

# *A Perspective on Success in Tech Startups*

*by*  
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*The VC-funded high-tech startup model forever changed the way technology is created and commercialized despite its numerous deficiencies. The pervasiveness of the model also changed the culture and traditions of career advancement for many engineers, scientists and business people, encouraging many bright individuals to leave the ranks of big companies and take a path that seems much less certain and comfortable. The rewards of success in this endeavor can be life-changing, but the journey can also be very rewarding. The lessons learned are usually directly applicable to other facets of life, making participants tougher, more pragmatic, and better-equipped to tackle other problems in life. In his presentation, the speaker will convey the lessons that he has learned throughout his nearly 20-year immersion in tech startups.*

**Speaker Bio:**

*Vacit Arat is currently the President & CEO of Microfabrica, a technology startup in Van Nuys, CA which builds micro-devices and micro-machines used in minimally invasive medical devices. Before his six years in Microfabrica, he lived in the Silicon Valley for 19 years working in the semiconductor industry, pioneering leading-edge technology solutions in a variety of applications including DSP, CPU, communications ICs, ASICs and design tools. He joined Microfabrica from Silicon Value (later called Silicon Design Systems), a provider of ASICs and related design tools, where he was the CEO of the company. Prior to Silicon Value, he held various management positions at companies such as Samsung, LSI Logic, Honeywell, and IBM Microelectronics' sales arm in the Silicon Valley. He was a founder of Crosspoint Solutions, a field programmable gate array (FPGA) company. Vacit holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Birmingham, UK, and a MS in Electrical Engineering from the University of Houston, Texas.*