

# SEMINAR



**Speakers:** **Dr. Abdulfattah Mohammad Obeid**

Deputy Director for Scientific Affairs,  
Communications and Information Technologies Research  
Institute (CITRI), KACST

**Mr. Shahab Najmi**

Technical Director for WaferCatalyst Service, KACST

**Date:** Monday, January 25, 2016

**Time:** 1:00 PM

**Venue:** Engineering Building, Second floor,  
Room 24C28 (ECE Seminar Room)

## Title

### Introduction to Electronic Technologies and WaferCatalyst: A Portal to Innovation and Industry Development in IC Design

#### Abstract

Electronics technologies have gone a long way since the invention of the Transistor in 1948. From the first discrete device through the invention of planar technology and Integrated Circuits (IC) to MEMS sensors and nanotechnology, there have been many stories of how innovative thinking of electronics engineers has changed our lives for the better. The electronics industry has been the main driver of economies of the major industrial countries. The nature of this well segmented industry also has facilitated innovative thinking of today's engineers. WaferCatalyst is an ambitious initiative bringing together technologies, industry, and expertise to pave the way to new success stories emerging from Saudi Arabia and the region. So far, WaferCatalyst have facilitated an inter-dependent ecosystem consisting of many organizations and designers from around the world and have proven that bright success stories can emerge from KSA and the region soon ALLAH willing.

**ALL ARE CORDIALLY INVITED**

# SEMINAR



## Speakers Biography

**Abdulfattah Mohammad Obeid** received the Ph.D. degree in 2006 in Electrical and Information Engineering from Technical University of Darmstadt, Germany. He is currently the Deputy Director for Scientific Affairs of the Communications and Information Technologies Research Institute (CITRI) at King Abdulaziz City for Science and Technology (KACST), the national research agency of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He was a key member (Coordinator of the Electronics, Communications and Photonics Strategic Technology) of the implementation committee that drafted the National Science, Technology and Innovation plan (NSTIP-MAARIFA 1) for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He is the founder of Micro Sensors and Devices Division which grew to around 40 Engineers within two years. He played a dominant role in establishing a national IC design center in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Under this role, he formed long-term strategic partnerships with a number of international public and commercial organizations and worked collaboratively in various technology transfer projects. These projects were mainly related to the design and development of digital, mixed-signal ASICs and Inertial MEMS Sensors for different applications. Under his supervision, the team managed to produce more than 15 Analog, Digital and MEMS chips during the past two years. Some of the chips produced under his supervision were state-of-the-art in terms of performance. He is also the founder and managing director of WaferCatalyst, a low-cost Multi-Project Wafer (MPW) service provider, first of its kind in the region. This program provides an essential supporting and stimulating services the Microsystems R&D ecosystem in KSA and regionally. These services include services such as IC fabrication, training, support and a platform for collaboration between different partners thus enabling an electronics design industry in the region. Dr. Obeid has served on the technical committee of several IEEE Conferences and Workshops. He has authored and co-authored several technical papers in refereed international conferences and journals. Dr. Abdulfattah M. Obeid is a senior member of IEEE.

**Shahab Najmi** graduated with Masters in Electrical Engineering in 2002 from Cornell University, New York, USA specializing in analog and RF Integrated Circuit designing. He has worked as an Academic Researcher, IC Designer, Marketing Manager and Operations Director in a career spanning 16 years in Industry and Academia in USA, Malaysia, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. Since 2012, Mr. Shahab has lead all technical and operational matters in KACST's WaferCatalyst Program providing multi-project wafer services to organizations around the world. Mr. Shahab is also working as a Technical Leader for a large number of projects in the fields of analog/mixed-signal, digital VLSI and MEMS in Micro-Sensors and Devices Division under the National Center for Electronic, Communication and Photonics (ECP) in KACST. Previously Mr. Shahab worked as Operations Director of ICmic UniKL Academy, a government-industry joint venture in Malaysia as well as Senior Manager of Technical Marketing in IC Microsystems in Malaysia. Moreover Mr. Shahab Najmi has been a founder and director of a cloud based software product Development Company in Pakistan where he served as a Director and its Chief Operating Officer.