



Internet of Things (IoT) technologies and 5G roll-out

23 November 2020, 13:30-15:30, on Zoom #IoT #5G

Biographies of Speakers



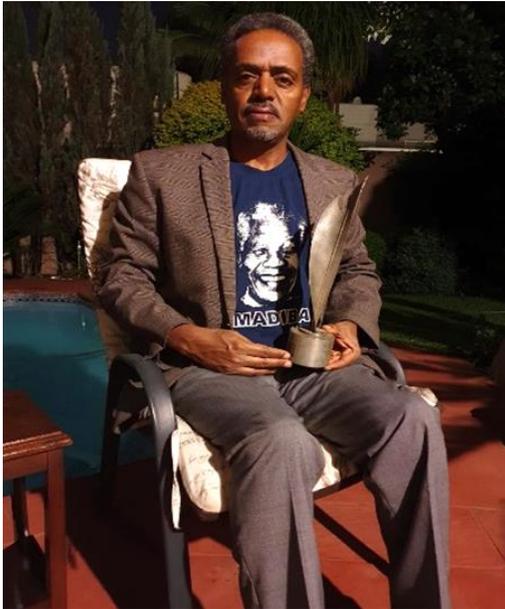
Mr Sean Laval, Executive: Solutions and Innovations, SqwidNet

As the Innovations and Customer Solutions Executive at SqwidNet, Sean is responsible for driving technical innovation within the organisation and advising customers on strategic technical decisions to enable key business outcomes.

Sean has extensive experience in both hardware and software development and has held senior positions in companies operating in the telecommunications, mining, security and tracking industries. Having operated in the wireless machine-to-machine (M2M) system development industry for over 10 years, Sean has a wealth of information on traditional IoT technologies.

He has an in-depth understanding of the emerging wave of LPWAN technology and the phenomenal impact that this sector will have on how we interact with the physical world. Before joining SqwidNet, he was the Technical Head of IoT at a leading wireless telecommunications company and was responsible for defining and executing the technical IoT strategy within the organisation.

Sean has a passion for enabling solutions that will have a sustainable impact on business processes and the environment in which we live. He holds a degree in Electrical and Electronic Engineering Science from the University of Johannesburg.



Dr Fisseha Mekuria, Chief Research Scientist at the CSIR, South Africa.

Dr Mekuria leads the 5G ICT standards and Digital inclusion research at the CSIR. He is the proponent of a 4th leg for the 5G standards aimed at the 4th Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies for technology innovation in emerging economies. He has a PhD from Linköping University, in Sweden, and has worked for 10 years as senior research Engineer at Ericsson Mobile Communications R&D lab in Sweden, where he developed over 15 US/EPO patents. He has been working with the mobile and internet service industry in developing countries: Setting up next generation network labs in Africa, Development of mobile applications programming courses, Network resource sharing for affordable broadband connectivity, and development of telecom regulatory frameworks and capacity building for telecom regulators in Africa. He is the recipient of the prestigious Google Global Research Award-2009 in Mobile computing. He is at present leading the disruptive technology research in dynamic spectrum sharing and affordable network technologies. The project made headlines as the only emerging economy technology patent contribution for smart spectrum sharing and unlicensed spectrum networks. It also successfully completed an international qualification process and standardization of white space spectrum databases in competition with global technology companies, led by the UK Ofcom regulator. His leadership of the smart spectrum sharing team, in the development of the spectrum innovation ecosystem and industrial grade technologies, has earned him the prestigious NSTF-South32 Award for Innovation through a Corporate Organisation in 2020. Dr Mekuria is also involved in postgraduate skills development in emerging wireless communications for 4IR, Intelligent spectrum management, and development of sustainable business innovation and models for emerging technologies. He manages this through his local and international senior/fellow memberships with the SAAE, IEEE, WWRF and a number of African universities including his engagement as Adj. Professor at the University of Johannesburg and University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa.