



Mini Circuits Makes Generous Donation to WAMI Lab

The nine high frequency vector network analyzers will enhance the student experience.

TAMPA, Fla. (April 30, 2012) –The Wireless and Microwave Instructional (WAMI) Laboratory has received an in-kind donation of nine high frequency vector network analyzers (VNAs) from Mini-Circuits, a global leader in RF, IF and microwave signal processing products and Agilent, a world leader in test and measurement equipment. These state-of-the-art Agilent instruments are used widely in industry for microwave test and measurement and will further enhance real world experience of electrical engineering students.

The VNAs will be integrated into the student work benches that comprise the WAMI Lab that is used to deliver the Wireless Circuits and Systems Design Laboratory. These instruments are used in approximately 80 percent of the laboratory experiments in the course, and are the most critical part of the lab benches. This is a required course for all electrical engineering undergraduates, taken annually by approximately 100 students. This is also an elective course that is taught at the graduate level, and is considered the foundational training experience for all graduate students in the Center for Wireless and Microwave Information Systems.

“The WAMI faculty members greatly appreciate the generosity of Mini Circuits and Agilent Technologies, and their commitment to enabling a state-of-the-art learning environment for our students and future generations of wireless engineers,” said Thomas Weller, co-director of WAMI and chair of the Electrical Engineering Dept. “The importance of high quality instruments to our educational mission can’t be overstated.”

The impact for students is two-fold. First, the availability of these high performance instruments provides an invaluable training opportunity, and the preparedness of USF EE graduates is frequently recognized by industry constituents that hire them. Second, the donation of the instruments is of significant benefit because the high replacement/upgrade cost is a major barrier for the department and College, particularly in an era of highly constrained budgets.

Founded in 1969 by Harvey Kaylie, Mini-Circuits has grown to a global leader in the design, manufacture, and distribution of RF, IF and microwave components and integrated modules (DC to 40 GHz band) for commercial, industrial, space and military applications.

Since its inception in 1997, the ability to implement and maintain the high performance work-stations in the WAMI Lab has been facilitated by educational grant funding from the National Science Foundation and the Hewlett Foundation, with matching support from the USF and the College, along with consistent support from companies such as Mini Circuits and Agilent Technologies.

In addition to this major equipment donation, Mini Circuits has donated microwave components for the laboratory experiments every year for the past 15 years. Students recognize and appreciate the quality of the instruments and the opportunity they have to learn fundamental microwave theory using the same tools they will be exposed to upon entering the workforce.

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The University of South Florida is a high-impact, global research university dedicated to student success. USF is classified by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching in the top tier of research universities, a distinction attained by only 2.2 percent of all universities. The Carnegie Foundation also classifies USF as a community engaged university. It is ranked 44th in total research expenditures and 34th in federal research expenditures for public universities by the National Science Foundation. The USF System has an annual budget of \$1.5 billion, an annual economic impact of \$3.7 billion, and serves 47,000 students in Tampa, St. Petersburg, Sarasota-Manatee and Lakeland.

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