

2014 CIE/USA-DFW Convention Technical Tour

Technical Tour Chair: Lin Guo

The CIE/USA-DFW and Taiwanese visitors (sponsored by Science and Technology Division of Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Houston) had a very productive technical tours to Oncor, Texas Instruments Kilby Lab and AT&T Plano Foundry on August 15, 2014. The tour was led by Lin Guo, graduate student of System Engineering at UT Dallas.

In the morning, the team visited Oncor Electric Delivery Company headquarters in downtown Dallas. The team first had a short visit to the exhibition center in the ground floor. The team had an information exchange luncheon with Oncor executives including Mr. Mark Carpenter (T&D Senior Vice President), Mr. Donny Helm (Big Data Director), Mr. Tony Bruton (Smart Grid Director) and Mr. Bill Muston (R&D Manager). Exchange topics range from electrical delivery technologies and future trends. The Oncor visit explored the team with more understanding of electrical delivery systems and latest innovations.

In the afternoon, the team visited Texas Instruments Kilby Lab. The visit consisted of two parts – Presentation and Q&A by Mr. Paul Emerson, General Manager of Kilby Lab, and demo by Mr. Kelly Krantz, Senior Engineering Technician. In the presentation, Mr. Emerson talked about TI's history of innovation and market strategy. He then introduced TI CTO organization and gave an overview of Kilby Labs and its operation. Mr. Emerson went on to share with the team on the formula for project success and some example application drivers for the futures including industrial, cloud/IoT, healthcare technology and automotive vehicles. After the presentation and Q&A, Mr. Krantz gave demo on some application drivers and sensor technology that Mr. Emerson mentioned during his presentation. The team was impressed by Kilby Labs' innovation and environment as well as the methodology established to turn breakthrough ideas into a successful projects and finally to product and marketing.

Finally, in the late afternoon, the team visited the AT&T Foundry in Plano. The team was greeted by Vinay Kundaje, Director of Emerging Technology Market Development, at AT&T Foundry in Plano, at the lobby of the foundry. The lobby was interestingly decorated with all the patents owned by AT&T. The team visited the open area of the office spaces and conference rooms equipped with state-of-the-art projector and sound systems. The team was impressed by the very open interactive nature of the work environment that drives many of the interesting software/hardware applications. The team also visited the M2M foundry where Craig Lee, Director of M2M Foundry, showed 3D printers and various state-of-the-art equipment are applied to drive very rapid prototyping to deliver quick solutions to the customers. The team then visited the multi-touch sensing screen area and high performance computing facility. The foundry visit explored the team with the new approaches to how business can be conducted.



Group picture of the CIE/USA-DFW and Taiwanese visitor team and the Oncor executives



Group picture of the CIE/USA-DFW and Taiwanese visitor team at the lobby of the Oncor headquarter

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Information exchange luncheon with Oncor executives



Group picture at Texas Instruments Kilby Lab



Group picture with Paul Emerson, General Manager of Kilby Lab, and Mr. Kelly Krantz, Senior Engineering Technician of Kilby Lab



Group picture at the front door of Texas Instruments Kilby Lab



The team welcomed by Vinay Kundaje at the AT&T Foundry lobby



Group picture at AT&T Foundry



Group picture at AT&T M2M Foundry



Group picture at AT&T multi-touch sensing screen area