JOINT NEWS RELEASE

A*STAR Exploit[s] IME to Provide Multi-Dimensional Support to Microelectronics and Bio-electronics Industry

- ***Launch of IME R&D foundry services***
- ***MOU between IME and Chartered to bring R&D to production***
- ***MOU for licensing of IME technology to Instron***
- ***Research Collaboration between IME and Veredus in medical diagnostics***
- ***Venture capital investment in SiMEMS and extension of licensing agreement***

Singapore, 18 August 2006 – Singapore's Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) aims to provide multi-dimensional support to both local and international semiconductor industries through forging research collaborations with technology partners, partnerships with industry players, offering of R&D foundry services and facilities, as well as incubation and licensing activities.

A*STAR's Exploit Technologies and Institute of Microelectronics (IME) held a networking event today for their customers and industry partners to understand how they can benefit from the support rendered to them.

The Guest-of-Honour, Mr S Iswaran, Minister of State for Trade and Industry, launched the services of IME's research foundry, believed to be the first of its kind in the region. The R&D foundry is designed for IME and the industry to do prototyping and low volume production of new generation products. With the success of a few companies that have used the facility for pilot runs, the IME research foundry is now ready to take on more industry partners wanting to prototype and test produce their newly developed products.

Mr. Iswaran also witnessed five industry partnerships linked to IME technologies and facilitated by Exploit Technologies being sealed.

MOU for Technology Licensing with Instron

Exploit Technologies, the commercialisation arm of A*STAR, also announced today the signing of a MOU for technology licensing with Instron Singapore Pte Ltd.

Under the MOU, Exploit Technologies will license IME's technologies in high-speed cyclic bend tester to Instron for a five-year period. Instron, headquartered in Massachusetts, USA, is the leader in providing testing solutions to R&D and QC markets. Besides making Singapore its regional headquarters, Instron has also set up an engineering design & technical centre focusing on providing product solutions to microelectronics applications and market.

The high speed cyclic bend tester developed by IME is used to test for drop impact reliability of electrical components in portable devices such as mobile phones. IME has

established an improved board level test methodology and prototype tester which is five times smaller in size, 100 times faster in testing time, and better in repeatability compared to what is available in the market.

With the MOU, Instron will further develop and commercialise IME's prototype tester locally, which will in turn strengthen Instron's local operation in terms of visibility and capability, as well as anchor Instron's investment in Singapore.

This will be the second technology from IME that Instron will license. Instron and IME have jointly developed a micro-impact tester for high-speed impact testing of solder joint in 2005. A patent has also been filed on the design of the micro-impact tester.

Commented Mr KC Goh, Managing Director of Instron Singapore, "The high-speed cyclic bend tester is poised to take off with good returns, backed by the ever rising demand for portable devices, for which low-cost yet accurate drop impact test during product development and qualification is always desirable."

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

About A*STAR, Exploit Technologies and IME

The **Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)** is Singapore's national agency for science and technology, supporting the development of industry clusters. Its mission is to foster world-class scientific research and talent for a vibrant knowledge-based Singapore. The Agency comprises the Biomedical Research Council, the Science and Engineering Research Council, A*STAR Graduate Academy, Policy and Personnel, and Corporate Planning and Administration Divisions, and a commercialization arm, Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd. The two research councils fund and oversee 12 public research institutes engaged in cutting edge research in the physical sciences, engineering and biomedical sciences. Our institutes build up intellectual capital and trains research talent to deepen Singapore's scientific capabilities.
(website: www.a-star.edu.sg)

Exploit Technologies Pte Ltd (ETPL), the commercialisation arm of A*STAR, manages the intellectual property portfolio of A*STAR's research institutes and centres. ETPL facilitates the efficient transfer of A*STAR's technologies to industry, ensuring that new intellectual property generated by our researchers is exploited to produce tangible products and services.
(website: www.exploit-tech.com)

The **Institute of Microelectronics (IME)** is a research institute of A*STAR. Positioned to bridge the R&D between academia and industry, IME's mission is to increase value-add to the electronics industry in Singapore by engaging in relevant R&D in strategic fields of microelectronics; supporting and partnering the electronics industry; and developing skilled R&D personnel. Its key research areas are in integrated circuits and systems; semiconductor process technologies and microsystems, modules and components.
(website: www.ime.a-star.edu.sg)

About Instron

Instron®'s products are used to evaluate the mechanical and physical properties and performance of materials, structures and components. Instron's mission is to lead in advancing material and components testing techniques by supplying instrumentation, support services and expertise for testing materials, products and structures. Instron has over 1,200 dedicated, highly skilled employees in facilities located around the world. From engineering, service, training, and front-line support, our commitment to customer satisfaction is the driving force behind everything we do. Instron Corporation headquarter is in Norwood, Massachusetts, USA.
(website: www.Instron.com)