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MSEC SEMINAR AND COMMERCIALIZATION FORUM



INVITED SPEAKER:

STEVEN LEBLANC

“Tunable Thin-Film Optical Filters:
Investing in Ideas During Bad Market Conditions”

September 20th, 2019

1:30 – 3:00 PM

RFM 3224

Biography:

Steven recently relocated to the Austin area when he joined BAE Systems Inc. as a Senior Principal Reliability Engineer in November, 2018.

Most recently (since October, 2006) he has worked in Aerospace and Defense developing weapon systems, and previously also served in the US Navy Submarine Service for nearly nine years (November 1979 to August 1988). During his time in the US Navy, Steven was assigned to the precommissioning crew of the USS Michigan (PCU 727), the first Gold crew of the commissioned warship USS Michigan (SSBN 727G), and to the training staff as an Advanced Training instructor in inertial navigation systems at the Trident Training Facility in Bangor, WA.

Steven graduated from the University of Washington (UW) in Seattle with a B.S. in Physics, and from the Washington State University (WSU) in Pullman with a M.S. in Statistics. He also completed various graduate courses in semiconductor physics and fabrication during a year and a quarter on university staff in his first attempt at graduate school in physics at UW and completed the coursework for a PhD in applied math at WSU during his second attempt at graduate school. Whereas he dropped out of school for the first time after the eighth grade, it

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seems now an established pattern that Steven prefers going back to school rather than finishing it!

Abstract:

Between his time in the US Navy and his return to Aerospace and Defense work (from 1988-2006), Steven participated in a succession of six start-ups, all of which were successful. Products he helped develop and commercialize during this time included the first *flow imaging diagnostic ultrasound machines*, one of the first *virtual retinal display systems*, *GaAs Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits (MMICs)*, *980nm Pump Lasers*, a disruptive technology introduction of *tunable thin-film optical filters*, and very high-brightness *LEDs*.

Today Steven will relate his favorite experiences among these ventures. Particularly, his time working a very early-stage startup, Aegis Semiconductor, in the ruins of the telecom industry collapse that followed the *MCI-Worldcom accounting scandal*. Aegis began as an idea among amorphous silicon experts doing research at Princeton University, specifically *Prof. Sigurd Wagner* and a small group of his graduate students and collaborators. Aegis Semiconductor was born of the desire to upset the industry incumbent technology for optical channel monitoring by significantly undercutting the complexity and cost of the function they provided.

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