

## Profile



**Rezal A. Rahman**  
**CEO of Awanbiru Technology Berhad (AWANTEC)**

### *From Silicon Valley to Corporate Malaysia*

Rezal began his professional career with the Artificial Intelligence Center of SRI International while still pursuing his BS, BA and MS at Stanford University. SRI, a Silicon Valley technology think tank, is credited with being one of the first nodes on the ARPANet (predecessor to the Internet), and where the computer mouse and the Apple's SIRI was invented. Upon graduating in 1996, he joined SRI full-time as a technology management consultant working with clients such as Motorola, Space Systems Loral, and Sinopec. He then joined Vodafone Airtouch before pursuing his MBA at The Wharton School. After his MBA, he joined a US Fortune 500 company based in Philadelphia and held various strategic and international roles covering R&D, product development, joint ventures, new product launches and regional sales and marketing.

Rezal returned to Malaysia in 2010 as Director of Investments, Technology for Khazanah Nasional where he was appointed Investment Committee Member for First Floor Capital, a US\$ 17 million Khazanah-funded technology venture capital fund covering Healthcare, Telecommunications and Semiconductors.

Rezal then took on a bigger challenge to set up and operationalize Pinewood Iskandar Malaysia Studios (PIMS), one of Asia's largest integrated Film, TV & Post Production facility, where he was appointed as CEO in 2014. At PIMS, he designed, lobbied and oversaw the

implementation of the “Film in Malaysia Incentive” (FIMI) to attract foreign productions to Malaysia. FIMI subsequently generated a 7-fold increase in foreign production spend in Malaysia by attracting Netflix’s *Marco Polo*, Sony AXN’s *Asia’s Got Talent* and Left Bank’s *Strike Back* to PIMS as well as many others such as *Crazy Rich Asians*, much of which was shot around Malaysia despite the Singapore setting of the story

Rezal later went on to Singapore as Managing Director of a leading broadcast services company post acquisition by the NEP Group before returning again to Corporate Malaysia (and the Technology sector) in late 2019 as Chief Operating Officer, Technology Development & Corporate Ventures at Sapura Secured Technologies (SST). At SST, Rezal was responsible for executing several multi-million ringgit projects under various Ministries in Malaysia. Among his notable achievements, he successfully turned around the New Valuation Information Systems project with JPPH and formulated a healthcare investment portfolio focusing on diagnostics, devices and healthcare IT opportunities.

Rezal joins Awantec as the Chief Executive Officer starting 1<sup>st</sup> February 2022 where he will look into optimizing Awantec’s current business and investment plans to effectively improve and expand its market as well as capitalize on its position and market potentials for business growth. Rezal will be working with Founder Mentor Dr. Abu Hasan Ismail and Awantec’s professional team of COO (Baldesh Singh), CBO (Hafiza Anom) and CTO (Farul Azim) to oversee Awantec’s many tasks in meeting market requirement for technology and talent services and growing the business.

Rezal has extensive experience in engaging government and government-linked stakeholders in both private and public sectors. He has a strong personal interest in technology trends and has recently single-handedly developed and launched a mobile app called GoLokal which enables users to locate and search for nearby street food vendors and food trucks. This is Rezal’s personal contribution to community service.

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