Zafar Kamal

Chief Technology Officer

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Biography
Zafar Kamal is the Chief Technology Officer at OFI Testing Equipment. He leads innovation to develop sensors in support of automation, manufacturing, and risk mitigation. His training and professional experiences are in the design, development, and commercialization of industrial solutions, edge devices, sensors and IIOT (industrial internet of things) - where he successfully converged tangible and nontangible disciplines of technology, digitization, value-chains, operations, business processes, and manufacturing optimization to create commercial value.

Dr. Kamal brings functional and industry experience from process, manufacturing, and infrastructure industries, where he led strategic and tactical business management, commercialization, product management, systems design, and delivery activities in senior executive roles. For instance, leading top-down and bottom-up business transformation in process industries, catalyzing organic and inorganic growth, integrated operations for upstream surveillance and production optimization, delivering operational and manufacturing excellence in chemical and pharmaceutical manufacturing, and commercializing new products and solutions, etc.

Prior to OFITE, he founded his own consulting practice, which was preceded by a senior leadership role at BP looking after advanced technology as related to sensors and enterprise integration, he was a GM at GE Intelligent Platforms focused to automation and integration, Vice President for R&D/commercialization at the Process Instruments Division at ThermoFisher Scientific, Vice President / Global Business Manager for Production Optimization Systems at ABB and a managing consultant at SHL. Dr. Kamal has authored or coauthored over 15 academic and more than 30 industrial publications. He has also actively participated in or led keynotes, panel discussions, and seminars. He is a member of the SPE and IEEE, past board member of the SPE Digital Energy Technical Section, and chair of the Digital Solution committee. In the recent past, he chaired of the IT/OT convergence committee, past board/committee member for the 2013, 2014 and 2015 SPE Distributed Fiber Optics ATW, 2015 Digital Energy Conference, 2014-2015 Energistics PRODML board, and has mentored startups through incubator programs at the Houston Technology Center, The Rice Alliance and LSU.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Ph. D. Operations Research & Systems (AI, ML and KM engineering design), College of Engineering, University of Houston
MS Mechanical Engineering & Systems (AI and optimization for engineering Design), University of Houston
BS Mechanical Engineering, University of Houston
> 15 academic publications
> 30 industrial papers, as well as many keynotes, white papers, and seminars.

BP Learning and Capability Development Coursework

GE Leadership Training at the Jack F. Welch Learning Center, Crotonville, NY

Current Membership in SPE, AADE and IEEE. Past membership in APICS and ISA

Recent professional activities:

- SPE Data Science and Analytics Section board (2017 – 2019), subcommittee chair (2018/2019),
- Member of SPE DSATS (Drilling Systems Automation Technical Section)
- Co-Chair, IT/OT Convergence – SPE Digital Energy Technical Section. (2015 – 2017)
- Board member, SPE Digital Energy, program committee member / session chair 2015 and 2017 Conference.
- Keynote 2013 SPE Advanced Technology Workshop (ATW) on DFOS. Program committee SPE ATW on DFOS 2014 and 2015, session chair and co-authored multiple papers/presentations on DTS/DAS.
- Program committee member for the SPE ATW on DFOS 2014 and 2015, session chair and co-author.
- Interviewed and quoted in the July 2014 JPT cover article on distributed fiber optic sensing.
- 2014 BP representative to the Energistics PRODML board. Contributor to the PRODML DTS and DAS standard.

Representative and Recent Publications:

1. "Continuous Improvement of Assets through Existing and New Digital Oilfield Technology", SPE-167908-MS, International Energy (IE) 2014 Paper, Presented at the SPE Intelligent Energy Conference and Exhibition held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, 1–3 April 2014, with J. Williams, and J. Liddle. https://www.onepetro.org/conference-paper/SPE-167908-MS
2. "Fiber Optic Sensing: Evolution to Value", SPE-167907-MS, International Energy (IE) 2014 Paper, Presented at the SPE Intelligent Energy Conference and Exhibition held in Utrecht, The Netherlands, 1–3 April 2014. https://www.onepetro.org/conference-paper/SPE-167907-MS
3. "IT and OT Convergence - Opportunities And Challenges", 2016 SPE Intelligent Energy Conference and Exhibition, Aberdeen, Scotland, with S. M. Al Mubarak, B. D. Scodova, P. Naik, P. Flichy and G. Coffin. https://www.onepetro.org/conference-paper/SPE-181087-MS
4. Kamal, S.Z., Frazier, R., Ho, D.B., Miller, L., Scott, P., Bhattacharya, P.K. 2020. Field Operations Results and Experience with Inline Drilling Fluid Property Measurement. AADE Fluids Technical Conference and Exhibition. AADE-20-FTCE-111.

5. Roy, S. Kamal, S.Z., Frazier, Bruns, R., Aithamlat, Y. 2021. Inline Drilling Fluid Property Measurement, Integration, and Modeling to Enhance Drilling Practice and Support Drilling Automation ADIPEC 2021, SPE-208064-MS.