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Dr. Padmanabham obtained his Ph.D in Welding Technology from IIT Delhi for his work on welding of Al-Li alloys. After his stints as a Design & Development Engineer at Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad and Scientific Officer in the Department of Science & Technology, New Delhi he joined ARCI, Hyderabad in 2005 to head the Centre for Laser Processing of Materials. Additive Manufacturing; Materials joining; Application of Lasers in Materials Processing; Surface Engineering and Technology Transfer & Commercialisation are his areas of interest. Under his leadership, the Centre for Laser Processing of Materials developed a range of applications for automotive, power, aerospace, electronics, nuclear and other sectors and also provided expert help to several other organizations.

He is a recipient of Abdul Kalam Technology Innovation National Fellowship awarded by INAE, Materials Research Society of India Medal, Distinguished Alumni Award of NIT, Warangal, Andhra Pradesh Scientist Award and Life Time Achievement Award of SAE India. He is an elected Fellow of The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), Andhra Pradesh Academy of Sciences, Telangana Academy of Sciences, Indian Welding Society and the Institution of Engineers (India).