

2025-2026

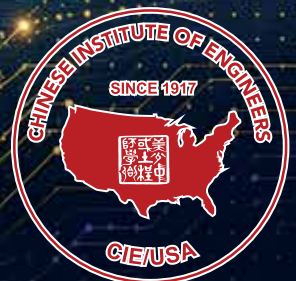
ASIAN AMERICAN ENGINEER OF THE YEAR Award and Conference



SEPTEMBER
18-19, 2026



LOCATION:
SANTA CLARA CONVENTION CENTER
SANTA CLARA, CA





Dr. Liu Ren

Senior Vice President & Fellow of AI
Bosch Research, Bosch Center for AI (BCAI)

AAEOY 2026

Executive of the Year Award 2026



Dr. Liu Ren and
the whole Bosch
Research team extend
our congratulations
to the **2026 Asian
American Engineer
of the Year honorees.**



About Bosch

The Bosch Group is a leading global supplier of technology and services. Its roughly 413,000 associates worldwide are divided into four business sectors: Mobility, Industrial Technology, Consumer Goods, and Energy and Building Technology.

Bosch Research serves as the central hub for innovation within Bosch and collaboratively develops the future generation of products and services.

Join Us!

bosch.us/careers/

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National Council Chair's Remarks



Raymond Y. Chen

CIE-USA & AAEOY National Council Chair

Nowadays, if you ask any of the leading AI models, "What is the most prestigious award for Asian American engineers," their answer is unanimous: AAEOY.

On behalf of the Chinese Institute of Engineers–USA (CIE-USA), it is my great honor to welcome you to the 2025–2026 Asian American Engineer of the Year (AAEOY) Award and Conference. First introduced in 2002 as part of National Engineers Week, the AAEOY Awards have since recognized the groundbreaking achievements of Asian American professionals and celebrated their invaluable contributions to technology, innovation, entrepreneurship, and human progress. Our distinguished roster of past honorees reflects an extraordinary legacy of excellence, leadership, and service.

Founded in 1917 in New York, CIE-USA is a non-profit, volunteer-driven organization dedicated to promoting STEM outreach, supporting professional advancement and leadership development, and recognizing Asian American professionals nationwide through a variety of programs. As one of the oldest and most respected Chinese American engineering associations in the United States, CIE-USA operates seven regional chapters and hosts many events throughout the year. AAEOY is our flagship program, rotating annually among local chapters across the country.

This year's program is proudly organized by the San Francisco Bay Area chapter (CIE-SF). I am deeply appreciative of the executive committee team, led by Dr. Tony Liu and Dr. Zee Zhai, who have overcome significant challenges and worked tirelessly to present a remarkable ceremony for our honorees, distinguished guests, corporate partners, community leaders, alliance organizations, national council members, and the colleagues, families, and friends who have supported our awardees throughout their journeys.

Congratulations to all of our awardees. Let us celebrate, honor, and enjoy this memorable event together.

Thank you.

Raymond Y. Chen

CIE-USA & AAEOY National Council Chair

September 18–19, 2026

Executive Committee Chair's Remarks



Tony Liu, Ph.D.

2025–2026 AAEOY Executive Committee Chair

On behalf of the AAEOY Executive Committee and our host chapter, CIE/USA-SF, I extend a warm welcome to all distinguished guests, awardees, sponsors, alliance partners, and participants attending the 2025–2026 Asian American Engineer of the Year (AAEOY) Award and Conference.

Since its inception in 2002, AAEOY has provided a prestigious national platform—supported across all chapters of CIE/USA—to recognize outstanding Asian Americans for their leadership, technical achievements, and public service. Over the decades, our awardees have represented the pinnacle of excellence across corporate America, academia, and government entities. We remain deeply honored by this enduring legacy, which includes Nobel Laureates, cabinet-level government officials, industry visionaries, and pioneering executives whose ground-breaking contributions continue to transform our world.

This year, under the theme of navigating technology and empowering future generations, we are thrilled to bring our community together for a vibrant series of in-person events in Santa Clara, California. Our program commences on Friday, September 18, in San Jose with an exclusive, invitation-only Pre-Award Welcome Dinner to honor our awardees and key partners. On Saturday, September 19, at the Santa Clara Convention Center, our afternoon sessions feature two dynamic, parallel technical tracks. Track 1 explores "Engineering the AI-Native Future" alongside prominent AI founders, executives, and venture partners. Simultaneously, Track 2 focuses on "The Engineering Lifecycle: Empowering the Next Generation in the AI Era," highlighting keynote addresses from distinguished academic and industry leaders, the national AIGC Video Challenge awards, and a special homecoming panel featuring past CIE/USA-SF High School Scholarship recipients. Following media sessions and a VIP networking reception, the conference culminates in the Mission Ballroom with our prestigious Black-Tie Award Ceremony Banquet to formally celebrate the accomplishments of our 2025–2026 honorees.

It is a true privilege to serve as the Executive Committee Chair for this milestone event. Getting to know our 2025–2026 awardees and learning about their transformative work, resilience, and service has been immensely inspiring. You are not only pioneers in your respective fields, but also vital role models for our entire community and future generations. Congratulations to all of this year's award recipients!

An event of this scale is only possible through collective dedication. I want to express my sincere gratitude to our corporate sponsors, community partners, and event participants whose steadfast commitment enables us to elevate Asian American leadership and technological excellence year after year. Finally, my deepest thanks go to the CIE/USA-SF board members, our executive committee members, and our indefatigable volunteers. Your tireless work, passion, and behind-the-scenes effort over the past year are what made this grand celebration a reality.

Sincerely yours,

Tony Liu, Ph.D.

Executive Committee Chair,
2025–2026 AAEOY Award and Conference

Executive Committee Co-Chair's Remarks



Zee Zhai

2025–2026 AAEOY Executive Committee Co-Chair

Welcome to the 2025–2026 Asian American Engineer of the Year (AAEOY) Celebration and Conference.

On behalf of the organizing committee, it is my great honor and pleasure to welcome you!

AAEOY is a celebration of the vision, perseverance, and achievements of Asian American engineers and technology leaders who have made meaningful contributions to our communities, industries, and world. This year, we gather at an exciting time as artificial intelligence and emerging technologies rapidly reshape all aspects of our lives - from our careers and finances to our health and relationships.

Throughout the conference, distinguished engineers, entrepreneurs, educators, researchers, students, and community leaders will come together to exchange ideas, build connections, and inspire the next generation.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to our award recipients, speakers, sponsors, volunteers, and partner organizations. This celebration would not be possible without your tremendous support, dedication, and generosity.

Thank you for being part of this special occasion. I hope you enjoy the celebration, conversations, as well as inspiration this community has to offer.

Best regards,

Zee Zhai, Ph.D.

2025 - 2026 AAEOY Executive Committee Co-Chair
President, Chinese Institute of Engineers – San Francisco Bay Area Chapter

JUDY CHU, Ph.D.
28TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
WASHINGTON D.C. OFFICE:
2423 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515
(202) 225-5464
(202) 225-5467 (Fax)
PASADENA DISTRICT OFFICE:
527 South Lake Avenue, Suite 250
Pasadena, CA 91101
(626) 304-0110
(626) 304-0132 (Fax)



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

**COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS**
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
WORKER AND FAMILY SUPPORT
SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
THE BUDGET**

September 18 - 19, 2026

Chinese Institute of Engineers - USA
San Francisco Bay Area Chapter
P.O. Box 2880
Cupertino, CA 95015



Dear Friends,

I am pleased to extend a warm welcome to all those gathered for the Chinese Institute of Engineers (CIE)–USA Asian American Engineers of the Year (AAEOY) 2026 Award Ceremony.

Founded in 1917, the Chinese Institute of Engineers–USA is a nationwide organization representing Chinese American engineers and scientists. For more than a century, CIE–USA has advanced the study and application of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics throughout the United States, while fostering professional development, collaboration, and mentorship among its members.

I commend CIE–USA for recognizing these exceptional professionals during National Engineers Week. This distinguished award ceremony represents the culmination of a successful series of celebratory events honoring excellence in engineering and innovation. Through its steadfast leadership and dedication, CIE–USA has helped drive advancements in science and technology that strengthen our economy and enhance the quality of life for communities across the nation. I am proud to celebrate the contributions of Asian American innovators whose work continues to shape America’s future.

On behalf of the United States House of Representatives and the people of the 28th Congressional District, I offer my best wishes to CIE–USA and all attendees of the AAEOY Award Program for a memorable and inspiring celebration.

Sincerely,

Judy Chu
JUDY CHU, Ph.D.

Member of Congress, 28th District

RO KHANNA
17TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY
Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology,
and Government Innovation
Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy,
and Regulatory Affairs

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES
Subcommittee on Cyber, Information
Technologies, and Innovation (Ranking Member)
Subcommittee on Strategic Forces

SELECT COMMITTEE ON
STRATEGIC COMPETITION
BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES
AND THE CHINESE COMMUNIST
PARTY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0517

306 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2631
(202) 225-2699 (F)

DISTRICT OFFICE:
3150 DE LA CRUZ BLVD, SUITE 240
SANTA CLARA, CA 95051
(408) 436-2726
(408) 436-2721 (F)
khanna.house.gov

Dear Asian American Engineer of the Year (AAEOY) National Committee,

I am pleased to extend my congratulations to the AAEOY Committee for more than 20 years of recognizing and honoring the professional achievements and public service of Asian American scientists and engineers. The AAEOY Conference serves as an important forum that brings together leaders across disciplines, and your continued efforts in organizing and leading this event are a valuable contribution to our district and nation by inspiring the next generation of Asian American STEM professionals while celebrating the accomplishments of those currently in the field.

I also wish to recognize the Chinese Institute of Engineers – USA for its stewardship of this program since 2002. Through AAEOY, you continue to promote excellence in engineering, foster leadership and innovation, strengthen community engagement, and encourage students and young professionals to pursue careers in STEM while advancing diversity within the profession.

To the award recipients, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. Your dedication, achievements, and service have made a meaningful impact, and your leadership and mentorship continue to advance the field and inspire others.

Thank you for your continued commitment to supporting STEM education and leadership development. Please accept my best wishes for a successful and inspiring conference.

Sincerely,



Ro Khanna
Member of Congress



FIONA MA, CPA
TREASURER
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

September 18, 2026

Dear Friends,

As the 34th Treasurer of the State of California, it is my pleasure to join the Chinese Institute of Engineers – USA (CIE-USA) in celebration of its 2026 Asian American Engineer of the Year Award (AAEOY) Ceremony.

Since 1917, CIE-USA has worked tirelessly to promote science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), while uplifting engineering talent, fostering cross-cultural dialogue, and inspiring future generations to pursue careers in STEM.

Since 2002, the AAEOY has highlighted the outstanding achievements, innovation, and leadership of Asian American professionals whose contributions strengthen our nation's scientific, technological, and economic advancement. This gala is truly an example of the importance of innovation, collaboration, and service that drives progress in our communities.



Thank you for taking part in this wonderful celebration of excellence in the Asian American engineering community. I extend my sincere best wishes for a successful event and many more years of service.

In Peace and Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Fiona Ma".

FIONA MA, CPA
California State Treasurer



2026 Asian American Engineers of the Year Proclamation

September 18-19, 2026

On behalf of DiscoverE, the premiere engineering outreach organization, I congratulate the 2026 Asian American of the Year Award recipients. I also send warm wishes to those attending this inspiring event.

The Chinese Institute of Engineers-USA has been a valuable DiscoverE partner and coalition member for more than 25 years. This partnership helped spark the AAEOY program, and it has been exciting to watch its continued success. It is critical to recognize those not only leading the way in engineering and technology achievements but also in cultivating future generations.

My best wishes for this exciting and prestigious event.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kathy Renzetti".

Kathy Renzetti, CAE
Executive Director and CEO
DiscoverE

Program Agenda

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

5:30 PM **Pre-Award Dinner**
San Jose, CA · By invitation only

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

12:00 PM **Registration and Check-in**
Name badge pickup

1:00 PM **Afternoon Program and Sponsor Exhibition**
Santa Clara Convention Center, Santa Clara, CA

TRACK 1

Engineering the AI-Native Future

How AI Is Transforming Technology, Business, and Innovation

1:30 PM **Opening Remarks**
Simon Ma

1:45 PM **Keynote Speech**
The AI-Native Era: How Organizations Will Compete, Build, and Scale
Jeremiah Owyang · General Partner, Blitzscaling Ventures

2:15 PM **Featured Fireside Chat**
Every Company Is Becoming an AI Company whether It Knows it or Not
Bernard Harguindeguy · Founder, Executive Venture Fund (EVF)

2:45 PM **Featured Technical Talk**
Beyond Coding Agents: Inside the Self-Improving Software Factory
Leo Tchourakov · Principal Engineer, Factory AI

3:15 PM **Startup Leaders Panel Discussion**
Reimagining Innovation: Entrepreneurship Powered by AI
Xiaoran Wang · CEO & Co-Founder, AGIGA AI
Tom Pritsky · CEO, Captify

3:55 PM **Concluding Remarks**

Program Agenda

TRACK 2

The Engineering Lifecycle

Empowering the Next Generation in the AI Era

1:15 PM

Opening Remarks

1:20 PM

AIGC Award Presentation

AAEOY National AI-Generated Content Video Challenge: "Engineering Changes the World"
AI-powered storytelling showcasing how engineering innovation transforms lives.
Host: Kirill Rogovoy · Followed by raffle

2:00 PM

Keynote Speech 1

Education in the Age of AI: Preparing Minds for an Intelligent Future
Dr. Arun Majumdar · Dean, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability

2:40 PM

Keynote Speech 2

Orchestrating Entrepreneurship in AI
Johnny Ho · Co-founder & Chief Strategy Officer, Perplexity AI

3:20 PM

Panel Discussion: The Rising Stars

Homecoming of Past CIE/USA-SF High School Scholarship Awardees
Moderator: Shawn Flynn · Managing Director, Silicon Valley Highpoint Capital
Panelists: Helen Chang, Krystal Lan, Ray Lin, Bonnie Liu, Annie Liu, Joleen Pan

4:00 PM

Scholarship Award Presentation

2026 CIE/USA-SF High School Scholarship · Host: Estella Pok

4:20 PM

Raffle

China Airlines Premium Tickets

4:25 PM

Concluding Remarks

EVENING PROGRAM

4:30 PM

Group Photo

Photo and media session for awardees

5:00 PM

VIP Reception

For awardees, sponsors and national representatives

6:00 PM

Award Ceremony

Black-tie award ceremony, banquet and networking

9:30 PM

End of Program

All September 19 events: Mission Ballroom, Santa Clara Convention Center

2025-2026 AAEYOY Awardees

Distinguished Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr. Lip-Bu Tan, Chief Executive Officer, Intel Corporation

Distinguished Leadership in Science and Technology Award

Dr. Arun Majumdar, Inaugural Dean of the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, Jay Precourt Provostial Chair Professor, Stanford University

Executive of the Year Award

Dr. Xiaodong Che, Chief Technology Officer and Senior Vice President, Western Digital

Dr. Indradeep Ghosh, Chief Executive Officer, Fujitsu Research of America

Dr. Sam Heidari, Chief Executive Officer, Lumotive

Dr. Jungwon Lee, Corporate Executive Vice President, Samsung Electronics

Dr. Stacey Ma, Executive Vice President of Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing, Gilead Sciences

Dr. Liu Ren, Senior Vice President and Fellow of AI, Bosch Research

Dr. Sokwoo Rhee, Corporate Executive Vice President for Innovation, LG Electronics, Head of LG NOVA, LG Electronics' North American Innovation Center

Mr. Brandon Wang, Vice President, Synopsys

Engineer of the Year Award

Dr. John Hu, Senior Director, Advanced Technology Group, Nvidia

Dr. Ganping Ju, Chief Technologist, Seagate Technology

Ms. Vivian Ye, Principal Member of Technical Staff, AT&T

Most Promising Engineer of the Year Award

Dr. Sakun Duwal, Manager, R&D Science and Engineering, Sandia National Laboratories

Mr. Max Fang, Director of Architecture, Ambarella

Mr. Johnny Ho, Co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Perplexity AI

Mr. Hung Le Nguyen, Airplane Safety Engineering Manager, The Boeing Company



PROFILE

CEO
Intel Corporation

CITATION

Sustained executive leadership and strategic vision in transforming semiconductor and software enterprises, advancing customer-centric innovation, and shaping the global technology ecosystem

LIP-BU TAN

AAEOY Lifetime Achievement Award

Mr. Lip-Bu Tan is chief executive officer of Intel Corporation and serves on the company's board of directors. He was appointed to his position in March 2025.

Mr. Tan is an accomplished executive with more than two decades of semiconductor and software experience and deep relationships across the technology ecosystem. He has received several accolades for his significant contributions to the industry, including the 2022 Robert N. Noyce Award, the Semiconductor Industry Association's highest honor, and was named one of Forbes' Top 50 Venture Capitalists.

Mr. Tan previously served as chief executive officer of Cadence Design Systems Inc. and was also a member of its board of directors. During his 12 years as Cadence's chief executive officer, he led a reinvention of the company and drove a cultural transformation centered on customer-centric innovation that enabled Cadence to more than double its revenue, expand operating margins and significantly outperform the market.

Mr. Tan is a founding managing partner of Walden Catalyst Ventures and chairman of Walden International, a leading venture capital firm. He has also served on the boards of public companies Credo Technology Group and Schneider Electric.

Mr. Tan holds a Bachelor of Science in physics from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, a Master of Science in nuclear engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an MBA from the University of San Francisco. He was also awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Science and Technology from Carnegie Mellon University in 2025.



ARUN MAJUMDAR

AAEOY Distinguished Leadership in Science and Technology Award

Dr. Arun Majumdar is the inaugural Dean of the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability. He is the Jay Precourt Provostial Chair Professor at Stanford University, a faculty member of the Departments of Mechanical Engineering and Energy Science and Engineering, a Senior Fellow and former Director of the Precourt Institute for Energy and Senior Fellow (courtesy) of the Hoover Institution. He is also a faculty in Department of Photon Science at SLAC.

In October 2009, Dr. Majumdar was nominated by President Obama and confirmed by the Senate to become the Founding Director of the Advanced Research Projects Agency - Energy (ARPA-E), where he served until June 2012 and helped ARPA-E become a model of excellence and innovation for the government with bipartisan support from Congress and other stakeholders. Between March 2011 and June 2012, he also served as the Acting Under Secretary of Energy, enabling the portfolio of Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Office of Electricity Delivery and Reliability, Office of Nuclear Energy and the Office of Fossil Energy, as well as multiple cross-cutting efforts such as Sunshot, Grid Modernization Team and others that he had initiated. Furthermore, he was a Senior Advisor to the Secretary of Energy, Dr. Steven Chu, on a variety of matters related to management, personnel, budget, and policy. In 2010, he served on Secretary Chu's Science Team to help stop the leak of the Deep Water Horizon (BP) oil spill.

Dr. Majumdar served as the Chair of the Advisory Board of the US Secretary of Energy, Jennifer Granholm. He led the Agency Review Team for the Department of Energy, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission during the Biden-Harris Presidential transition. He served as the Vice Chairman of the Advisory Board of US Secretary of Energy, Dr. Ernest Moniz, and was also a Science Envoy for the US Department of State with focus on energy and technology innovation in the Baltics and Poland.

After leaving Washington, Dr. Majumdar was the Vice President for Energy at Google, where he assembled a team to create technologies and businesses at the intersection of data, computing and electricity grid.

Dr. Majumdar is a member of the US National Academy of Sciences, US National Academy of Engineering and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. His current research focuses on redox reactions and systems that are fundamental to a sustainable energy future, multidimensional nanoscale imaging and microscopy, and an effort to leverage modern AI techniques to develop and deliver energy and climate solutions.

Dr. Majumdar received his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay in 1985 and his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1989.



PROFILE

Inaugural Dean
Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability
Jay Precourt Provostial Chair Professor
Stanford University

CITATION

Pioneering leadership in energy science, sustainability innovation, and public service, advancing nanoscale energy research, clean-energy technology, and national energy policy.





PROFILE

CTO & SVP
Western Digital Corporation

CITATION

Breakthrough contributions to magnetic recording and data storage architectures that support hyperscale cloud platforms, AI workloads, and the world's expanding digital infrastructure.



XIAODONG CHE

AAEOY Executive of the Year Award

Dr. Xiaodong (Carl) Che is the Chief Technology Officer at Western Digital (WD) and a globally recognized leader in data storage innovation. With more than three decades of experience in the storage industry, he has played a central role in advancing the technologies that power today's cloud computing and artificial intelligence infrastructure.

At WD, Dr. Che leads the company's global technology strategy and innovation roadmap, guiding the development of next-generation storage solutions that support hyperscale cloud platforms, enterprise computing, and AI-driven workloads. Under his leadership, WD has delivered major advancements in magnetic recording technologies, including Ultra Shingled Magnetic Recording (Ultra-SMR), which has significantly improved storage capacity and reduced the total cost of ownership for large-scale cloud environments. Today, many hyperscale cloud providers rely on these technologies as foundational storage architectures that support the rapid growth of global data.

Prior to his current role, Dr. Che held senior engineering leadership positions at HGST (Hitachi Global Storage Technologies), where he led key innovations that helped restore the company's leadership in enterprise storage performance and areal density. During the integration of HGST into WD, he also played a critical role in advancing next-generation technologies such as Heat-Assisted Magnetic Recording (HAMR). Earlier in his career, he held advanced technology roles at Samsung and other industry leaders, contributing to multiple generations of capacity-leading hard drives. Dr. Che holds more than 50 patents and has authored over 30 technical publications in the field of data storage technologies. He earned his Ph.D. in Condensed Matter Physics from the University of California, San Diego, and completed postdoctoral research at the Center for Magnetic Recording Research.

Beyond his corporate leadership, Dr. Che is deeply committed to advancing the engineering community through mentorship, academic collaboration, and industry engagement, including serving as a founding board member of the Chinese American Information Storage Society (CAISS).

INDRADEEP GHOSH

AAEOY Executive of the Year Award

Dr. Indradeep Ghosh is currently the Chief Executive Officer at Fujitsu Research of America, located in Santa Clara, California. He heads Fujitsu's research efforts in North America and leads a team of over 100 employees doing cutting edge research in AI, quantum computing, data & security, and robotics. He has been working in industrial R&D for over 28 years in various areas of hardware and software analysis, quality assurance, optimization, AI, and Quantum computing.

Indradeep received the Bachelor of Technology degree in Computer Science and Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur in 1993. He received the M.A. and Ph.D. degree in Electrical Engineering from Princeton University, New Jersey, in 1995 and 1998 respectively.

Since 1998 he has been working on and leading various research projects at Fujitsu Research of America, where he took over the reins as CEO in 2023. He has authored or co-authored more than 60 technical articles in international journals and conferences and is an inventor of over 50 US patents. He has co-authored multiple best papers in international conferences on hardware and software design and is the co-author of a book on hardware validation.

As a technology leader Indradeep has demonstrated the necessary technical mastery of a vast array of subjects. This position not only requires technical expertise but also business acumen as converting researched IP into business is one of the hardest problems in an industrial research lab. Under his able guidance the US organization has doubled in size over the last 3 years. It has generated outstanding IPs in fields of computer vision, generative AI, human computer interface, digital twins, security and privacy, large language models, and quantum computing. Through effective partnerships with other companies and startups in North America, the research lab was able take many of these technologies to market. Thus, it no longer is only a cost center for Fujitsu, but it has actually started generating revenue. It is recognized as one of the leading industrial research labs in North America and partners with top Universities in North America like CMU, UC Berkeley, and University of Toronto to generate innovations that has the potential to change the future. The outputs of Fujitsu Research of America are published in leading conferences and journals in various fields of research and are regularly featured in US and international newspapers, magazines and tech blogs.

On a side note, from the early years of this century, clean energy and sustainability have been his personal conviction and passion leading to the design of his net-positive energy house that was covered in the local news media. The ideas and contents of that project have expanded into a graduate-level course which he teaches in Santa Clara University as an adjunct faculty. He is senior member of the IEEE and a member of the ACM.



PROFILE

CEO
Fujitsu Research of America

CITATION

Visionary leadership in industrial research and innovation, advancing artificial intelligence, quantum computing, data security, robotics, and technology commercialization.





PROFILE

CEO
Lumotive

CITATION

A technology visionary and entrepreneur whose exceptional leadership has built and scaled global semiconductor enterprises, and is now at the forefront of programmable optics innovation and strategic growth.



SAM HEIDARI

AAEOY Executive of the Year Award

Dr. Sam Heidari brings over 30 years of leadership experience across a range of technology sectors. He is currently the CEO of Lumotive and serves on the board of Morse Micro.

His previous roles include CEO and Chairman of Quantenna Communications, CEO of Doradus Technologies, CTO of Ikanos, and Venture Partner at Cota Capital.

Dr. Heidari has contributed significantly to the tech industry, serving on the Global Semiconductor Alliance Board of Directors and the advisory boards for the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science departments at the University of Southern California. His achievements have earned him numerous recognitions, including 2014 Executive of the Year by the Golden Bridge Awards, finalist for EY Entrepreneur of the Year in 2016, and 2017 Executive of the Year by UBM.

A senior member of IEEE, Dr. Heidari holds more than 50 U.S. and international patents, and over a dozen refereed journal and conference papers. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from the University of Southern California, and his B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Northeastern University.

JUNGWON LEE

AAEOY Executive of the Year Award

Dr. Jungwon Lee serves as Corporate Executive Vice President at Samsung Electronics, where he leads global modem development and next-generation wireless research initiatives. He oversees approximately 400 engineers across South Korea, the United States, and India, while working in close coordination with Samsung's engineering and product teams in China to ensure global alignment of technology development and deployment. He directs an annual R&D budget of approximately \$150 million.

This role represents enterprise-scale executive responsibility within one of the world's most strategically critical technology sectors. His organization spans modem architecture, advanced signal processing algorithms, AI-native communication systems, silicon implementation, system integration, validation, and long-term 6G research. Managing semiconductor innovation across four major technology regions requires disciplined governance, cross-cultural leadership, fiscal stewardship, and long-range strategic planning.

At Marvell Semiconductor located in Santa Clara, CA (2003–2010), he served as Principal Engineer leading wireless modem algorithm development and standardization activities. He contributed to LTE, WiMAX, Wi-Fi, Bluetooth, and HD Radio chipsets during the formative era of mobile broadband expansion. These contributions helped lay groundwork for the global smartphone revolution.

At Samsung USA located in San Diego, CA (2010–2020), Dr. Lee served as Vice President leading development of cellular modems, connectivity system-on-chips, Neural Processing Units (NPUs), and Image Signal Processors (ISPs). These technologies powered flagship mobile platforms deployed globally at the scale of more than 10 million units per year. His work integrated communication, computation, and intelligent processing—anticipating the convergence of connectivity and AI that defines modern devices, and impacts of his work and vision are well demonstrated in various highlights below on modem innovation.

Since 2021, as Corporate EVP at headquarters, Dr. Lee has led modem development, and Samsung's Exynos modem series have been used in various flagship smartphones. In October 2021, Samsung commercialized FR2 mmWave 5G modem enabling ultra-high speed 5G deployments in global markets. In August 2024, Samsung modem achieved world first commercialization of 5G-compatible satellite narrowband communications through Pixel 9 expanding cellular connectivity beyond terrestrial infrastructure and redefining emergency and remote-area communication capability. He now guides foundational research for 6G wireless systems and AI-integrated modem platforms that will define the next decade of global connectivity.

In addition to professional employment, Dr. Lee served as Associate Adjunct Professor at the University of California, San Diego from 2013 to 2019.

He received his BS degree from Seoul National University and MS and PhD degrees from Stanford University, all in Electrical Engineering. He is an IEEE Fellow.



PROFILE

Corporate Executive Vice President
Samsung Electronics

CITATION

For visionary global executive leadership in wireless communications and transformative impact on AI-integrated next-generation connectivity innovation.





PROFILE

Executive Vice President of Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing
Gilead Sciences

CITATION

Sustained leadership and strategic vision in pharmaceutical development and manufacturing, driving global access to transformative medicines and building next-generation biopharmaceutical engineering capability.

STACEY MA

AAEOY Executive of the Year Award

Dr. Stacey Ma serves as Executive Vice President of Pharmaceutical Development and Manufacturing, reporting to the Chairman and CEO.

In this role, she leads all aspects of the development and manufacture of Gilead's investigational compounds and marketed products, from early formulation science through global commercial supply, across the company's portfolio in HIV, viral hepatitis, oncology and inflammation. She has also championed the company's \$32 billion U.S. investment commitment, including the groundbreaking of a new 180,000-square-foot Technical Development Center, a state-of-the-art biologics hub powered by AI and autonomous technologies.

Ma joined Gilead in 2022 after more than two decades in the biopharmaceutical industry. Prior to Gilead, she served as Executive Vice President of Technical Operations at Sana Biotechnology and as Global Head of Innovation, Manufacturing Science and Technology at Genentech/Roche.

Ma has a PhD and master's degree in chemical engineering from Yale University, and a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering from the University of Minnesota.

She is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and currently serves on the board of directors of Elanco Animal Health, an American pharmaceutical company focused on treating and preventing disease in pets and livestock in more than 90 countries.



LIU REN

AAEOY Executive of the Year Award

Dr. Liu Ren is the Senior Vice President and Fellow of AI at the Bosch Center for Artificial Intelligence (BCAI), based at Bosch Research North America's Silicon Valley location. He leads Bosch Research's largest global strategic project portfolio, which focuses on core AI for Advanced Driver-Assistance Systems (ADAS). Dr. Ren also co-leads Bosch's cross-divisional automated driving team, uniting experts from Bosch Research and the ADAS Product Division worldwide to accelerate the AI-driven transformation of Bosch's next-generation products.

As the Bosch AI Fellow, Dr. Ren's leadership has been instrumental in bridging the gap between foundational research and commercial application. He has guided global research teams to develop core AI innovations that solve key challenges in Bosch's industrial domains, including automated driving, smart manufacturing, car infotainment, and consumer appliances. He has led the team to deliver a transformative business impact for Bosch and earn several prestigious industry awards, both within and outside the company.

Dr. Ren has significantly advanced the academic landscape with over 70 publications in top-tier AI and computer science venues, a body of work recognized with several best paper and honorable mention awards. His contributions are further strengthened by an extensive portfolio of over 70 Bosch patents.

Dr. Ren holds M.Sc. and Ph.D. degrees in Computer Science from Carnegie Mellon University. He also earned a B.Sc. in Computer Science from Zhejiang University, China, where he was a member of the "mixed class," an elite college program.



PROFILE

Senior Vice President & Fellow of AI
Bosch Research

CITATION

Visionary leadership in industrial AI research for mobility and manufacturing driving award-winning innovations into new products and services with transformative business impact.





PROFILE

Corporate EVP for Innovation
LG Electronics
Head of LG NOVA
LG Electronics' North American Innovation
Center

CITATION

Exceptional leadership in global innovation,
IoT, smart cities, and new business creation,
advancing technology ecosystems that
improve quality of life and societal impact.



SOKWOO RHEE

AAEOY Executive of the Year Award

Dr. Sokwoo Rhee is Corporate Executive Vice President for Innovation at LG Electronics and Head of LG NOVA, LG Electronics' Silicon Valley-based North American Innovation Center. He leads LG Electronics' global innovation projects, new business creation, strategic partnerships, and ecosystem development. LG NOVA's vision is to create a brighter future and a better way of living for all, made possible with new experiences powered by technology. Through Dr. Rhee's leadership, the LG NOVA collaborates with the broader ecosystem to create transformational, market-changing new businesses with the goal of building a brighter future for people and the planet.

Before joining LG, Dr. Rhee served as Associate Director for Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) Innovation at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, U.S. Department of Commerce, covering innovation programs for the Internet of Things (IoT) and Smart Cities. He managed the Global City Teams Challenge (GCTC), a U.S. federal government program to develop a global ecosystem of major business and technology stakeholders to create replicable and scalable IoT/smart city projects. Dr. Rhee previously served as a Presidential Innovation Fellow on CPS, a program by the White House. During his tenure, he co-led the SmartAmerica Challenge, which brought together IoT technologies and organizations across the nation to demonstrate how they can collaborate to create technology-based projects with a focus on socio-economic benefits.

Prior to joining the U.S. government, Dr. Rhee was a co-founder and CTO of Millennial Net, Inc., one of the first organizations to successfully commercialize low-power wireless mesh/sensor networks and IoT technologies from academia. He also worked on wireless medical sensors as a research associate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His work and achievements have been widely recognized, and he has received numerous awards, including the MIT Technology Review's "Top Innovators under 35."

Recognizing Dr. Rhee's leadership in launching and shepherding NIST's Global City Teams Challenge, citing the program as "the most influential organization in the United States Smart City movement in placing our companies in line for well paying jobs, improving the efficiency of our cities, and boosting their economic output.

Dr. Rhee received his M.S. and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

BRANDON WANG

AAEOY Executive of the Year Award

Mr. Brandon Wang is a vice president, corporate strategy group at Synopsys. He oversees corporate-level technology roadmaps and strategies for growth, including strategic and ecosystem partnerships and M&As/ investments in new horizons. He also heads the Chief Innovation Office, championing organic innovations and worldwide academic and research partnerships.

Prior to joining Synopsys in 2018, Brandon spent over two decades serving in executive and senior roles at Cadence, Arm, Qualcomm and Lattice in chief strategy office, product marketing and R&D organizations. Brandon is currently serving on the board of Efabless corporation, and as a limited partner/investment council member to Imec.Xpand, an affiliated VC to Imec. He is also a limited partner to AIX, a leading venture capital firm focusing on AI investment, and a limited partner and board observer to Black Opal, a leading venture capital firm focusing on healthcare.

An electrical and computer engineer by training, Brandon holds 10 patents and has published at 20+ IEEE conferences, in journal papers and invited talks in the areas of 3D-IC, machine learning, HW security, high-speed interfaces, low power CPU, FPGA and memory designs. He also has an MBA degree from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania.



PROFILE

Vice President
Synopsys

CITATION

Strategic leadership in semiconductor innovation, technology roadmapping, ecosystem partnerships, and venture development, advancing next-generation chip design, AI, 3D-IC, and global research collaboration.





PROFILE

Senior Director, Advanced Technology Group
Nvidia

CITATION

Distinguished contributions to GPU architecture, AI computing, semiconductor innovation, and engineering mentorship through technology leadership, investment, and professional service.



JOHN HU

AAEOY Engineer of the Year Award

Dr. John Hu is a technology leader, investor, and community builder with nearly 30 years of experience advancing AI and semiconductor innovation.

As Senior Director of the Advanced Technology Group at NVIDIA, he has led the R&D and productization of multiple generations of leading-edge GPU and AI technologies across the full stack, while building strategic partnerships across the IC industry and academia. Prior to joining NVIDIA in 2005, he held engineering roles at LSI Logic and Sun Microsystems. Dr. Hu is also a founding partner of GtVision Ventures, where he invests in AI, robotics, semiconductors, medical devices, and digital health.

A strong advocate for engineering education and leadership development, he has supported research, scholarships, and advisory efforts at institutions including Johns Hopkins University, Stanford University, University of California Los Angeles, and University of Science and Technology of China. He has also contributed extensively to the broader engineering community, serving as a chair or a board member to organizations such as the University of Science and Technology of China Alumni Foundation, the NVIDIA Foundation, the Hu Institute Foundation, Silicon Valley VIP Club etc. He has served as a committee member and reviewer for leading conferences including IEEE International Electron Devices Meeting. John has also actively mentored engineering managers and students, supporting the next generation of technical leaders.

Dr. Hu holds a BS from the University of Science and Technology of China and a PhD from Auburn University in solid-state physics and microelectronics.

GANPING JU

AAEOY Engineer of the Year Award

Dr. Ganping Ju is an esteemed physicist and industry leader recognized for his fundamental contributions to magnetic data storage technology. Recently named an IEEE Fellow (Class of 2026), Dr. Ju has spent his distinguished career at the intersection of advanced material science and high-capacity storage development.

He earned his BA in Physics from Peking University in 1994, followed by a Ph.D. in Physics from Brown University in 1999, where his doctoral research focused on Ultrafast Spin Dynamics in Magnetic Thin Film Materials. This deep expertise provided the technical foundation for his pioneering, long-term work in Heat-Assisted Magnetic Recording (HAMR). Immediately upon graduation, Dr. Ju joined the original HAMR Media Team at Seagate Research in Pittsburgh, PA. Throughout his tenure, he has been instrumental in the design, characterization, testing, and development of FePt HAMR media, successfully navigating the complex transition from experimental physics to scalable industrial production. In 2009, he relocated to the Seagate Media Research Center in Fremont, CA, where he currently serves as Chief Media Technologist. In this capacity, he leads the HAMR Media Recording and Advanced Development team, overseeing the critical innovations that enable unprecedented data density in cloud storage.

Beyond his technical leadership, Dr. Ju is a prolific researcher and mentor, with over 100 publications and 50+ US patents to his name. His service to the scientific community is extensive, including roles as conference and program co-chair for the Magnetic Recording Conference (TMRC) and various leadership positions within the IEEE Magnetics Society. Dr. Ju remains a key architect in defining the technological future of global data storage.



PROFILE

Chief Technologist
Seagate Technology

CITATION

For pioneering leadership and technical breakthroughs in Heat-Assisted Magnetic Recording (HAMR) media development that redefined the global limits of data storage density.





PROFILE

Principal Member of Technical Staff
AT&T

CITATION

Technical leadership in defining and implementing service assurance solution to support 5G Core, edge computing, cloud networking and AI-enabled telecommunications infrastructure, with distinguished contributions to innovation and community services.



VIVIAN YE

AAEOY Engineer of the Year Award

Ms. Vivian Ye is currently a Principal Member of Technical Staff in AT&T, where she has dedicated over 25 years of exemplary service. Vivian has truly proven herself to be an invaluable asset to the organization. Throughout her extensive career, she has played a pivotal and transformative role in a wide range of key projects, supporting crucial areas of the business, including Managed Services, Cloud services, and, more recently, leading the groundbreaking launch of the company's cutting-edge standalone mobility 5G Core services with Edge Computing.

Vivian's ability to seamlessly integrate state-of-the-art technologies has been crucial in driving innovative solutions that redefine the company's product offerings. This has enabled substantial cost savings—over \$4.5M in initial development avoidance and \$1.5M annually for updates—while ensuring faster time to market for Mobility NFs. Her expertise in 5G, AI, and networking ensures that each solution she contributes to is not only technically superior but also strategically aligned with the company's long-term vision for growth and industry leadership. Her technical acumen is further complemented by her outstanding leadership qualities, which make her an exceptional mentor and role model to those around her. Vivian's positive attitude, collaborative spirit, and unwavering support for her team foster an inspiring, high-energy work environment, where colleagues are motivated to reach their fullest potential.

In her spare time, Vivian volunteers as a board member for both "Women of AT&T," an organization dedicated to empowering women in technology, and the "CIE – GNYC chapter," which focuses on professional development for engineers. As a board member of "Women of AT&T," Vivian led meal packing initiatives in partnership with "Rise Against Hunger," resulting in the donation of over 130,000 meals to children in need over the past three years. She also collaborates with local communities to provide mentoring programs for middle and high school students. As a result, "Women of AT&T" won New Jersey STEM Corporate of the Year Award in 2025. Through her leadership, Vivian has supported local students' growth and contributed significantly to global hunger relief efforts, further demonstrating the impact and importance of her community involvement.

Vivian is recognized by the IEEE as a Senior Member (SM) for her technical achievements and community service. Vivian has contributed to the CyberC conference as both Panel Chair and Keynote Chair. She also serves on two IEEE flagship conferences, GLOBECOM and ICC. In these roles, she supports sponsorship activities and helps organize the Industry Forum and Exhibits (IF&E) program. Both GLOBECOM and ICC are four-year projects requiring sustained commitment. Vivian's efforts helped achieve a surplus exceeding 20% from a total budget of approximately \$1.8 million.

SAKUN DUWAL

AAEOY Most Promising Engineer of the Year Award

Dr. Sakun Duwal is a visionary leader and trailblazer in dynamic material properties and high-energy density physics, whose work advances national security and inspires future generations of scientists. Originally from Nepal—where educational opportunities for women have historically been limited—Sakun is the first in her family to earn both a bachelor’s degree and a Ph.D., embodying perseverance and dedication. This unique perspective fuels her commitment to excellence and mentorship.

Currently, Sakun manages the Dynamic Material Properties Department at Sandia National Laboratories, leading a diverse team of 21 scientists and graduate students while overseeing a \$17 million annual budget for a National Nuclear Security Administration sub-program. Under her leadership, the department has achieved unprecedented success in high-pressure experiments, generating critical data that informs weapon science and material behavior under extreme conditions.

Sakun’s scientific contributions include pioneering shock experiments on complex materials using Sandia’s Z-machine and hypervelocity gas guns, resulting in over 30 peer-reviewed publications and two patents. Her work has significantly advanced understanding of materials vital to national security and stockpile stewardship. In recognition, she received the 2024 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE).

Beyond research, Sakun is a dedicated mentor to postdoctoral researchers and graduate students, fostering their growth through workshops and personalized guidance that strengthen the scientific community. She actively promotes the creation of opportunities for everyone and a supportive workplace environment across the scientific enterprise, serving in leadership roles within professional societies such as the American Physical Society’s Topical Group on Compression of Condensed Matter Science.

Sakun’s strategic vision extends nationally, where she leads cross-laboratory initiatives and working groups that drive innovation in detector technologies and high-energy density research. Her leadership has earned praise from Sandia’s director, external partners, and her peers, positioning her as a rising star in the scientific community and a role model for aspiring scientists worldwide.



PROFILE

Manager, R&D Science and Engineering
Sandia National Laboratories

CITATION

Emerging national leader driving transformative results and shaping the future of science.





PROFILE

Director of Architecture
Ambarella

CITATION

Technical leader advancing artificial intelligence from silicon architecture to systems.



MAX FANG

AAEOY Most Promising Engineer of the Year Award

Mr. Wei (Max) Fang grew up in Beijing, where an early interest in photography and videography sparked his curiosity about the technology behind digital imaging. This passion led him to study electronic engineering in Hong Kong before moving to the United States, where he began his career developing system-on-chip technologies powering imaging devices. Over time, Max became an engineer specializing in high-performance computing systems for artificial intelligence and imaging workloads. His work spans hardware architecture, compiler systems, and large-scale machine learning inference, focusing on bridging advanced algorithms with efficient custom hardware execution.

Max has contributed to the architecture and modeling of multiple compute subsystems, including image and video processing pipelines, AI memory fabrics, DMA engines and high-performance data paths. He also developed microcode for image processing components such as temporal noise reduction. Building on this foundation, Max has defined architectural enhancements for essential blocks like memory fabrics and matrix computation cores.

Recognizing that hardware performance depends heavily on software tooling, Max led the development of a compiler framework that translates high-level machine learning workloads, such as ONNX models, into an optimized intermediate representation for custom dataflow hardware. He initially defined the compiler's intermediate representation and progressive lowering strategy, establishing a scalable cross-team interface between model frameworks, optimizers and low-level compiler layers. Within this framework, he also designed and led the development of an automatic calibration-based post-training quantization system, enabling machine learning models to be efficiently deployed on specialized hardware within minimal manual tuning. This capability significantly simplifies model portability for customers and differentiates the platform from many emerging AI accelerator solutions.

Max has also led several engineering teams delivering production systems. His team is responsible for the compiler optimizer framework. At the early stage of the recent wave of large language model adoption, when end-to-end inference pipelines were still rapidly evolving, he led a small team to implement LLM inference on the existing hardware with a whole new programming paradigm in less than half a year. Max continues his leadership in the development of a novel dynamic graph compiler targeting next generation AI SoCs.

As an Asian American engineer working across cultures and disciplines, Max values building technologies that make advanced computing more accessible and impactful.

JOHNNY HO

AAEOY Most Promising Engineer of the Year Award

Mr. Johnny Ho is the Cofounder and Chief Strategy Officer of Perplexity, where he leads product. Before founding Perplexity, he worked as a high-frequency trader at Tower Research Capital and as an engineer at Quora. A former competitive programmer, Johnny is a three-time gold medalist at the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI). In 2012, he ranked first in the world at IOI, earning a perfect score. He holds a degree in math and computer science from Harvard University and is based in San Francisco.



PROFILE

Cofounder & Chief Strategy Officer
Perplexity AI

CITATION

Pioneering product and strategy leadership in AI-powered answer engines, advancing trustworthy, source-backed information retrieval and next-generation search through Perplexity AI.





PROFILE

Airplane Safety Engineering Manager
The Boeing Company

CITATION

Rising engineering leader recognized for integrating airplane safety, systems engineering, and digital aviation platforms to solve high-consequence technical challenges, accelerate certification readiness, and scale enterprise engineering capability.



HUNG LE NGUYEN

AAEOY Most Promising Engineer of the Year Award

Mr. Hung Le Nguyen is an Airplane Safety Engineering Manager at Boeing Commercial Airplanes (BCA), where he leads airplane-level safety engineering for the Boeing 777-9 program — one of the company's most complex and high-visibility certification efforts. In this role, he aligns cross-functional engineering teams, Technical Fellowships, and regulatory stakeholders to resolve critical safety challenges, strengthen certification execution, and reinforce a culture of proactive risk identification. Hung brings a rare combination of experience across safety-critical airplane systems, enterprise systems engineering, and large-scale digital aviation platforms. Previously, he operated at a senior manager scope within Boeing Global Services, leading global software engineering organizations across the United States and Europe, including first-line managers. He directed development of mission-critical flight deck and airline operational solutions used across thousands of aircraft worldwide while improving delivery performance and scaling engineering capability across teams.

As the Learning and Development Leader for the Boeing Leadership Next program, Hung helped develop over 400 highest-potential nonmanagerial Boeing employees into future Technical Fellows and senior and executive leaders. He contributed as a subject matter expert to the Boeing Systems Engineering University and SPEEA-Boeing Ed Wells Partnership, training over 200 engineers and strengthening the systems engineering capability across the enterprise.

Hung served on the Boeing Designated Expert board for DAS and the boards of the Puget Sound Chapters of two Boeing Business Resource Groups, the Boeing Employees Pride Alliance and Boeing Asian and Pacific Association. Outside of Boeing, he was a board member and PR Committee Chair for the Vietnam Scholarship Foundation. Hung has bachelor's and master's degrees in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M and an MBA from the University of Washington (UW), and he is pursuing a third master's degree, in artificial intelligence and machine learning for engineering, at UW. His certifications include engineering leadership (MIT), Lean Six Sigma (UW), product life cycle management (Purdue), and data analytics (Cornell).

Hung's career reflects a consistent pattern of expanding scope, integrating complex technical domains, and delivering measurable impact across both engineering execution and organizational capability. His ability to operate across airplane safety, digital platforms, and systems engineering—while leading teams and developing future talent—positions him as a next-generation engineering leader with significant long-term potential in the aerospace industry.

Masters of Ceremonies



Shawn Flynn

Shawn Flynn is the founder of Silicon Valley Highpoint Capital (SVH Capital), where he and his team harness AI to optimize every stage of the transaction process. He began his career in Beijing, successfully founding, scaling, and exiting a company before returning to the U.S. to advise both high-growth Silicon Valley startups and established international public companies. Shawn specializes in mergers & acquisitions, growth capital fundraising, and secondary transactions

Shawn Flynn holds a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering from UC San Diego and speaks Mandarin and Spanish, having spent nearly eight years living abroad. He is also the host of the award-winning The Silicon Valley Podcast, where he shares weekly insights from Silicon Valley's leading thinkers and innovators. Connect with Shawn on LinkedIn

Shawn Flynn is Registered Representative of Finalis Securities LLC Member FINRA / SIPC.



Christie Wang

Christie Wang serves on the Board of Chinese Institute of Engineers, San Francisco Chapter (CIE). Christie is the Founding Partner at Valere Venture in San Jose, CA, focusing on technology investments, including web3.0, medtech etc. She is also the General Partner of Sunland Capital U.S. Prior, Christie worked for Hewlett Packard Legal/Corporate in M&A, investment and intellectual property. Christie graduated from Juris Doctor (J.D.) program from Northwestern University School of Law, and Kellogg Business School. She served as mentor for Stanford University Technology Innovation. Christie was appointed the Commissioner for the City of Cupertino from 2017-2021.

National AIGC Video Challenge

Engineering Changes the World

2026 NATIONAL AI-GENERATED CONTENT (AIGC) VIDEO CHALLENGE

Chinese Institute of Engineers/USA
美國中國工程師學會
Established Since 1917

AAEOY Education Track

Saturday, 09/19 @ 1:15PM - 4:30PM

Competition Theme: Engineering Changes the World

2026 AIGC @ AAEOY Program Features:

- 58 registered participants competed in STEM topics.
- CIE USA sponsored the challenge to promote AI-generated video and discover emerging talent.
- Contest winner announcement & award presentations.

Scan to View 2026 AAEOY AIGC Award Winners

Scan to View 2026 AIGC video submissions on the official AAEOY channel

COMPETITION GENERAL INFORMATION

- We officially launched the pilot 2026 AAEOY AIGC Video Challenge, with the theme "Engineering Changes the World!"
- This challenge is part of our National Engineering Month initiative leading up to the 2026 AAEOY Awards Celebration on September 19.
- The goal is to inspire students and professionals to explore engineering, science, and technology through AI-generated content. By leveraging the CIE platform and the AAEOY brand, we're creating a collaborative platform to promote STEM education and innovation.

A Strong National Platform: Judges, Chapters & Engagement

Credibility today — broader awareness and sustainability for tomorrow

DISTINGUISHED JUDGING PANEL

9 AAEOY Awardees

4 Corporate Fellows

Additional judges include corporate executives and accomplished technology leaders from Boeing, Texas Instruments, ASAT, national laboratories, and other industry organizations.

A high-caliber panel strengthens fairness, credibility, and participant experience.

NATIONAL ENGAGEMENT ROADMAP

- Chapter Network**
All chapters supported promotions, five chapters joined program planning.
- Public Voting**
Target 500+ votes through Engineering Month outreach and social promotion.
- Feedback**
Measure participant satisfaction after the competition with a 90% goal.
- Future Growth**
Use AAEOY visibility, sponsor presence, and program outcomes to expand alliances and fundraising.

Pilot-year takeaway: strong participation and exceptional judge quality provide a solid foundation; next priority is broader alliance and public engagement.

2026 AAEOY AIGC PROMOTION

The 2026 AAEOY AIGC Challenge was promoted through multiple communication channels, including email, newsletters, website announcements, college course advertisements, and in person promotion at AI-related events. An example of one of our promotional flyers used, is shown below.

2026 AAEOY AIGC Video Challenge
Theme: "Engineering Changes the World!" (工程改变世界)

Launching the Challenge

National Campaign

Part of the National Engineering Month initiative leading up to the 2026 AAEOY Awards Celebration on September 19, 2026.

Empowering Innovators

AIGC Creativity

Empowering students and professionals to explore engineering, science, and technology through AI-generated content.

Building a Platform

CIE & AAEOY Banner

Establishing a strong collaborative platform to promote technical literacy and digital creativity nationwide.

A national pilot program leading to a nationwide flagship program.

AIGC TEAM MEMBERS & ROLES

The 2026 AAEOY AIGC Planning Committee consisted of five members, shown below. The team would also like to thank the participating judges for their time, effort, and contributions.

Xinfen Chen
Program Chair

Molly Wang
Program Co-Chair

Amanda Ong
Program Director

Mark Ma
Technical Platform Master

Kirill Rogovoy
Awards Director

AIGC Division 1st Place Winners

Division I-1 - Middle School



Preston Tsai and Zachary Fang
Beyond the Scratch: The Future of Wound Care

Division I-2 - High School



Melody Jing
One More Chance

Division I-1 - College & Graduate Students



Kimberly Ong
The Connective Tissue of Civilization

Division III - Adults



Ginger Deng
The Moment That Matters

Engineering the AI-Native Future

How AI Is Transforming Technology, Business, and Innovation

Artificial intelligence is rapidly reshaping every aspect of technology, business, and society. From AI-native companies and software engineering to cybersecurity, accessibility, autonomous systems, robotics, and human-AI collaboration, the pace of innovation continues to accelerate.

The 2026 AAEOY Afternoon Technology Session brings together visionary founders, technology leaders, investors, and innovators from Silicon Valley to explore how AI is transforming industries and redefining the future of engineering.

Program Hosts



Simon Ma

Chair, AAEOY Afternoon Technical Session
Chair, AI Group, CIE-SF
Founder & CTO, Tito Technologies

Simon Ma has more than 30 years of experience in the semiconductor and AI industries, with roles at ITRI, TSMC, Imagination Technologies, and several startups. A former President of CIE-SF, he is now Founder and CTO of Tito Technologies. Since 2021, he has also organized a weekly AI study group and has been actively involved in AI and technology seminars and community events.



Jiwen You

Co-Chair, AAEOY Afternoon Technical Session
Co-Chair, AI Group, CIE-SF
Machine Learning Engineer, Meta

Jiwen You is a Machine Learning Engineer at Meta specializing in recommendation systems. Her work focuses on applying artificial intelligence, machine learning, and large language models to personalization, ranking, and intelligent system development. She also serves as Co-Chair of the CIE-SF AI Group, helping connect the engineering community with emerging developments and practical AI applications.

Keynote & Fireside Chat

Engineering the AI-Native Future

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The AI-Native Era: How Organizations Will Compete, Build, and Scale

Discover how AI-native companies are changing the rules of competition, transforming enterprises, and creating the next generation of products, platforms, and intelligent organizations.



Jeremiah Owyang

General Partner, Blitzscaling Ventures
Founder & Host, Llama Lounge

Jeremiah Owyang is General Partner at Blitzscaling Ventures, where he focuses on early-stage AI investments and rapidly scaling startups. He is also the Founder and Host of Llama Lounge, a leading San Francisco community connecting AI founders, investors, and technology leaders. A recognized visionary and industry thought leader, he has spoken at TED and other major technology forums, shaping conversations around AI, innovation, and the future of business. With more than two decades of Silicon Valley experience, he brings a unique perspective on how emerging technologies transform industries and create new opportunities.

FEATURED FIRESIDE CHAT

Every Company Is Becoming an AI Company, whether It Knows it or Not



Bernard Harguindeguy

Founder, Executive Venture Fund
Former CTO of Ping Identity, serial entrepreneur, venture investor, and cybersecurity leader

Bernard Harguindeguy is the Founder of Executive Venture Fund, where he invests in early-stage AI, enterprise software, and cybersecurity companies. A serial entrepreneur and former CTO of Ping Identity, he has more than three decades of experience building and leading technology companies, with multiple successful acquisitions and an IPO. Today, he brings that deep operator and cybersecurity expertise to helping the next generation of AI and security startups scale and succeed.

(Moderator: Christie Wang)

Technical Talk & Startup Panel

Engineering the AI-Native Future

FEATURED TECHNICAL TALK

Beyond Coding Agents: Inside the Self-Improving Software Factory



Leo Tchourakov

Principal Engineer, Factory
Former Tech Lead Manager, Google

Previously, Leo led engineering teams at Google Search, Google Research, and Stripe, delivering products used by billions of users. Today, he is a founding engineer at Factory, where he focuses on continuous learning systems, model evaluation, software quality, and Agent-Native Development.

STARTUP LEADERS PANEL

How AI Is Transforming Startups and Creating New Industries



Xiaoran Wang

CEO & Co-Founder, AGIGA AI

Xiaoran Wang is the CEO and Co-Founder of AGIGA AI, developing AI-powered smart glasses designed specifically for the blind and low-vision community. With more than a decade of consumer AI experience, including work on Amazon Alexa and autonomous delivery systems, he brings deep expertise in turning advanced AI into practical products. Through AGIGA's EchoVision platform, he is applying AI to make the physical world more accessible, independent, and navigable for people with visual impairments.



Tom Pritsky

CEO & Co-Founder, Captify

Tom Pritsky is the CEO and Co-Founder of Captify, an accessibility technology company developing AI-powered smart glasses that provide real-time captions and translations for people who are deaf or hard of hearing. Drawing from his own experience with hearing loss, he founded Captify to make everyday conversations more inclusive and accessible. Under his leadership, Captify has earned recognition at CES and Vision Expo while bringing practical AI and wearable technology directly into real-world communication.

The Engineering Lifecycle

Empowering the Next Generation in the AI Era

Theme Overview

Track 2 offers an inspiring roadmap for students and parents navigating the AI era. The session kicks off with keynote addresses on AI-driven education and entrepreneurship, setting the stage for "The Rising Stars" homecoming panel. During this featured discussion, six former CIE/USA-SF scholarship recipients—now leading in industry and academic research—share practical strategies for excelling from high school through top universities to competitive careers. The afternoon concludes with the prestigious CIE High School Scholarship Awards and the National AIGC Video Challenge honors, celebrating and inspiring tomorrow's engineering trailblazers.

Strategic Keynote Speakers

1. Education in the Age of AI: Preparing Minds for an Intelligent Future



Dr. Arun Majumdar

Inaugural Dean of the Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability

As artificial intelligence reshapes research and industry, higher education must adapt to prepare the next generation. In this keynote, Dr. Arun Majumdar explores how top-tier universities are modernizing curricula to foster interdisciplinary problem-solving, critical thinking, and adaptive skills—ensuring students remain "future-proof" alongside automated technologies.

2. Orchestrating Entrepreneurship in AI



Mr. Johnny Ho

Co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer, Perplexity

In this keynote, Mr. Johnny Ho shares his journey from a former CIE/USA-SF scholarship recipient to an executive at Perplexity AI. Drawing on his transition from student to industry leader, Mr. Ho explores how artificial intelligence is transforming modern problem-solving and highlights why emerging engineers must cultivate an entrepreneurial mindset to drive innovation in the AI era.

Panel Discussion

The Rising Stars

Featured Panelists

Homecoming of Past CIE/USA-SF Scholarship Awardees

Six outstanding young professionals and former CIE/USA-SF high school scholarship recipients gather for a special homecoming. They will share their true, firsthand experiences navigating the growth path from high school to elite colleges, and ultimately into competitive industry and research roles.

Moderator: Shawn Flynn

Managing Director of Silicon Valley Highpoint Capital

Host of The Silicon Valley Podcast



Helen Chang

Senior Product Manager, Microsoft, UC San Diego

Helen is a Product Manager in Microsoft's Security Office, developing mitigations for generative AI vulnerabilities. She specializes in Responsible AI, driving features and governance. Passionate about expanding access to tech careers, she also serves on the UC San Diego CSE Alumni Board.



Krystal Lan

Ph.D. student researcher, Georgia Institute of Technology

Krystal is a Ph.D. student at Georgia Tech developing wearable sensing and machine learning models to evaluate fatigue and human performance. She earned a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering with Robotics and CS minors from Johns Hopkins University.



Ray Lin

Co-founder and Head of Technology at Endevre Technologies, UIUC

Ray is the Co-founder and Head of Technology at Endevre Technologies, specializing in backend infrastructure, data engineering, and scalable systems. Previously at Amazon, he built data pipelines and productionized machine learning models for customer-facing applications.

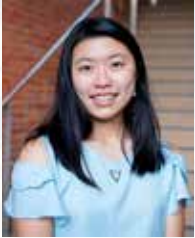
Panel Discussion

The Rising Stars

Featured Panelists

Homecoming of Past CIE/USA-SF Scholarship Awardees

FEATURED PANELISTS • CONTINUED



Bonnie Liu

Machine Learning Engineer at Pinterest, UCLA

Bonnie holds both an M.S. and a B.S. in Computer Science from UCLA, where she also minored in Data Science Engineering. Following previous internships at Meta, Apple, Bloomberg, and Pinterest, she currently works as a Machine Learning Engineer at Pinterest.



Annie Liu

Software Engineer at Netflix, Harvard University

Annie holds an M.S. in Computational Science and Engineering from Harvard University and a B.S. in Computer Science from UC San Diego. Following internships at Splunk, Bloomberg, and Netflix, she currently serves as a Software Engineer at Netflix, building large-scale distributed storage systems that power global media delivery.



Joleen Pan

undergraduate student, Washington University in St. Louis

Joleen is a student at Washington University in St. Louis studying psychology and strategic management. Her interdisciplinary experience spans psychology lab research in AI mental health assessment tools and AI model training and behavioral therapy.

CIE/USA-SF High School Student Scholarship



Amy Shi — Amador Valley High School, Grade 10

- Social Media Content creator (8.7k across TikTok and Instagram) Works with brands (Aelfric Eden)
- AVHS DECA Created a marketing campaign for Lunar Lifts Nutrition 3rd Place Tri-Valley Minicon 2nd Place Amador Valley Minicon
- Guzhen 2025 5th New York Global Music Competition, 1st place winner Performed in Vienna
- ABRSM Level 6 – piano
- Amador Valley Band Concert Band - Oboe Marching Band - Flute



Casper Ma — Piedmont Hills High School, Grade 10

- Tzu-Chi volunteering - regional group leader, english tutor, 125+ hrs
- Caterpillar English Academy - English tutor 60+ hrs
- Royal conservatory of music honor roll with distinction - Level 6 piano
- California Music Educators Association
- Poetry club, Urbanism club - Treasurer
- Med 101 - Tech Chair
- Kung fu and wellness club- founding member
- PHHS Cross country - JV, BVAL champion
- PHHS Track and field - BVAL frosh soph final 2nd place finisher for 1600, STAL champion in 4x8
- Presidential volunteer service award



Cen-Jyun (Erica) Pan — American High School, Grade 10

- Teacher Assistant, Fremont Chinese School (Sep. 2025 – Present)
- Special Needs Troop Volunteer, Scouting America (formerly BSA), Troop 488 (Jan. 2026-Present)
- Community Engagement & Scout Services, Scouting America in girl unit
- Creativity, Journalism & Arts Monthly Report Writer, Charger Account (Scouting Publication)
- Choir Member, Tri-City Nightingale Choir Group
- Outstanding Scout Award, The General Association of the Scouts of China (Mar. 2024)
- 112th Annual Service Award, Hsin-Chu City Sun-Fun Scouts Group (Mar. 2024)



Cindy Gu — BASIS Independent Fremont High School, Grade 10

- Awarded 2nd Place and the Einstein AI Award at the Alameda County Science and Engineering Fair
- Conducted independent research on dye incorporation mechanisms in Bombyx mori silk biomaterials and authored a scientific paper accepted for publication by the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society
- Earned a Silver Award in the British Biology Olympiad
- Recognized as a National Finalist and Honorable Mention recipient at the International Genius Olympiad for STEM innovation
- Achieved Honor Roll distinction in the International Research Olympiad
- Led a robotics team to 1st Place at the FIRST Tech Challenge World Premier
- Received the President's Volunteer Service Gold Award and National Service Honor Award-Gold for outstanding community service and leadership
- Competed successfully in the Tiger Claw and Golden State International Wushu Championships and qualified for the US National Wushu Team



Elizabeth Ren — Castilleja School, Grade 11

- Achievements-Leadership for outreach program: Silicon Valley Engineering Council (SVEC) student council lead
- Co-organize 2026 AI Workshop titled "Love at First Byte - AI for Curious Minds" on Valentine's Day, with SV Young Scholars as Silicon Valley Engineering Council (SVEC) Student council lead.
- Won 2025 emerging leadership award in Bioethics
- Castilleja Halford Young Women's Leadership Program (2024-2026)
- Published and presented a research paper for IEEE UEMCON 2024
- "Music Therapy for Autism Spectrum Disorder: A Comprehensive Literature Review on Therapeutic Efficacy, Limitations, and AI Integration"
- 2026 CMEA State Solo and Ensemble Festival: All State Gold Medal Award
- San Jose Youth Symphony, Avancé flute choir (2024 - 2025)
- Achievements-Sports: Castilleja Varsity cross country and track 2023-2026
- Achievements on First Robotics: Castilleja Gatorbotics Team 1700- (2023-2026)

CIE/USA-SF High School Student Scholarship



Hanyu Fu — Westmont High School, Grade 11

- Cupertino Kung Fu Club volunteer and instructor (200+ hrs.)
- Campbell Youth Commission Youth Commissioner
- Political Discussions Club Treasurer
- UChannel TV Youth Volunteer leader
- 7 AP Classes
- CPR License
- 2 Presidential Volunteer Awards



Ian Lee — The Harker School, Grade 11

- Teaching & Peer Tutoring | 2025–Present | 5–6 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
- DECA Member & Mentor | 2023–Present | 2 hr/wk, 20 wk/yr Placed 11th nationally in SMG out of 6,000 (260% return; +247% vs. S&P 500), 4th in STDN at CA SCDC, and 8th in PMK; qualified for ICDC.
- Paid Intern, Data/Client Reporting & Office Admin | Local Tax Firm | 2022–Present
- Soccer | 2022–Present | 10 hr/wk, 15 wk/yr Three-year athlete with consistent team commitment.
- Math Club Member & Competition Proctor | 2023–Present
- Online Volunteer | Smithsonian Transcription Center | 2025–Present | 2 hr/wk, 30 wk/yr
- Synopsys SVSTC Honorable Mention, Engineering (2026)
- AIME Qualifier; AMC 12B Honor Roll (2026)



Jiaqi Ma — Hayward High School, Grade 11

- 200+ hours of community service
- Head of the student team participating in the Challenge Cup.
- International Poetry Recitation Competition (Challenging Cup).
- High School Poetry Group: Runner-up
- Host has passed Level 6 certification.
- International Poetry Recitation Competition (Challenging Cup).
- Ancient Poetry Group: Runner-up
- 2nd Chinese Poetry Competition (2026), Gold Prize



Katherine Liu — 7EDU Global Academy, grade 11

- Created and acted in the documentary “Challenge” in 2020 as leading actor and deputy director, completed interviews, dubbed, and edited the full documentary.
- Directed, acted, and assisted in editing for award winning film Seven Heavenly Fairies Wish for Humanity. The film won Best Student Film.
- Served as director and commentator in the short film “Hou Yi Shoots the Sun”
- Leads the student team “Challenging the Future”, including organizing, planning and promoting film production.
- Organized and hosted large-scale events from 2021 to 2025, participating in the organization and planning of the San Francisco branch of the CCTV Global Aihua Spring Festival Gala as the main actor and host.
- Participated in the organization, planning, and hosting of the Mother’s Day Gala and Mid- Autumn Festival Tea Party in San Francisco from the years 2021 to 2025.
- Won gold in Chinese speech, Chinese hosting, and Chinese ancient poetry recitation for 3 consecutive years.

About CIE-USA

Founded in 1917, Chinese Institute of Engineers - USA (CIE- USA) is a non-profit professional organization of Chinese American engineers, scientists, and other professionals. The objectives of CIE-USA are to promote Science, Engineering, Technology and Mathematics (STEM), encourage professional advancement and leadership development, and provide recognition to Asian American professionals at the national level through flagship programs such as AAEOY. As one of the oldest and the most prestigious Chinese American engineering associations in the US, CIE-USA has seven regional chapters across the nation and hold many events monthly.

Seven Regional Chapters

Greater New York (CIE-GNY)
 Dallas/Fort Worth (CIE-DFW)
 San Francisco Bay Area (CIE-SF)
 Seattle (CIE-SEA)
 Southern California (CIE-SOCAL)
 New Mexico (CIE-NM)
 Oversea Chinese Environmental Engineers and Scientists Association (CIE-OCEESA)

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 Co-CIO: Tiger Zhou, Mark Ma
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Vice Chair: Ko-Yang Wang
 Secretary: Zee Zhai
 Advisor: Xinfen Chen (2024-2025 Chair)

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 Chi-Ming Chen Eric Wu

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 Yong Zhou Tony Liu

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 Liling Torng Tony Torng
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Mr. Jason Sung, Mr. Andrew Fang

Webmaster

Dr. Zee Zhai, Mr. Mark Ma

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High School Scholarship

Ms. Estella Pok

IT Technology

Mr. Yingbin Wang, Dr. Tiger Zhou

Communications and Documentation

Mr. Jasopin Lee

Volunteers

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Lavender Chen

Liz Dong

Phoebe Fan

Krystal Lan

Annie Liu

Bonnie Liu

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AAEOY

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Intel CEO & Visionary Leader
on receiving the

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Lip-Bu, your visionary leadership and lifelong dedication to innovation have transformed the technology landscape. But your enduring support and kindness, to me and to others, is what truly makes you great.

- Joel Kellman

Co-Founder of Fenwick & West and of GGV Capital,
but most importantly, your friend



創新科技 引領未來

INNOVATING
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Smart Living

Digital transformation has become a driving force for global economic innovation. With the prevalence of IoT and AI, people are seeking a faster, easier, and smarter life with the introduction of intelligent devices/services and new business models. Therefore ITRI is developing personalized devices and services, autonomous mobility systems, and smart industries and services for the Smart Living domain. ITRI is also working on human-machine interaction, enhanced imaging and perception systems, autonomous decision-making and control, and smart business technologies and services.

Quality Health

As many countries are moving towards hyper-aged societies, demands for medical personnel and healthcare resources are increasing. New business opportunities in the emerging diagnosis and treatment market are also created through integrated solutions that include smart long-term care systems, personalized/precision medicine, and healthcare models. In the domain of Quality Health, ITRI leverages Taiwan's strengths in ICT and medical care systems to develop smart medical and healthcare technologies. The R&D scope includes smart medical electronics, regenerative medicine, wearable devices, digital healthcare services, and many more.

Sustainable Environment

Due to the current climate change, greenhouse effects, and limited energy sources and resources, how to coexist with Mother Nature has become an important issue when developing new technologies. A sustainable environment can be maintained by creating a circular ecosystem, cutting down time and energy consuming production processes, and discovering green energy sources. ITRI is thereby enhancing the technology development in the circular economy, smart manufacturing, and green energy and environment fields by exploring high-value circular materials, smart manufacturing systems, and supply chain management to achieve ecological symbiosis.

Intelligentization Enabling Technology

Intelligentization enabling technology is the backbone supporting multiple applications in the 2030 Technology Strategy and Roadmap. As a result, ITRI turns to AI, semiconductor, communications, cybersecurity, and cloud technologies to foster technology breakthrough in the above three application domains. At the same time, Intelligentization enabling technology can ensure data privacy and information safety when combating cyber threats.



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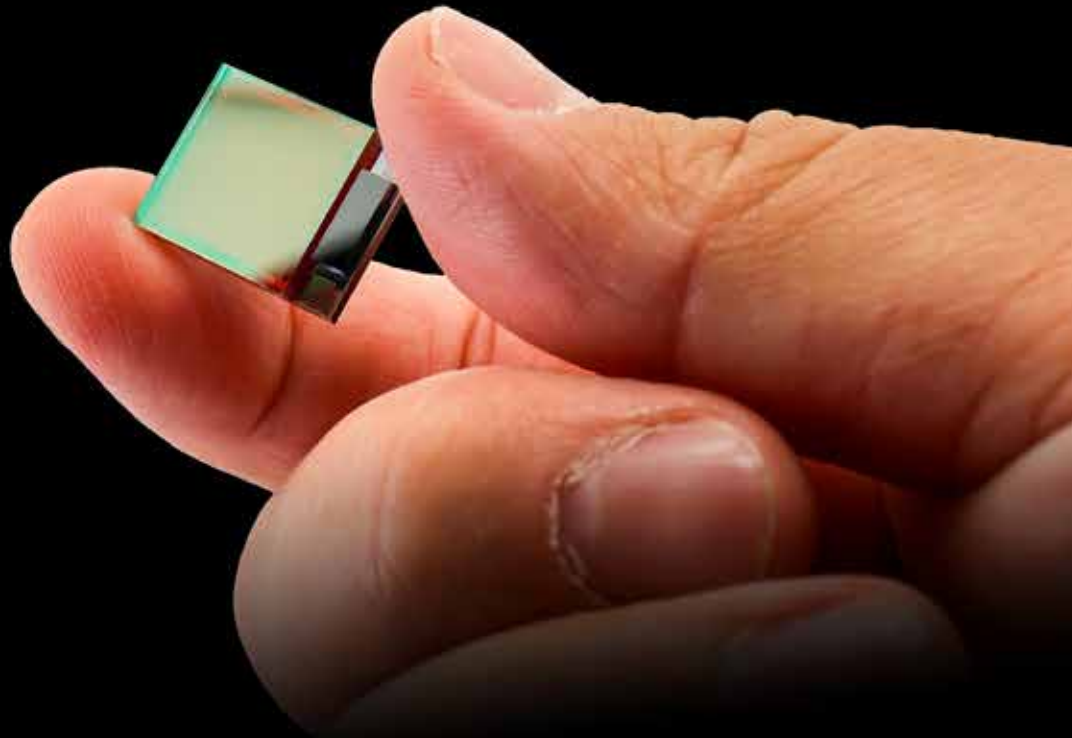


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