



**Faculty of Electronics and Computer Technology and
Engineering**

**DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-EFFICIENCY
CMOS ON-CHIP RECTIFIERS FOR RADIO-FREQUENCY
ENERGY HARVESTING APPLICATIONS**

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UNIVERSITI TEKNIKAL MALAYSIA MELAKA

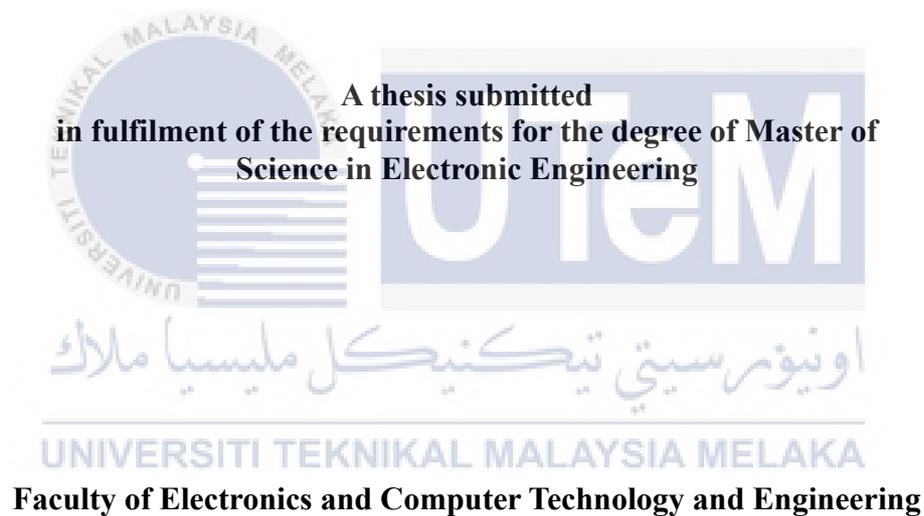
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DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF HIGH-EFFICIENCY CMOS ON-CHIP RECTIFIERS FOR RADIO-FREQUENCY ENERGY HARVESTING APPLICATIONS

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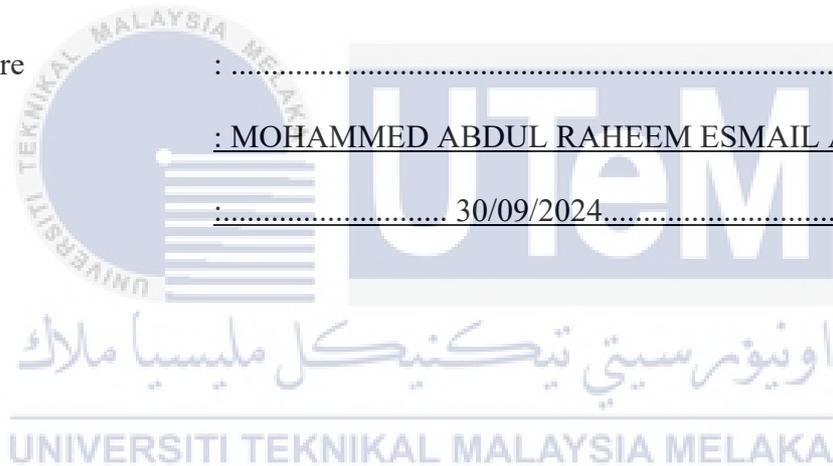
DECLARATION

I declare that this report entitled “Design and Development of High Efficiency CMOS on-chip Rectifiers for Radio Frequency Energy Harvesting Applications” is the result of my own work except for quotes as cited in the references.

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Date : 30/09/2024.....



APPROVAL

I hereby declare that I have read this thesis and in my opinion this thesis is sufficient in terms of scope and quality for the award of Master of Science in Electronic Engineering.

Signature :
Supervisor Name : PM DR. WONG YAN CHIEW.....
Date : 30/09/2024.....

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my loving family, my lover, and my beloved friends for their
constant support and unconditional love.



ABSTRACT

The on-chip rectifier is major part of the integrated radio frequency energy harvesting system because it converts electromagnetic waves coming to the antenna into usable DC voltage. The diode-connected transistor is the fundamental unit of the on-chip rectifier. Previous studies showed CMOS cross connected rectifier over a wide input range is the most efficient to date and was stated that to design a (<10W rectifier) that can be implemented in medical devices, we use a diode connected transistor on-chip to create the efficient full wave rectifier. CMOS is the preferred technology for building an on-chip rectifier because its circuit is compact, insensitive to noise and consumes less power. The differential cross-connected rectifier architecture is the most efficient rectifier to date and is widely used for passive radio frequency identification tags. The design of the rectifier starts with the specifications of circuit parameters with the use of the Silterra Process Design Kit and the Cadence Virtuoso Platform, schematic capture, layout design as well as simulation and verification. The most important parameters of the CMOS rectifier are sensitivity that measures the minimum power of radio wave required to produce an output of 1 V DC voltage, and the power conversion efficiency that measures the percentage ratio of DC output power to input radio frequency power. The cascade of the rectifier block in series increases the output voltage. The designed differential drive cross connected rectifier schematic circuits with impedance matching network circuits' simulations resulted a power conversion efficiency of 83% and sensitivity of 18 dBm at input power -25 dBm and bandwidth 500 MHz. When the number of the stages of rectifier circuit block were cascaded in the schematic drawing from a single stage to five stages, the output voltage was incremented proportionally. The powercast energy harvesting development kit for wireless sensors was demonstrated at various distances using patch and dipole antennas and was calculated for transmitted 1 W power from powercast transmitter at distance one meter between the transmitter and receiving antennas. The received power conversion efficiency was 55% for both antennas but the received power for patch antenna was 8.1 mW and 3.7 mW for dipole antenna. Applications of the radio frequency energy harvesting system include a wireless sensor network node, radio frequency identification tag, body area network, implantable medical devices and portable sensors.

**REKA BENTUK DAN PEMBANGUNAN PENERUS CMOS ATAS-CIP
KECEKAPAN TINGGI UNTUK APLIKASI PENUAIAN TENAGA FREKUENSI
RADIO**

ABSTRAK

Penerus atas-cip adalah bahagian yang paling penting untuk sistem penuaian tenaga frekuensi radio bersepadu kerana ia menukar gelombang elektromagnet dari antena ke voltan DC. Transistor berkait-diod adalah unit asas untuk penerus atas-cip. CMOS adalah teknologi pilihan untuk membina penerus atas-cip kerana litarnya kompak, tidak sensitif kepada hingar dan menggunakan kurang kuasa. Seni bina penerus pembezaan bersambung-silang adalah penerus yang paling cekap sehingga kini dan digunakan secara meluas untuk tag pengenalan frekuensi radio pasif. Reka bentuk penerus ini bermula dengan spesifikasi parameter litar dengan penggunaan Kit Proses Reka Bentuk Silterra dan Platform Cadence Virtuoso, penangkapan skematik, reka bentuk susunatur serta simulasi dan penentusahan. Parameter terpenting bagi penerus CMOS adalah kepekaan untuk mengukur kuasa frekuensi radio minimum yang diperlukan untuk menghasilkan voltan DC 1 V, dan kecekapan penukaran kuasa yang mengukur nisbah peratusan kuasa keluaran DC kepada kuasa masukan radio frekuensi. Lata blok penerus secara sesiri meningkatkan output voltan. Litar skematik penerus penyambung silang pemacu pembezaan yang direka beserta dengan simulasi rangkaian pemadan impedans menghasilkan kecekapan penukaran kuasa sebanyak 86% dan kepekaan sebanyak 18 dBm pada kuasa masukan -25 dBm dan lebar jalur 500 MHz. Apabila bilangan tahap litar penerus meningkat dari tahap satu ke tahap lima, voltan keluaran meningkat secara berkadar. Kit pembangunan penuaian tenaga siaran kuasa untuk sensor tanpa wayar telah ditunjukkan pada pelbagai jarak menggunakan antena tampalan dan dipol dan juga dikira untuk menghantar kuasa 1 W dari pemancar siaran kuasa pada jarak satu meter antara antena pemancar dan penerima. Kecekapan penukaran kuasa penerima adalah 55% untuk kedua-dua antena tetapi kuasa penerima untuk antena tampalan adalah 8.1 mW dan 3.7 mW untuk antena dipol. Aplikasi sistem penuaian tenaga frekuensi radio termasuk nod rangkaian sensor tanpa wayar, tanda pengenalanpastian frekuensi radio, rangkaian kawasan badan, alat perubatan yang boleh dilaksanakan dan sensor mudah alih.

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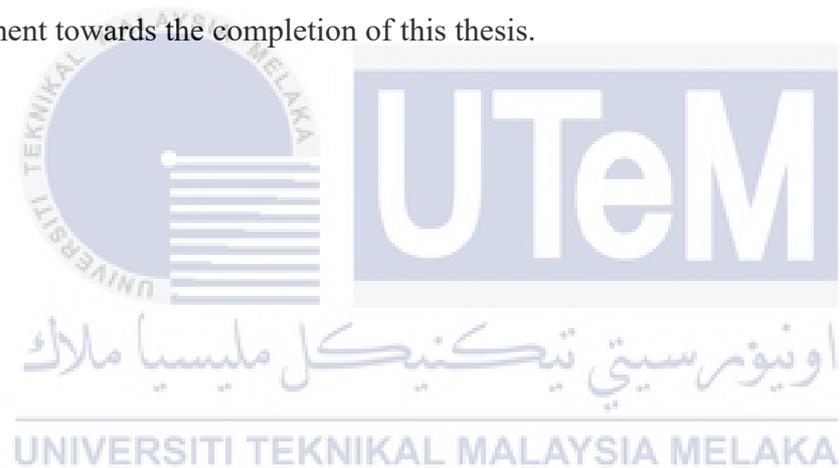


TABLE OF CONTENTS

	PAGE
DECLARATION	
APPROVAL	
DEDICATION	
ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	iii
TABLE OF CONTENT	iv
LIST OF TABLE	ix
LIST OF FIGURE	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xiv
LIST OF SYMBOLS	xv
LIST OF PUBLICATIONS	xvi
CHAPTER 1 – INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background	1
1.2 Objective	3
1.3 Thesis Statement	3
1.4 Introduction to on-chip Rectifier	4
1.4.1 Ambient Energy Harvesting	12
1.4.2 Dedicated Energy Harvesting	13
1.5 Scope	14
1.6 Organisation of the thesis	15

CHAPTER 2 BACKGROUND STUDY	18
2.1 Introduction	16
2.2 RF Energy Harvesting	18
2.3 Rectifier for RF Energy Harvesting Applications	19
2.4 CMOS Rectifier Topologies	24
2.4.1 Dedicated RF Power	26
2.4.2 Ambient RF Power	27
2.5 Building Blocks in RF Energy Harvesting	27
2.6 Energy Harvesting Efficiency	28
2.6.1 Rectifier Transistors sub threshold region Vs. LNA Transistors active region	28
2.6.2 On Chip Rectifier	29
2.6.3 RFEH	33
2.7 Power Consumption	34
2.8 Applications of RFEH	35
2.8.1 Internet of Things (IoT)	35
2.8.2 Smart Cities	36
2.8.3 Health care	37
2.8.2 Wireless Sensor Network (WSN)	38
2.8.3 Smart Building	39
2.9 RF power restriction	39
2.9.1 Urban and Semi-Urban RF Environment	39
2.10 CMOS based Radio Frequency Energy Harvesting	40

2.10.1	Impedance Matching Network	40
2.10.2	CMOS Rectifier	40
2.10.3	LDO	42
2.10.4	Load	44
2.11	Performance parameters	44
2.11.1	Impedance Matching Network (IMN)	47
2.12	Design Strategy CMOS Rectifier	48
2.12.1	Ambient RF Power	48
2.12.2	Energy Harvesting Efficiency	49
2.12.3	Rectifier Transistors subthreshold region	49
2.12.4	Rectifier Topologies:	51
2.12.5	Wideband and Narrowband Impedance Matching circuits	51
2.12.6	Rectifier transistor gate biasing	52
2.12.7	Differential Drive Cross Connected Rectifier (DDCCR)	53
CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY		55
3.1	Introduction	55
3.2	Rectifier Circuit Design and Development	58
3.2.1	Single Stage DCCR Rectifier	58
3.2.2	Multistage Rectifiers	63
3.2.2.1	5-Stages DDCCR	64
3.2.2.2	3-Stages Diode MOS rectifier	65
3.3	Impedance Matching Network Design	67
3.4	Transient Analysis Improvement	68

3.4.1	Test and Measurement Devices	69
3.4.2	WSN Powering by RFEH using PowerCast P2110B	70
3.4.3	Experiment setup of RF energy harvesting system for WSN	72
3.5	Process flow	73
CHAPTER 4 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION		76
4.1	Introduction	76
4.2	CMOS rectifier simulation at Cadence Silterra C18G	76
4.3	Multistage (DDCCR) rectifier schematic	79
4.4	Input Impedance and Matching Network	80
4.4.1	Single-stage and Multi-stage Rectifier	82
4.4.2	Broadband impedance matching network design	84
4.4.3	WSN Powering by RFEH using PowerCast P2110B	70
4.5	Calculation results	86
4.6	Findings	95
4.7	Analyses	99
4.8	PowerCast Development Kit	100
4.9	Deep n-well Technology:	101
4.10	Discussion	109
4.10.1	Simulation Rectifier in CMOS Technology	109
4.10.2	Single-stage Rectifier	114
4.10.3	Multistage Rectifier	114
4.10.4	Figure of Merit	115
4.10.5	Impedance Matching Circuit	115

4.10.6 Applications	116
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORKS	117
5.1 Conclusion	117
5.2 Future Works	118
REFERENCES	120



LIST OF TABLES

TABLE	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Performance summary CMOS rectifier	14
2.1	Commercial energy harvesting devices perceiving tactile sensations	29
2.2	Available ambient energy sources	31
2.3	Summary of power consumption requirements for RF energy harvesting applications	35
2.4	Commercial energy harvesting devices	43
2.5	State of The Art Differential Cross-Connected CMOS Rectifiers performance correlations at standard 0.18 μ m for radio frequency energy harvesting applications	46
2.6	Comparison MOSFET and Schottky Diode	54
4.1	Input Parameters Power Harvester Components P2110B at 915 MHz, and 1.2 V	87
4.2	Battery Charge Calculations	87
4.3	Patch antenna - Received power in dBm over distance range 1 to 4 meter from 1W transmitter	90
4.4	Received Signal Strength Indicator at different distances	91
4.5	Summarizes recent CMOS rectifier works at the literature	96
4.6	Benchmark Table of summaries performance of impedance matching network for radio frequency energy harvesting system on chip at the literature	98
4.7	Results summary of impedance matching network design at two different frequency	100



LIST OF FIGURES

FIGURE	TITLE	PAGE
1.1	Radio Frequency Energy Harvesting System Block Diagram	9
2.1	Communication between a source S and destination node S and relay R in the middle	18
2.2	Conceptual view of wireless sensor network (WSN) and radiofrequency energy harvester	21
2.3	Conventional MOS-Diode connected transistor	22
2.4	Voltage threshold cancellation scheme	23
2.5	MOSFET Switch Operating Region	37
3.1	Flow chart of the design of CMOS circuit	57
3.2	Rectifier cancellation scheme	59
3.3	Schematic simulation single stage DDCCR and one block impedance matching network	60
3.4	Schematic simulation single stage DDCCR two impedance matching networks	61
3.5	Schematic Simulation single stage DDCCR without impedance matching network	61
3.6	Schematic Simulation Single Stage DDCCR rectifier with impedance matching network	62
3.7	Schematic Single stage half wave rectifier	62
3.8	Schematic full wave rectifier in test bench - Conventional Differential Cross Coupled Rectifier	63
3.9	5- stages CMOS differential cross connected rectifier test bench with suggested resistors reduce reverse leakage current	65
3.10	Schematic test bench Circuit Schematic of 3-stage Conventional Diode MOS Rectifier	66

3.11	Schematic Differential Drive Cross Connected Rectifier – Single Stage	67
3.12	Equivalent Circuit model integrated CMOS rectifier and Series Cascaded impedance matching network (Hameed and Moez, 2016)	67
3.13	A MOS rectifier of 3-stages	68
3.14	A Friis transmission Formula at antenna distance	69
3.15	Powercast power harvester evaluation boards P2110B	70
3.16	Powercast P2110B development kit	71
3.17	Power harvester receiver top view	72
3.18	Measurement setup for WSN	73
3.19	Setup and measurement for dedicated radio frequency energy harvesting transmitter and receiver	73
4.1	Using scattering parameter simulation for finding impedance at rectifier input	77
4.2	Power Conversion Efficiency (PCE)	77
4.3	Rectifier input impedance and coefficient reflection	78
4.4	CMOS rectifier power conversion efficiency without IMN	78
4.5	CMOS rectifier coefficient reflection with IMN	79
4.6	Reflection Coefficient S ₁₁ at 2.44 GHz	80
4.7	Reflection Coefficient S ₁₁ at 28GHz	81
4.8	Reflection coefficient for 2.5 GHz operating frequency and wider bandwidth Single-stage and multi-stage Rectifier	81
4.9	Output DC voltage for 2.44 GHz at 60 K Load and different input power values	83
4.10	Output DC voltage at different stages	84
4.11	Output DC voltage at same Pin and different Load R, VDC = 29mV at RL = 10K and 174mV at RL = 60K	84
4.12	Power harvester receiver block diagram	85
4.13	PCE equals to 76%, for MOS rectifier of 3-stages	86

4.14	Power harvester performance based on calculation with Patch antenna	88
4.15	Power harvester performance based on calculation with dipole antenna	88
4.16	RSSI Vs. Distance	92
4.17	WSN measured light intensity using patch antenna	93
4.18	WSN measured Temperature using patch antenna	93
4.19	WSN measured Humidity using patch antenna	94
4.20	Energy harvesting and sensor system	101
4.21	CMOS Cross section in n-well process and parasitic	103
4.22	Radio frequency energy harvesting system	104
4.23	On Chip Rectifier Recharges energy to implanted wireless body area Network sensors	104
4.24	Rectifier input Impedance for single-stage rectifier operating at 2.5GHz	105
4.25	Rectifier's Input impedance simulation at the frequency range 10MHz to 6GHz	106
4.26	Two stages impedance matching network and rectifier equivalent circuit	106
4.27	On chip rectifier design circuit Simulation Periodic Steady State Simulation PSS	107
4.28	On chip rectifier design circuit Simulation Scattering Parameter, Coefficient Reflection S11	107
4.29	Output voltage at different stage for 3 stage rectifier	108
4.30	Impedance matching networks	110
4.31	Periodic Steady State (PSS) Response	112

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

IC	-	Integrated Circuit
P-MOS	-	P-Type Metal-Oxide Semiconductor
N-MOS	-	N-Type Metal-Oxide Semiconductor
MOSFET	-	Metal-Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistor
LNA	-	Low Noise Amplifier
RF-MOS	-	Radio Frequency Metal Oxide Semiconductor
IMN	-	Impedance Matching Network
DDCCR	-	Differential Drive Cross Connected Rectifier
CAD	-	Computer Aided Design
EDA	-	Electronic Design Automation
CMOS	-	Complementary Metal Oxide Semiconductor
WBAN	-	Wireless Body Area Network
WPT	-	Wireless Power Transfer
SOC	-	System On Chip
LDO	-	Low-Dropout
WSN	-	Wireless Sensor Networks
Iot	-	Internet of things
RFID	-	Radio Frequency Identification
EIRP	-	Effective Isotopically Radiated Power
DCT	-	Diode-Connected Transistor

LIST OF SYMBOLS

dBm	-	Unit power level
Hz	-	Hertz
mm	-	millimeter
MHz	-	Mega Hertz
DC	-	Direct Current
μm	-	Micro Ampere
V	-	Volt
kHz	-	Kilohertz
μm	-	Micrometer
nm	-	Nanometer
π	-	Phi
Δ	-	Additional offset (Value: 0.01-0.03V)
GHz	-	GigaHertz
λ	-	Lambda (wavelength)
A_e	-	Antenna Aperture
R	-	Resistance, Distance or Receiver



LIST OF PUBLICATIONS

A. E. and Wong, Y. C. (2018) 'Co - design of on - chip 2.5Ghz RF-DC Power Conversion Circuit for Wireless Sensor Network Node Application', *Proceedings of Symposium on Electrical, Mechatronics and Applied Science 2018 (SEMA'18)*, pp. 81-82, 8 November 2018.

Mohammed Abdul Raheem Esmail Alselwi, Yan Chiew Wong, Zul Atfyi Fauzan Mohammed Napiah, 'Integrated CMOS Rectifier for RF-Powered Wireless Sensor Network Nodes' *Bulletin of Electrical Engineering and Informatics (BEEI)*, pp. 1-10, 8(3), 2019.

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

On chip rectifier is electronic circuit converts alternating current to discrete voltage at low power electronic systems. CMOS rectifier is major part in radio frequency energy harvesting system. CMOS stands for complementary metal oxide semiconductor. CMOS circuit is immune to noise and low power consumption, therefore it is appropriate technology for designing rectifier for the harvester's power is small. SilTerra's Radio Frequency CMOS (RFCMOS) technologies are customized and developed for wireless related applications such as low power chips for applications in IoT, consumer electronics, next generation sensors and industrial automation. Silterra process design kit (PDK) 0.18 μm CMOS technology is used for simulating differential drive cross connected rectifier. The applications of RF energy harvester are wireless sensor network, implementable medical devices, internet of things, radio frequency identification tag, wireless body area network and wearable sensors.

The on-chip rectifier is a miniaturized device of a few square microns consisting of passive electronic components such as capacitors and active components such as transistors. The integrated rectifier is a crucial element of the radio frequency energy harvesting system. The designed CMOS rectifier circuit of 2.5 GHz frequency band can produce a DC voltage of 1V from a signal of only 13 microwatts. The designed impedance matching network with a reflection coefficient of -17 dBm used to transfer all available power to the DC output

voltage and improve the efficiency of the rectifier circuit. The radio frequency energy harvesting is a sustainable and clean energy source in diverse environments as well as a potential replacement of the microsystem battery, such as the wireless sensor network node and the implantable medical devices.

A rectifier circuit converts ambient radio frequency (RF) waves into useful DC power as a major part of a radio frequency energy harvesting system. For example, electromagnetic harvesting refers to converting power from EM wave to DC power, the harvesting or receiving element of the EM power is either photovoltaic module for solar energy harvesting, or an antenna for RF energy harvesting. RF energy harvesting can be Near-field and Far-Field RF energy harvesting, and near field refers to non-radiative energy harvesting at shorter distances such as inductive coupling compared to radiative energy harvesting at longer distance such as ambient RF energy harvesting.

The chip rectifier is an important miniaturized electronic component converts AC energy to a useful DC power that replenishes the energy required for radio frequency energy harvesting (RFEH) applications such as the Internet of Things (IoT) devices. The RFEH is a new technology that addresses the wireless power supply reception for sensor applications, including the wireless body area network sensors, the sensor monitors the environmental weather and the structures. RFEH technology and application simplify life, and it's important to eliminate the use of cables that is complex and the use of many batteries that end up contaminating soil and groundwater. The block diagram of (RFEH) includes an antenna, an impedance matching network, a rectifier, a voltage regulator, and a load. The designed circuit schematic of the CMOS differential drive cross-connected rectifier and the 2.5 GHz

impedance matching network using Cadence virtuoso and Silterra Malaysia process design kit achieves an energy conversion efficiency of 83.34%. The design of rectifier is useful for next generation wireless sensor networks and Melaka Smart City (IoT) technologies. The demonstration of wireless power supply for WSN node at different distances using the Powercast P2110 evaluation board, consists of transmitter, the dipole and patch receiving antennas, the wireless sensors, and the 915 MHz measures the receiving power at different distances. In the literature CMOS rectifier were not efficient for lower power RF energy harvesting no sensitivity for detecting ambient low power and their sizes were too big.

1.2 Objective

- 1- To investigate the main building blocks in RFEH for WSN applications
- 2- To design and analyse rectifier in RFEH for optimum performance in WSN.
- 3- To evaluate the performance of wireless sensor network powering by RFEH using PowerCast module.

1.3 Thesis Statement

Periodically replacement and maintenance of batteries of wireless sensor network is not practical. The on-chip rectifier's low power conversion efficiency for low-power, output power is less than the requirement of the operating voltage of the WSN node. Increasing number of stages of the rectifier increases the size and decreases the efficiency. Lack of feasible study of electrical operations in microelectronics applications devices operations in Malaysia, and limitations of the current designs that are bulky, neither integrated nor fully