Once, when asked by a businessman from Tokyo about the fear of failure as an entrepreneur, Mr. Lee Chen responded that he has no fear of trying and failing. Instead, for Mr. Chen, one must do the best one can while working on the things one enjoys the most. His passion is creating new things, and this has led him to found three successful hi-tech companies in the Valley.

Born and raised in Taiwan, Mr. Chen is the fourth of six children. He earned his bachelor’s in Electrophysics from the National Chiao-Tung University of Taiwan (the “M.I.T.” of Taiwan) in 1976. In 1979, he emigrated to the U.S. and immediately began working for Control Data Corporation. During this time, Mr. Chen also enrolled at San José State University full time in the evenings, earning his Master’s in Electrical Engineering in 1982.

A technology entrepreneur with the desire to create products that will improve the lives of others, Mr. Chen founded, most recently, A10 Networks, Inc., a venture-funded private company headquartered in San José. Its mission is to build the most innovative and fastest networks while also providing security solutions.

Mr. Chen is also the co-founder of Foundry Networks, Inc., of which he served as Vice President of Engineering. Foundry Networks is a high performance LAN Switching company that went public in 1999. On the first day of trading, its stock went up by 525%, making NASDAQ history.

While at Foundry Networks, Mr. Chen led a team of approximately 100 engineers. During his five-year tenure, not one single engineer left the company, a remarkable feat considering the fact that during the late 90s an average engineer changed jobs about every six months! His leadership inspired those around him and in return his colleagues showed their commitment and dedication to the company.

Finally, he is also a founding member and architect of Centillion Networks (acquired by Bay Networks) in Sunnyvale, which built high performance multi-service switches. The company was sold for $145 million after only 18 months of operation.

Mr. Chen’s interest in starting new companies stems from his love for the creative process. He thrives in situations where ingenuity and invention are rewarded, and his professional success is an outward manifestation of his inner passion.