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## \$6 million 'coup' brings optics researcher to Tech

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At a projected cost of about \$6 million, Northwestern has hired a scientist described as the world's leading researcher in solid-state devices.

Manjeh Razeghi, a top researcher at Thomson Laboratories in France, will join Northwestern's electrical engineering and computer science department in September, said Jerome Cohen, dean of the McCormick School of Engineering and Applied Science.

"It's probably our biggest hire in 20 years," said Cohen, who has been recruiting the 48-year-old Razeghi for two years. "She's a hot shot, a real tiger."

Since 1986, Razeghi has directed the Exploratory Research Materials Laboratory at Thomson, an industrial firm. She develops the fundamental structures of new opto-electronic devices that integrate the advanced properties of optics with the simpler but better-developed properties of electronics. It is an area where NU has not been particularly strong.

"She creates the building blocks that can be used to integrate optics and electronics," said Prof. Abraham Haddad, chairman of the electrical engineering and computer science department.

In particular, Razeghi has worked extensively on an important tech-

nique, known as Metal Organic Chemical Vapor Deposition, which can generate the crystals used in developing opto-electronic devices, Haddad said.

The sophisticated reactor she has used in this process will be transported to NU from her lab in France, Haddad said.

In 1987, Razeghi won the IBM Science and Technology Award for her research in opto-electronics. Haddad and Cohen said the award is considered second only to the Nobel Prize.

Provost Robert Duncan, who oversees NU faculty, said the university scored big with Razeghi.

"This is a major hire for the university. It's a major coup for us," he said. "It reflects how much stronger Tech has become, because that's one way you measure how well a school is doing, is by the quality of the faculty it attracts."

Duncan credited Cohen with the successful recruitment of Razeghi. "We put the package together over her, but the dean of McCormick was the leader on this," Duncan said.

NU lured Razeghi with a lucrative package, which Cohen said surpasses the deal worked out for Roger Schank, a highly regarded professor of artificial intelligence who was hired away from Yale University in 1989.

Besides paying Razeghi's salary, NU also will support four of her grad-

uate students and provide her with extensive start-up support for her laboratory. Each of the lab's main components will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars, accounting for most of the \$6 million cost of her hiring.

The materials science department has given up some of its space to accommodate her lab, which will be housed in the new Materials and Life Sciences building.

Funding also will be earmarked for the salary of her two lab technicians. She is trying to bring two of her technicians with her from France, and is expected to form a team of three or four faculty members and five to 10 graduate students, Haddad said.

Razeghi will continue to work with Thomson either on a contract or consulting basis. A contract arrangement would bring NU revenue for research it would do for Thomson; a consulting arrangement would be a direct relationship between Thomson and Razeghi.

Razeghi will bring many benefits to NU, Haddad said.

"It will give us visibility in the opto-electronics device field, where we have been sort of low-key. With her we'll be one of the major players in this area," he said. "And it will attract research support from both government and industry."