



Confessions of a Serial Entrepreneur: 30 years of Photonic start-ups in academia and industry

Dr Simon Poole

Director - New Business Ventures, Finisar Australia

Wednesday 24 April 2013 @ 3:30PM

**Innovation Centre of WA, Enterprise Unit 3
9 De Laeter Way Technology Park Bentley**

This seminar is open to the public and admission is free to all IEEE members and non members
Registration is **ESSENTIAL** by 19 April 2013 at:
www.icwaserialentrepreneur.eventbrite.com.au

For further information about this event, please call Nadia at the Innovation Centre of WA on 6461 5976

Abstract:

Every company – even the largest household names such as *Google* or *Apple* or even *IBM* - begins life as a start-up. Whilst he started his career as an academic, Simon Poole has been closely involved with a range of start-ups in both industry and academia over the past 30 years. Research groups include the Optical Fibre Technology Centre (OFTC) at Sydney University and the Australian Photonics CRC, whilst companies include *Indx* (sold to *JDS-Uniphase* in 1997) and *Engana* (sold to *Optium Corporation* in 2006 and now *Finisar Australia*). Exports of photonics components and subsystems from the companies founded by Dr Poole totalled over \$500M to date.

This presentation will look at how some of the companies and research groups which Dr Poole founded got started, what they did and how they subsequently developed and thrived. The presentation aims to inspire researchers who are considering how to commercialise their research to take the next steps and move out of the research lab and into the brave new world of commercialisation.

Biography:

Dr Simon Poole is an engineer/entrepreneur with over 30 years experience in photonics in research, academia and industry gained in Australia, the UK and the US. He was a co-inventor of the Erbium-Doped Fibre Amplifier (EDFA) and has published in a wide range of other technical areas including optical fibre fabrication, fibre lasers, fibre sensors and wavelength switching systems for communications networks. He has been involved in numerous successful start-ups in both academia and industry and is renowned for both his contribution to the technology of photonics (over 200 published papers) as well as the companies he has founded.

Dr Poole was elected as a Fellow of the IEEE in 2001 for his work as part of the team that developed the erbium-doped fibre amplifier at Southampton University and he is also a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers Australia (FIEAust).

In 2010 he was named as one of the Warren Centre Australia's "Innovation Heroes" for his contribution to the development and commercialisation of photonics and in 2011 was named as the 2011 NSW Pearcey Medallist for his contribution to the development of the ICT industry in Australia. He was also awarded the Institute of Engineers Australia (Sydney) Entrepreneur of the Year award in 2010.

