



Celal Sami TÜFEKÇİ, Ph.D.

Dr. Tüfekci gained his degrees of B.S. at Gazi University, Ankara, Türkiye; M.S. at Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA; and Ph.D. at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, USA, all in Mechanical Engineering.

Mr. Tüfekci started his professional career as a Project Engineer in the Research Center of the world's leading postage and document creation company, Pitney Bowes, Inc., Shelton, CT, USA. He conducted work on high-performance motion control systems resulted in US and EU patents. He contributed in many projects at various institutions as a Mechatronics and Controls System Design Specialist. Dr. Tüfekci worked on the manufacturing and technology transfer team of TURKSAT 3A (Launched in Ariane-5: 12 June 2008, Kourou, French Guiana) satellite in Thales Alenia Space, Cannes, France. Then, he undertook the responsibility of Director of National Communications Satellite Program at TÜRKSAT, Ankara, Türkiye. Later, he worked as Chief Researcher on attitude and orbit determination and control software of RASAT (Launched in Dnepr: 17 August 2011) and GÖKTÜRK-2 (Launched in LM2D: 18 December 2012) satellites at TÜBİTAK UZAY, Space Technologies Research Institute, Ankara, Türkiye.

In academic capacity, he served as Research Assistant at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY, USA; Assistant Department Head at the Mechanical Engineering Department at University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA; Adjunct Faculty at University of Ontario Institute of Technology (Oshawa, ON, Canada), Gazi University (Ankara, Türkiye), and Atılım University (Ankara, Türkiye); and lastly as Professor and Director of the Central Research Laboratories at the Yıldız Technical University, İstanbul, Türkiye.

Dr. Tüfekci started in 2014 as the Head of Space at the Turkish Defense Industries Agency, Ankara, Türkiye and worked on high-resolution GÖKTÜRK-1 (Launched in Vega: 5 December 2016, Kourou, French Guiana) satellite. He has been promoted as the Vice President at Turkish Defense Industries Agency in 2015. In this capacity, he has established various technology start-ups including: SSTEK, ULAK, TR-TEST, TÜYAR, DELTA-V, TR-MOTOR etc. He contributed in the development of R&D Philosophy in Defense by instituting concepts of Broad Agency Announcements, Focus Technology Networks, and Defense Industry Taxonomy. In order to enhance advanced manufacturing capabilities, he founded HAB Industrial Zone along with a Technology Park that houses Advanced Manufacturing Technology Center (ÜRTEMM) in Ankara, Türkiye. During his tenure at Turkish Defense Industries he started a Technology Transfer Office in order to utilize IPs gained in defense as dual use for commercial purposes. In addition, a unique program named Industrial Capability Assessment and Support (EYDEP) and an Artificial Intelligence driven database (YETEN), which houses product libraries that are indexed with TRL and taxonomy.

Recently, Mr. Tüfekci has been appointed as Deputy Minister of National Defense responsible from Technical Services, Defense Projects, Military Logistic Factories (Land, Air, Sea), and National Defense Firms of MKE and ASFAT.

He served in the Board of Directors of various companies. Currently, he is the Chairman of the Board of Directors at ULAK Communications Inc. Ankara, Türkiye; ÜRTEMM Inc. at TeknoHAB Technology Development Zone, Ankara, Türkiye and MKE Inc. Ankara, Türkiye. In addition, he is the member of the Advisory Board Member of the Department of Mechanical Engineering at Gazi University, Ankara, Türkiye; Department of Electrical and Electronics Engineering at Bilkent University, Ankara, Türkiye; and Department of Aerospace Engineering at Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Türkiye.

Dr. Tüfekci is married with 3 children. He is fluent in English.