Singapore, 18 May 2005

SPEECH BY PROFESSOR ER MENG HWA, NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY DEPUTY PRESIDENT AND DEAN, SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING, 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

Mr Fong Saik Hay, Chairman of IntelliSys Management Committee

Prof Er Meng Joo, Director of IntelliSys

Distinguished guests

Ladies and gentlemen

A very good morning and welcome to Nanyang Technological University and to the Official Opening of Intelligent Systems Centre (IntelliSys).

Since its inception, NTU has been forging and maintaining a close relationship and partnership with business and industry in delivering educational programmes and in advancing research activities. NTU's cutting-edge research and the global education it
provides are known to meet real world needs. A traditional strength of the university is the high employment rate and high remuneration received by its graduates. Its strong relationships and collaboration programmes with companies and institutions, both locally and internationally, continue to be a hallmark of the university.

Today, we are a research-intensive university ranked among the top 50 universities in the world. We have a strong engineering college, which is ranked among the best globally. The large size of the college and the presence of staff with varied research expertise within close proximity have provided a rich and unique environment for cross-fertilisation of ideas, which is a necessary ingredient for multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary research work.

NTU has a long history of research collaboration with ST Engineering. One of the more recent examples of this collaboration is the establishment, in 2000, of the AIM Lab (Laboratory of Advanced & Intelligent Mechatronics) by NTU and ST Kinetics, a subsidiary of ST Engineering.

NTU is privileged to have ST Engineering as our industry partner for IntelliSys. This partnership capitalises on ST Engineering’s strength as a leading integrated engineering group, providing solutions and services in the aerospace, electronics, land systems and marine sectors, and on NTU’s spirit of research innovation and its distinct strength in intelligent systems research and development. IntelliSys will bring together staff and researchers from both organisations to create technology platforms from which multiple applications can be spawned off to industry.
Although the actual applications of intelligent systems could be very diversified, the core methodologies and technologies are largely similar. By developing these core methodologies and technologies, IntelliSys will become a source of expertise, innovation and applied research for the development of intelligent systems.

In a knowledge-based economy, intellectual capital is a prized resource and multifaceted “brain power” is king. IntelliSys is well poised to provide the necessary synergy. I am confident that the joint partnership will help develop smarter and better products and services, benefiting Singapore and beyond.

IntelliSys will be open to all staff of NTU and ST Engineering and their partners and invited collaborators from Singapore and foreign research institutions to embark on joint R&D programmes. It is expected that the Centre’s programmes will focus on intelligent system methodologies and technologies that have strategic importance to ST Engineering and its partners, with emphasis on areas that have potential impact on defence and security of Singapore. The programmes will build up reusable technology blocks essential to fuse new products and services.

I wish IntelliSys every success in its intelligent endeavours.

Thank you very much.

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