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Center awards \$3 million for analog apps

By Mark LaPedus

SAN JOSE, Calif. -- The Texas Analog Center of Excellence (TxACE) at the University of Texas at Dallas has awarded nearly \$3 million to 11 researchers to develop analog technologies for safety and security applications.

Recipients of the three-year grants come from Texas A&M University, UT Austin, Rice University, the University of North Texas and UT Dallas.

TxACE received 34 requests for funding. The recipients were chosen by a Semiconductor Research Corp. (SRC) Industrial Advisory Board for TxACE, which consists of representatives from Advanced Micro Devices, Freescale Semiconductor, IBM, Intel and Texas Instruments.

The 11 funded projects include the following: development of CMOS sub-terahertz receivers for spectrometers; signal generation for 200-300-GHz spectrometers; millimeter-wave phase-locked loop design with enhanced tolerance to process and temperature variation; MIMO radar for pixel reduction in millimeter-wave imaging; a hybrid 14-bit analog-to-digital converter for broadband; unclonable mixed-signal identification for ICs; energy-efficient CMOS 10-GS/s 6-Bit ADC; **fast PVT-tolerant physical design of RF IC components**; development of antenna and chip interface systems for millimeter-wave and submillimeter-wave applications; 77-81-GHz CMOS transceiver with built-in self test and healing; and a variation-tolerant analog design.

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