systems Centre do? My response was to make systems intelligent and to begin with, I think I should look intelligent. Jokes aside, after a few Management Committee meetings, we have decided to focus on the following research areas: Intelligent Control Systems, Intelligent Information Processing, Cognitive Information Systems, Sensor Fusion and Management, Efficient Energy and Resource Management, Reconfigurable and Adaptive Architecture and AI-Based Simulation.

The vision of IntelliSys is to expand the frontiers of Intelligent Systems. IntelliSys is the meeting point of application-specific problems and technologically viable solutions. It serves as a hotbed for technology development and advancement in the area of intelligent systems. The mission of IntelliSys is three-fold:

- To conduct R&D programmes focusing on cutting-edge technologies related to control, communication, perception, decision making and autonomous action with applications in the industrial, commercial and military sectors.

- To undertake technology innovation for the creation and prototyping of new products and services relevant to the industry partners.

- To establish collaboration with other research institutions and organizations for the purpose of enhancing the state-of-art in Intelligent Systems Technologies.

Indeed, we look forward to being in the forefront of cutting-edge technologies related to intelligent systems from which multiple applications can be spawned off.
The co-operation agreement to set up the IntelliSys was officially signed on 28 July, 2003. I recall that after I was appointed as Director of IntelliSys by Prof Su Guaning, President of NTU, the IntelliSys was basically operating as a one-man company for a considerable period of time. Today, we are pleased to report that we have about 30 staff and students which include 7 Principal Investigators championing research pertaining to the 7 research areas, 13 full-time research staff and 11 research students. If we include undergraduate students, our staff and students strength is more than 50.

After the Official Opening Ceremony, there will be an Open House showcasing 19 exhibits with technology demonstrations. Some of the technology demonstrations are Intelligent Control of Autonomous Unmanned Ground Vehicles, Intelligent Intruders Detection System, Intelligent Homeland Security System, Algorithm Development in an Integrated Problem-Solving Environment and many more. You are cordially invited to view the exhibits and tour the Centre after the Ceremony.

The successful setup of IntelliSys will not be possible without the strong support and commitment from both parents, NTU and ST Engineering. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the CEO and President of ST Engineering, Mr Tan Pheng Hock and Deputy President of NTU, Professor Er Meng Hwa for taking time off from their busy schedules to grace the occasion. Their presence signifies the commitment in ensuring that we will grow and become a successful research centre eventually. We would like to record our appreciation of Deputy President of NTU, Professor Lim Mong King, who is not able to be with us today, for his help and support in setting up the IntelliSys. We would also like to record our appreciation of NTU/ST Engineering Working Committee members for the hard work and cooperation in incubating and setting up the IntelliSys. Special thanks should go to the Management Committee chaired by Mr Fong Saik Hay for their guidance and advice.
and the Dean of School of EEE, Professor Er Meng Hwa and Head of Control and Instrumentation Division, School of EEE, Professor Soh Yeng Chai in their kind understanding and support of my involvement in IntelliSys. Special thanks should also go to our partners for their collaborations and contributions. Last but not least, we would like to thank you all for your support and presence, without which the Official Opening Ceremony will not be a great success.

Just like a one and half year old baby learning how to walk, we need the continued upbringing, guidance and support from our parents and other family members. With the strong support and commitment from NTU, ST Engineering, our industry partners, our researchers and students, we are confident that we can fulfil our vision of “expanding the frontiers of Intelligent Systems” and becoming a world-class research centre eventually.

Thank you very much and have a nice day.

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