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### Singapore tech link could mean jobs here

*Teya Vitu*

By TEYA VITU  
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Tucson optics and nanotechnology industry leaders believe southeast Asia could be a flourishing source of new business for local companies, based on impressions of a trade conference earlier this month in Singapore.

Ridgetop Group, a semiconductor design company, thinks its semiconductor process monitor will solve an Asian company's problem with optimizing the burn-in period for semiconductors.

"Although I expected some level of interest, I was taken back by the level of enthusiasm in our products," said Doug Goodman, Ridgetop's chief executive and co-chairman of the Arizona Nanotechnology Cluster.

"This will mean new business and more jobs for Arizona," he said.

Nanotechnology is the production of microscopic electronic devices.

Goodman expects Ridgetop to grow from 23 employees to 35 in the next year, in part due to the relationships he established at the Singapore conference. He believes the 160 nanotechnology companies in Arizona - 10 to 20 in Tucson - stand to gain from the booming high-tech sector in Singapore and surrounding countries.

Bob **Breault**, chairman of Tucson-based **Breault** Research Organization, said companies he dealt with at the conference may place orders for optical analysis software his company produces. Also, he expects officials from Singapore companies to visit Tucson companies based on the relationships he formed.

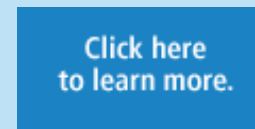
**Breault** noted that Singapore, with a population of 4 million, invests \$1 billion into its optics industry. "If Arizona puts \$1 billion into optics, I'd be really competitive," he said.

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