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Department of Electrical, Computer,  
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# Enabling Wireless Structural Electronics and Sensors: *From Additively Manufactured mm-Wave Circuits to Novel Sensing Mechanisms*

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e.rojas@erau.edu, kimd3c@erau.edu, namilaes@erau.edu

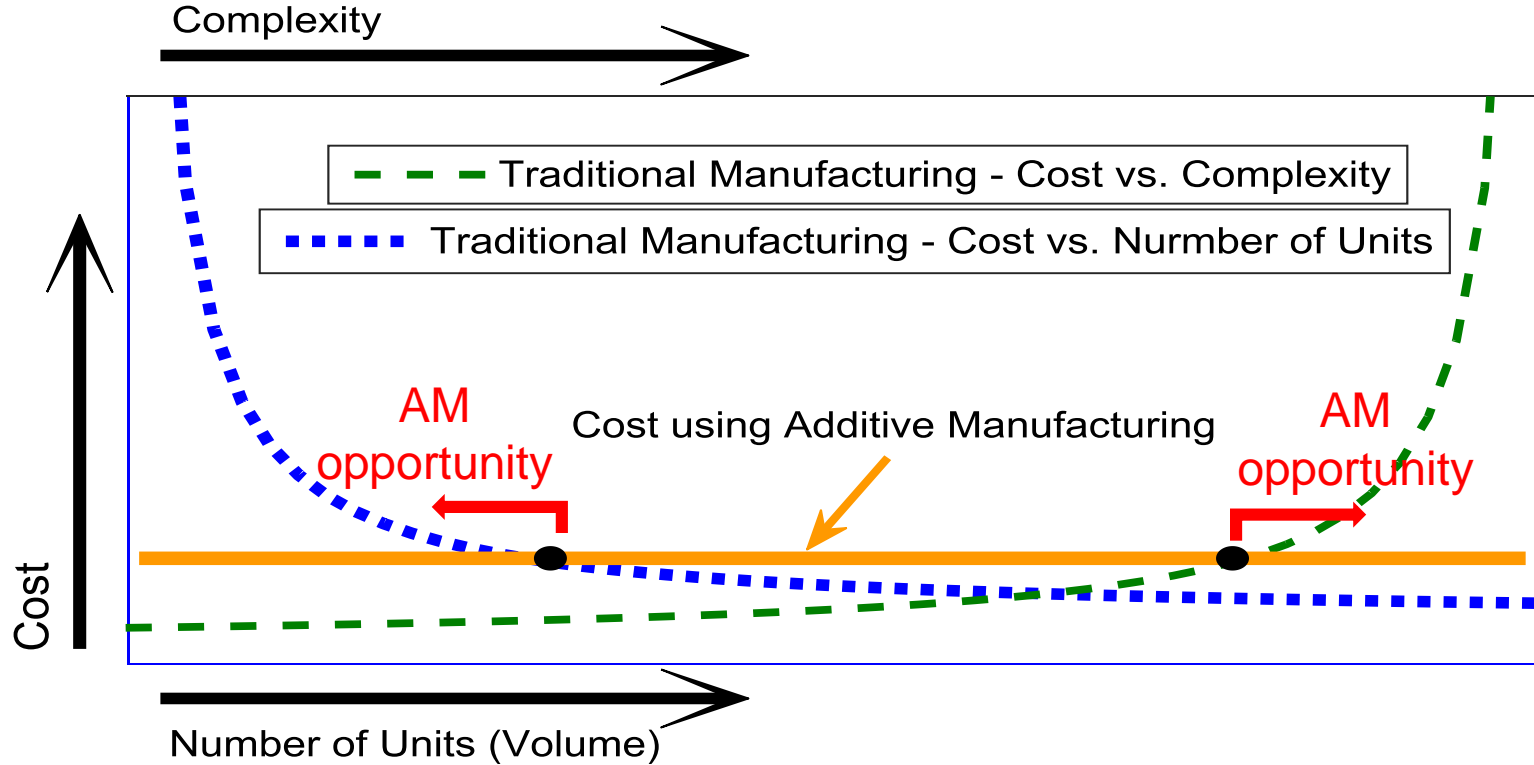
<sup>2</sup>University of South Florida, Tampa, FL, 33620. E-mail: weller@usf.edu

[www.wide-lab.com](http://www.wide-lab.com)

## ***Agenda:***

- ✓ *Introduction*
- ✓ *DDM Process (Additive Manufacturing)*
  - *Multilayer RF Electronics*
- ✓ *Laser Enhanced DDM*
  - *3D Component Packaging*
  - *mm-Wave Multilayer Circuit*
- ✓ *Sensing Mechanism for Micro Meteorite Orbital Debris (MMOD) Impacts*
- ✓ *ERAU Capabilities. Micaplex. WiDE Lab*

# Introduction



**3D Printed Fuel Nozzle**  
by General Electric.

*Improved Design:*  
25% lighter  
5x stronger  
Substitutes 18 parts

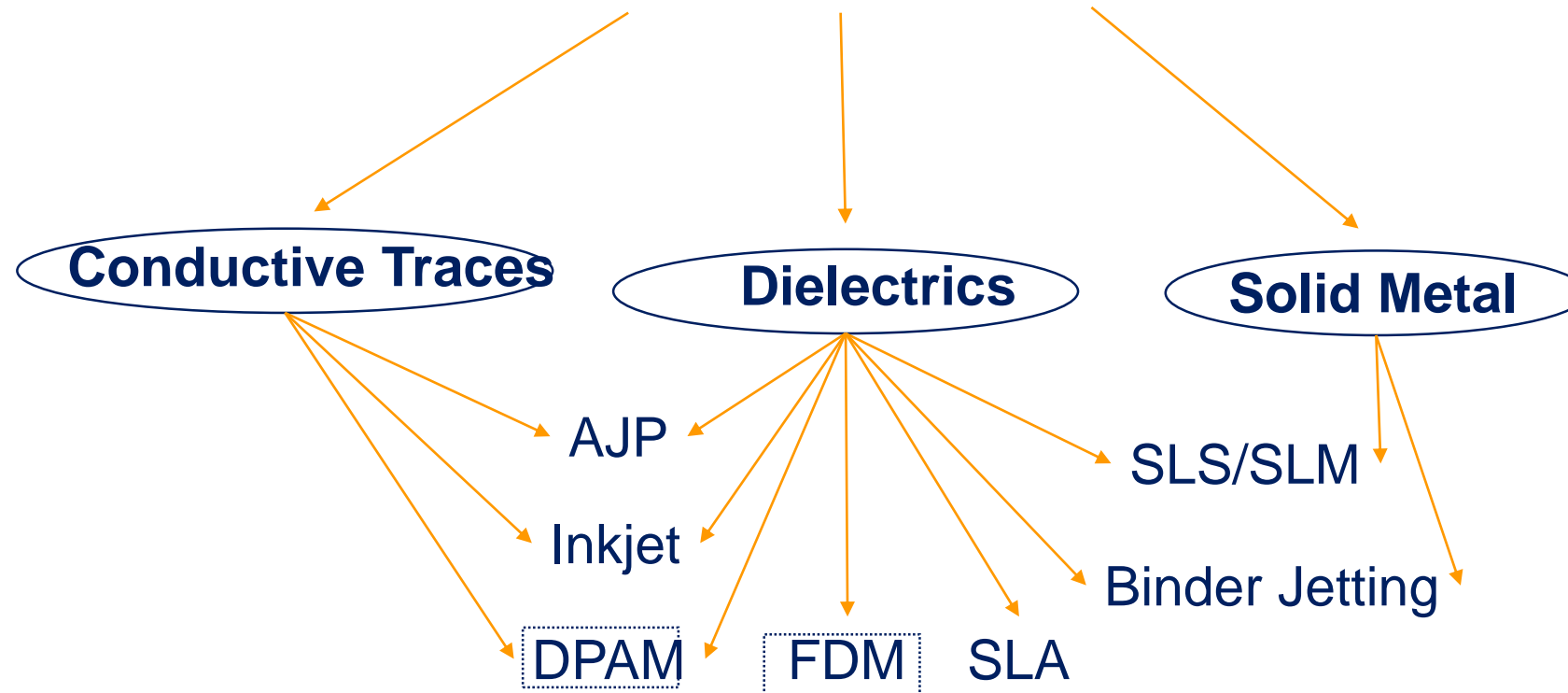


<http://www.gereports.com/post/116402870270/the-faa-cleared-the-first-3d-printed-part-to-fly/>

*Simpler designs are less costly and better – Not true with AM*

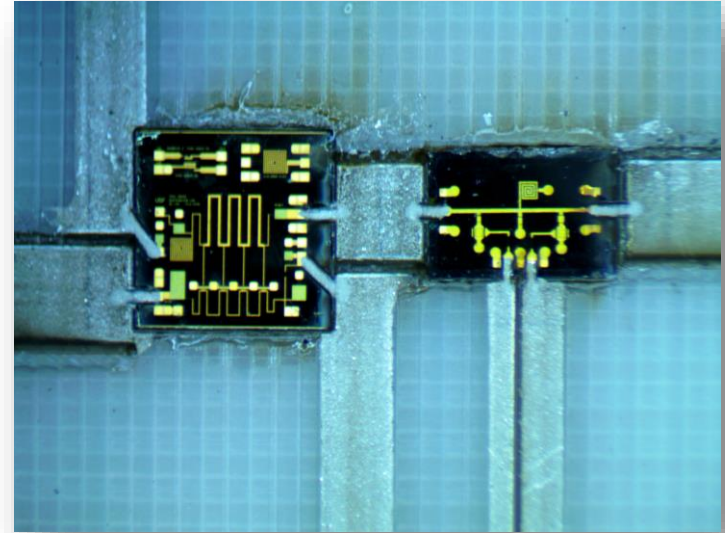
# 3D Printing Technologies

## RF Circuits and Antennas



# Introduction

- Direct Digital Manufacturing (DDM): Combination of additive and subtractive processes, *applied directly from CAD file to part*.
- This work: combination of FDM, micro-dispensing and laser machining.
  - Multiple materials, multiple layers.
  - Low temperature.
  - Match performance of Cu-clad microwave laminates.
  - Embed/integrate/package microelectronics.
  - Volumetric control of materials.



# DDM Process: *FDM*

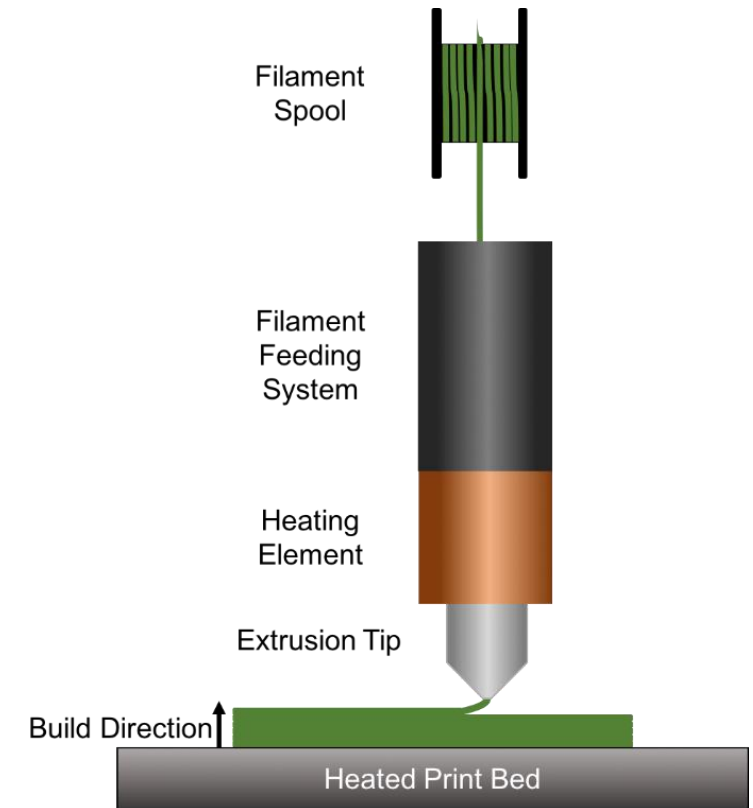
Video:



<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B0lhQblCdUwJU1gybTY1eHhSakE>

Typical nozzle temperature 200°C –350°C

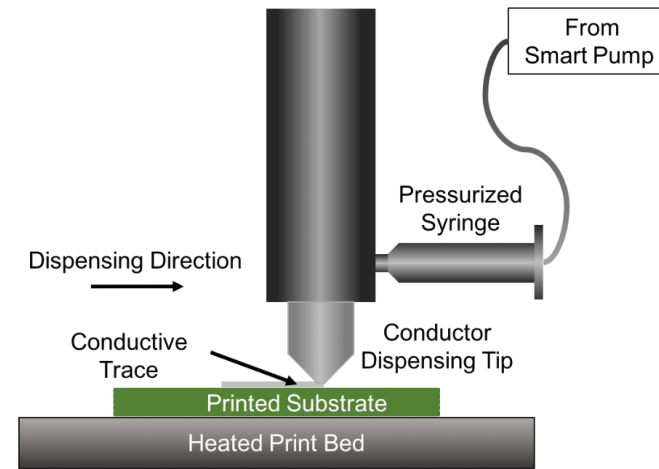
Minimum layer thickness ~50 microns



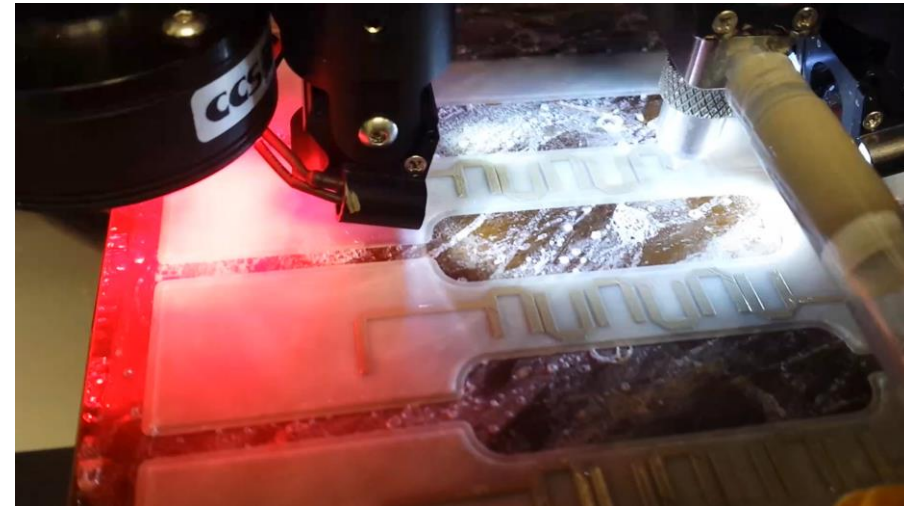
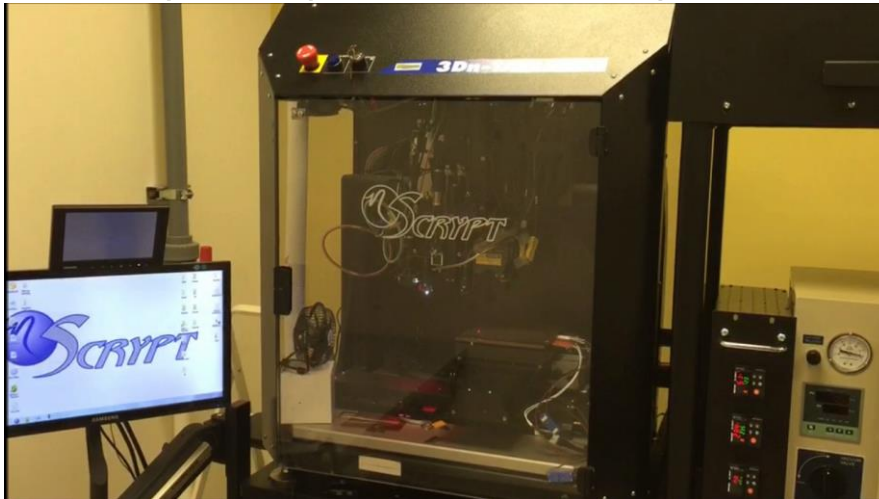


# DDM Process: *Micro-Dispensing*

- Pastes such as Ag particle alloys used for conductors
- Pressure, speed, etc. adjusted for desired feature sizes
- Conformal printing using laser mapping



**Tip inner diameters:**  
250 $\mu$ m  
125 $\mu$ m  
75 $\mu$ m  
25 $\mu$ m



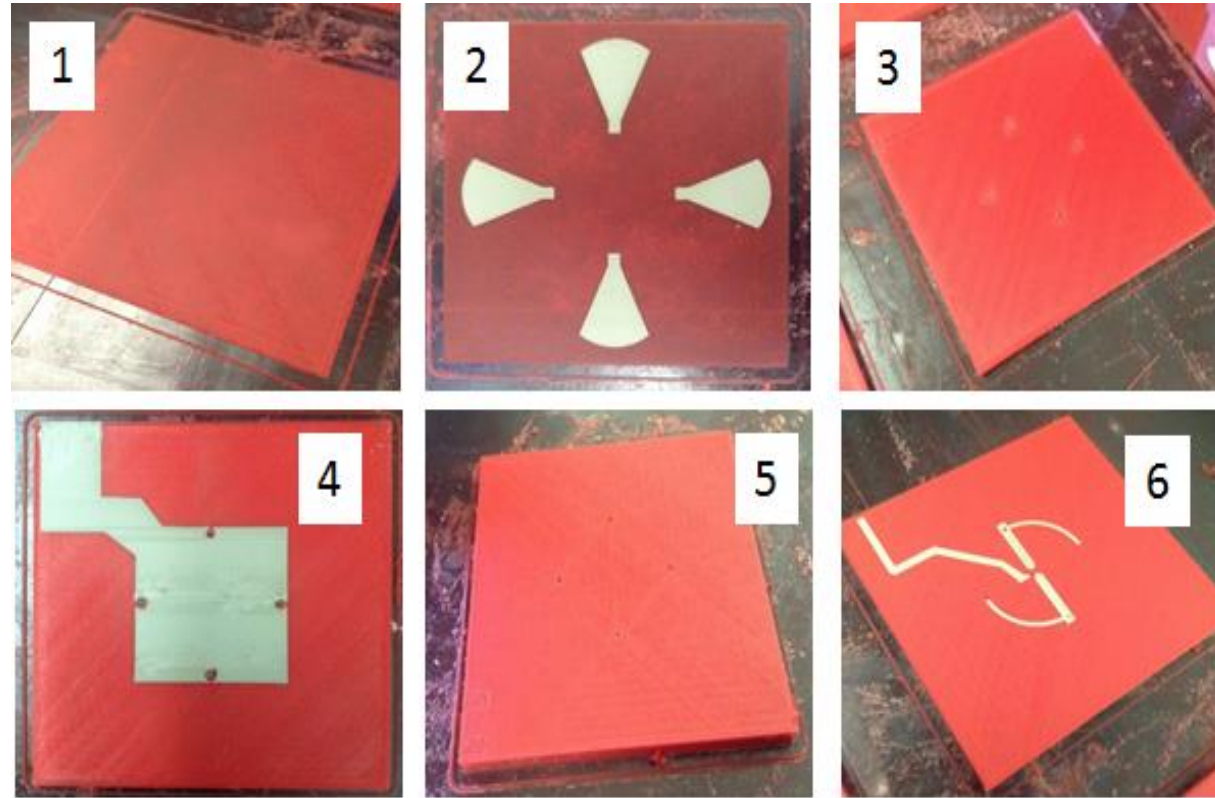
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B0lhQbICdUwJU0t6U3A2NGIBazA>

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# DDM Process: *Multi-Materials*

- Interleaving FDM and micro-dispensing
- Bed held at 90°C to cure Ag paste





# Multilayer RF Electronics

## *2.45 GHz phased array antenna unit cell*

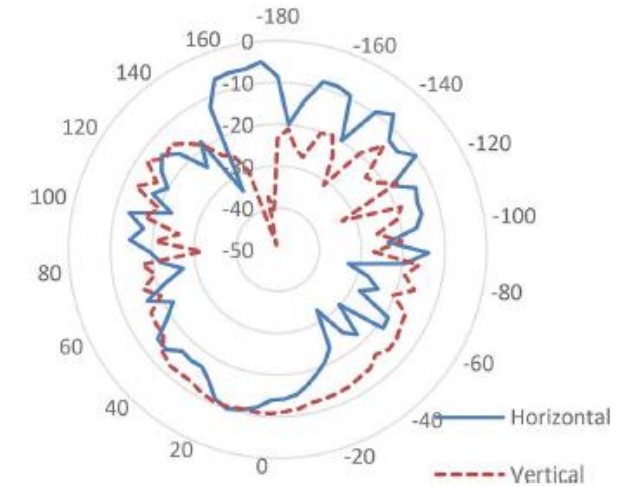
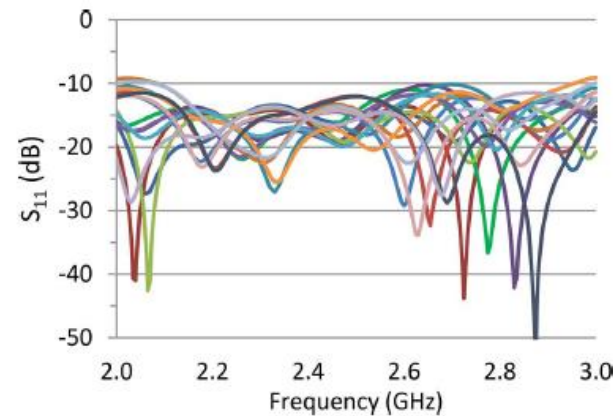
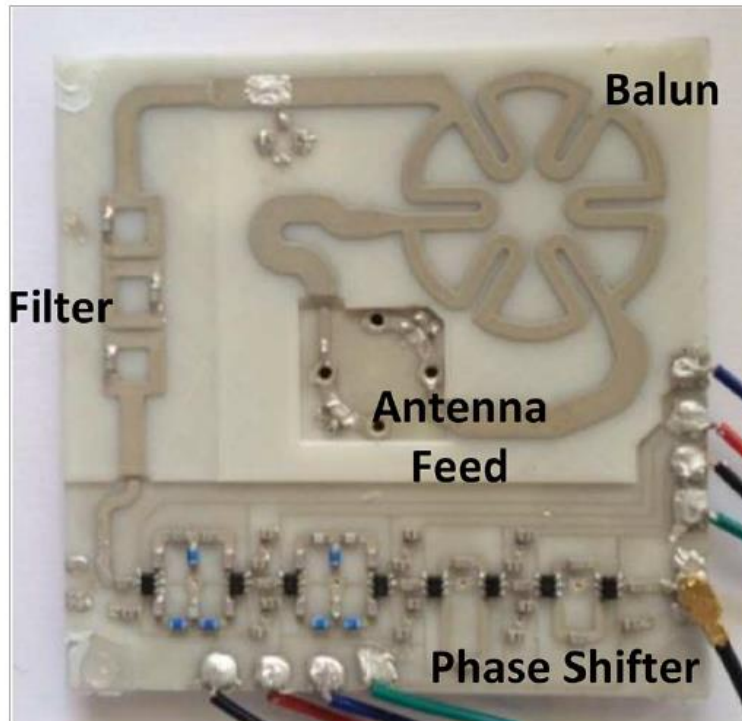
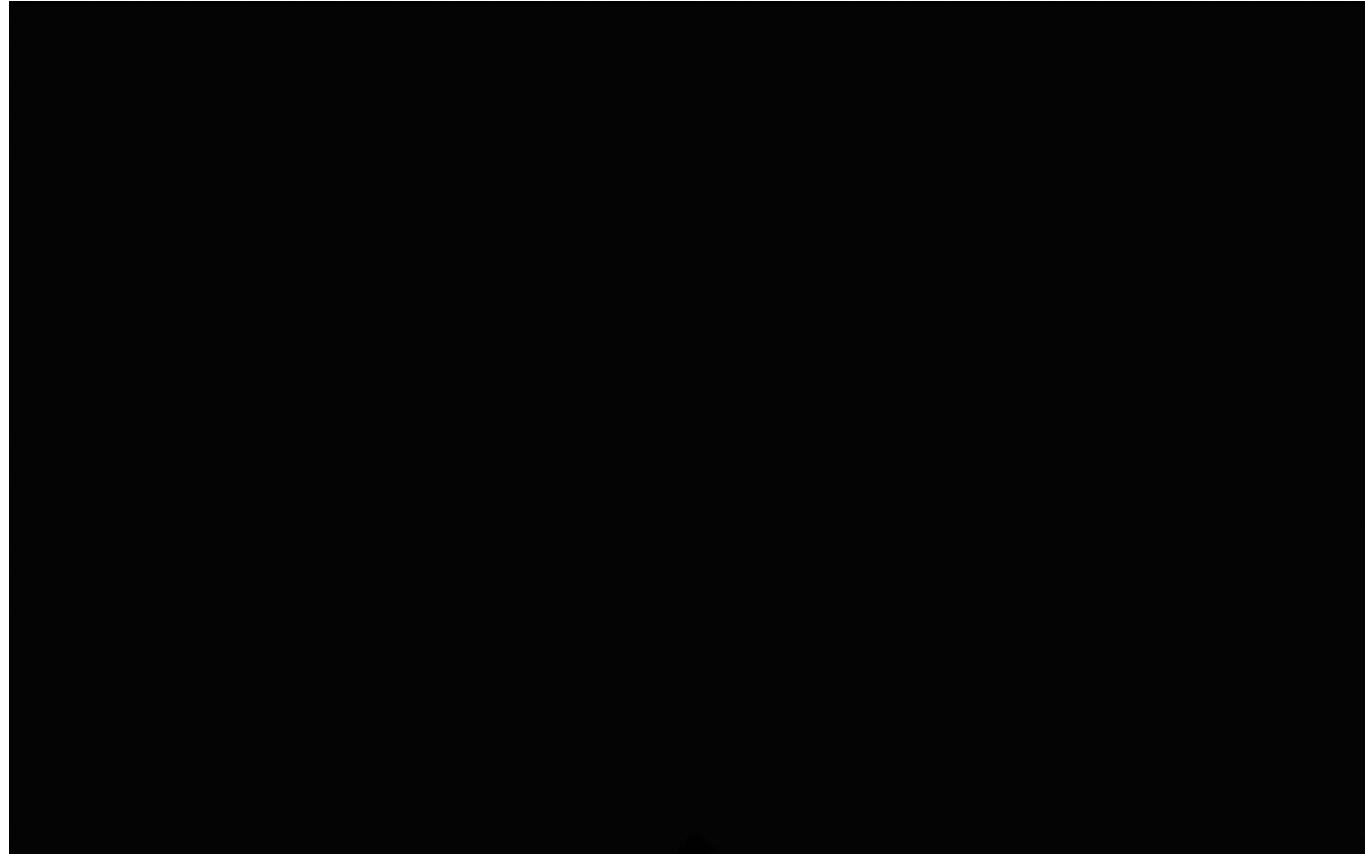


Fig. 24. Measured radiation patterns of the 2.45 GHz phased array unit cell. The vertical and horizontal gain pattern plots are shown.

Thomas P. Ketterl, Yaniel Vega, Nicholas C. Arnal, John W. I. Stratton, **Eduardo A. Rojas-Nastrucci**, María F. Córdoba-Erazo, Mohamed M. Abdin, Casey W. Perkowski, Paul I. Deffenbaugh, Kenneth H. Church, and Thomas M. Weller, "A 2.45 GHz Phased Array Antenna Unit Cell Fabricated Using 3-D Multi-Layer Direct Digital Manufacturing," in IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques, vol. 63, no. 12, pp. 4382-4394, Dec. 2015.

# Multilayer RF Electronics

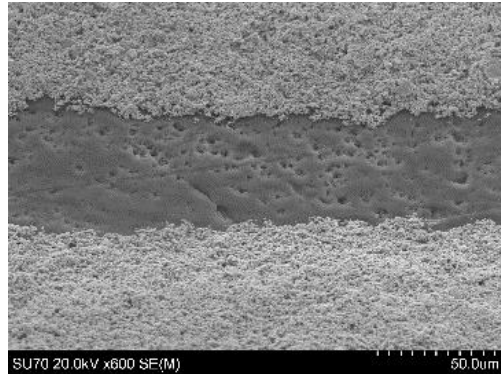
Video:



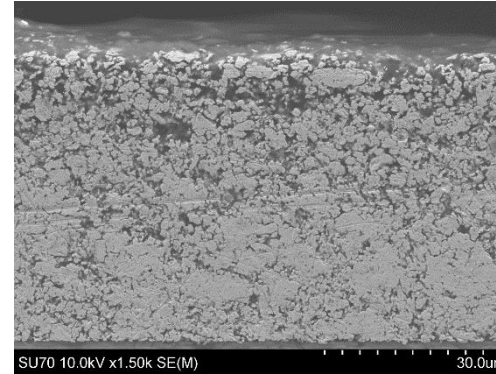
<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B0lhQblCdUwJQlEtZVlzSjZlV0k>

# Losses & Frequency Limits

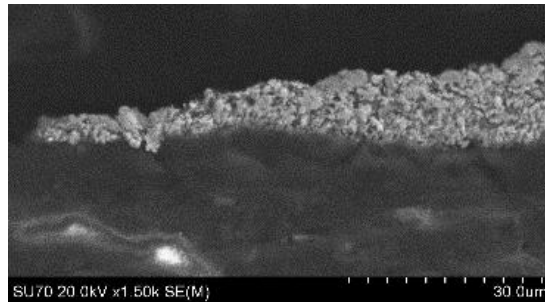
Surface roughness



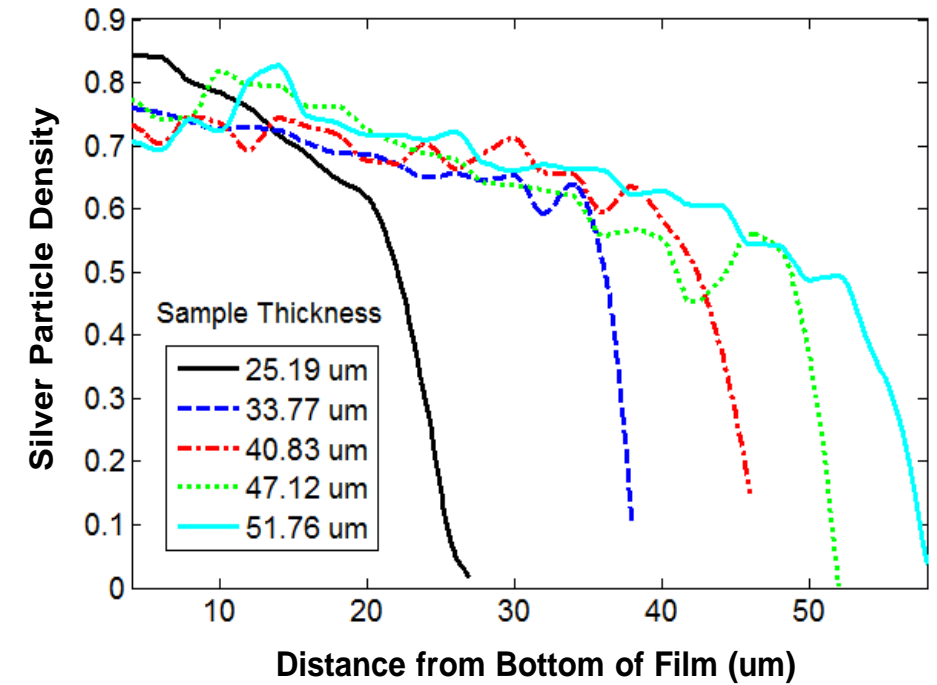
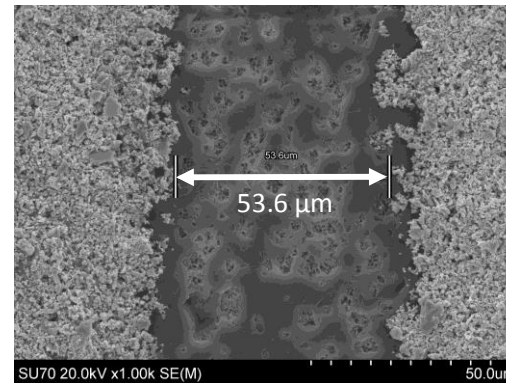
Non-uniformity



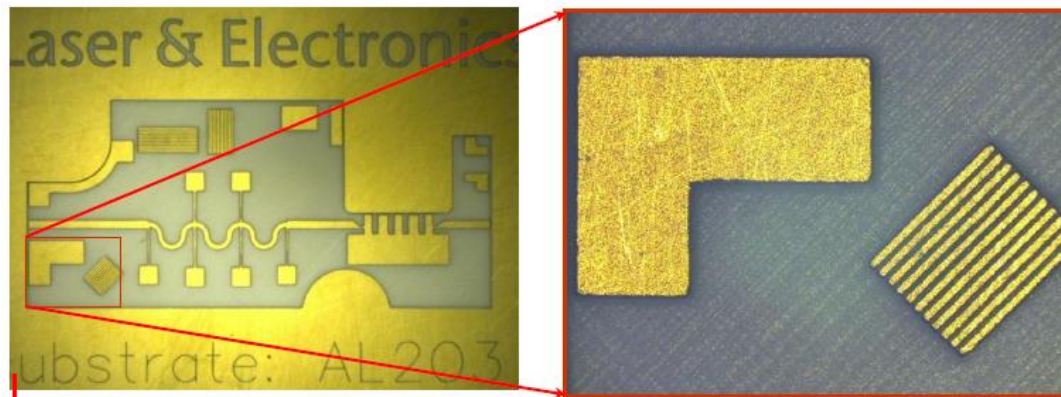
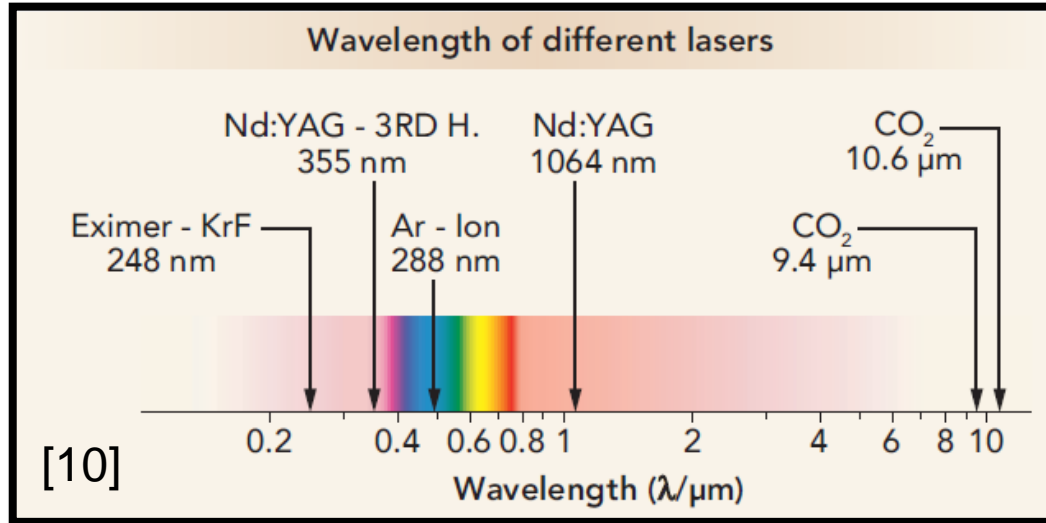
Tapered edges



Maximum resolution of 50 μm



# Laser Enhanced DDM



RF Applications LPKF - 25 $\mu$ m cut



CO<sub>2</sub> (top) vs  
Nd: YAG (bottom)  
cut on Kapton

## CO<sub>2</sub>

- $\lambda$  : 10.6  $\mu$ m
- Pulse width: ms to ns
- Local Heating, melting, material vaporization
- Thermal damage

## Nd : Yag

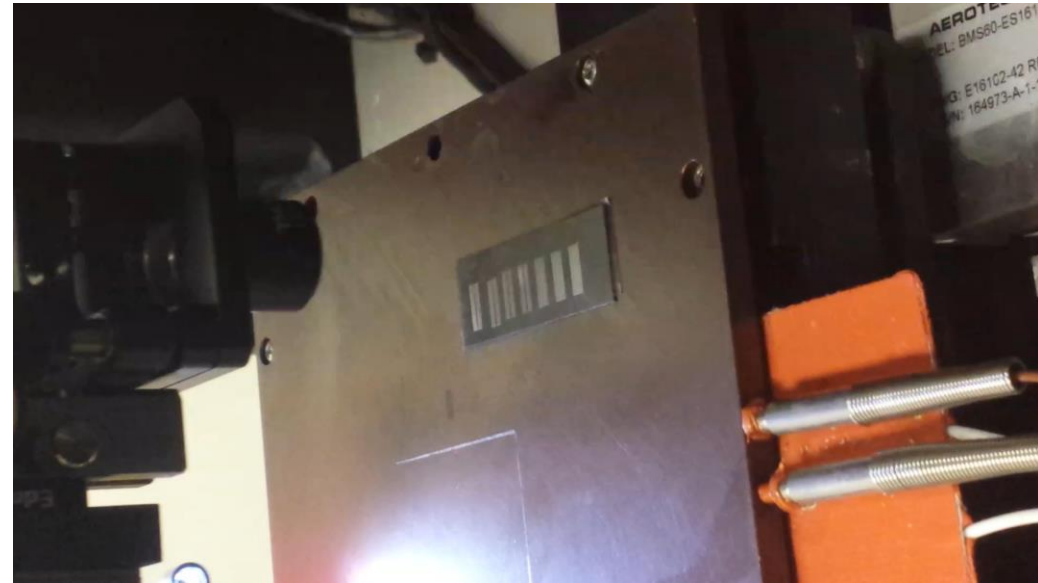
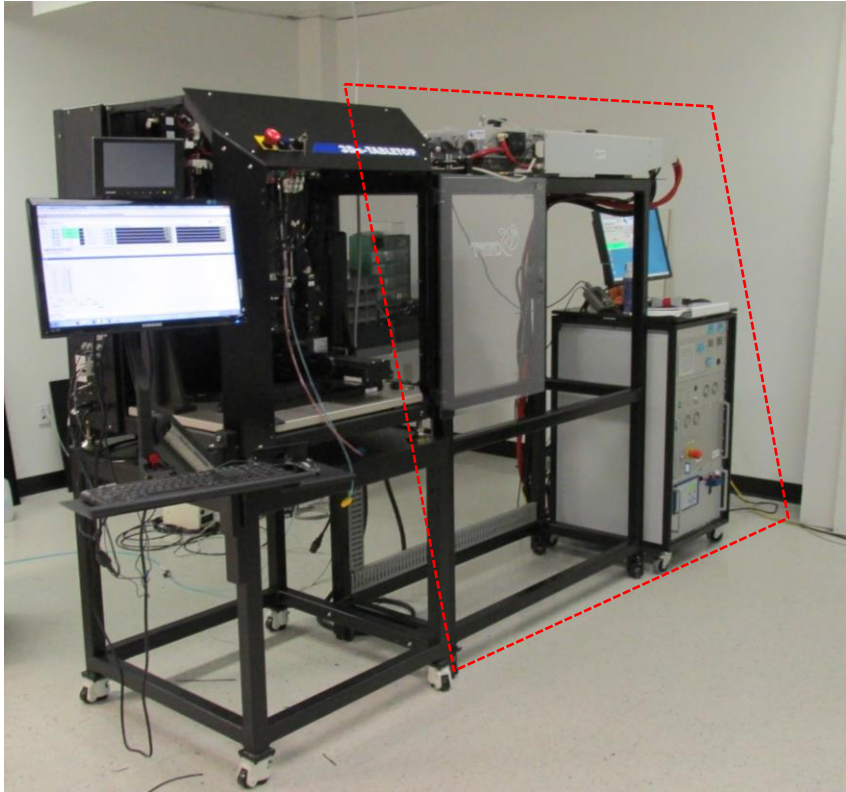
- $\lambda$  : 1064 nm
- Pulse width: ps, fs
- Cold ablation
- Greatly reduced thermal damage



# Laser Enhanced DDM

*Picosecond Laser Machining  
Lumera Nd:YAG*

Video:



<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B0lhQblCdUwJZGIsdXhGQ3ExWjA>

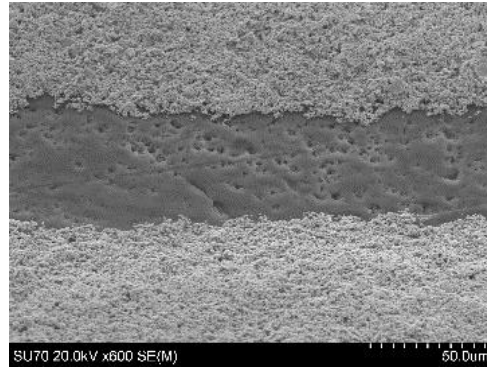
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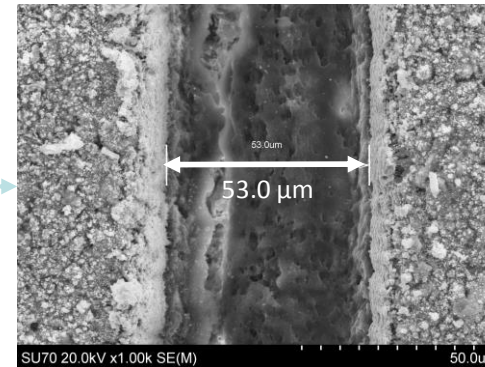
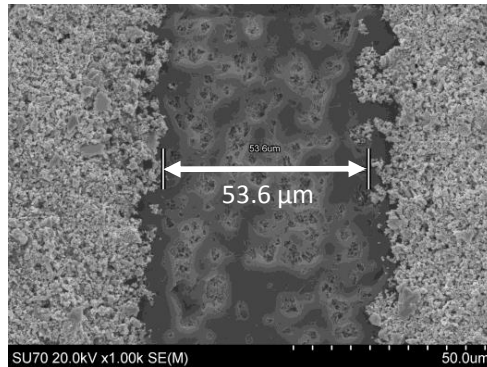
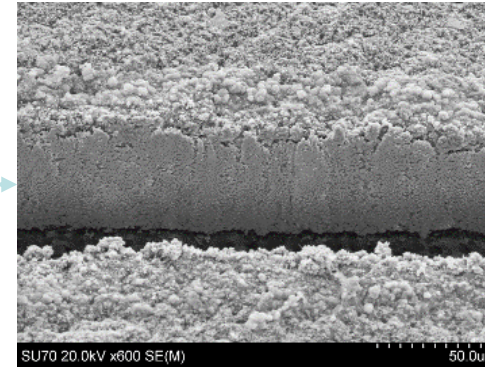


# Laser Enhanced DDM

Micro-Dispensing



Micro-Dispensing + Laser Machining

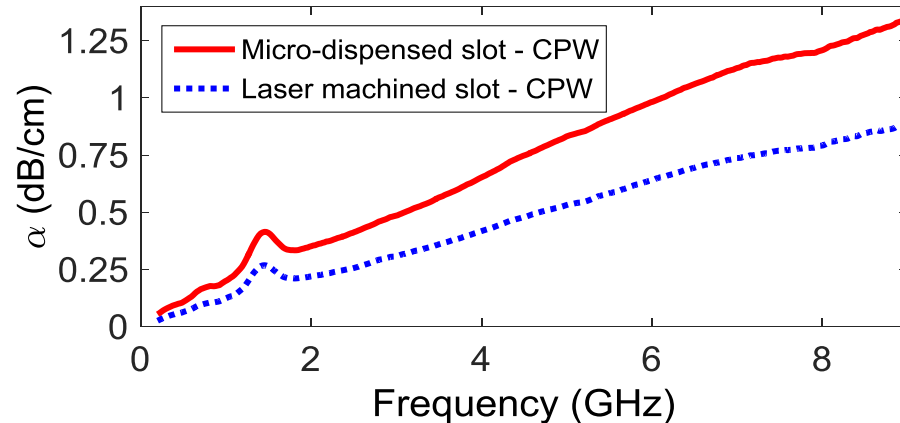


Pulsed ps Nd:YAG laser

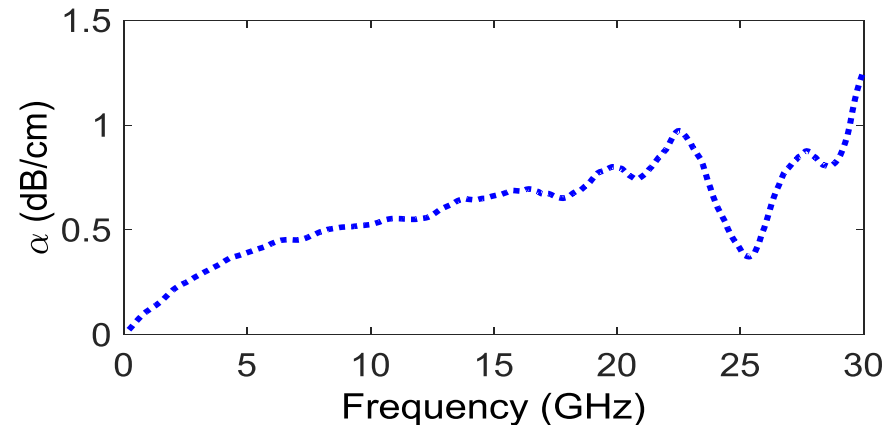
**E. A. Rojas-Nastrucci**, Harvey Tsang, Paul Deffenabugh, T. M. Weller, Ramiro A. Ramirez, D. Hawatmeh, and Kenneth Church, "Characterization and Modeling of K-Band Coplanar Waveguide Digitally Manufactured using Pulsed Picosecond Laser Machining of Thick-Film Conductive Paste," in IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques, vol. 65, no. 9, pp. 3180-3187, Sept. 2017.

# Laser Enhanced DDM

Loss of CPW with slot size of 50  $\mu\text{m}$



Loss of CPW with slot size of 20  $\mu\text{m}$



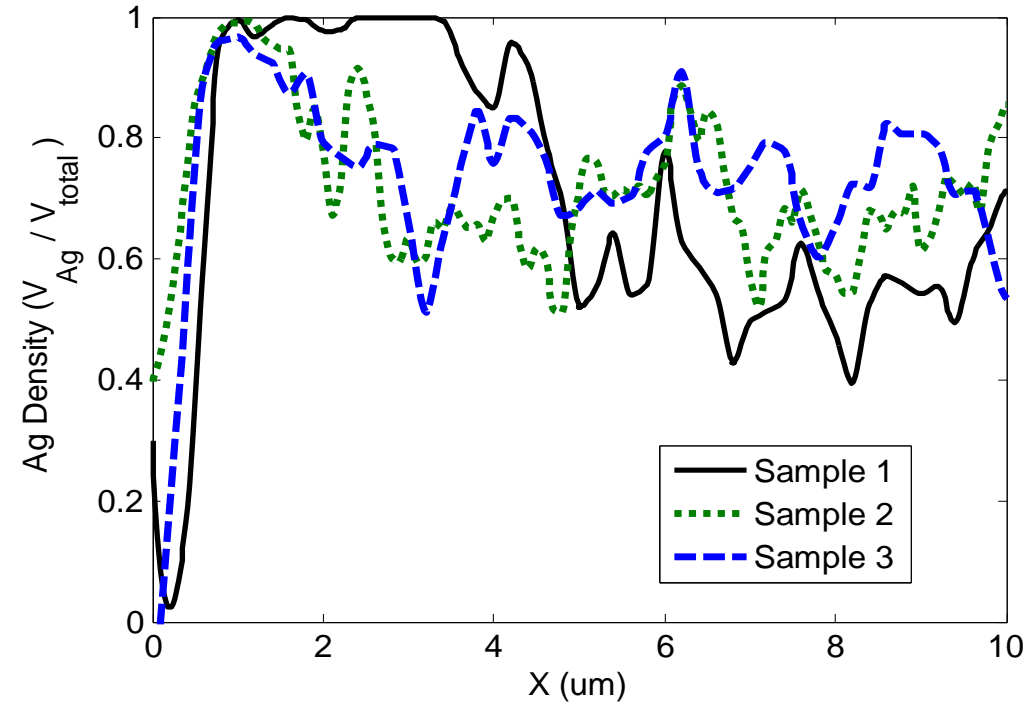
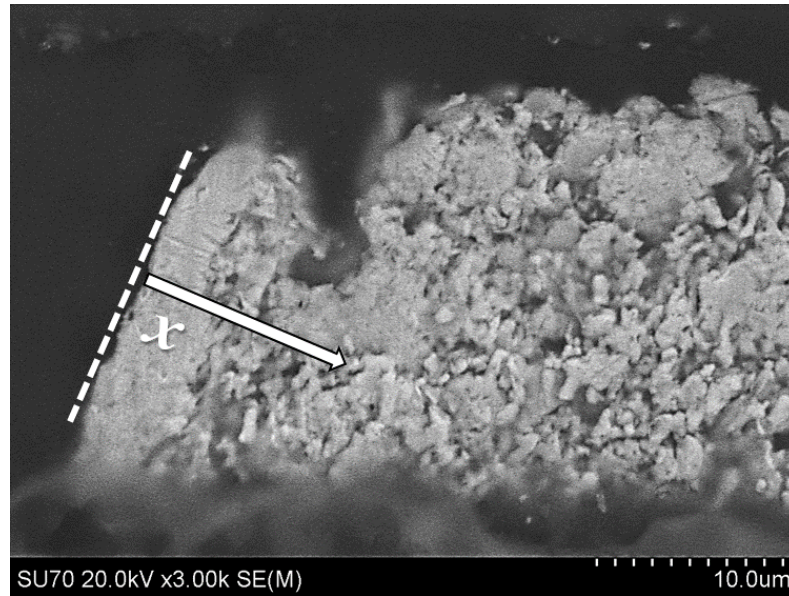
Micro-dispensed CB028:  $\sigma_{\text{eff}} < 1\text{e}6 \text{ S/m}$

Laser machined CB028:  $\sigma_{\text{eff}} > 1\text{e}7 \text{ S/m}$

Attenuation comparable to Cu cladding

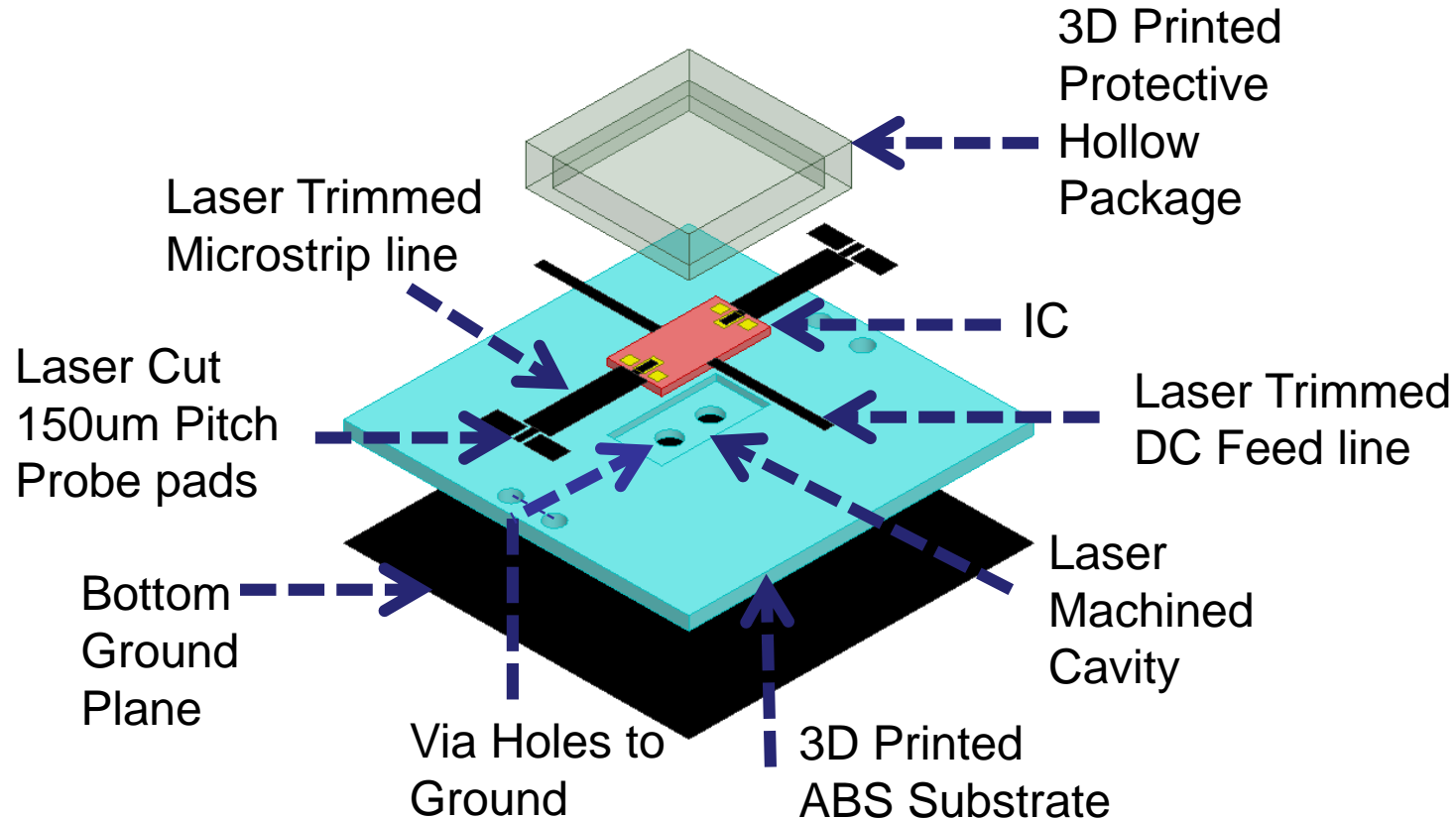
E. A. Rojas-Nastrucci, Harvey Tsang, Paul Deffenabugh, T. M. Weller, Ramiro A. Ramirez, D. Hawatmeh, and Kenneth Church, "Characterization and Modeling of K-Band Coplanar Waveguide Digitally Manufactured using Pulsed Picosecond Laser Machining of Thick-Film Conductive Paste," in IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques, vol. 65, no. 9, pp. 3180-3187, Sept. 2017.

# Laser Enhanced DDM



Near-solid silver in ~2 micron-wide region

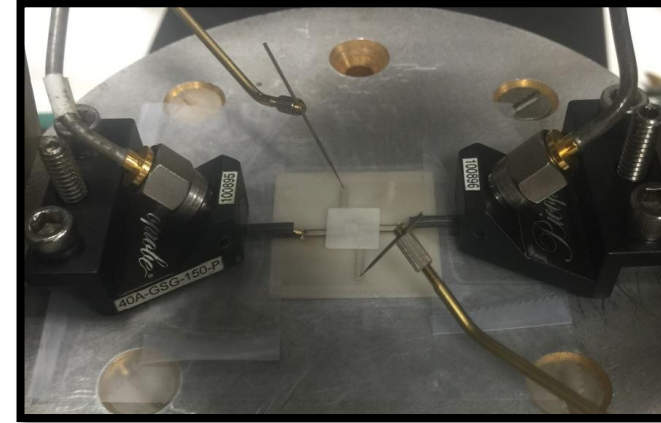
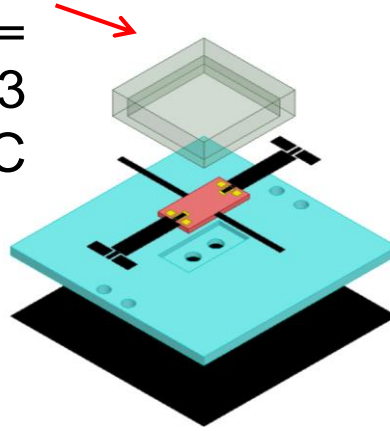
# DDM 3D Packaging Concept



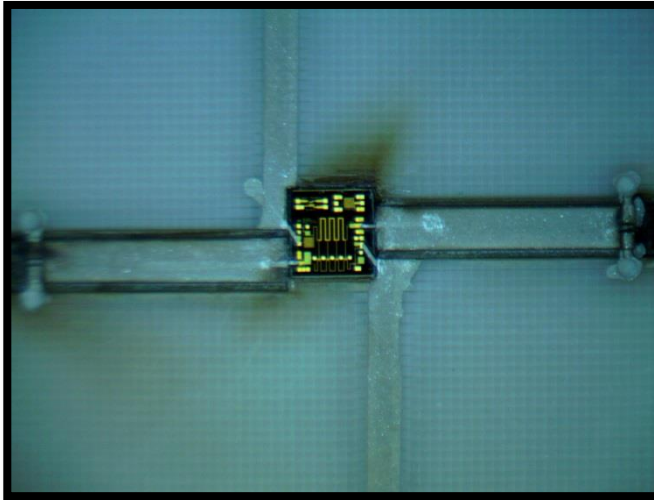
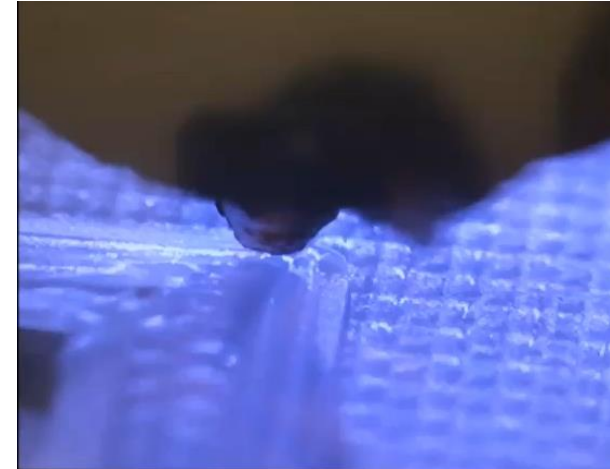


# Fabricated Package

3D Printed Hollow cover  
Dimensions =  
 $6 \times 6 \times 0.3 \text{ mm}^3$   
100  $\mu\text{m}$  clearance from IC



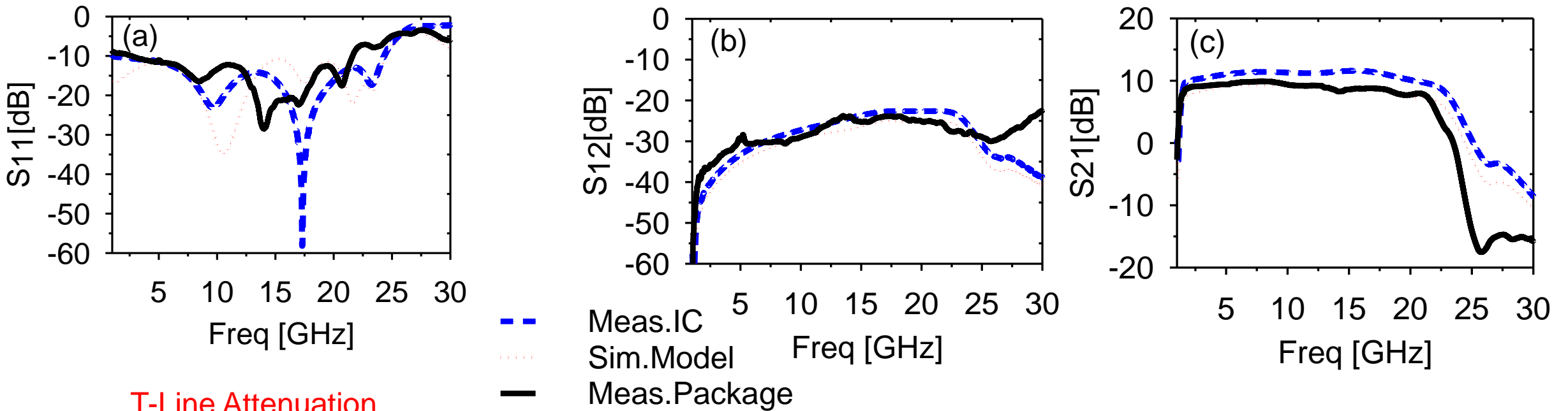
Video:



<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B0lhQblCdUwJcTlwaGtjY3l3dXM>



# Simulated & Measured Data



## T-Line Attenuation

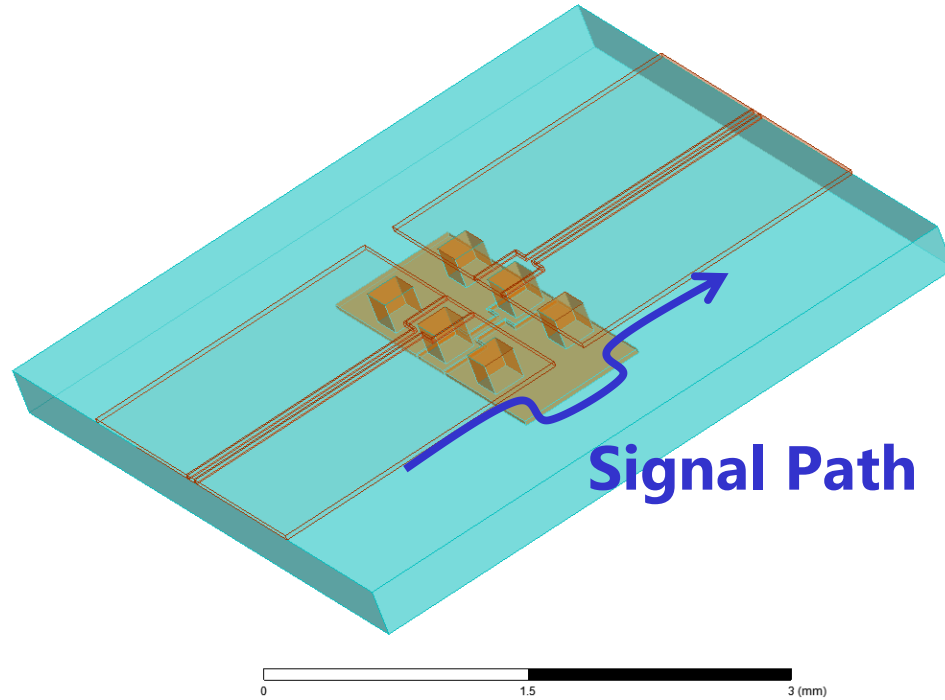
5 GHz – 0.125 dB/mm

20 GHz – 0.2 dB/mm

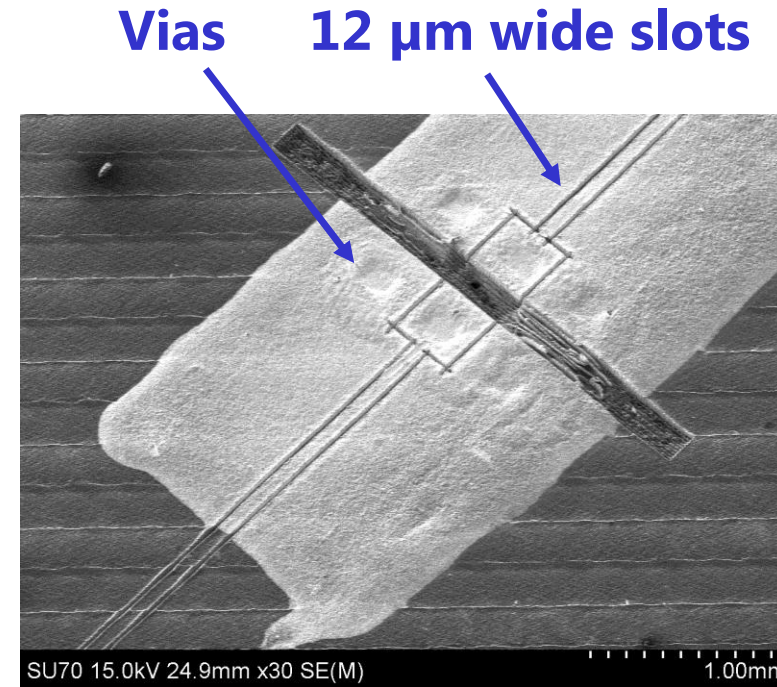
## Return loss

10 dB – within frequency band of interest

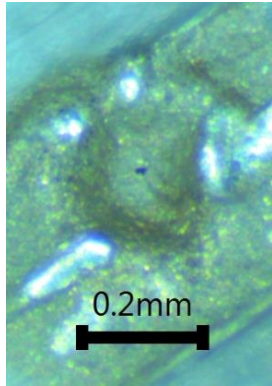
# DDM Multi-Layer Interconnects



Simulated Structure

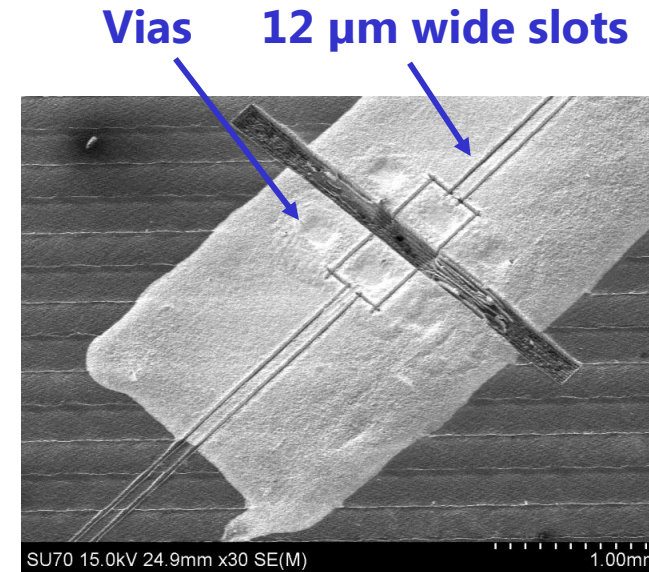
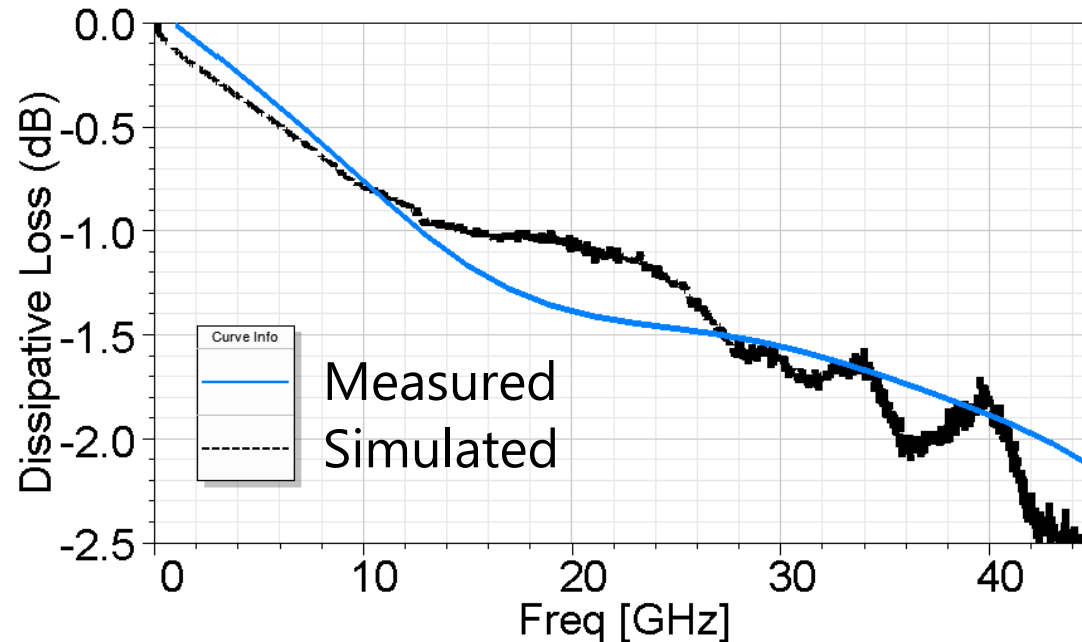


Fabricated Structure



- Dielectric layers are ABS with a thickness of 50  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- CB028 micro-dispensed with a typical layer thickness of 25  $\mu\text{m}$
- Traces are machined using picosecond laser, achieving 12  $\mu\text{m}$  wide slots.

# DDM Multi-Layer Interconnects



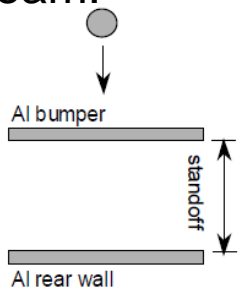
Fabricated Structure

- Test structure that includes two CPW vertical transitions shows 4.25 dB/cm of loss at 40 GHz.

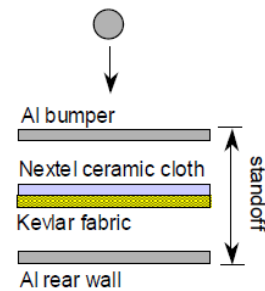
# Novel Sensing Mechanisms

## Structures for Micro Meteorite Orbital Debris (MMOD) Impacts

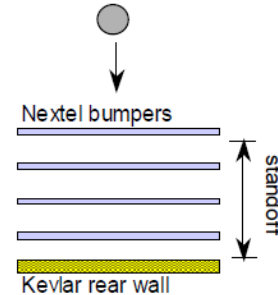
- MMOD impact velocities can reach 15 km/s for space debris and 70 km/s for meteoroids.
- Space debris in earth orbit – more than 166 million 1mm-1cm particles
- To protect space structures from MMOD impacts, the outer skin is generally consisted of multiple protection layers.
- Inflatable structures have multiple soft-goods layers comprised of bladder, restraint, and MMOD layer made of fiberglass/Kevlar cloth and low density foam.



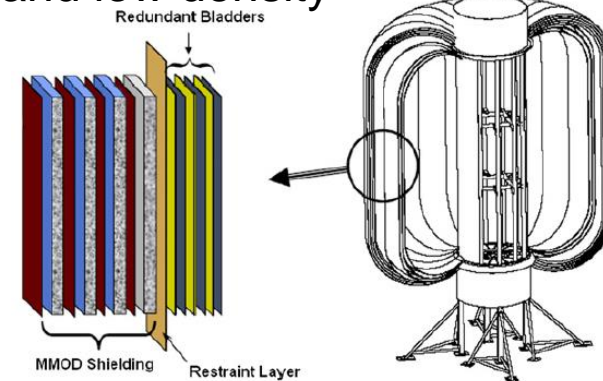
Whipple Shield<sup>1</sup>



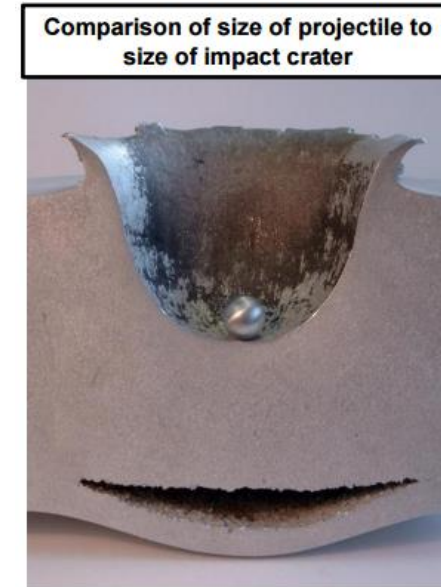
Nextel/Kevlar Whipple<sup>1</sup>



Flexible Multi-shock<sup>1</sup>



Cross-sectional schematic<sup>2</sup>



1. Christiansen, E. L. "Meteoroid/Debris Shielding," NASA Johnson Space Center, Houston, Texas, TP-2003-210788, 2003.

2. E. J. Brandon, M. Vozoff, E. A. Kolawa, G. F. Studor, et al., "Structural health management technologies for inflatable/deployable structures: Integrating sensing and self-healing," *Acta Astronautica*, vol. 68, 2011, pp. 883-903.



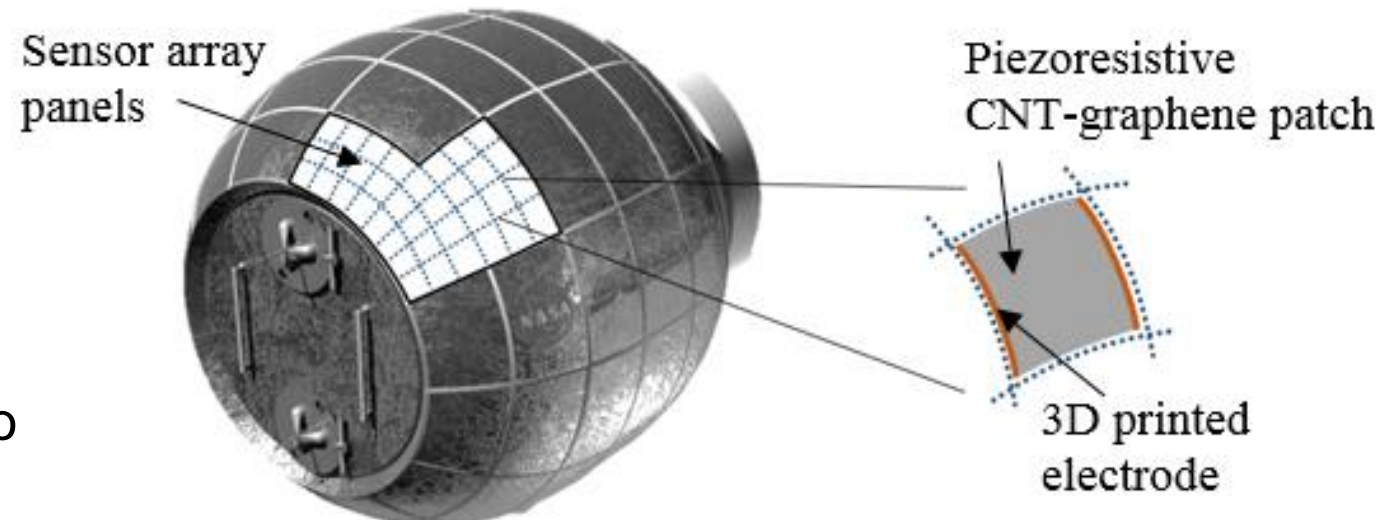
# Novel Sensing Mechanisms

- **Objective**

Develop an MMOD impact detection system that can be incorporated into the inflatable structure. An integrated SHM system should provide existence and location of damage, depth of penetration, and damage extent.

- **Approach**

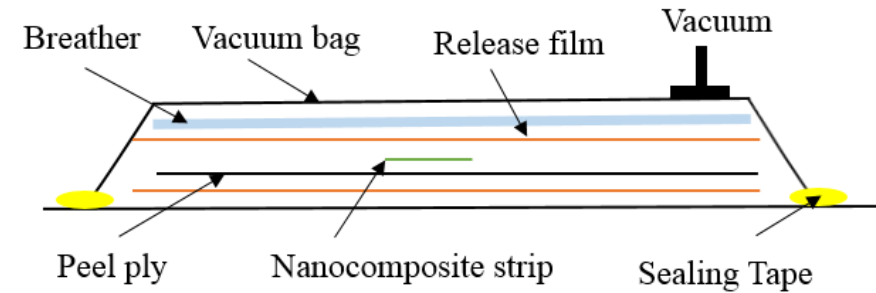
- Develop flexible piezoresistive sensors composed of carbon nanotubes sheet and coarse graphene platelets.
- Perform static and dynamic impact testing to measure sensor performance.
- Perform multi-sensors and multi-layers impact testing to prove MMOD detection capabilities.



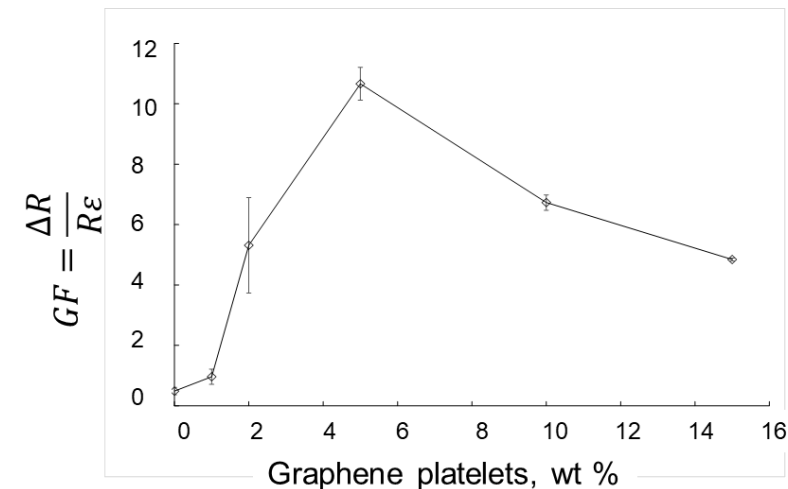


# Materials

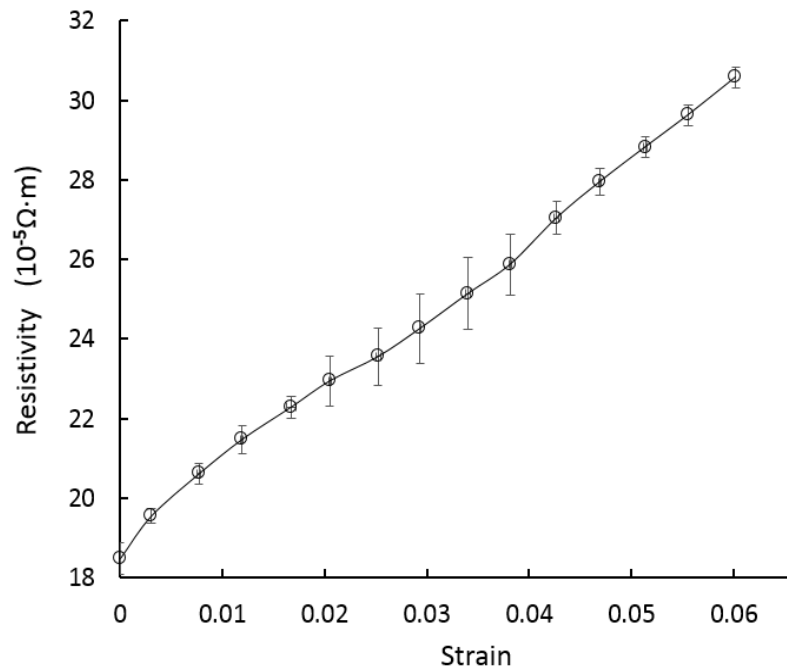
- Buckypaper base with copper end tabs
- 105 epoxy resin and 206 hardener
- Additives: coarse graphene platelets (5 wt%)
- Fabricated by vacuum bagging



Gage factor (GF) by graphene contents



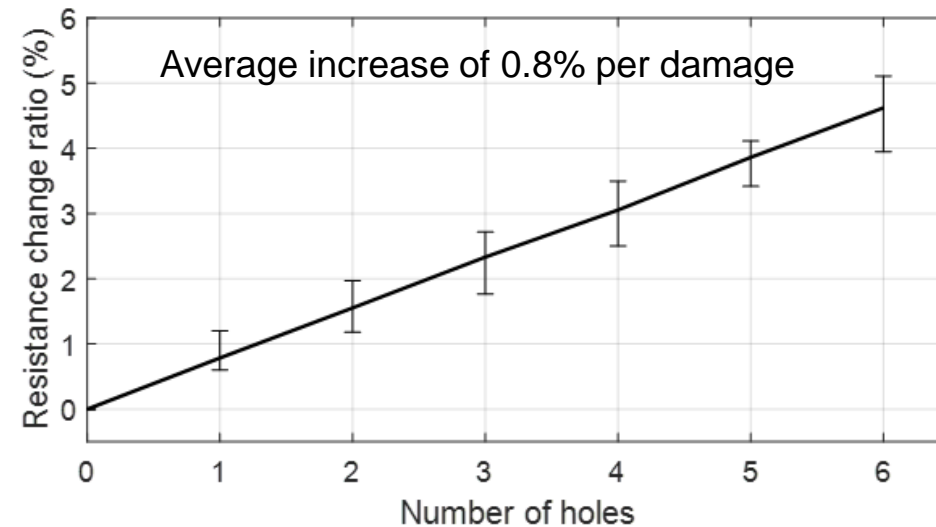
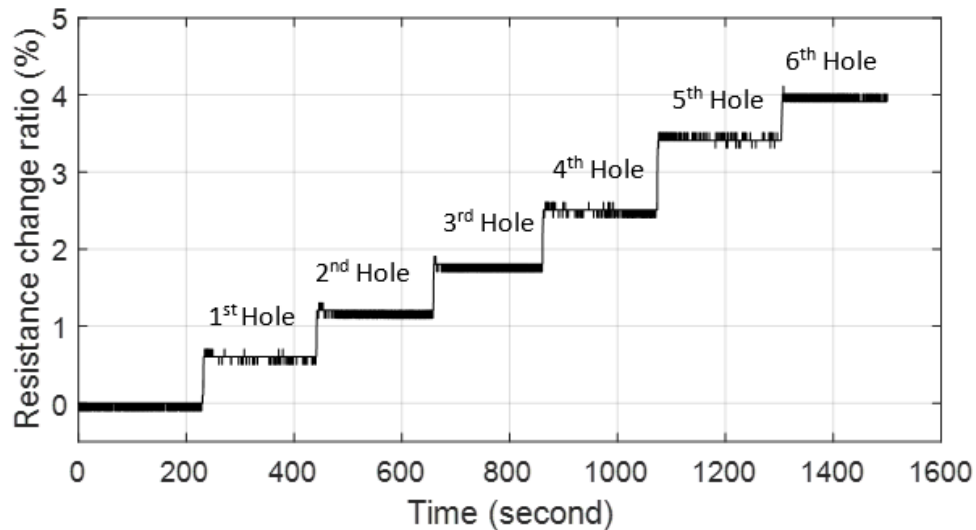
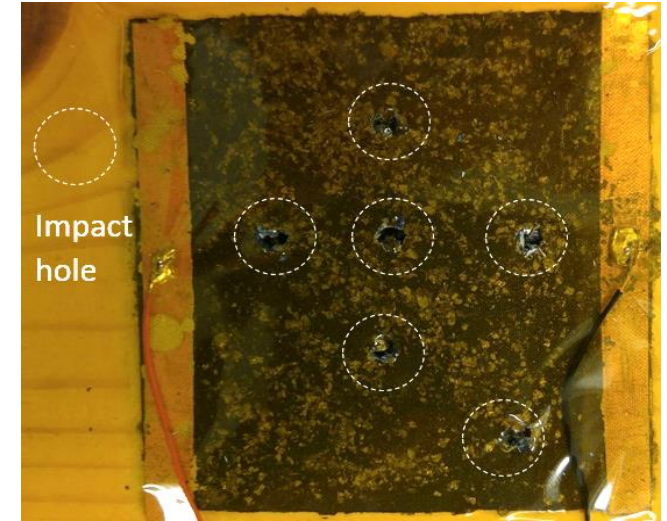
- Gauge factor increases from 0.49 to 10.66 from 0 to 5 wt% GP.



- Strain vs resistivity

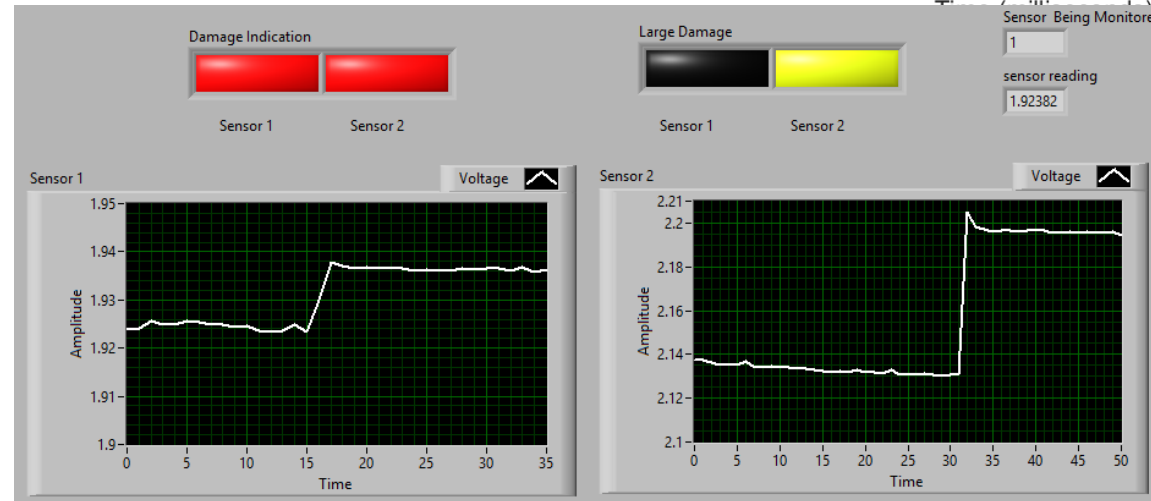
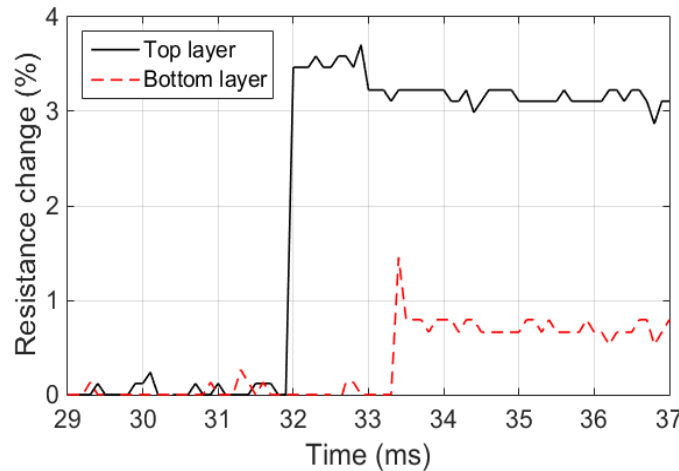
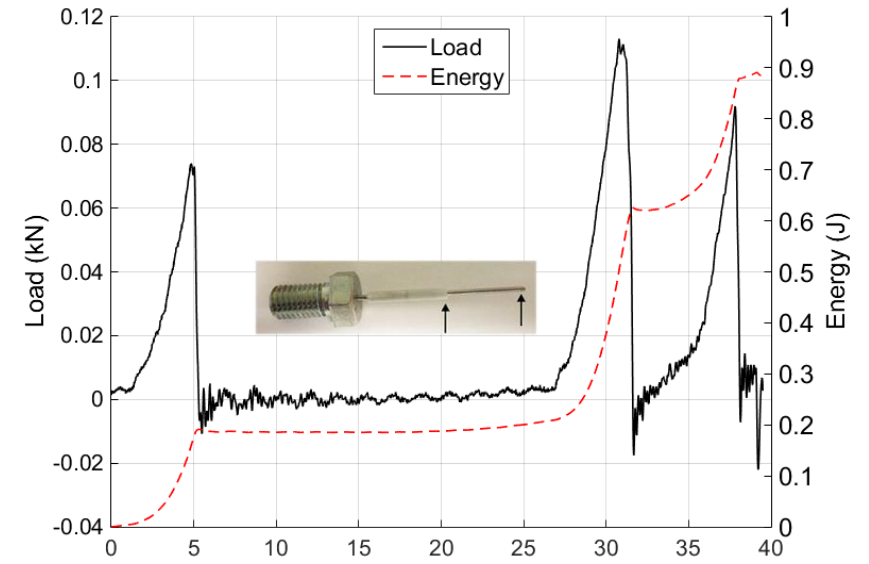
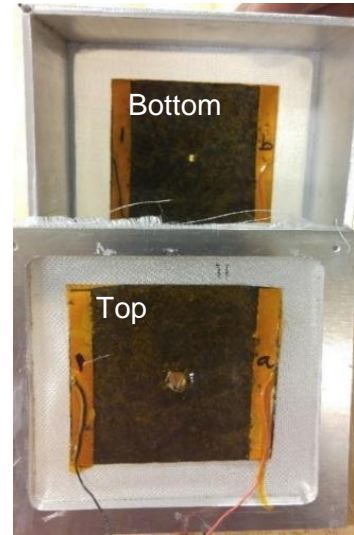
# Static Puncture Testing

- Resistivity with multiple holes
  - 2.5 in x 2.5 in nanocomposites covered with Kapton tape; six holes are successively added.
  - Change in resistance when subject to static damage induced by drilling 3 mm holes.
  - Resistance remains constant with added holes → stable



# Low velocity Impact Results

- Single impact with different hole sizes
  - Load and energy: the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> peaks represent the tip on top layer, larger diameter on top layer, and tip on the bottom layer, respectively.
  - LabVIEW for double layer impact: larger change resistance change on top than bottom due to the size of indenter.



# Aerospace Innovation Complex



*60 Airplanes for students, 4 for faculty, only in the Daytona Beach Campus*

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# Aerospace Innovation Complex

- **Embry-Riddle Research Park**
- Opening first building (engineering lab & incubator space) imminently
- 4000+ sqft ECSSE labs, including Radar/20GHz, circuit mill/assembly, anechoic chamber; 8000 sqft roof lab.
- State of the art additive manufacturing capabilities.
- Access to RF measurement (probing station) up to 110 GHz.
- Second building (Wind Tunnel) under construction





# Aerospace Innovation Complex

- Space environment plasma chamber
- Environmental chambers for instrument and payload calibration upto 6U CubeSats
- 1 m<sup>3</sup> Thermal Vacuum chamber for flight qualification
- \*Solar simulator for end to end CubeSat power system testing.
- Air bearing table and 3-axis Helmholtz coil for attitude determination and control testing
- Vibration and shock table
- Class 10,000 clean room
- Anechoic chamber for EMC and comm testing

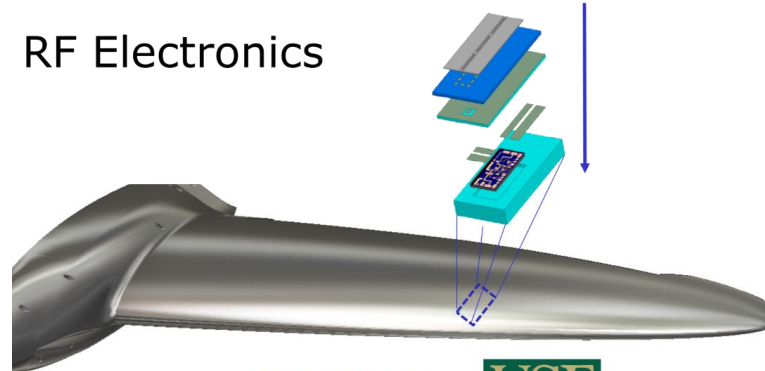


# WiDE Lab – Wireless Devices and Electromagnetics Laboratory

*Research related to Wireless Systems for Aerospace Applications:*

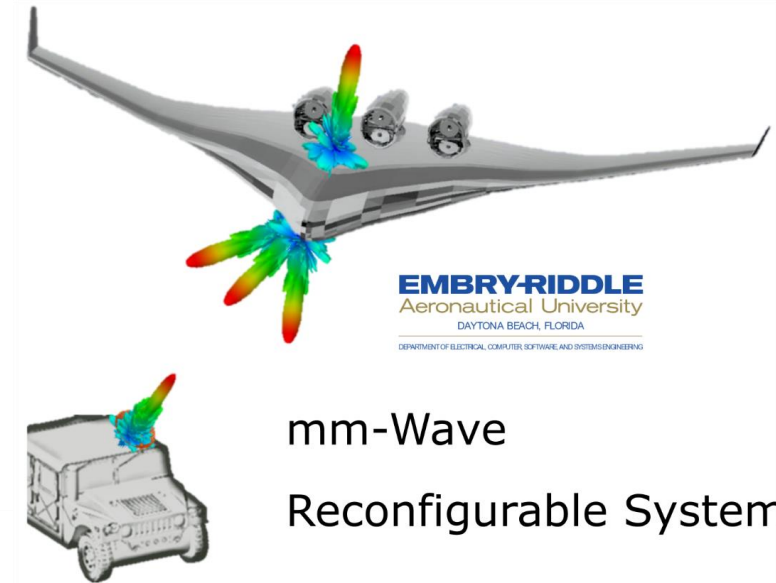


Structural Monolithic  
RF Electronics



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Aeronautical University  
DAYTONA BEACH, FLORIDA  
DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRICAL, COMPUTER, SOFTWARE, AND SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

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# ERAU Radar & Microwaves Lab

- Design systems & techniques for exploiting weak RF signals for physical measurements
- Main work: Passive radar, radio astronomy, SETI, phased/timed antenna arrays, telemetry/com



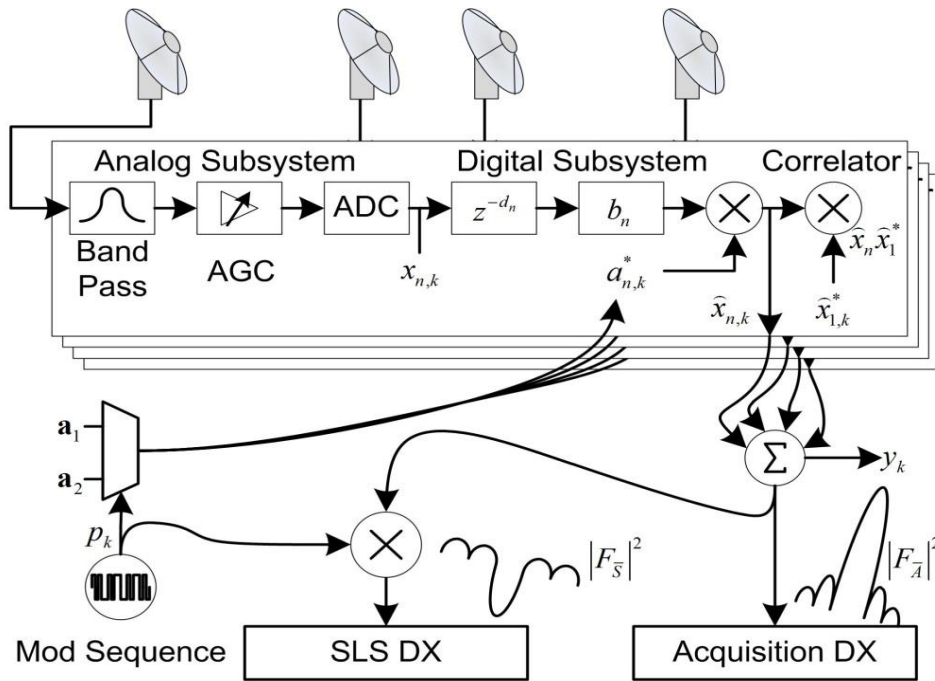
**EMBRY-RIDDLE**  
Aeronautical University

UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH FLORIDA  
COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

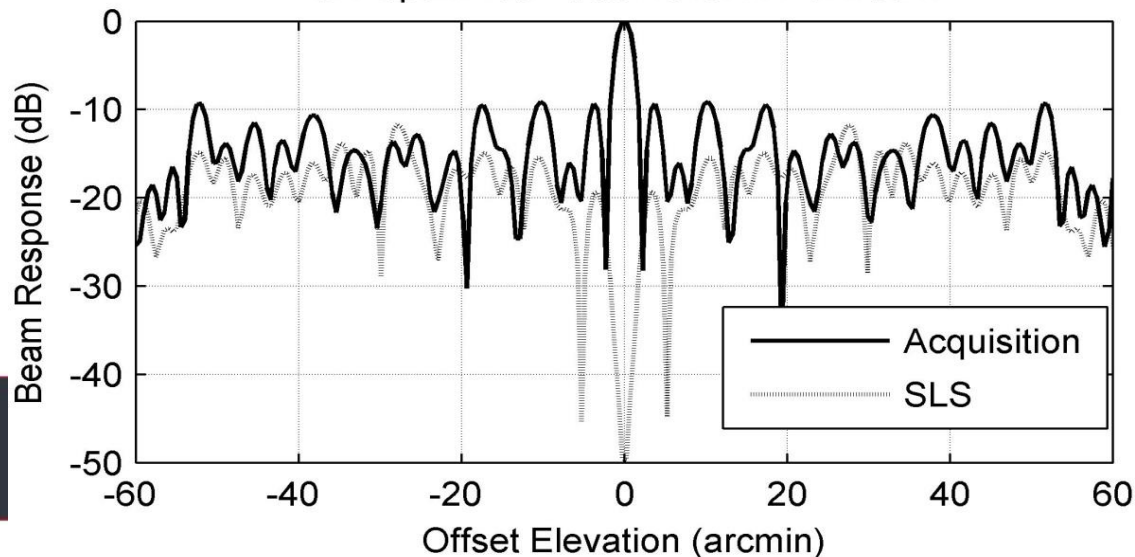


# TMA

- Approach: Time Modulated Arrays
- Old idea, new application (radio astronomy)
- Apply beam switching inside real-time beamformer to code-multiplex “target” and “sidelobe suppression” beams – zero-cost enhancement to existing system
- Because of limited sensitivity, not well-fit for forming secondary science beams; “only” good for RFI excision (great application!)



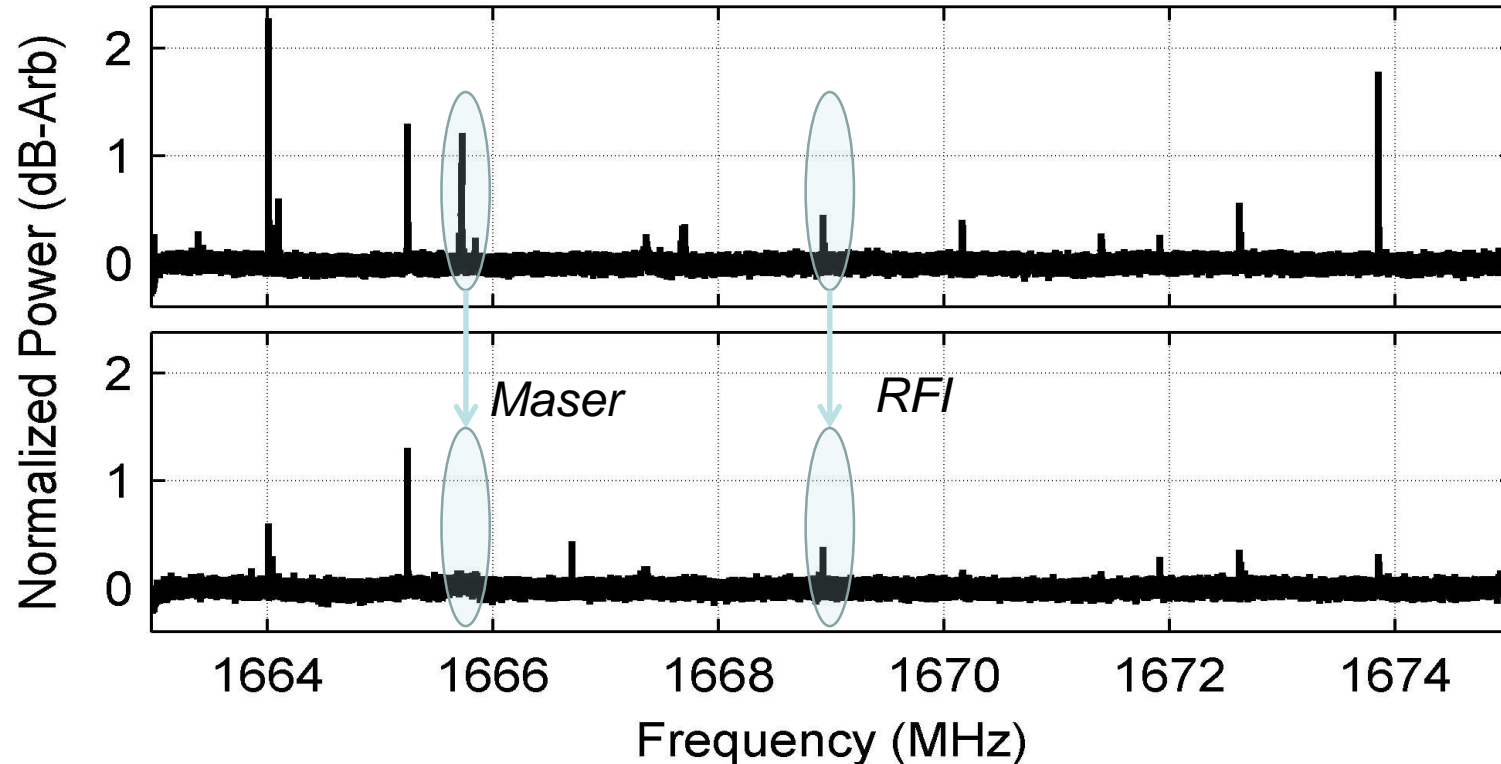
GA Optimized Patterns for X-Pol Beam





# TMA Result: Discriminated RFI

TMA Acquisition Beam and SLS Beam



$|F_{\bar{A}}|^2$   
Acquisition

$|F_{\bar{S}}|^2$   
SLS

240 kHz  
modulation  
during  
beamforming,  
GA, X-pol (51.2  
Hz RBW)  
Process with  $5\sigma$   
signal detector &  
use SLS for  
exclusion



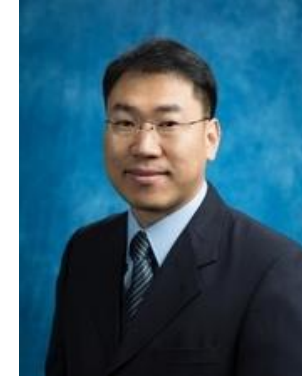
Dr. Eduardo A. Rojas-Nastrucci  
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Dr. Thomas Weller  
EE Department  
USF



Dr. William Barott  
ECSSE Department  
ERAU

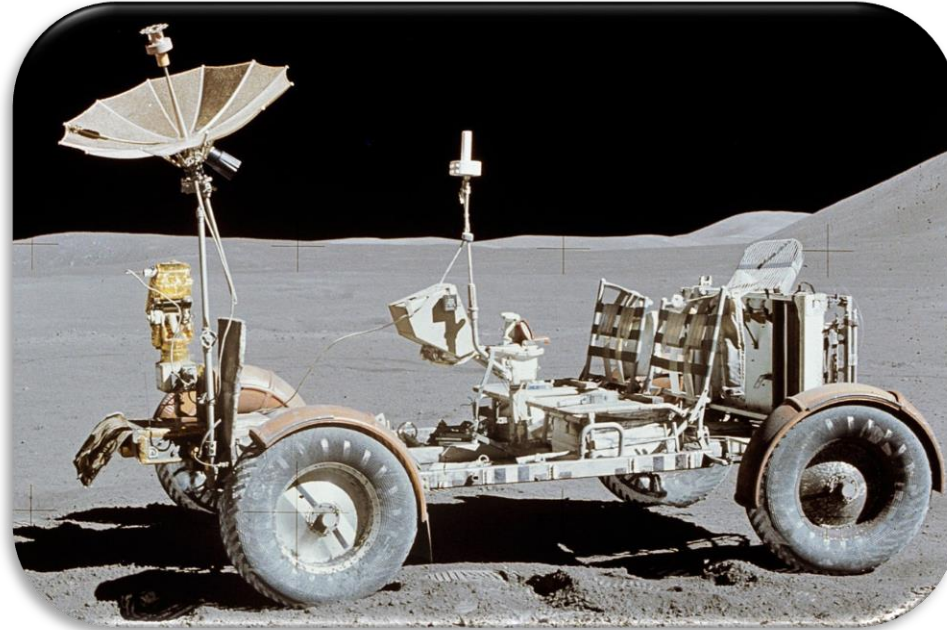


Dr. Daewon Kim  
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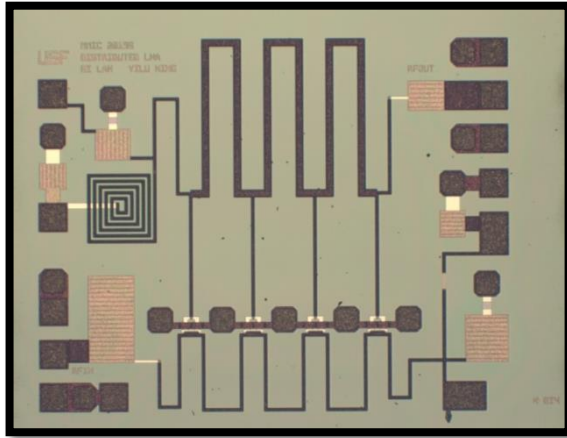
# Thank you



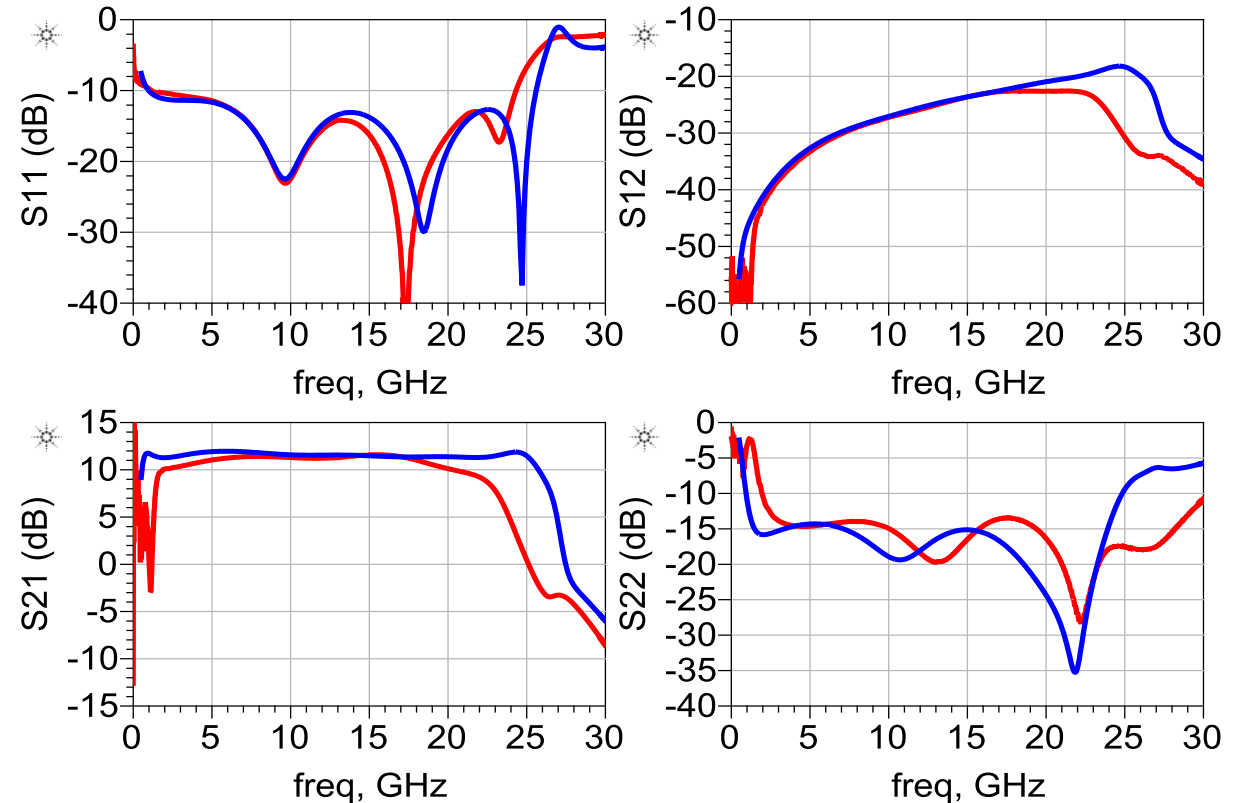
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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

# GaAs MMIC Distributed Amplifier



- TQPED 0.5 $\mu$ m GaAs pHEMT
- Size: 1.8mm x 1.5mm
- Frequency: 2~22GHz
- 11 dB with  $\pm 0.5$  dB ripple
- 1.8 VSWR input/output



**Measured Data**

**ADS Simulation  $V_{dd}=4V$ ,  $I_d=93.8mA$**



# Laser Enhanced DDM

Modeling of the picosecond laser machining effects:

