Seminar Topic:
RIE2025 Plan – Manufacturing, Trade and Connectivity (MTC) Domain

Adjunct Professor Alfred Huan
Assistant Chief Executive, Science & Engineering Research Council (SERC), A*STAR

Abstract

Singapore’s public sector research funding has grown from around $19B in RIE2020 to $25B in RIE2025, with continued emphasis on competitive funding under the four RIE domains. This talk will provide attendees with an overview of the Manufacturing, Trade and Connectivity (MTC) domain to encourage more collaboration between researchers from NTU and A*STAR Research Institutes. The talk will cover:
(a) the various funding initiatives within the MTC domain;
(b) how researchers should position their research when tapping on MTC funding; and
(c) what the grantor would usually look out for when assessing proposals for the various initiatives.

In addition, we will also share more on the R&D priorities in the Electronics, Aerospace, Lasers & Optics, Additive Manufacturing, and Marine & Offshore industry sectors.

Biography

Prof Alfred Huan received his education at the University of Oxford, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts and a Doctor of Philosophy in Physics, working on acoustic interactions in low temperature paramagnetic insulators. He is currently the Assistant Chief Executive, Science & Engineering Research Council (SERC) at A*STAR, through which he is responsible for the implementation of A*STAR’s strategic plans and initiatives in the Science and Engineering arena. Prof Huan has held a wide spectrum of leadership appointments to set and drive strategies throughout his career, enabling departments and institutions to fulfil its mission. Prior to A*STAR, Prof Huan had acquired considerable academic and research experience in the academia at NUS and NTU to pursue an outstanding career with A*STAR. At NUS, he was the Deputy Head in the Department of Physics, and worked on surface science and epitaxial thin films for his research. In 2005, he left NUS along with some colleagues to establish a new school at NTU – the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (SPMS), where he began as Head of Division of Physics & Applied Physics. Subsequently, he was appointed Associate Chair (Outreach & Admissions) and contributed to the School’s admission strategies. For his research at NTU, he focused on ultrafast charge and energy transfer in organics and II-VI semiconductor nanostructures, in particular the roles of defect states and the effect of dopants, leading to rich optical phenomenon exciton relaxation and charge dissociation.