

# Application example: Smart Tags

Brand protection

The internet of things

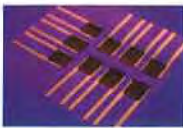
Medical sensors

Quality assurance

For an overview of applications, see:  
<http://pinterest.com/aipia>

# Generalized: printed sensor systems

## Input



Temperature sensor

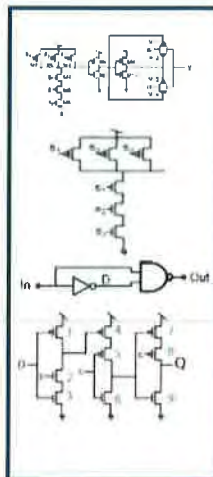


Light sensor



Pressure sensor

## Interface/Logic



Circuits

## Output

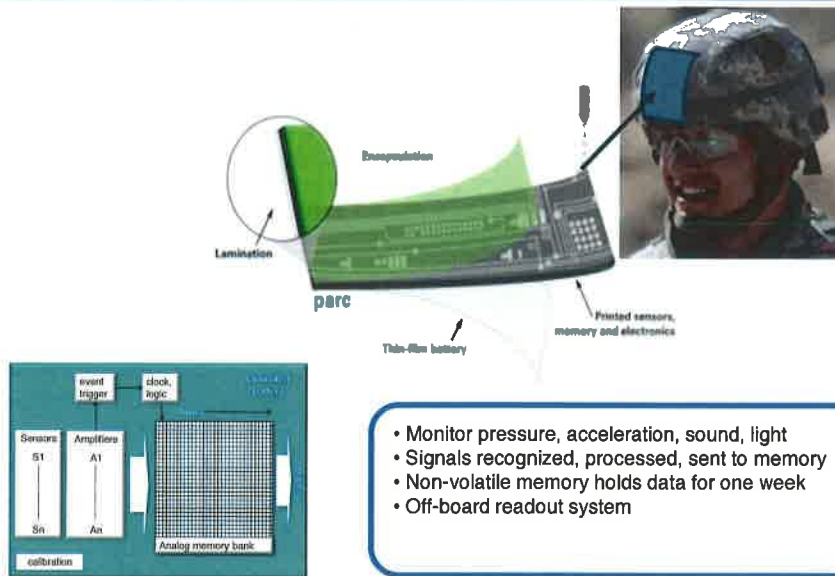


Display



Memory

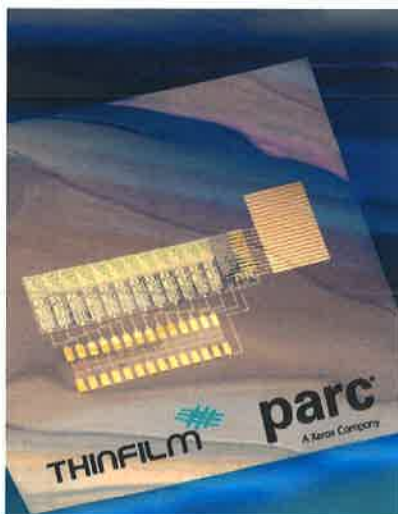
# An early example: printed sensor tape



- Monitor pressure, acceleration, sound, light
- Signals recognized, processed, sent to memory
- Non-volatile memory holds data for one week
- Off-board readout system

Monitoring environment to prevent traumatic brain injury (DARPA)

# Moving towards commercial reality: Thinfilm and PARC



Thinfilm printed memory

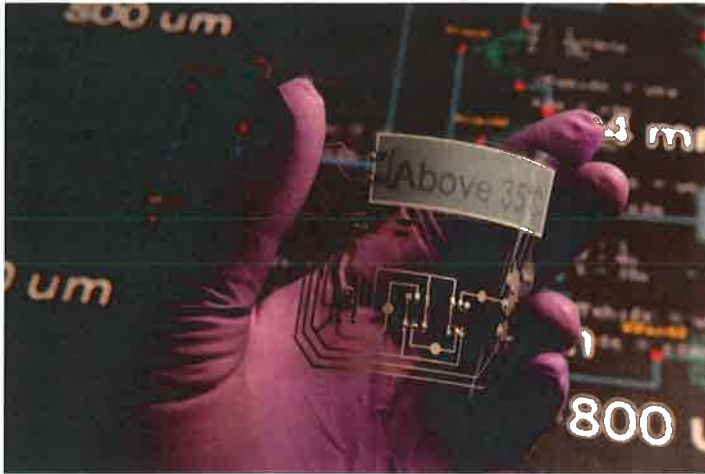
PARC organic printed addressing logic

Thinfilm & PARC demonstrated read/write through printed addressing



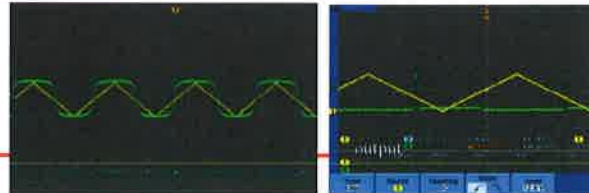
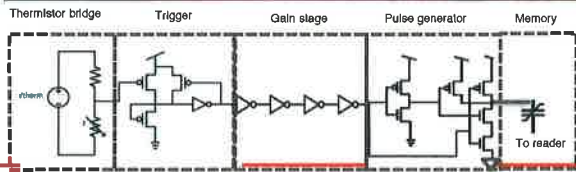
\*PARC/Thin Film joint project

# Example: Temperature sensor tag



Thinfilm memory  
 PST sensor  
 Acreo display  
 PARC logic

\*Trigger circuitry supported by Flextech

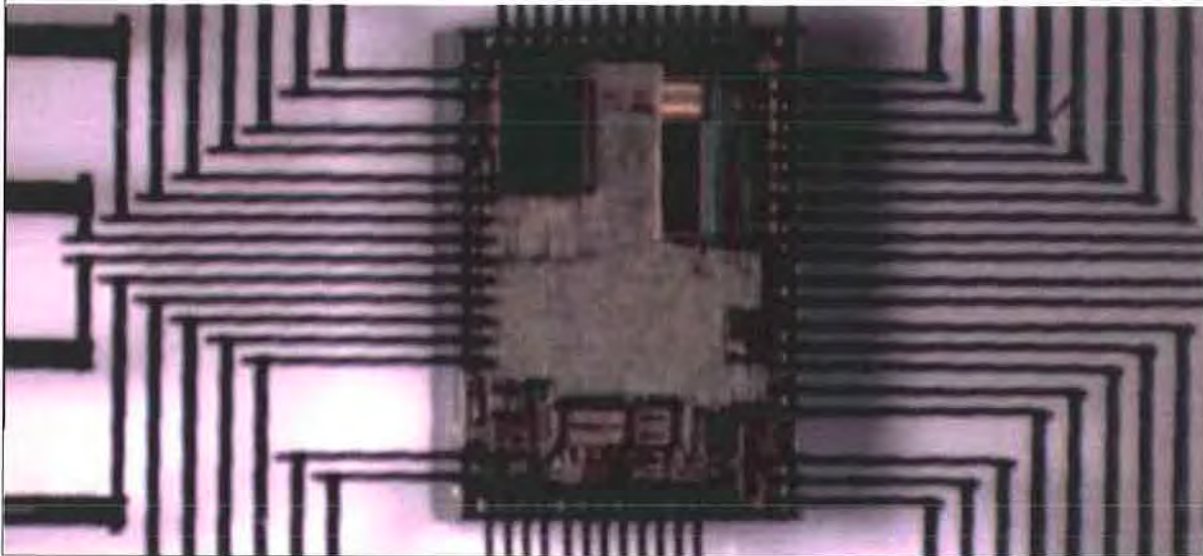


## Display Backplane



Photo: Plastic Logic Ltd.  
<http://spectrum.ieee.org/consumer-electronics/gadgets/inside-the-plastic-electronics-revolution>

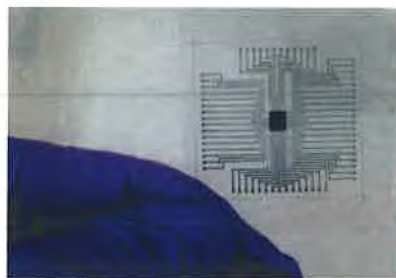
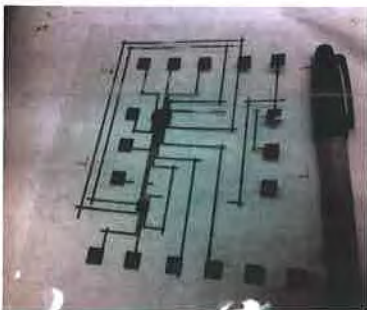
## 2. Hybrid Electronics



### Example: Interconnects – the first step



- Ink-jet silver used for fine pitch connections (60  $\mu\text{m}$  min. feature size)
- Extruded silver used for low resistance traces ( $\sim 10\text{s m}\Omega/\square$ )
- Soft adhesives used for chip attachment and interconnection
- Extruded dielectric for cross-over isolation



Ink-jet wiring for bare-die interconnection

# Wireless Temperature and Light Sensor System

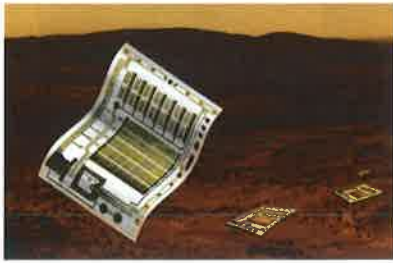
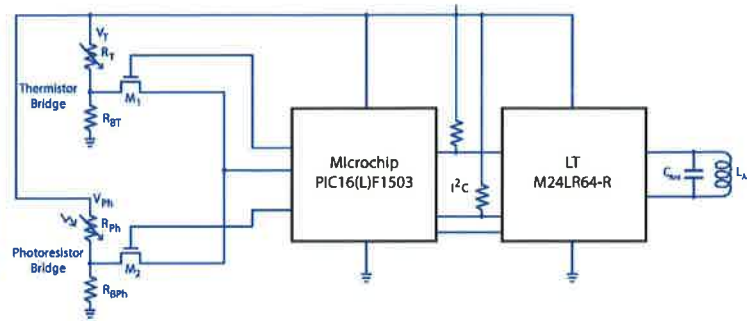


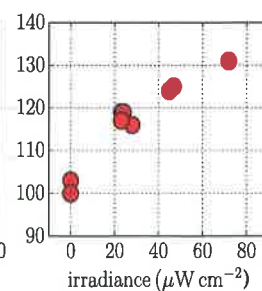
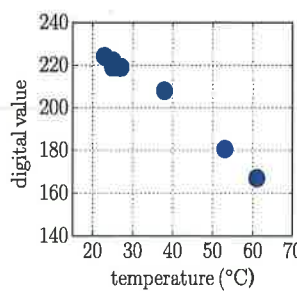
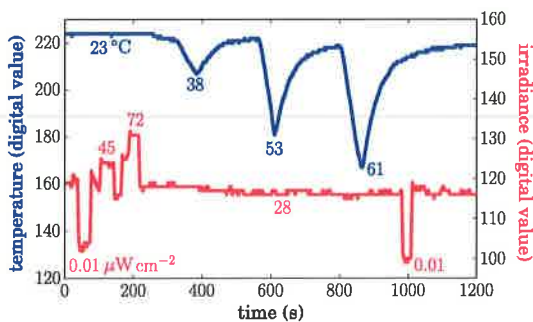
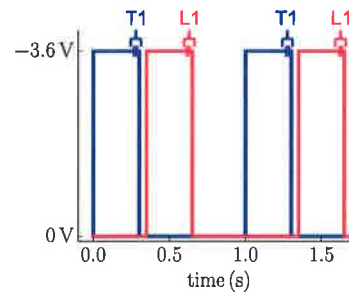
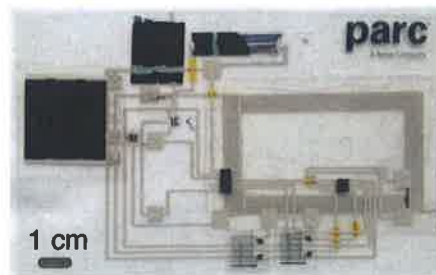
image courtesy of JPL



- Specific example for measuring temperature and light intensity
- Wireless data transmission
- Can be used generally for other sensor types
- Printed device, CMOS integration issues critical



# Complete System



# Power

- Powering low-profile flexible printed systems (particularly those with a radio) is a challenge
- Energy harvesting to directly power or to charge flexible power sources useful for some applications

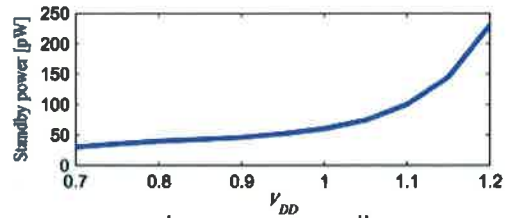


imprint energy



PARC

flexible batteries



Low-power radios  
(UCSD/MIT)



Integrated  
systems  
(Tampere)



supercapacitors  
UCLA/Stanford

# Manufacturing Considerations



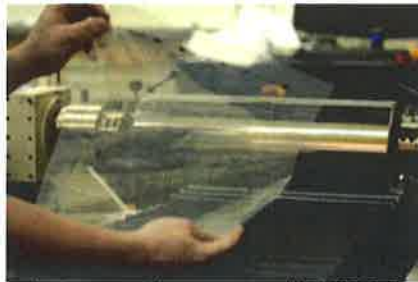
# Towards Industrial Processes



Ink-jet



Gravure



Collaboration between Clemson and PARC: Design rules & scalability\*

\*Funded by the FlexTech Alliance

# From graphics to electronics: design rules



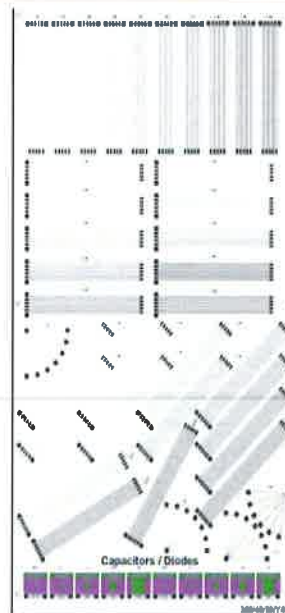
← Transistors

→ Serpentine

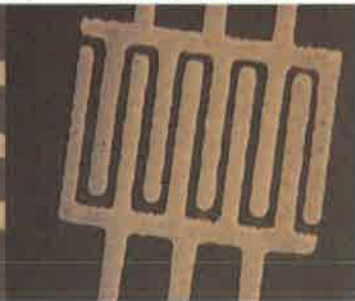
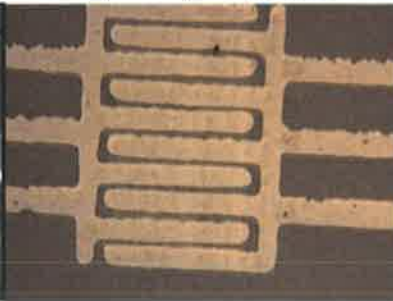
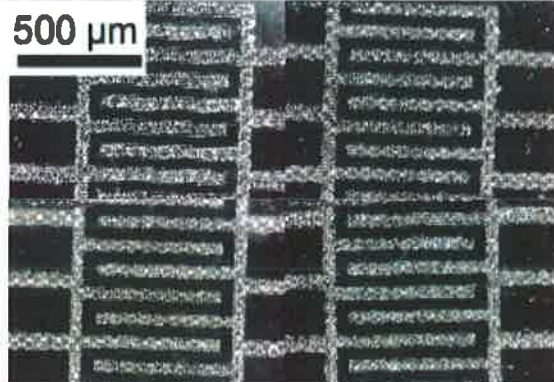
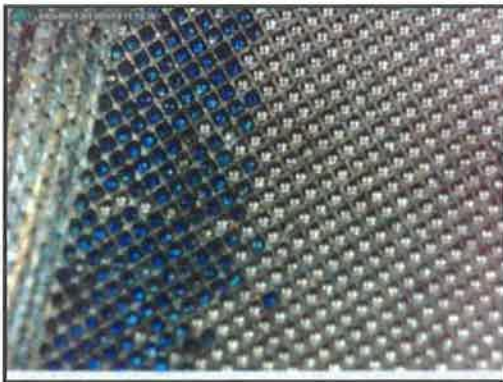
→ "Flowers"

→ Capacitors

→ Diodes



# Gravure



## 3D printing + printed electronics

### Early results

- Optomec + Stratasys + Aurora



- An Optomec Aerosol Jet system was used to print a conformal sensor, antenna and circuitry directly onto the wing of a UAV model.
- The wing was 3D printed with the Stratasys Fused Deposition Modeling Process.
- The electrical and sensor designs were provided by Aurora Flight Sciences, a supplier of UAVs.



## 3. Assembly

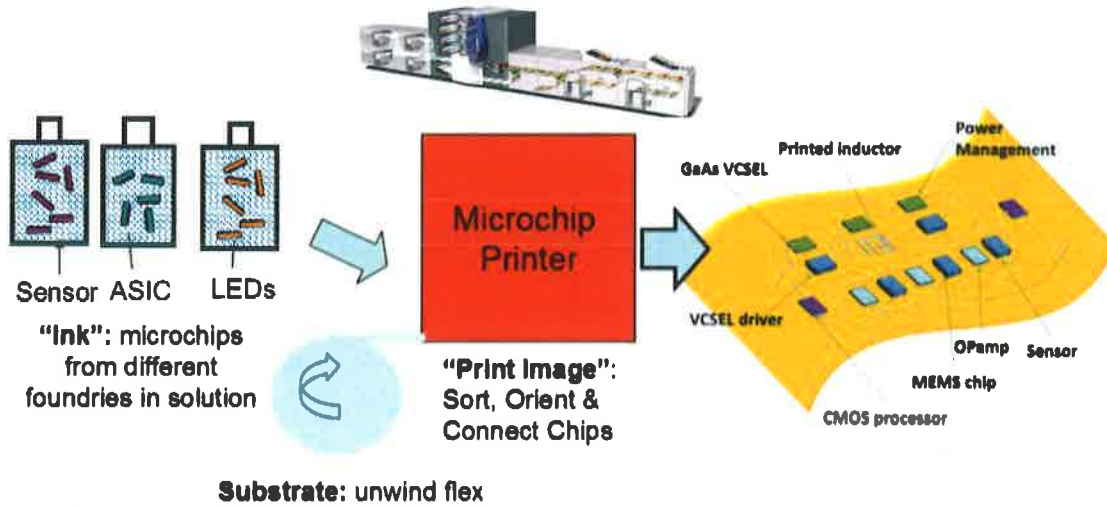


### Chips as ink

- **Concept**
  - Utilize Si technology
  - Create different inks
    - Each "ink" containing a different chip
  - Print onto substrate
    - Manipulate to pattern circuit
- **Applications**
  - Multi-chip applications
  - Hybrid structures



# Chips as ink: Microchip Printer

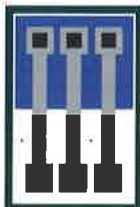


Programmable, on-demand production of massively integrated heterogeneous materials and chips

## Chip "ink"



Current mini library:



resistor



diode



Photo sensor

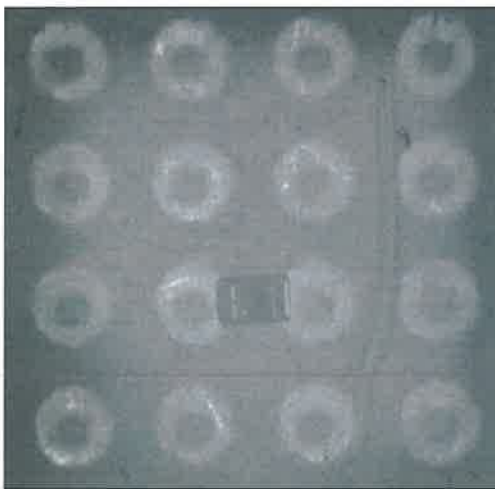


Charge pattern

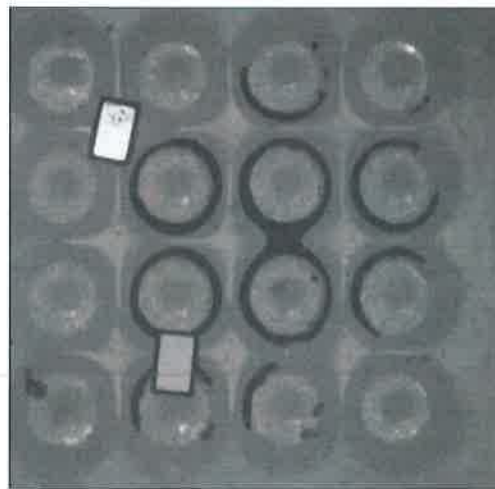
## Manipulation and Assembly



## Open Loop Examples



arbitrary path



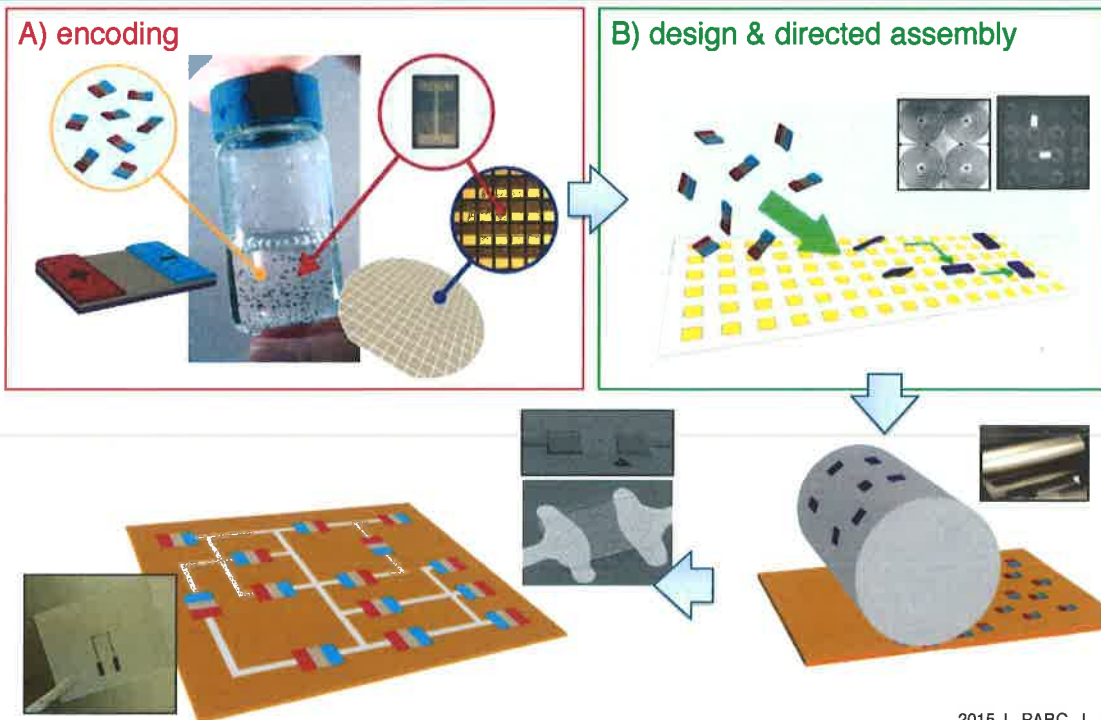
multiple chips

53.518020  
Red = Setpoint, Green = Measured Position



PARC | 55

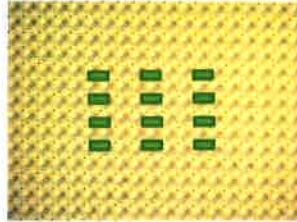
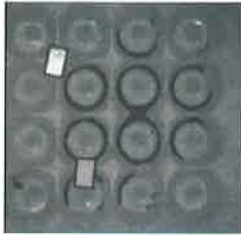
## Digital Fluidic Microassembly



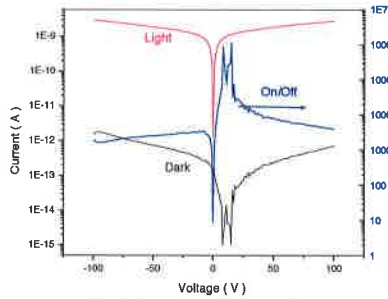
2015 | PARC | 56

# Improved Addressing Array

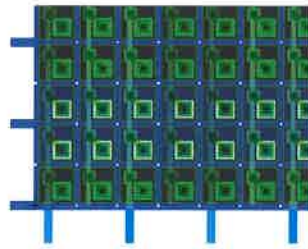
Use high voltage phototransistor array to convert images to patterned electric fields



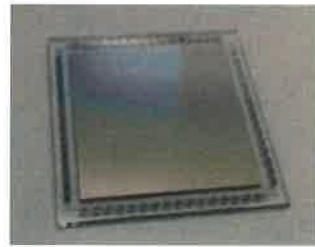
- High voltage active matrix array based on a-Si:H phototransistors
- $> 10^3$  on-off ratio
- $> 50k$  element array



a-Si:H phototransistor

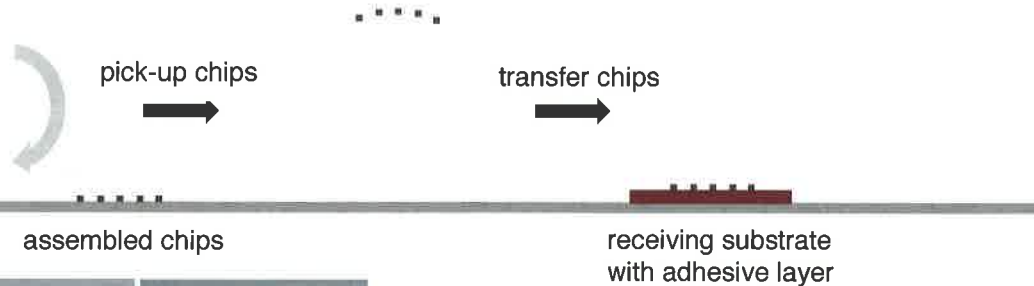


design



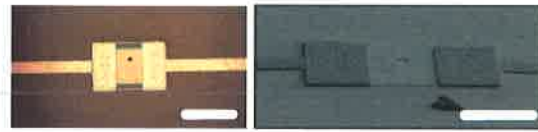
Complete addressing array

# Transfer and Interconnection



chip on surface

embedded



photolithography



ink-jet printing

## Summary

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- How can the world of manufacturing be changed
    - Democratization of manufacturing
    - Mass customization
    - Just in time delivery
  - How can the printing business be expanded
    - Higher value “prints”
    - Completely new markets
- 

## Thank you

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- Acknowledgements
  - The Printed Electronics and Digital Manufacturing teams at PARC and Xerox
  - Our many partners from the past and present
- Contact:

Ross Bringans  
bringans@parc.com

contact PARC  
engage@parc.com

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Technology	Examples	Design reasoning
<b>Printable materials &amp; devices</b>	chemical and biosensors, batteries, large area, flexible conformal devices and systems, (e.g., wearables, NBMC).	Device and composition modeling from material properties up.
<b>Printed circuits</b>	smart labels, logic and analog circuits, memory, sensors (ThinFilm Electronics & FlexTech partnerships).	Circuit design, layout design, modeling with printing constraints
<b>Printing for volume manufacturing</b>	gravure project with Sonoco Institute, packaging, RF shielding, metamaterials.	Design rules for inkjet, gravure, workflow
<b>Printed Hybrid Circuits</b>	on demand electronics (e.g. Printed Spacecraft, on demand sensors in space – in collaboration with JPL and Boeing)	Additive workflow , design rules
<b>Chiplet printing -</b>	Electrophotographic printing of microchips – high throughput, custom circuits and systems. High performance.	Process control
<b>Integrated Objects -</b>	additively manufactured objects with complex functionalities. Seamless electronics, sensing, actuators and form factor. (e.g. wearable devices, structural aircraft components, artificial limbs)	Design rules, advanced CAD, Additive workflow

