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John A. Swanson is the founder of ANSYS, Inc., the global innovator of simulation software and technologies designed to optimize product development processes, and a Courtesy Professor in the USF Institute for Advanced Discovery & Innovation. He founded ANSYS, Inc. (then Swanson Analysis Systems, Inc.) in 1970 to develop, support and market the ANSYS simulation software program, growing it to the multi-solution successful organization it is today. Prior to ANSYS, Inc., he was employed at Westinghouse Astronuclear Laboratory as Manager of the Stress Analysis Group. There he developed a series of special purpose simulation codes and foresaw the need for an integrated general-purpose finite-element software code to do complex engineering calculations. He holds a Ph.D. in Applied Mechanics from the University of Pittsburgh and a B.S. and M.S in Mechanical Engineering from Cornell University. He also maintains numerous industry, national and local accreditations and awards including the appointment as a Fellow Member and Pittsburgh Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). He was named as the Entrepreneur of the Year in High Technology by the Entrepreneurial Services Group of Arthur Young and *Venture Magazine*. He has also been inducted into the Engineering Hall of Fame at the University of Pittsburgh. In 2004 he was awarded the John Fritz Medal by the American Association of Engineering; he is a member of the National Academy of Engineering. He currently consults and lectures on renewable energy, with a focus on photovoltaic applications.