

# Flexible Electronic Systems

**Ran Liu**

School of Information Science and Technology



# Four Campuses

Fudan was founded in 1905  
Medical School merged in April 2000



# Fudan University

- **29 schools and departments, such as School of Humanities, School of Life Science, School of Economics, School of Information Science and Technology, and School of Medicine, etc.**
- **11 Fudan affiliated hospitals**
- **2346 faculty members (over 1500 professors and associate professors)**
- **Total number of students: 47504**
  - **Full-time students: 27088**
    - Undergraduate Students: 13237**
    - Graduate Student: 13851**
    - Foreign Students: 3805**
  - **Part-time and Online Education: 16611**



# School of Information Science & Technology

- **Five Departments:**
  - Dept. of Electronic Engineering
  - Dept. of Microelectronics
  - Dept. of Communication Science and Engineering
  - Dept. of Optical Science and Engineering
  - Dept. of Light Sources and Illuminating Engineering
  
- **One Research Institute/School:**
  - School of Microelectronics

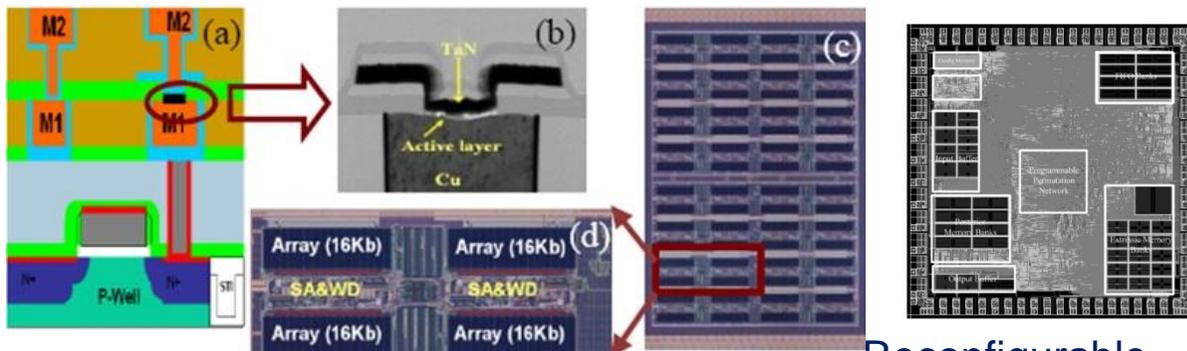


# International Advisory Committee



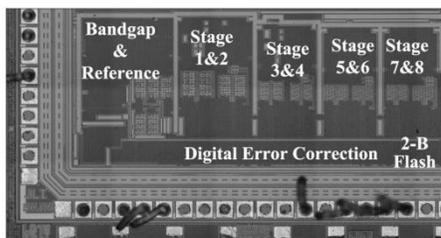
# Microelectronic Technology

- SOC/IC Design
- IC CAD & Test
- Devices & Processing
- Micro/nano Systems



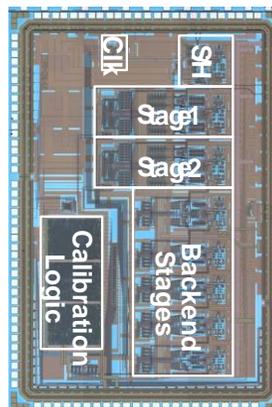
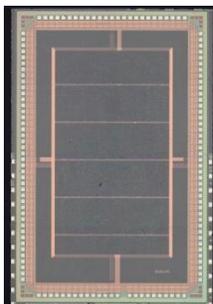
**1Mb RRAM test chip  
worldwide in Logic Tech**

Reconfigurable  
LDPC Decoder for  
Flexi-Mode  
Applications



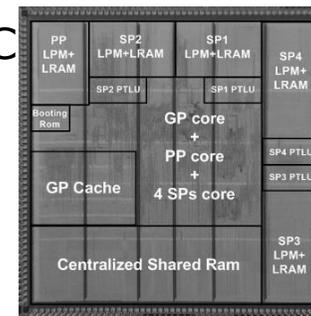
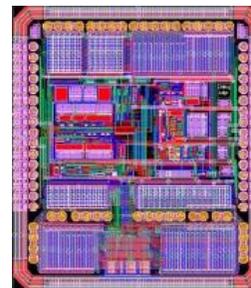
Low-Power Pipeline ADC  
for Video Application

MIMO system for  
high-speed Wireless  
communication



High performance  
ADC for LTE/IMT-A  
systems

Power Management IC



Heterogeneous  
Multi-Core Platform  
for Security SoC

# Si Electronics Process Lab



# Flexible Electronics Process Lab



**3D printer**

**3D laser writer**



**Aerosol Jet printer**



**Nanoimprint system**

# Flexible Electronics Process Lab



**Optolaser bonding system**



**Flexible processing system**



**flexible sub-micron bonder**

# Flexible Electronics Process Lab



**Temperature & Humidity Chamber**



**Desktop SEM**



**Transport property measurement**



**Photo Electrochemical Workstations**

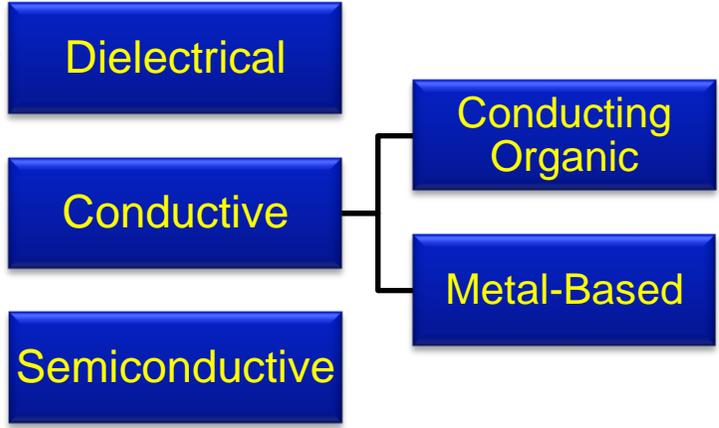
# Flexible Electronics Process Lab

- Flexible substrate Magnetron sputtering system
- High vacuum evaporation deposition system
- Critical Point Dryer
- Wire bonding system
- High precision scribing system
- Roll to roll electrode deposition system

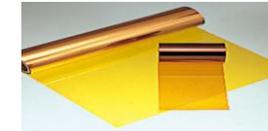


# Printed Electronics

## Functional Inks



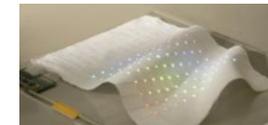
## Flexible Substrates



Plastic

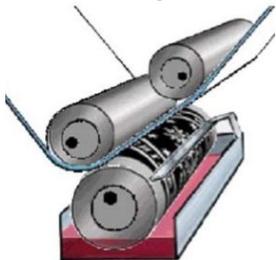


Paper

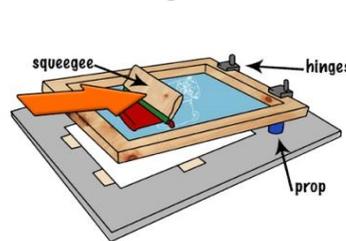


Textile

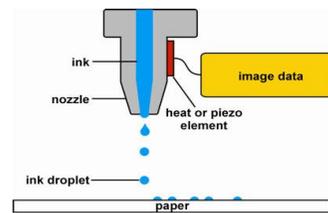
## Examples of Printing Techniques



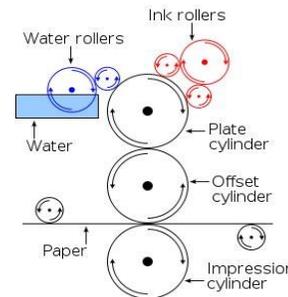
Gravure



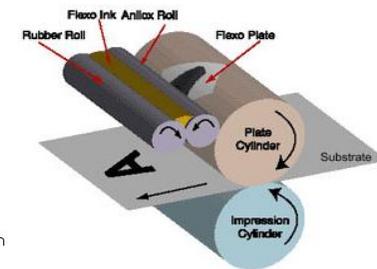
Screen



Inkjet



Offset



Flexo

# Silicon VS Printed Electronics

Printed Electronics

Silicon Electronics

Flexible

Short switching times

Large area

&

High performance

Low cost per area    Low cost per function

Long switching time

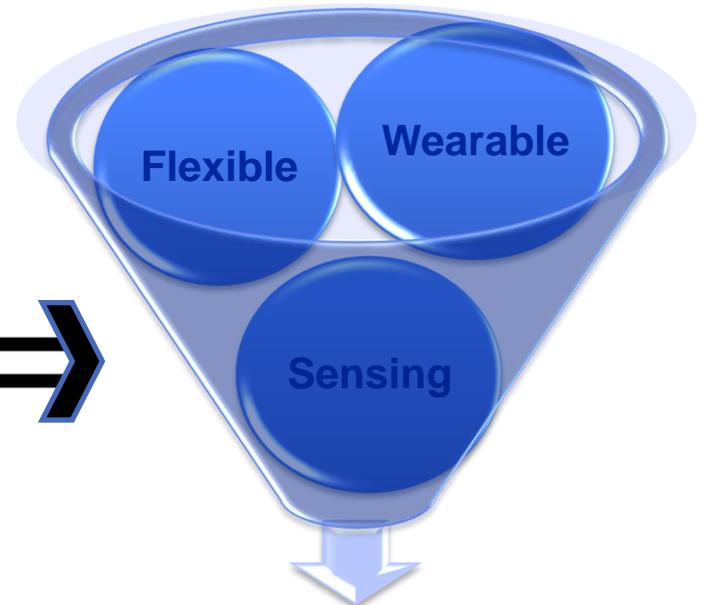
Small areas

Low integration dens

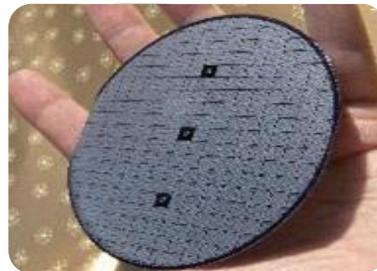
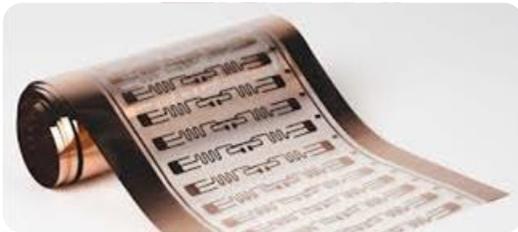
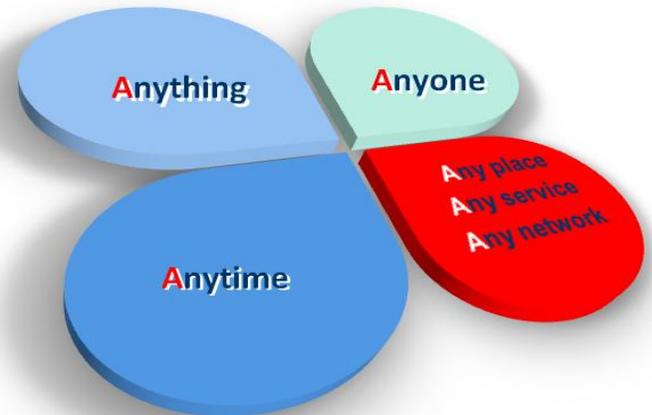
Rigid substrates

Low stability

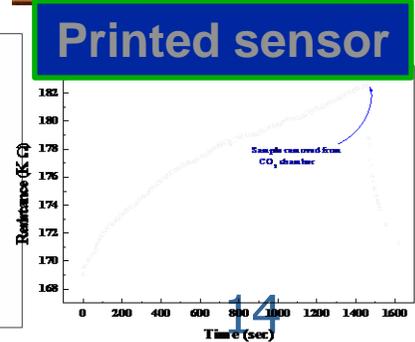
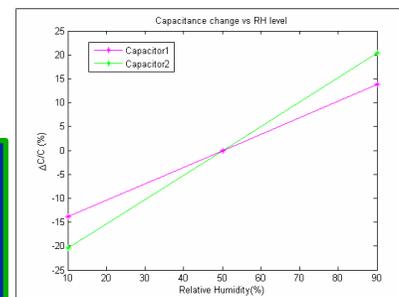
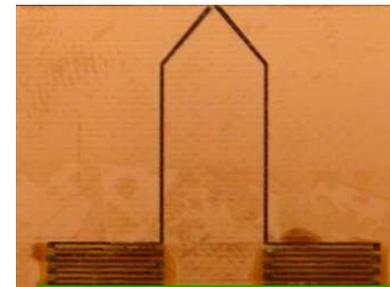
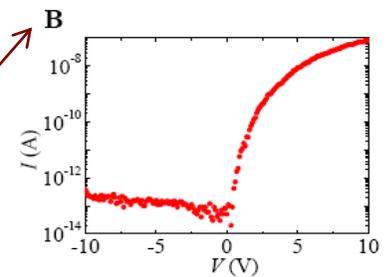
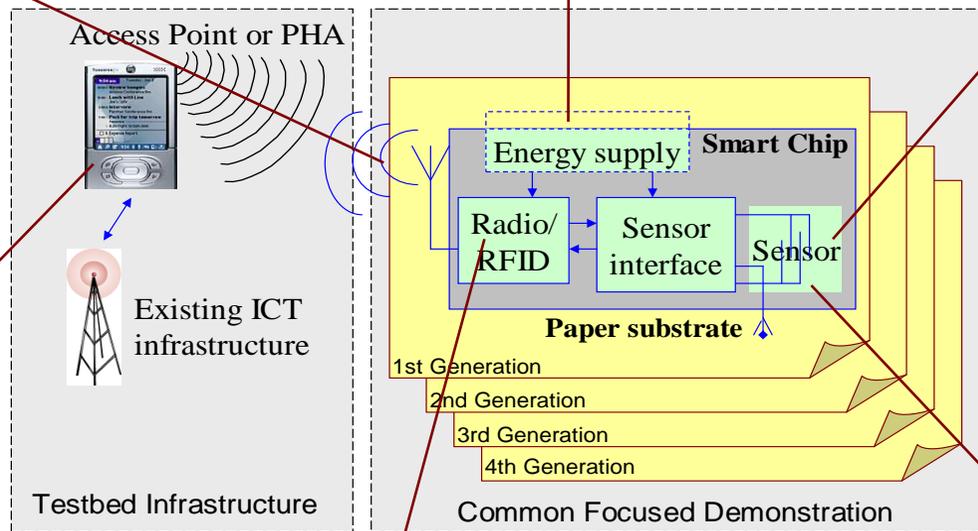
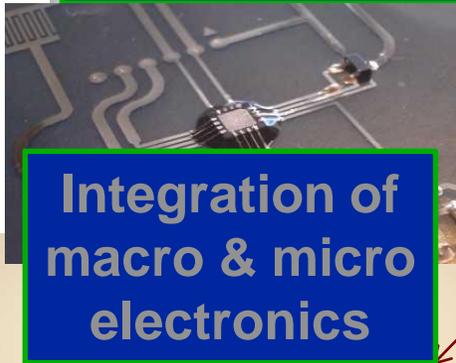
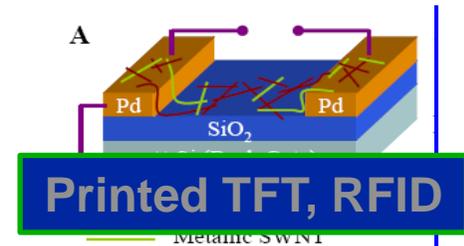
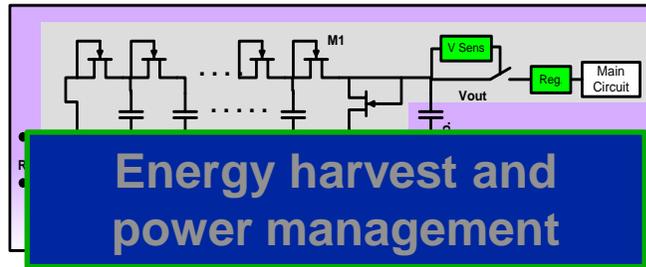
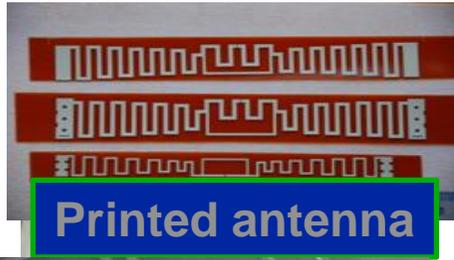
Sophisticated fabrication



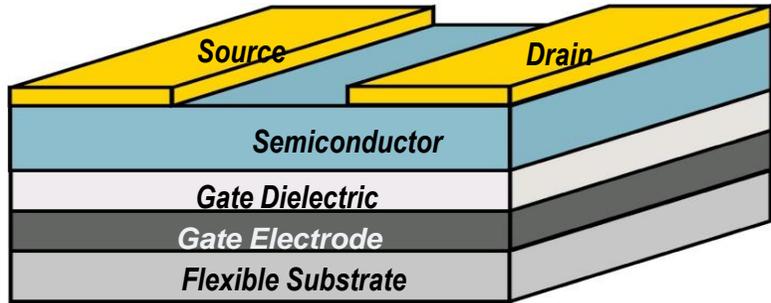
Connecting:



# Flexible Intelligent Systems



# Printed TFTs



**Schematic structure of a back-gated thin-film transistor (TFT) on a flexible substrate**

	Advantages	Challenges
<b>Polymer TFTs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Light-weight</li><li>• Flexibility</li><li>• Solution processability</li><li>• Ultra Low-cost</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Low Carrier Mobility</li><li>• Poor Air Stability</li></ul>
<b>CNT TFTs</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Flexibility</li><li>• High Carrier Mobility</li><li>• High Current Capacity</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Difficulty in Dispersion</li><li>• Limitation in Processability</li></ul>



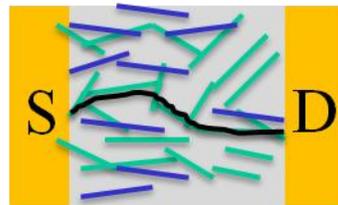
# CNT based TFT

CNT disperse



Agglomeration of SWCNTs in solvent

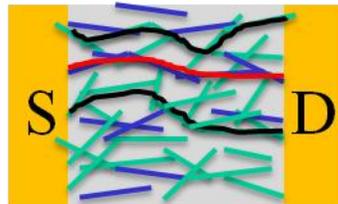
s- vs. m-SWCNT



Only s-SWCNT percolation

Low  $I_{on}$

Large  $I_{on}/I_{off}$



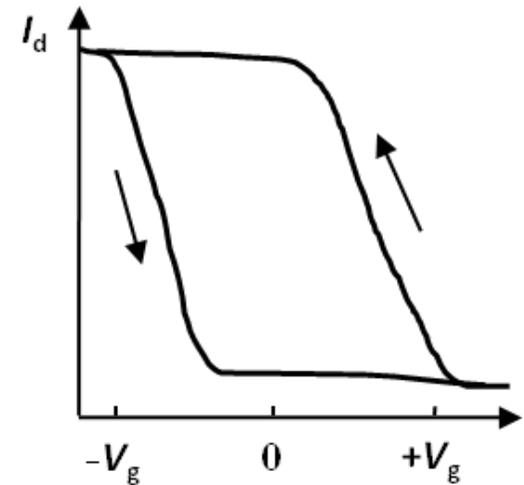
Both s- and m-SWCNT percolation

High  $I_{on}$

Small  $I_{on}/I_{off}$

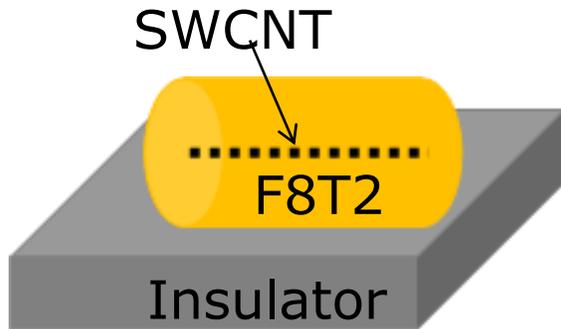
— s-SWCNT  
— m-SWCNT

Significant hysteresis

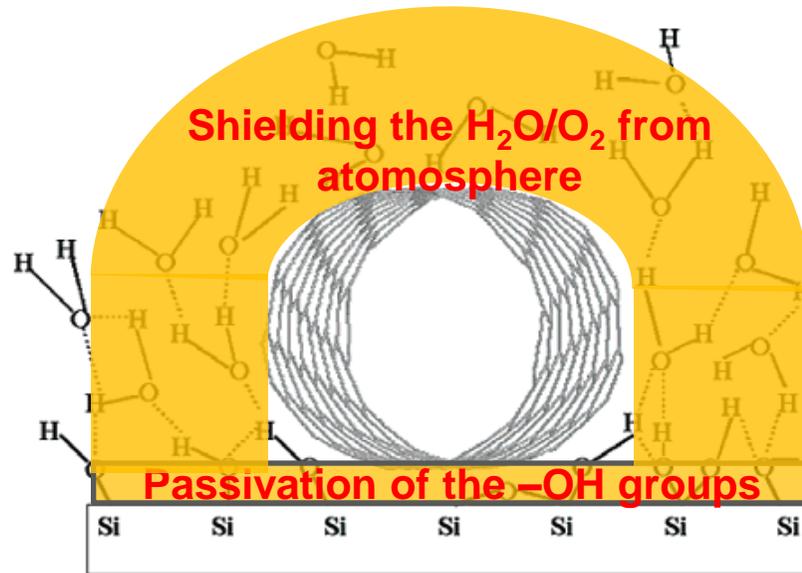
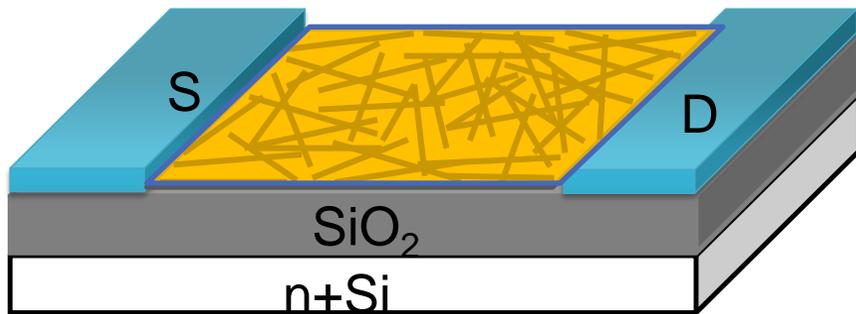


- Instability in device operation
- Misinterpretation of device behavior

# CNT/polymer TFT



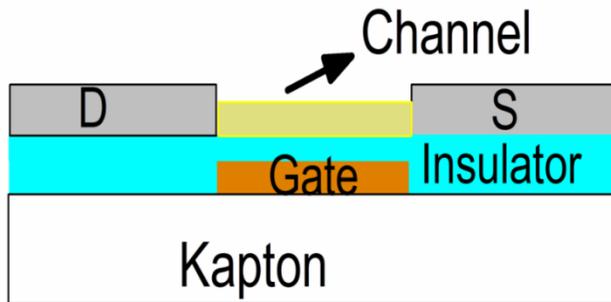
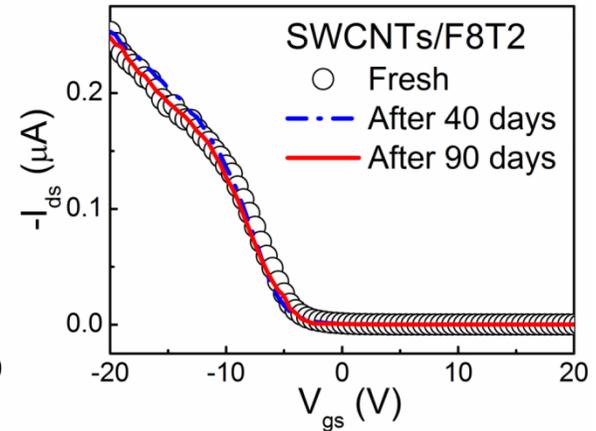
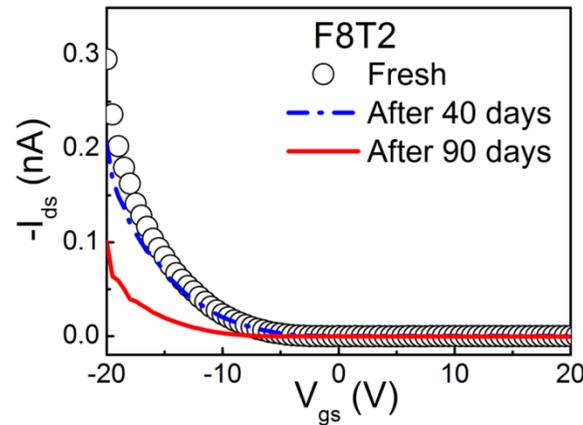
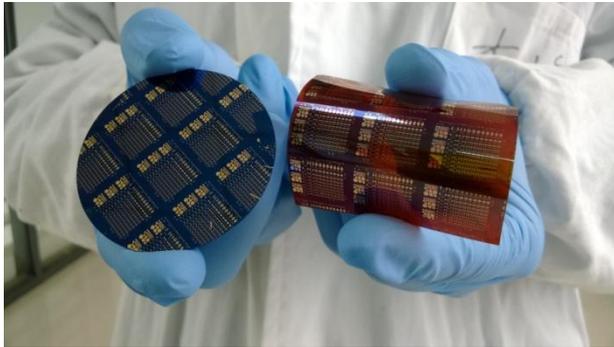
**A composite structure with SWCNTs being fully wrapped by polymers**



**Source of hysteresis for TFTs with SiO<sub>2</sub> as dielectric:**

- (1) SiO<sub>2</sub> surface bounded water ( $\equiv$ SiOH groups)**
- (2) H<sub>2</sub>O/O<sub>2</sub> in the ambient atmosphere**

# Printed TFT circuits on flexible substrates

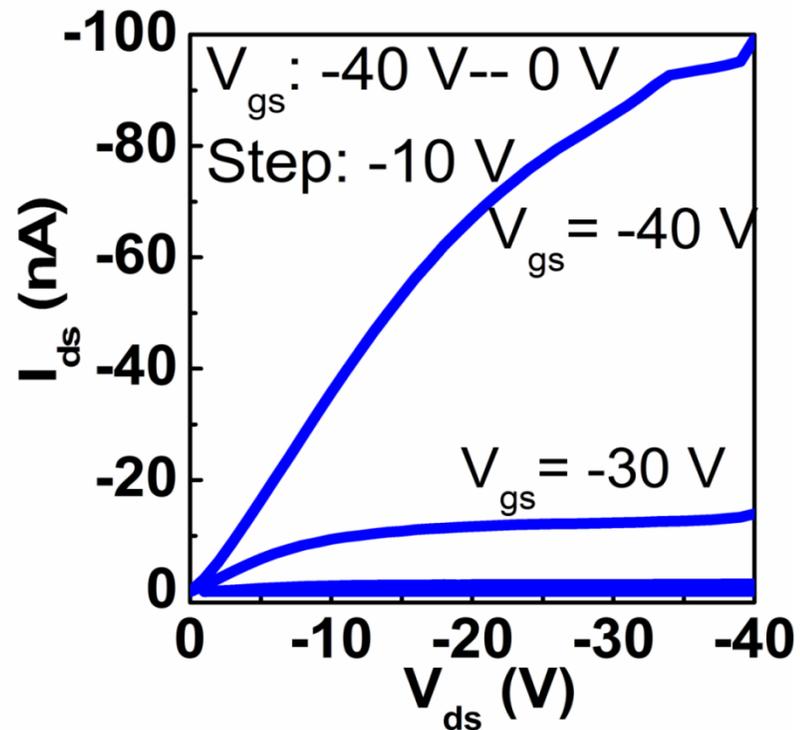


Channel: SWCNTs/ F8T2 by IJP

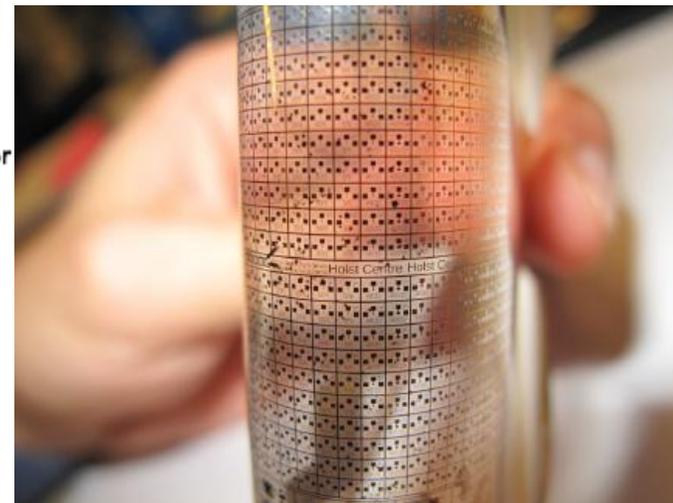
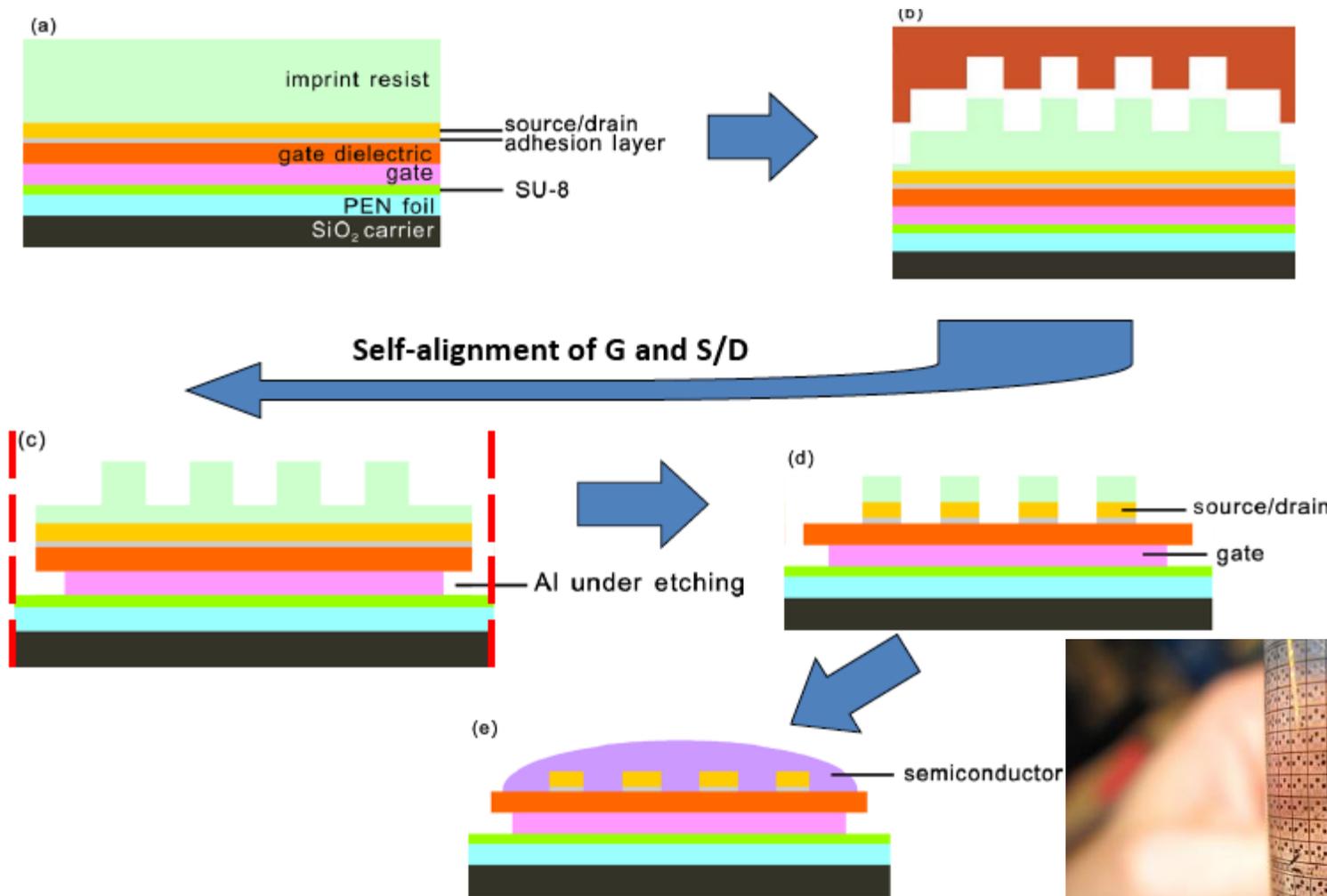
S/D: Ag by IJP

Gate Insulator:  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  by ALD

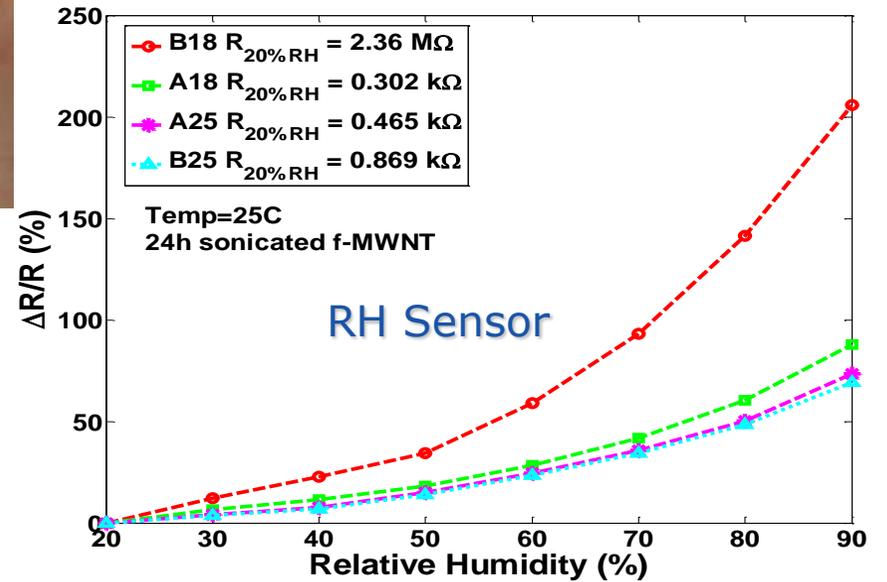
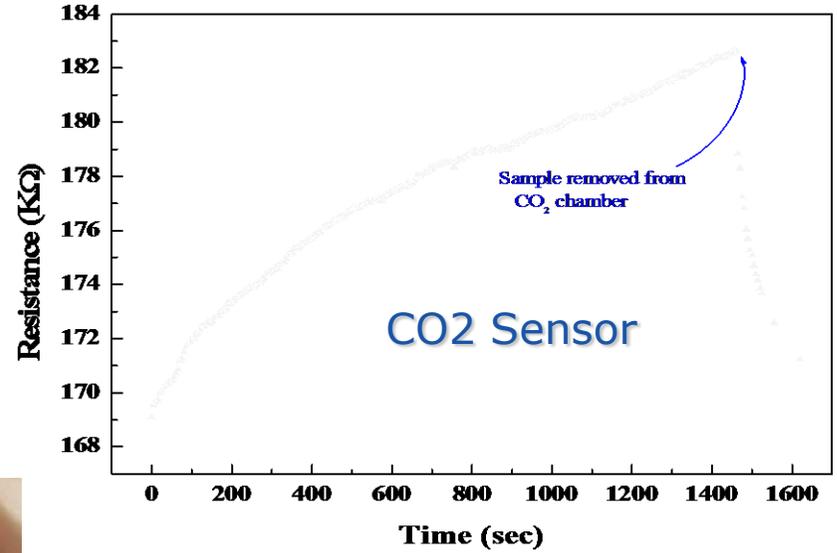
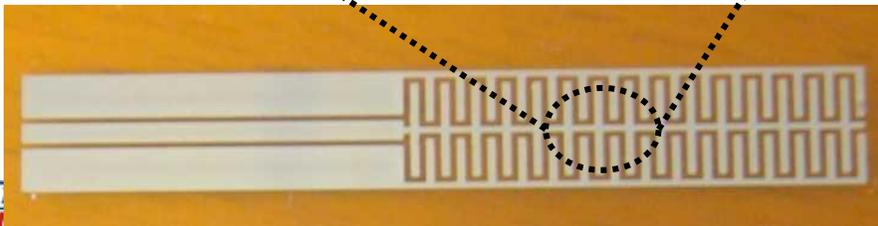
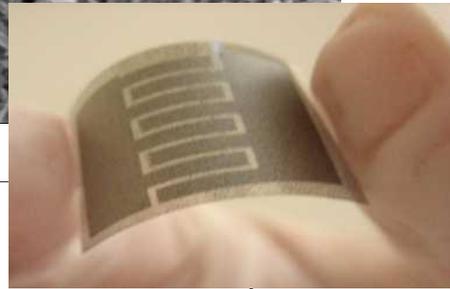
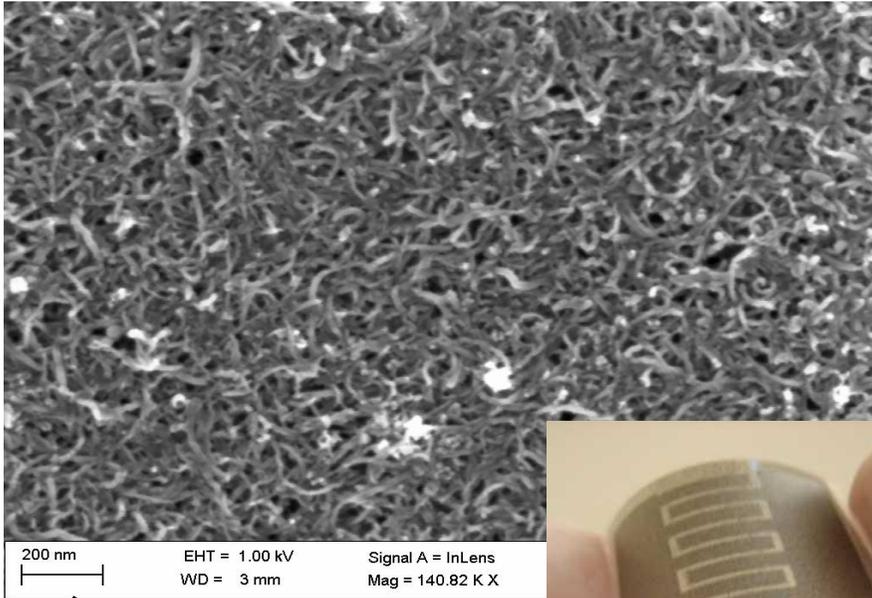
Gate: Au by E-beam Evaporation



# Nanoimprinted TFTs on flexible substrates

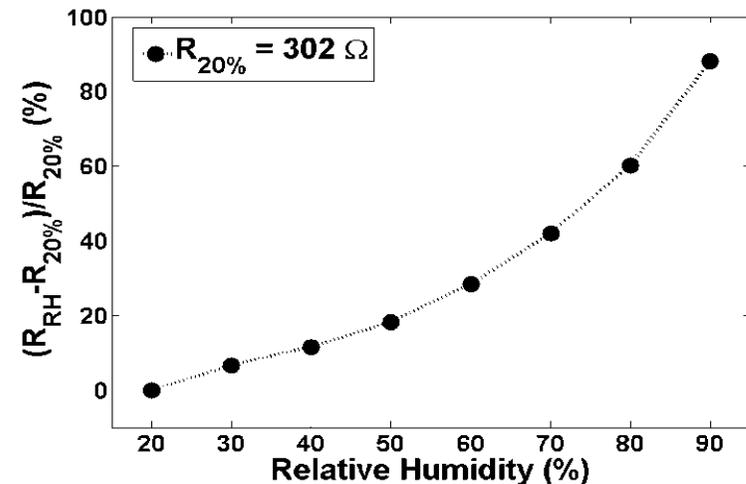
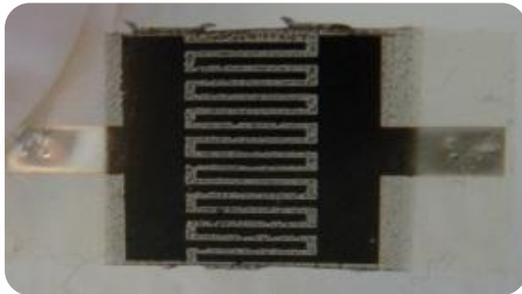


# Printed Sensors

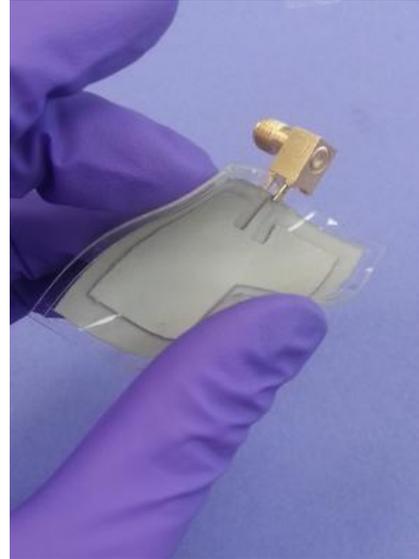
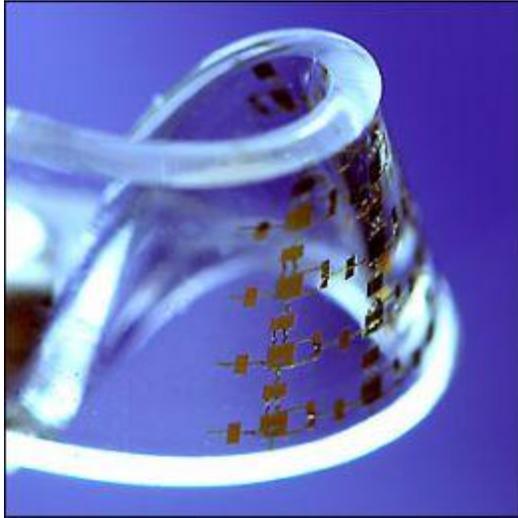


# Printed Humidity Sensor

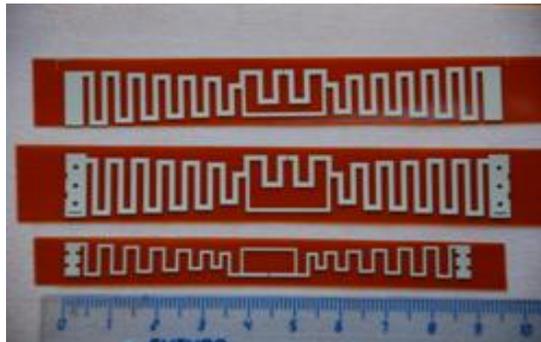
- Resistive humidity sensor
  - Inkjet printed interdigital electrodes
  - Functionalized Multi-Walled Carbon Nanotubes (f-MWCNTs)
- DC resistance varies under different RH levels.



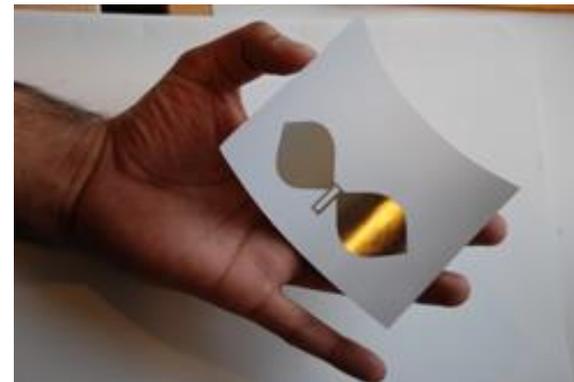
# Flexible Antenna



RFID, anti-counterfeiting  
One-time use protection  
Printed antenna (UHF, UWB)

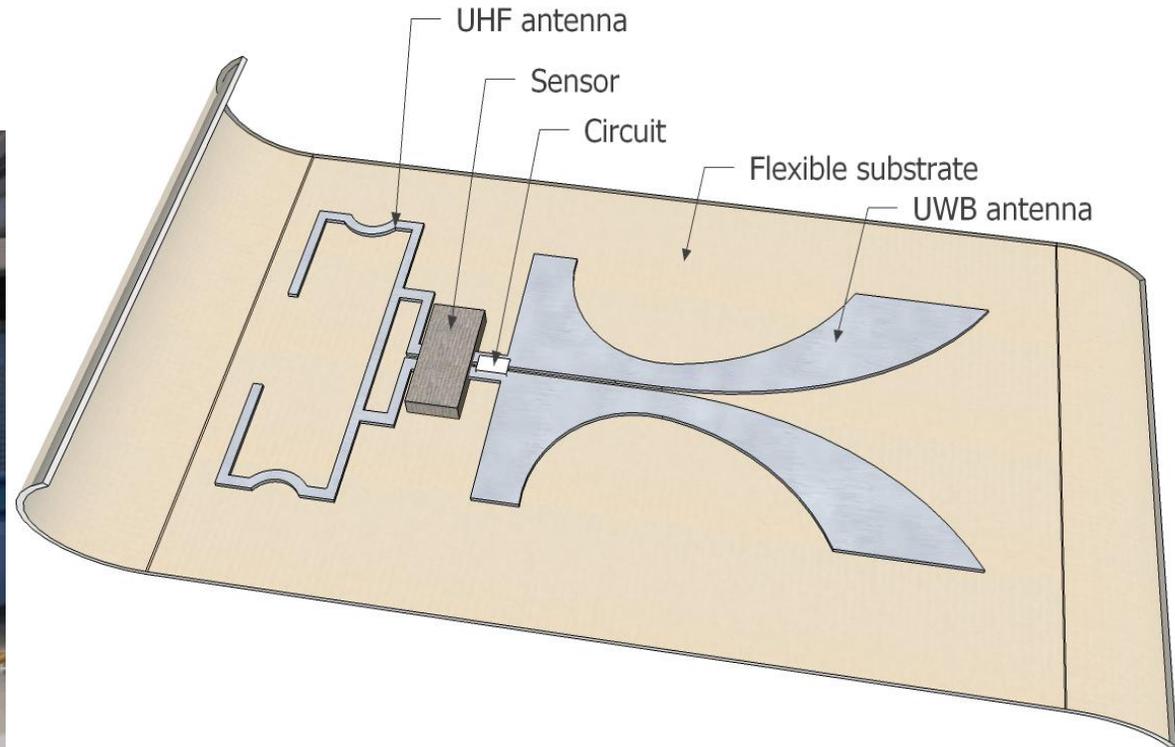
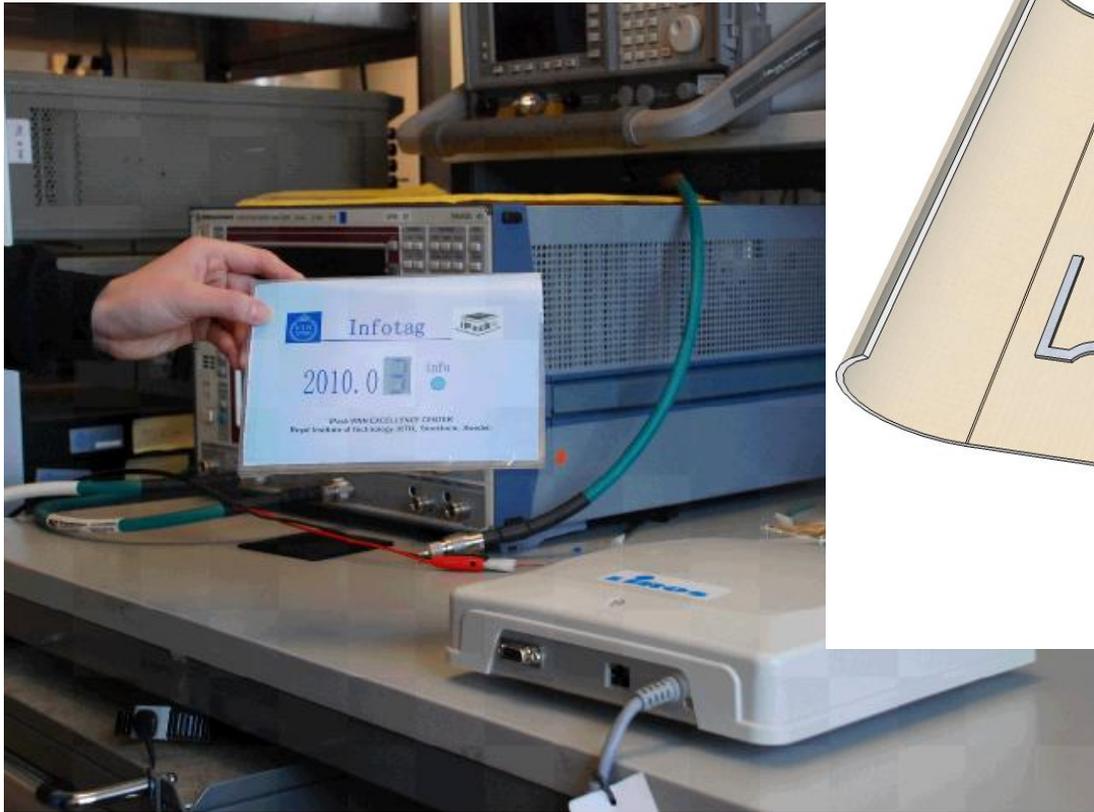


Robust UHF Antennas with  
low ink consumption and  
high gain

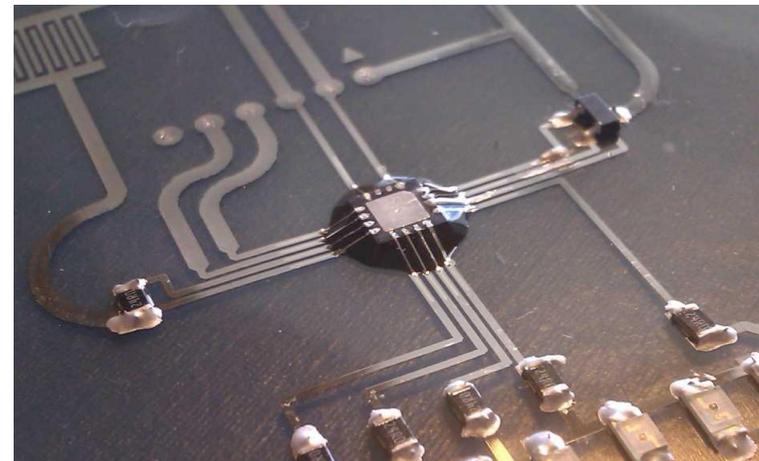
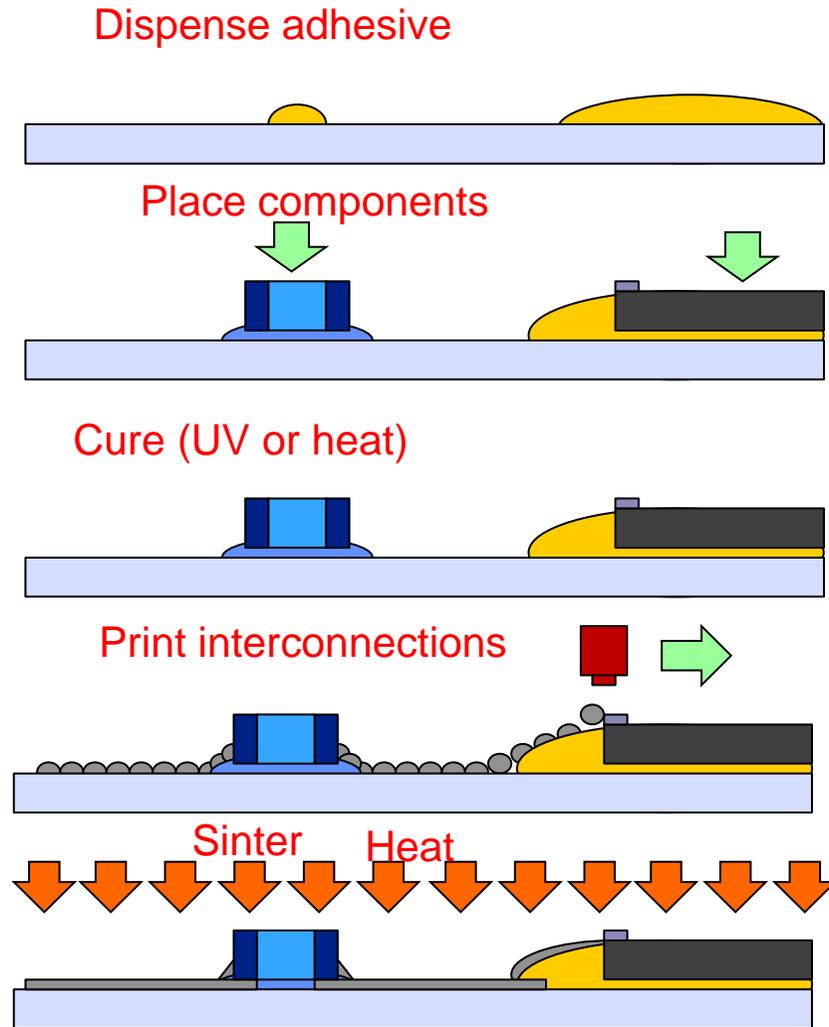


Quadrature Bowtie Antenna  
for UHF RFID Band

# InfoTag - Intelligent RFID with Paper Display



# Integration of Si chips with printed electronics

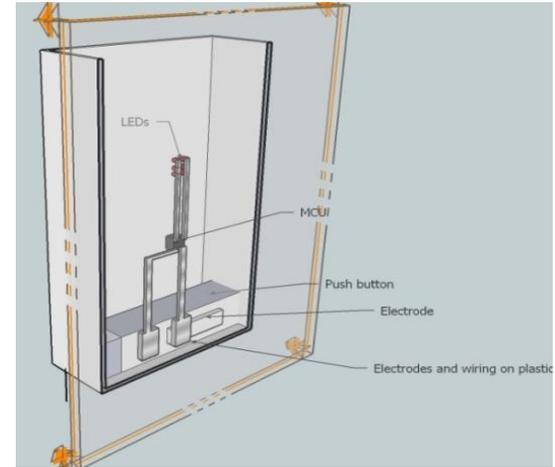
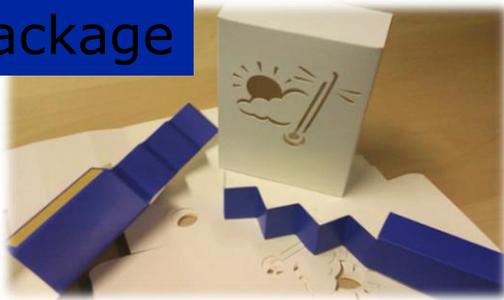


# Intelligent Packaging

## ➤ Item-Level Tracking and Quality Control

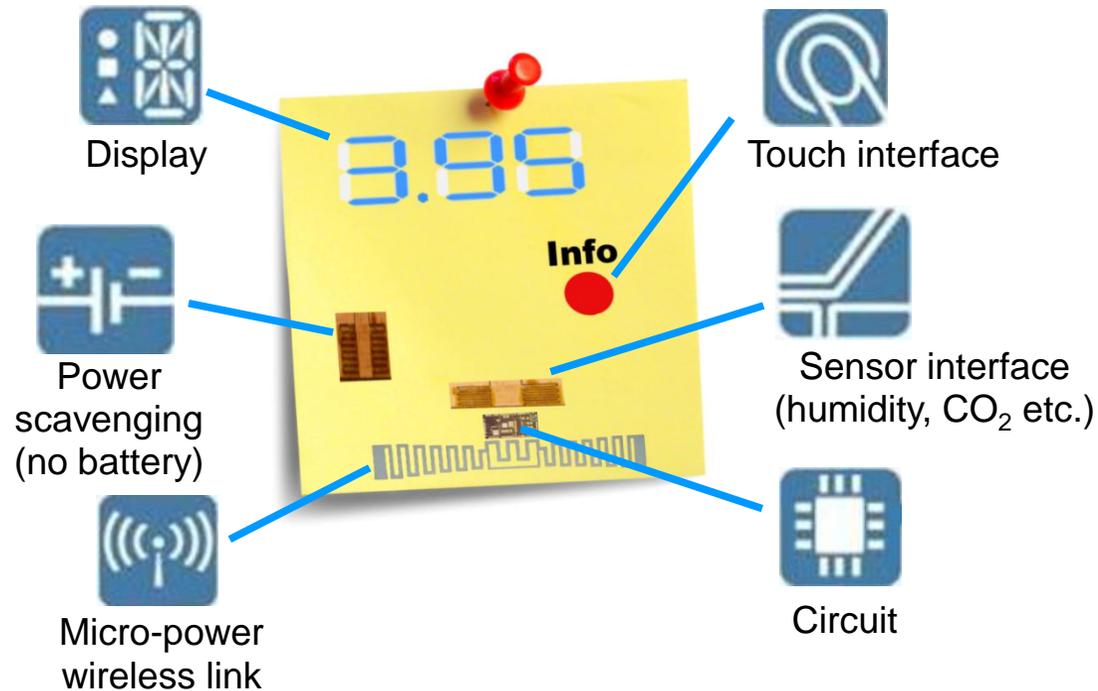
- Sense, Interact, Inform
- Data processing, Communication

Package

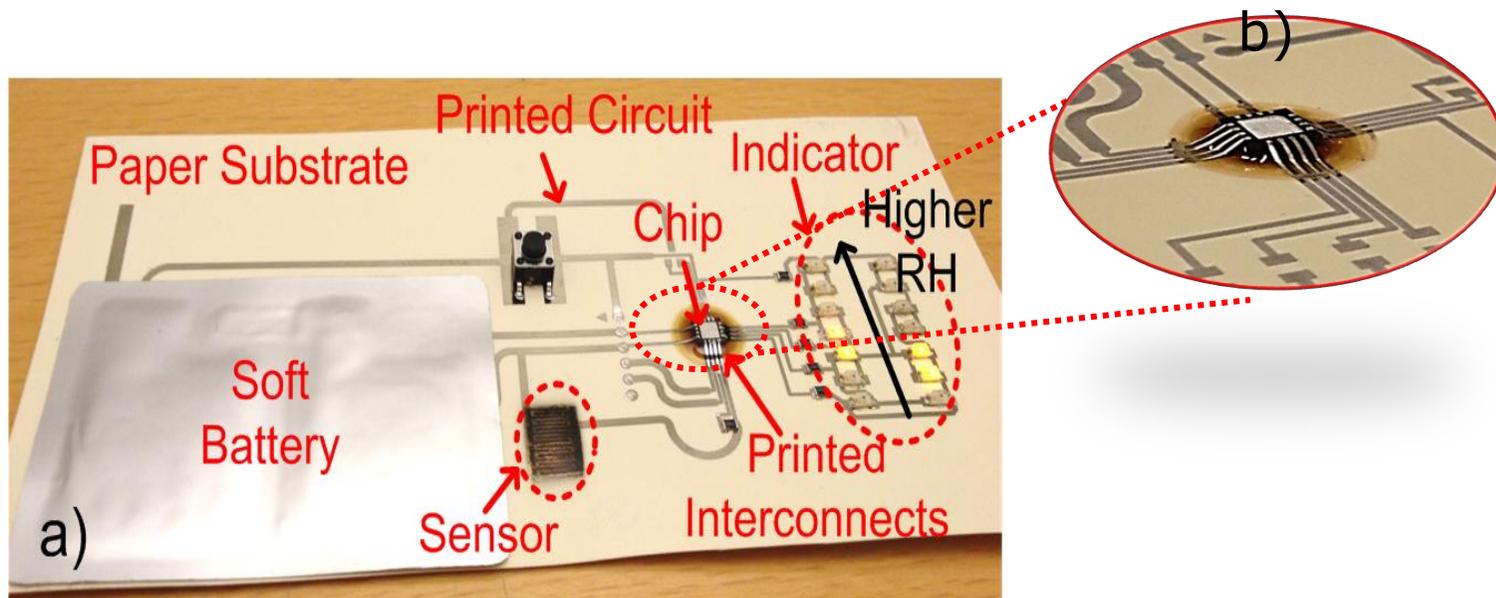


## ➤ Price sensitive -- Paper Substrates

- Flexible
- Low-cost
- 'Green'



# Paper-Based Sensor Card



- Paper
- Flexible
- Low-cost

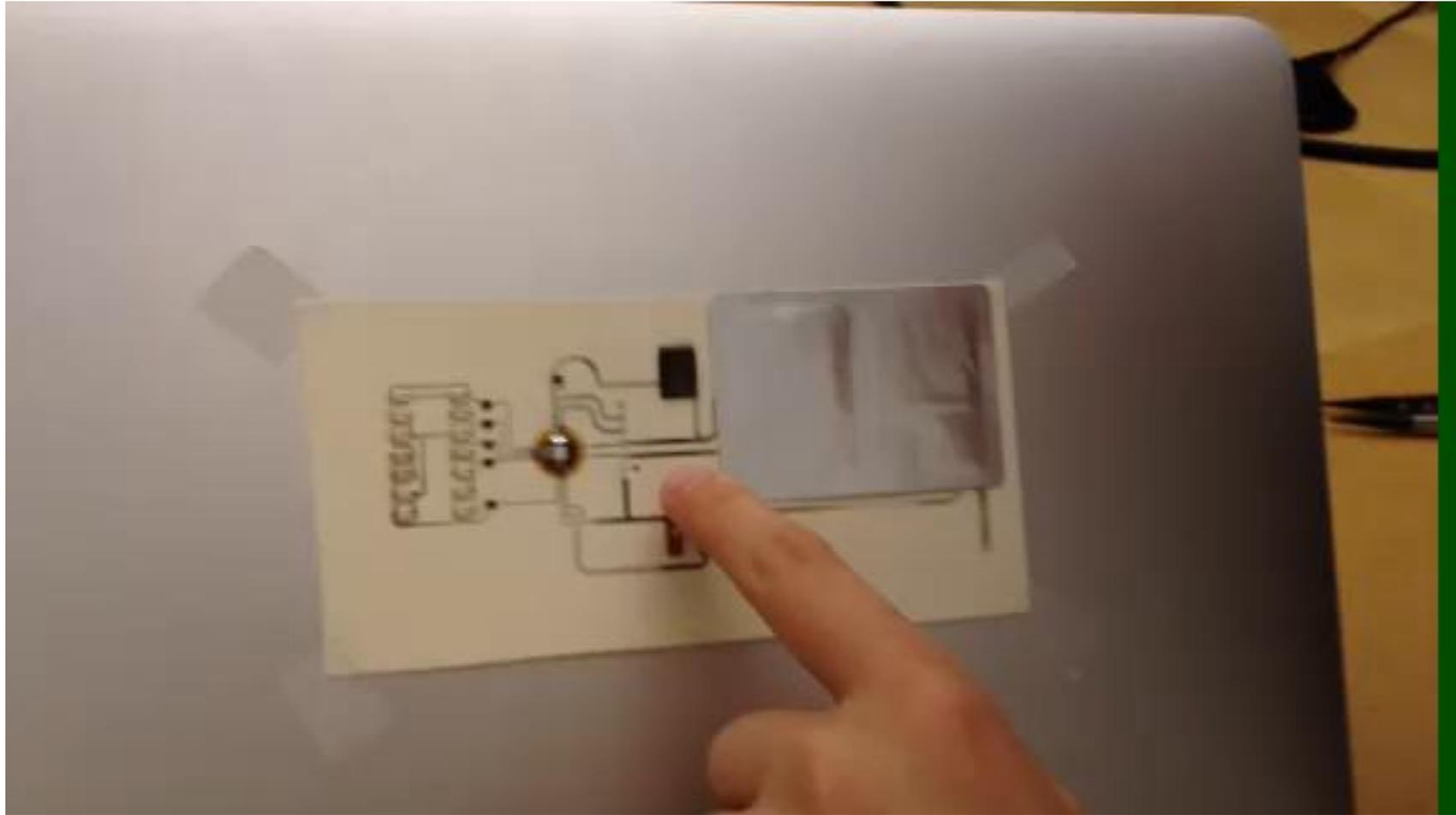
- Sensor & LEDs
- Intelligent
- Interaction

- MCU
- Detect
- Process

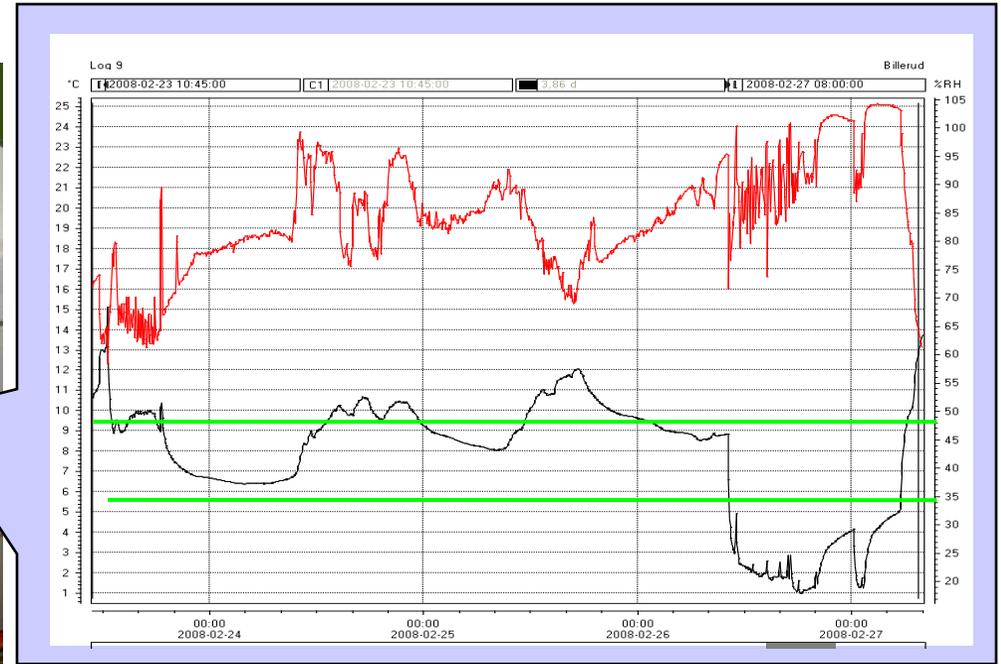
Li Xie, Yi Feng, etc "Electrical and Mechanical Reliability Evaluation of Paper-Based Hybrid Sensor System for Smart Packaging Application," Sensors Journal, IEEE vol.13, no.10, pp.3948,3956, Oct. 2013.



# Paper-Based Sensor Card

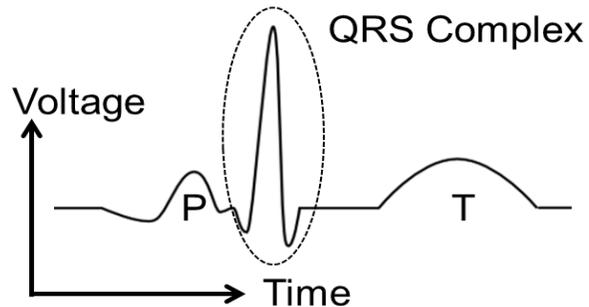


# Intelligent packaging devices



**Intelligent IoT tags integrated with temperature, humidity, CO2 sensors.**

# Pervasive Healthcare Devices



Electrocardiogram (ECG)

## Seamless monitoring:

Long term, real time, continuous, unobtrusive, anytime & any status.

## Conventional Healthcare Devices

- Large physical size
- Tangled wires



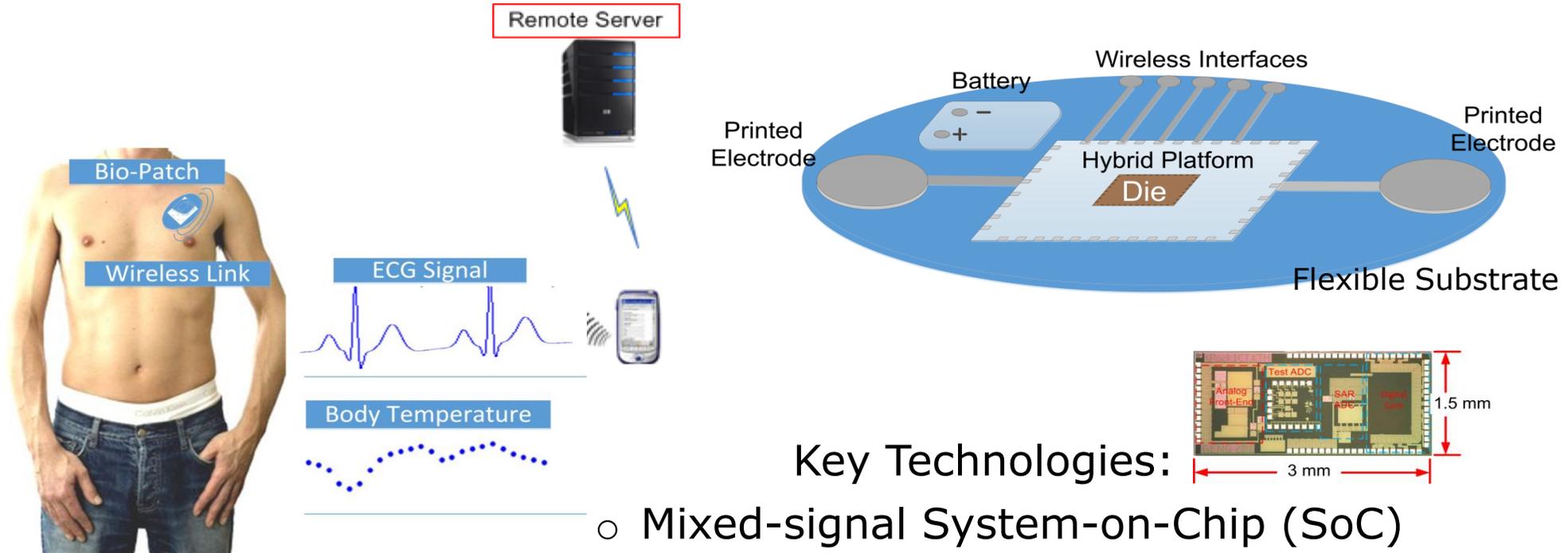
Holter Monitoring System

## Next-Generation Healthcare Devices

- Comfort
- Small, lightweight, thin.
- Long battery life



# Architecture of Bio-Patch



Key Technologies:

- Mixed-signal System-on-Chip (SoC)
  - Inkjet Printed Electrodes
  - Heterogeneous Integration

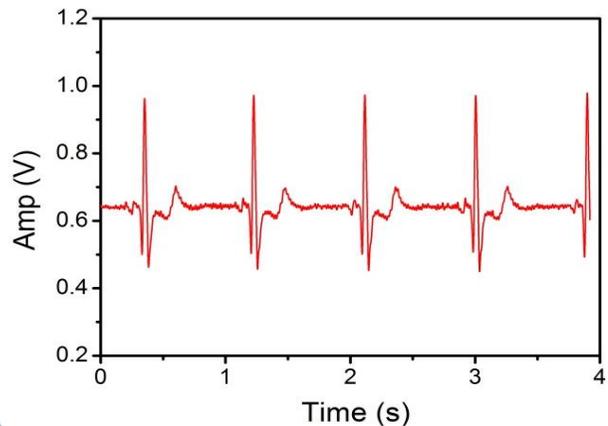
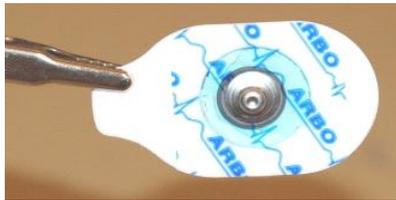
Architecture of Bio-Patch with an application scenario of ECG measurement



# Inkjet-printed ECG electrodes

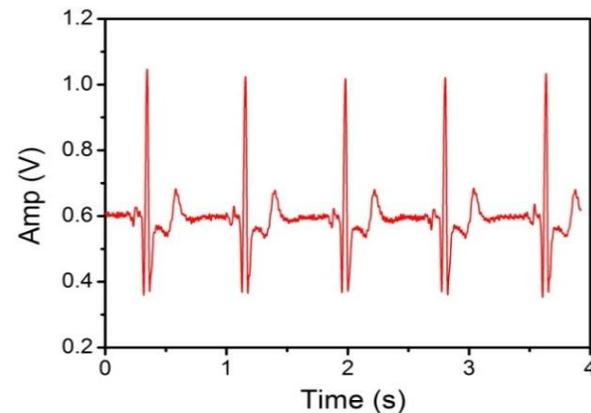
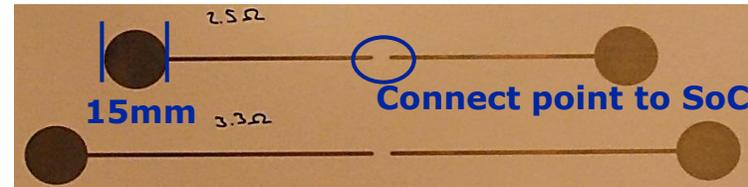
## Conventional wet electrode:

- Signal degradation due to dehydration;
- Gel may cause irritation.



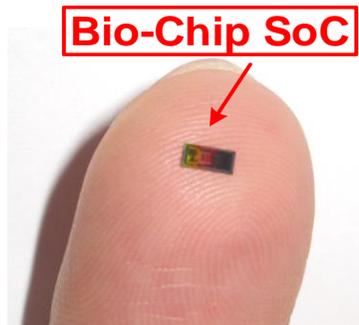
## Inkjet printed dry electrode:

- Cost effective
- 'Green'
- Easy to customize

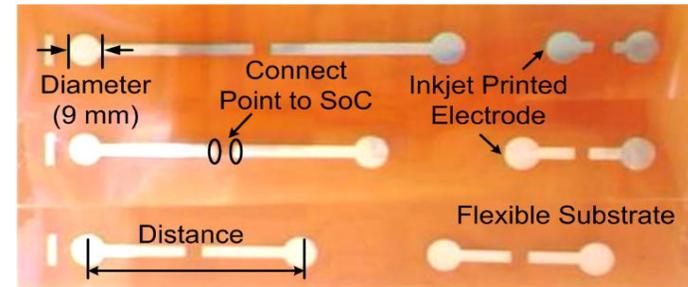


# System miniaturization

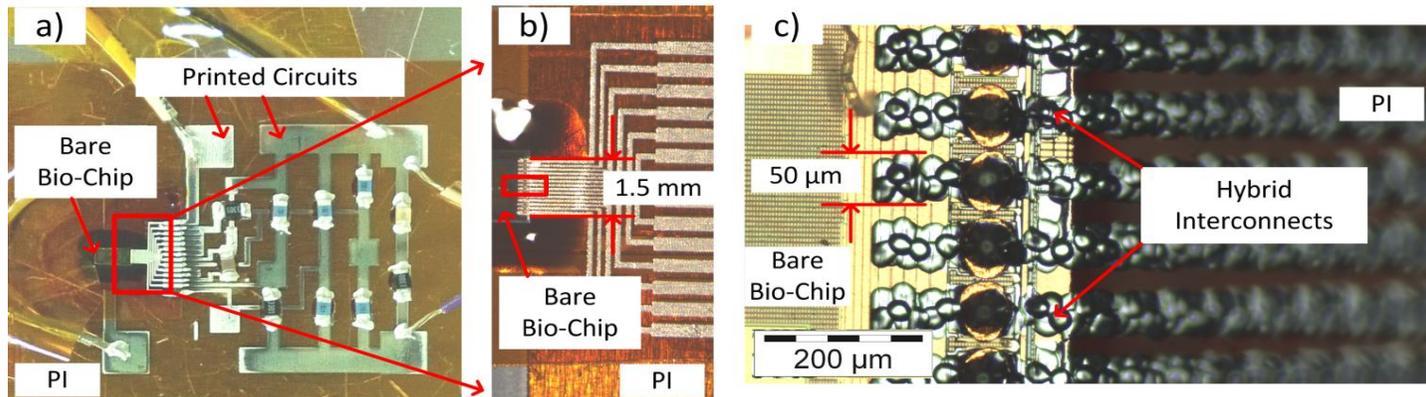
➤ System-on-Chip



➤ Optimized electrode size:

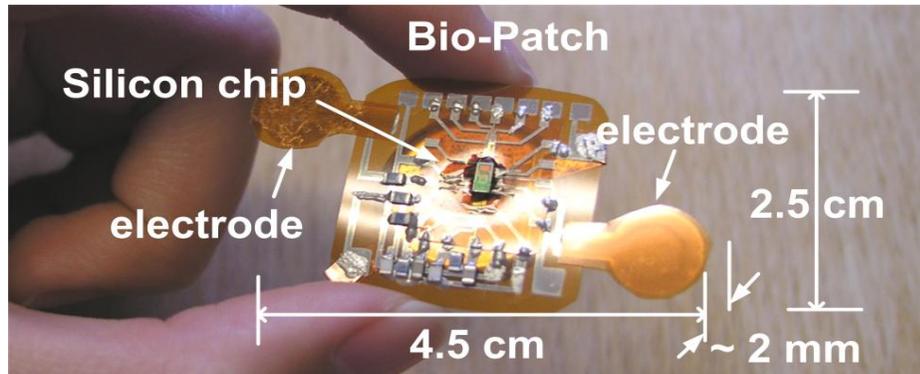


➤ Bare-die integration: 65 μm pad size and 90 μm pitch



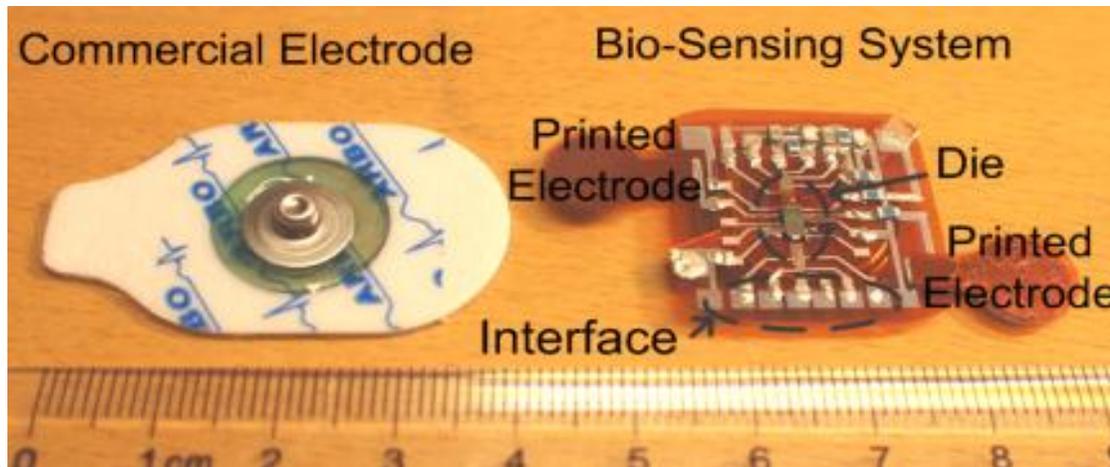
# Wearable Bio-Patch

## Flexible Electrodes + Bio-Sensing Chipset



### Features:

- User comfort:
  - Flexible substrate
- Long battery life
  - Low-power IC
- Small size:
  - Optimized electrode
  - Single chip solution
  - Inkjet printing





*Thank you!*