

Chips focus of new UBC lab

Staff Reporter

The University of B.C. is placing itself on the forefront of technology that will not only further enhance wireless devices, but provide a bridge into the next era of microchips.

Although work on the project has been in process for 18 months, the System on Chip Research lab was officially opened yesterday.

The project will allow engineers to shrink systems now found on several chips on to a single chip — which means reduced power requirements and greater speed.

"It's a revolution that going inside the microelectronics industry," said Electrical and Computer Engineering professor Resve Saleh, one of the lab heads.

"This is the next big step. Now you'll use chips to monitor a fish farm or a delivery truck. Devices that contain chips are



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going to be everywhere."

A staff of 30, including grad students, will work with seven collaborating professors in the lab.

"We're creating a lab that will train students to be leaders and make an impact on the industry," said Saleh.

UBC's SoCR lab has received about \$3.2 million in funding from several sources, including the Canada Foundation for Innovation. Other partners include The Canadian Microelectronics Corp. and network and communications chip-maker PMC-Sierra.