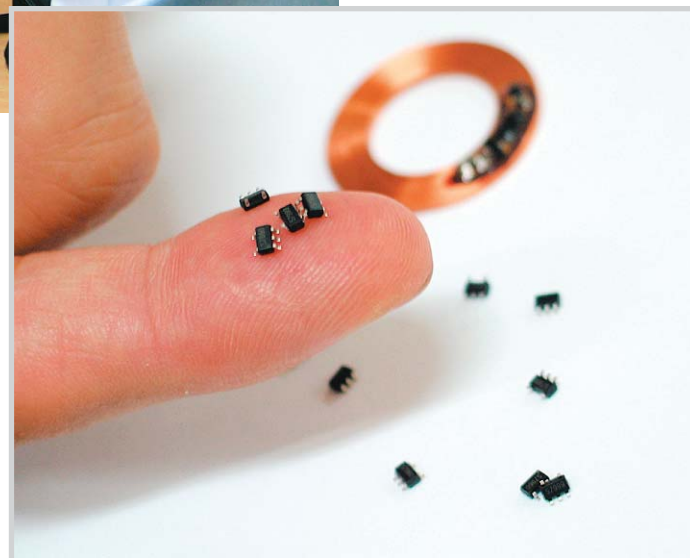


Science



Suchalee Pongprasert tells of a semiconductor designer who aims to make his company a leader in the region



Designer with taste for fabless chips

He is an IC (integrated circuit) design veteran returning from Silicon Valley in the United States, home of many hi-tech entrepreneurs and large companies.

With more than ten years of expertise in IC design, Manop Thamsirianunt's ambitious plan is to become not only a regional leader in the field but also to

head the world's most recognised "fabless" semiconductor company.

"I was in Canada working as an IC designer for semiconductor companies for more than three years, the first one and a half years in Ottawa, and another two years in Vancouver. Then I moved to Silicon Valley and was there for six years," he said.

Returning to Thailand in 2001 as part of the "reverse brain drain", Manop utilised all his expertise to oversee incubation of integrated-circuit design at the National Electronics and Computer Technology Centre. After working on this for two years, he decided it was time to set up his own company and turn his expertise into real business.

As managing director of Silicon Craft Technology, Thailand's private IC design company, and with support from the Science and Technology Ministry's National Science and Technology Development Agency, Manop has pioneered the development of a Thai microchip.

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