

Green engineering WORKSHOP

Thursday 28th January 2010, Neuchâtel



Holst Centre

Open Innovation by IMEC-NL and TNO

Energy harvesting: microwatt generation enabling megawatt savings

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IMEC – HOLST Centre

Leuven, Belgium and Eindhoven, the Netherlands

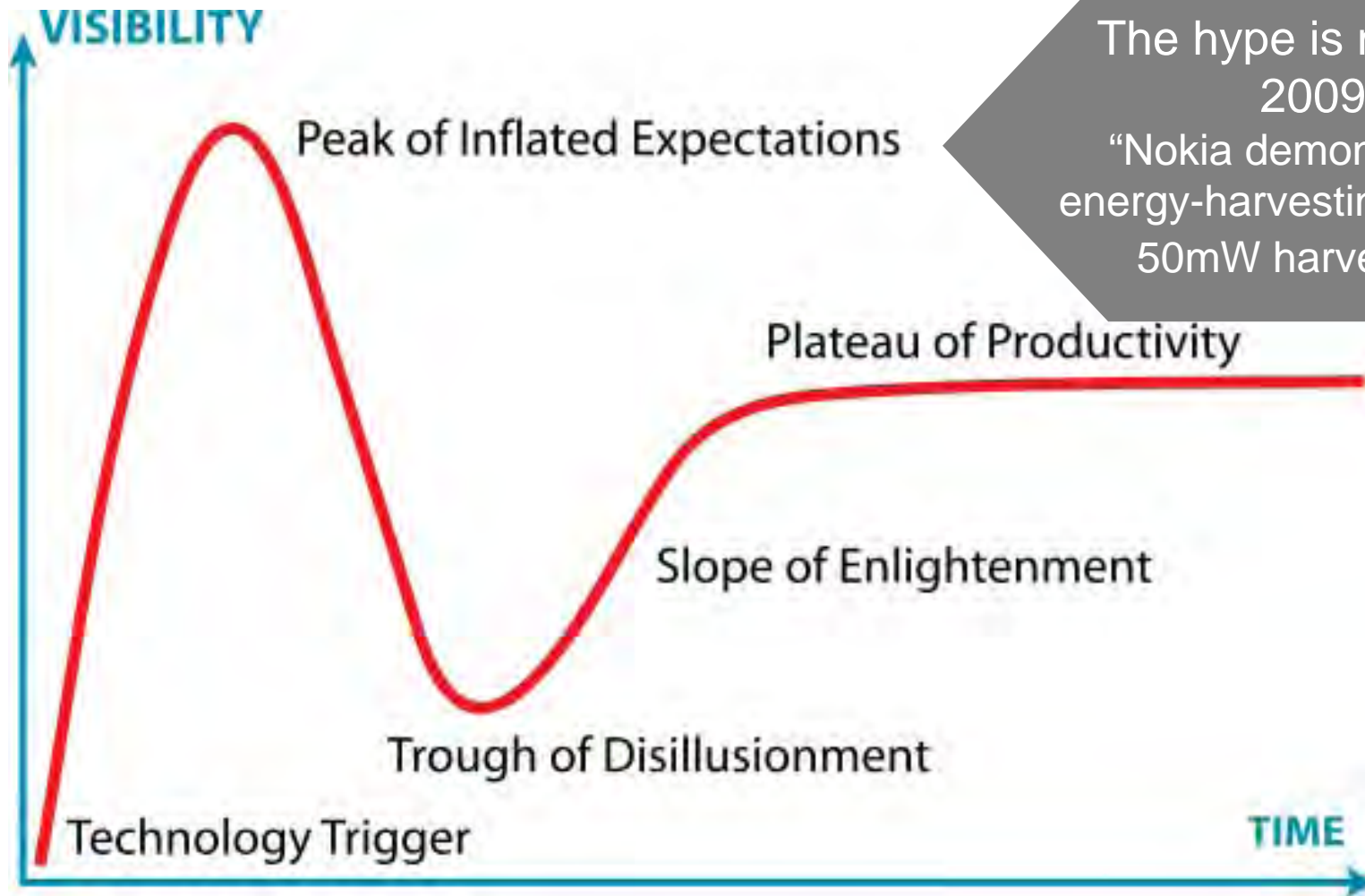
Overview

- The hype: “free energy to power wireless sensors will enable the revolution of the smart connected world”
- Why not stick to batteries ?
- The road towards energy autonomy: Solar, Vibration, Thermal, RF energy harvesting
- Energy harvesting applications → microwatt generation enabling megawatt savings ?
- Cost - this minor detail
- A (bright green) future ?

Energy harvesting: microwatt generation enabling megawatt savings ? The hype cycle



Energy harvesting: microwatt generation enabling megawatt savings ? The hype cycle



The hype is not over
2009
“Nokia demonstrates
energy-harvesting handset
50mW harvested”

Why not stick to batteries ?



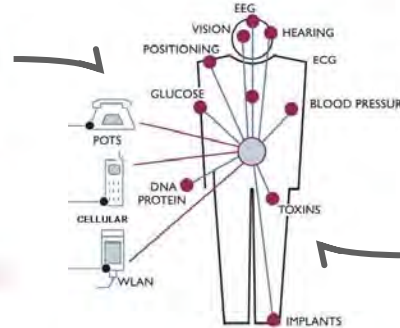
1W
5 hours



50mW
24 hours



1mW
10 days



100μW
Autonomous



10μW
5 years



1μW
5 years

NEEDED:

A small ($\ll 1\text{cm}^3$) and low-cost energy source that lasts the lifetime of the system

AVAILABLE: Batteries

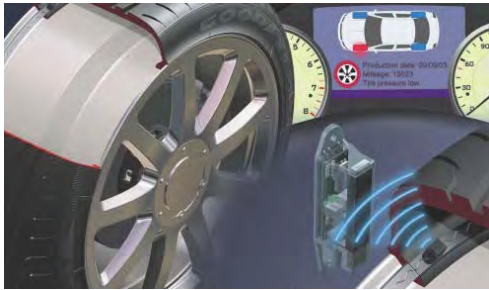
Primary	1.0 Wh/cm ³
Rechargeable	0.3 Wh/cm ³



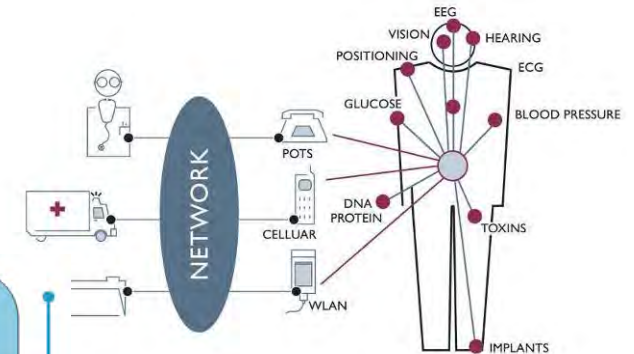
Energy Autonomy needs
are not fulfilled by
today's batteries alone

Why Not Stick To Batteries ? Autonomous “Health” Monitoring Needs Long-term “Chronic” Solutions

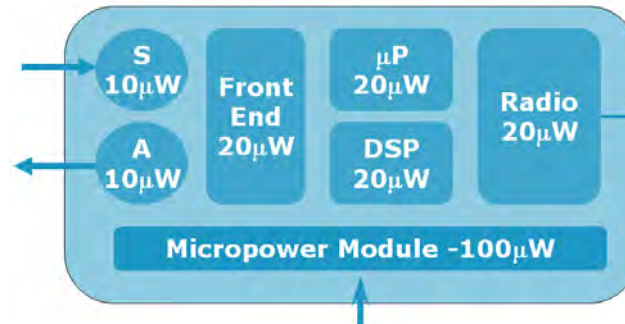
TPMS: Tire Pressure Monitoring System



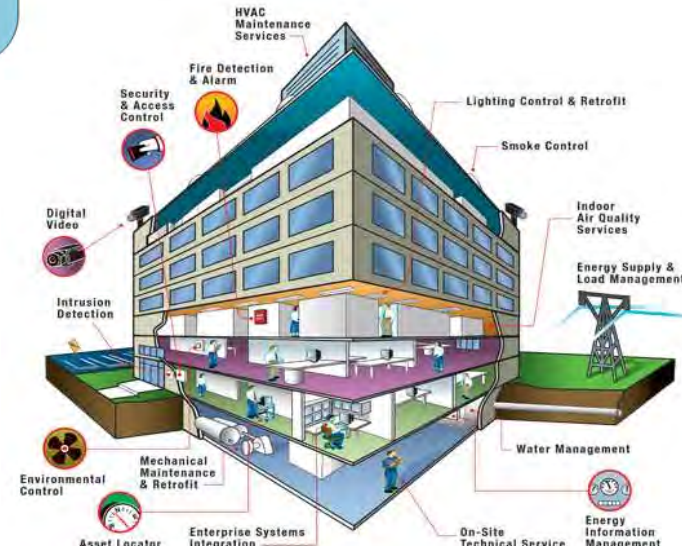
BAN: Body Area Network






Predictive Maintenance



Smart Buildings



Why Not Stick To Batteries ? Autonomous “Health” Monitoring Needs Long-term “Chronic” Solutions

	On The Body 	Tire Pressure Monitoring 	Machine Health 
Source	Thermal/PV	Vibration	Thermal/Vibration/PV
Autonomy	0.5-5 years	10-20 yrs	10-50 yrs
Environment	Human Body <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderate T • Moderate to low light level 	“Harsh” environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Temperature • High pressure • High accelerations • Large shocks 	“Harsh” environment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Temperature • Very low to very high light level • Very large vibrations
Cost	Low	Lower than battery replacement cost	Lower than replacement or engine repair cost
Form Factor	Unobtrusive Thin, flex, ... $<< 1 \text{ cm}^3$	Small/Light $< 1 \text{ cm}^3$	Variable application-dependent

How much power is available ?



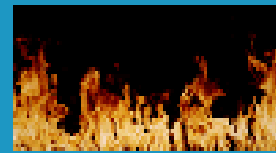
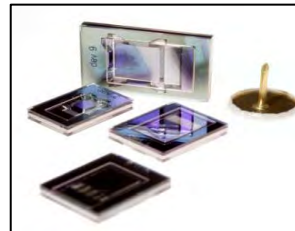
Photovoltaic

Outdoor
10 mW/cm²
Indoor
10 μ W/cm²



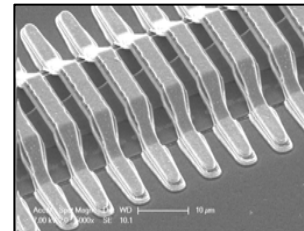
Vibration

Man
4 μ W/cm²
Machine
100 μ W/cm²



Thermal

Man
20 μ W/cm²
Machine
1-10 mW/cm²



RF

GSM
0.1 μ W/cm²
WiFi
0.01 μ W/cm²



Energy harvesting is not at all new ...



...but it is getting smaller

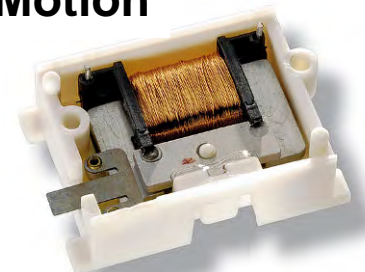
Vibration



Thermal



Motion



HOWEVER ... today's systems are only addressing niche applications:

- too little power generated
- or too big/heavy
- too expensive

Even Energy harvesting for on-the-body devices is not new...

Approx. 1770



ABRAHAM-LOUIS PERRELET

(1729 - 1826)

Swiss watchmaker, inventor of a self-winding watch.

The other related inventions:

1799 – battery re-invented (Alessandro Volta)

1831 – dynamo (Michael Faraday)



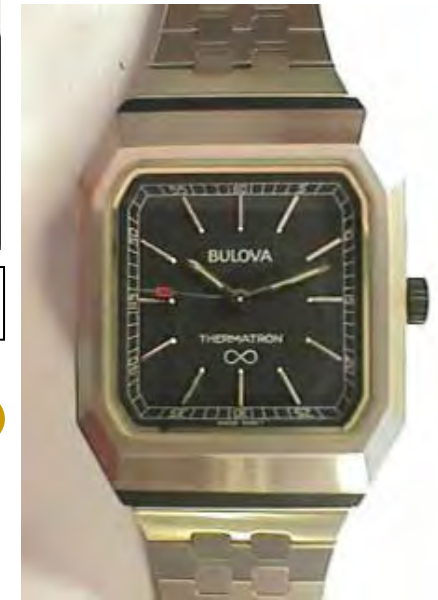
Mechanical Energy



Synchronar 1972

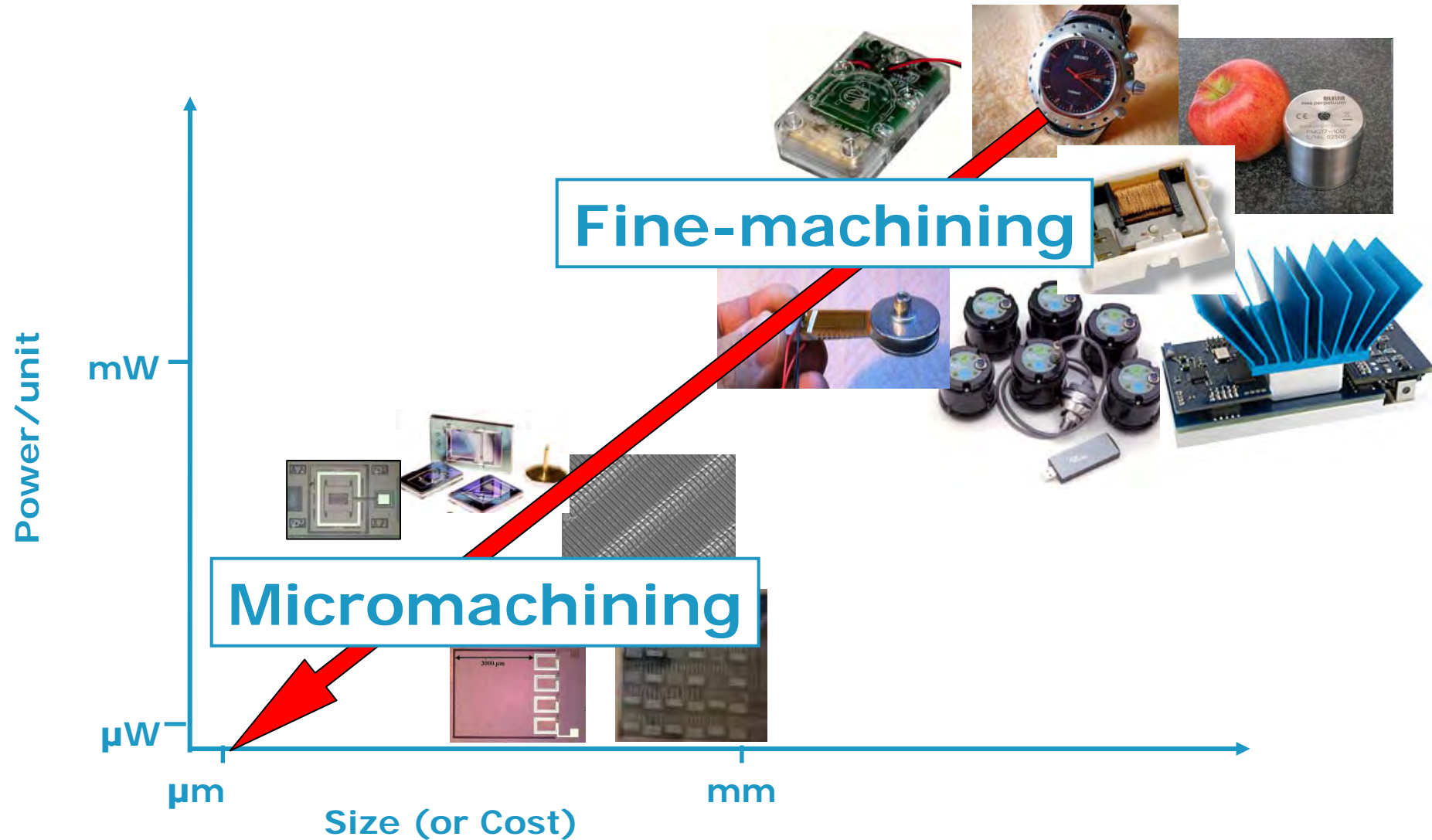
Energy of light

Thermal energy



Bulova Thermatron
1980

Cost reduction through Miniaturization



The road towards energy autonomy

the good
the bad
the ugly



Micropower: Harvesting Sources



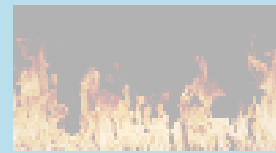
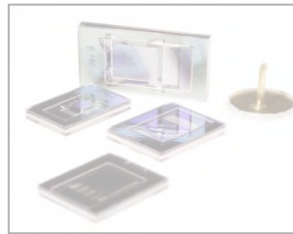
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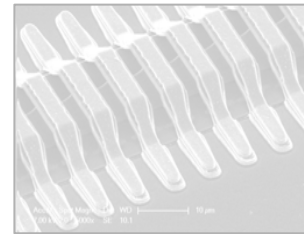
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4 μ W/cm²
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1-10 mW/cm²



RF

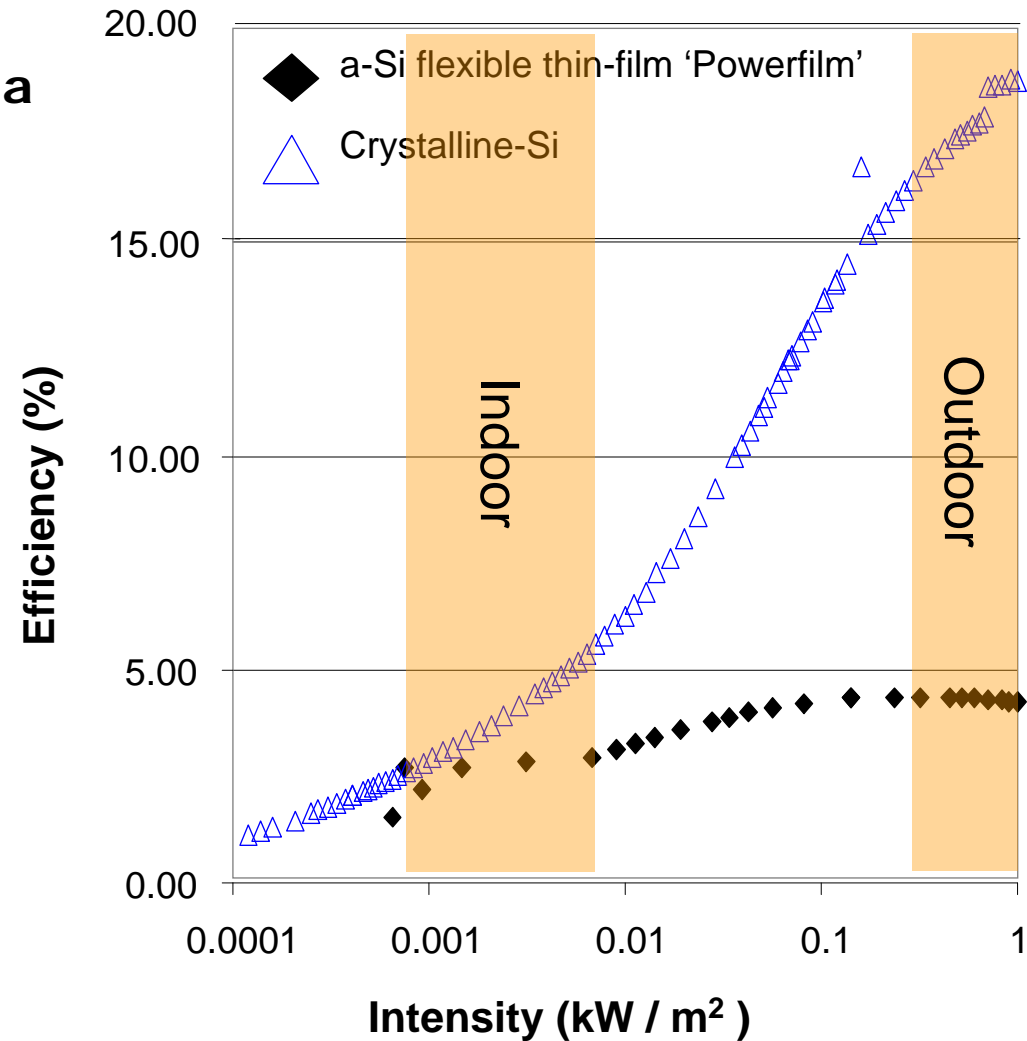
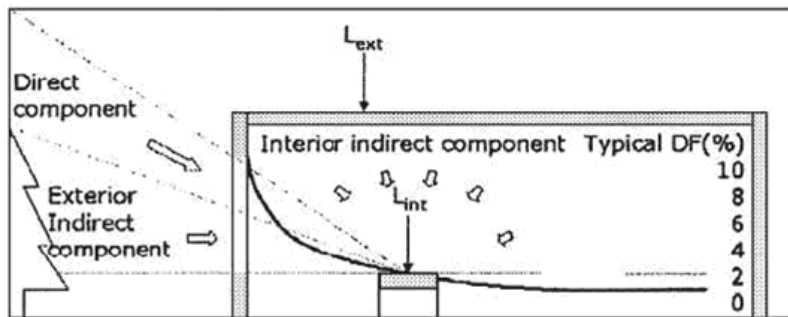
GSM
0.1 μ W/cm²
WiFi
0.01 μ W/cm²



Indoor photo micropower generation

Compared to outdoor, indoor PV is much more of a challenge

- Much lower light intensity
 - Cell efficiency decreases
 - Spectrum is different
 - Area is smaller
- Total power is much lower

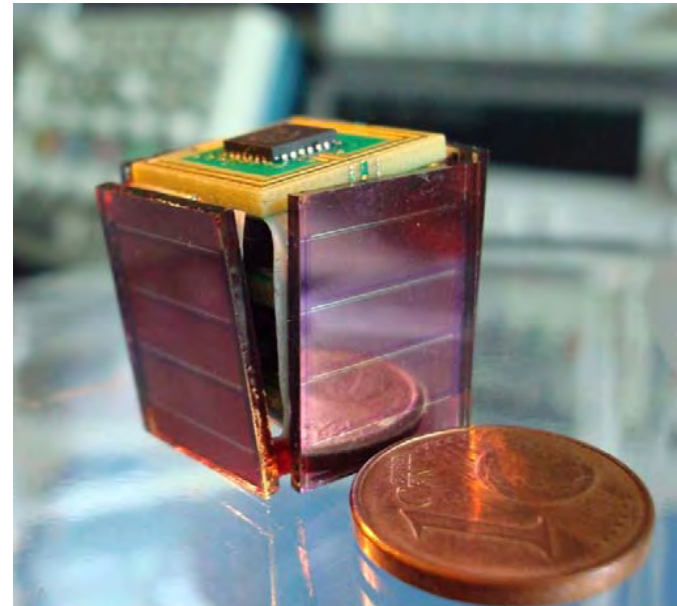


Indoor Photovoltaic module example

- **Applications for Indoor Use:**
 - Office light (~ 400 lux)
 - On average 12hrs of light/day



Goal: Real Time data
Application: EMG



Goal: Small size
Application: T Sensor

Micropower: Harvesting Sources



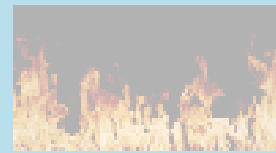
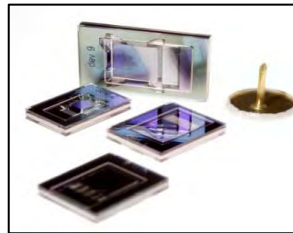
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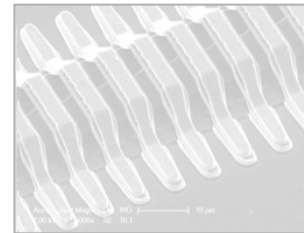
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1-10 mW/cm²



RF

GSM
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WiFi
0.01 μ W/cm²



Vibration Harvester State-of-the-art

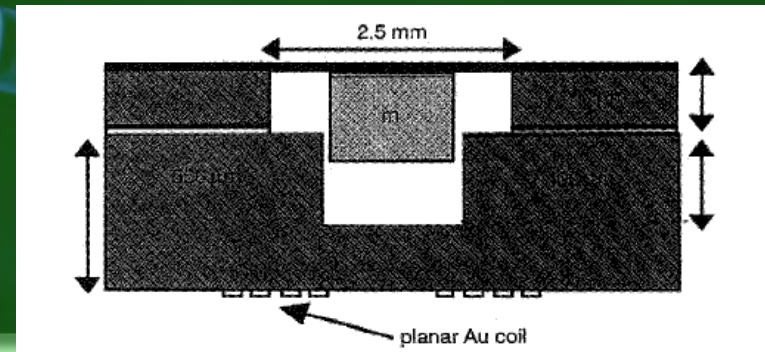
Electromagnetic transducers

- Basic principle: Faraday's law of induction
- Many macroscopic embodiments
- First miniature embodiment in 1997

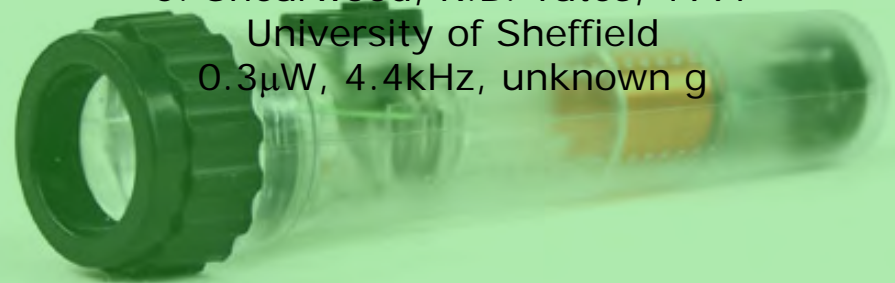


Forever Flashlight

MACRO



C. Shearwood, R.B. Yates, 1997
University of Sheffield
0.3 μ W, 4.4 kHz, unknown g



MINI

Vibration Harvester State-of-the-art

Electromagnetic transducers

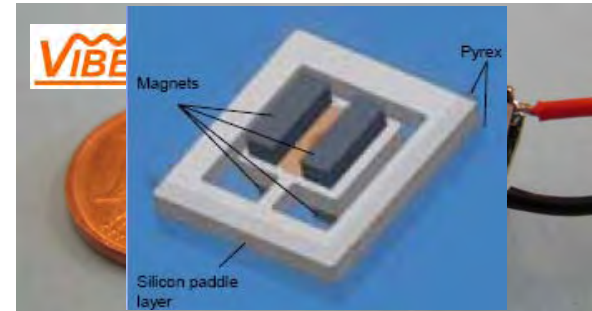
- Several embodiments, same principle
- Typically for industrial applications: high g, high f



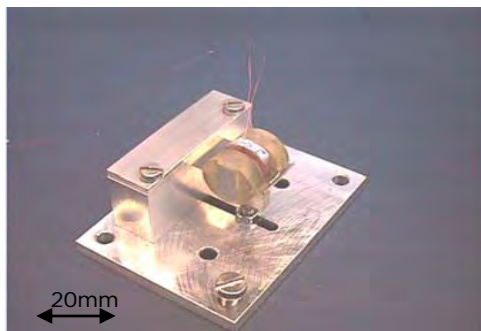
Wen J. Li et al., 2000
Chinese univ. of Hong Kong
680 μW , 9.5g @ 110 Hz, 1 cm^3



T. Sterken et al., 2005
IMEC, K.U. Leuven
300 μW , 50 g @ 5 Hz, 5 cm^3



S. Beeby et al., 2007
University of Southampton
58 μW , 0.4 g @ 8 Hz, 0.8 cm^3



Glynne-Jones et al, 2004
University of Southampton
600 μW at 4.3m/s² @ 100 Hz



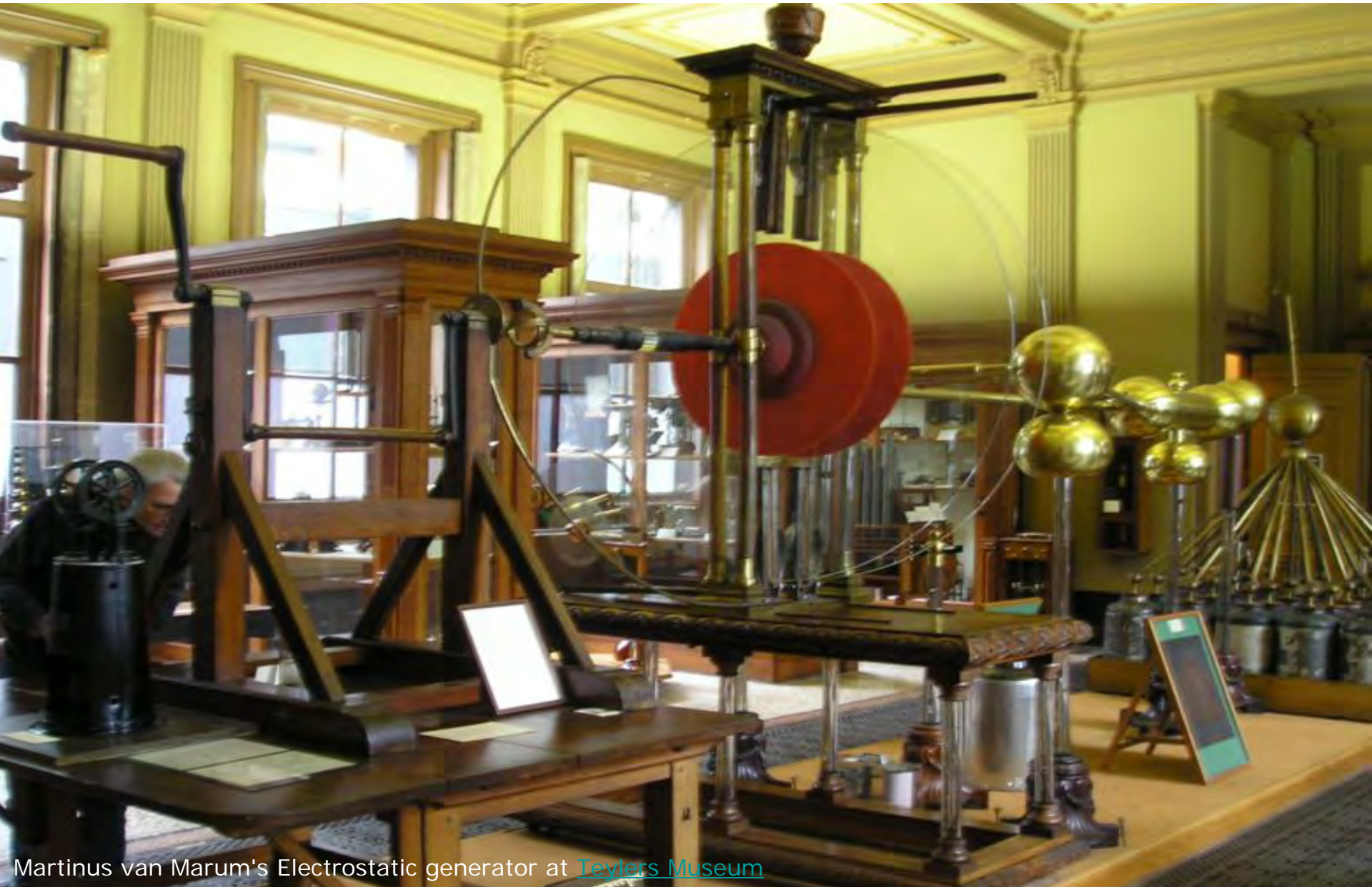
D. Spremann et al., 2006
HSG-IMIT
260 μW , 4 m/s² @ 25 Hz, 1.5 cm^3



PMG Perpetuum
40 mW, 1 g @ 100 Hz,
110 cm^3

Vibration Harvester State-of-the-art

Electrostatic transducers

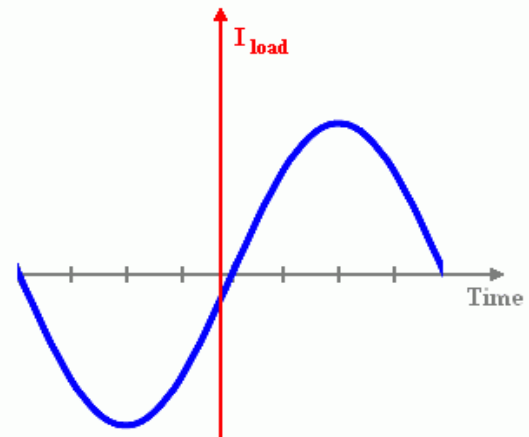
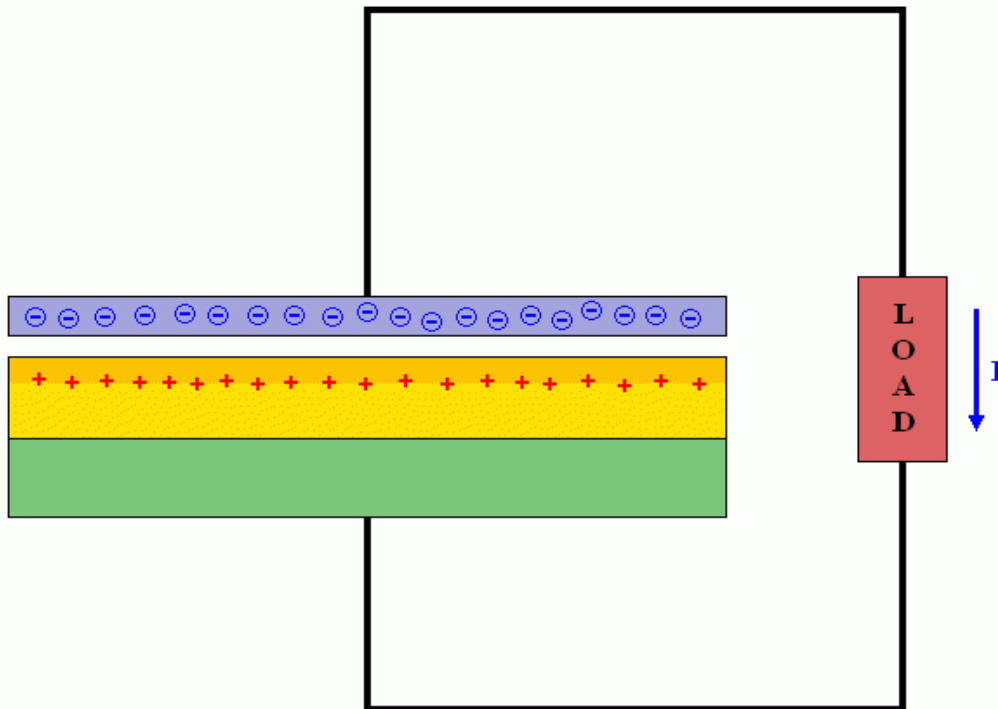


Martinus van Marum's Electrostatic generator at [Teylers Museum](#)

Vibration Harvester State-of-the-art

Electrostatic transducers

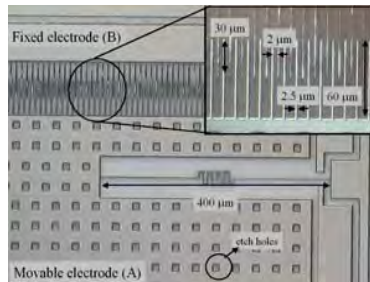
- Basic principle: charge and discharge of capacitor
- Charge or voltage constrained
- Miniaturization helps: larger capacitance variation
- First micromachined embodiment in 2003



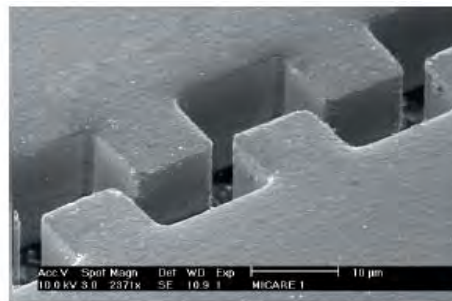
Vibration Harvester State-of-the-art

Electrostatic transducers

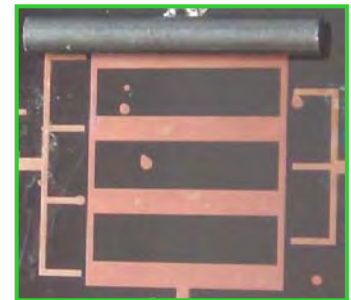
- Two kinds: resonant (most) and non-resonant
- Mostly a 2D embodiment



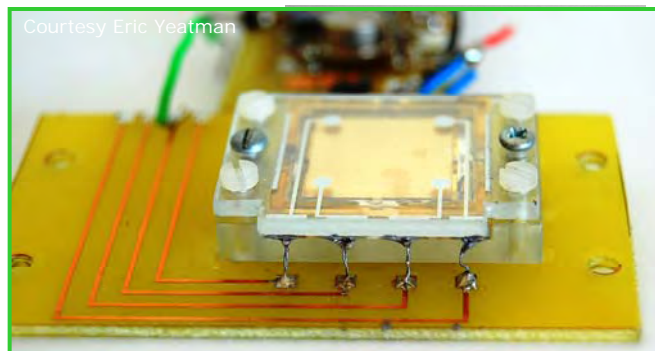
T. Sterken et al., 2003
IMEC, K.U. Leuven
12 nW, 1 g @ 1 kHz, 2 mm³



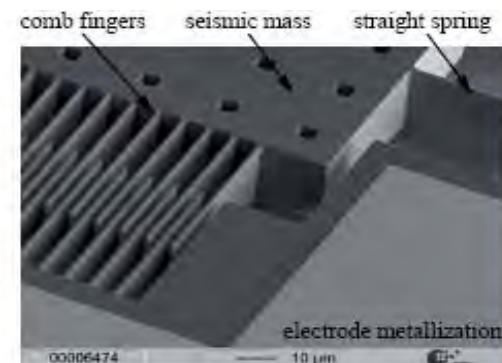
G. Despesse et al, 2007
LETI – MINATEC
12 μW, 0.3g @ 50 Hz, 1cm²



M. Kiziroglou et al, 2008
Imperial College London



E. Yeatman et al., 2006
Imperial College London
2.4 mW, 40g @ 20 Hz, 2 cm³



U. Bartsch et al., 2007
IMTEK

Vibration Harvester State-of-the-art

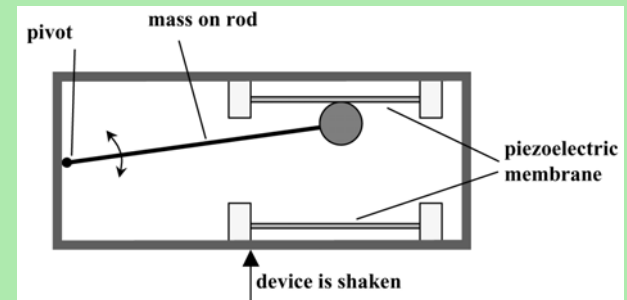
Piezoelectric transducers

- Basic principle: mechanical stress generates charges
- Relative vs absolute motion
- First miniature embodiment in 2001

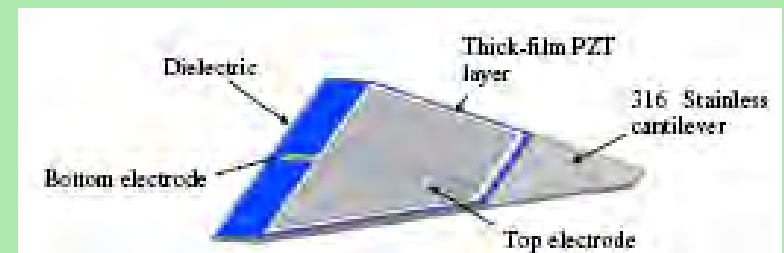


Joseph Paradiso, MIT
1-2mW average, 20-80mW peak
1998

MACRO



Umeda et al., 1996
Niigata Polytechnic College



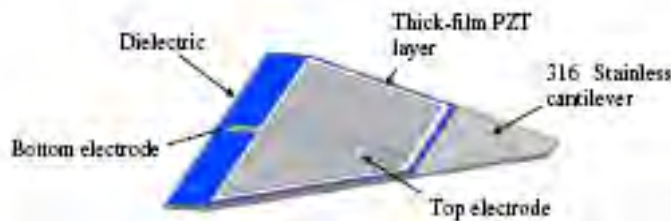
Glynne-Jones et al., 2001
University of Southampton
3 μ W, 1 g @ 80Hz

MINI/MICRO

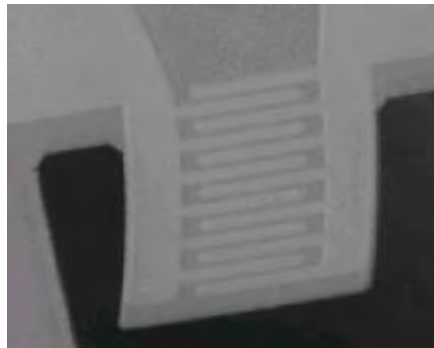
Vibration Harvester State-of-the-art

Piezoelectric transducers

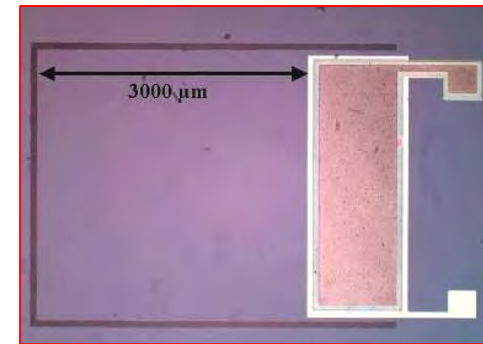
- Micromachined devices are resonant transducers
- PZT or AlN used (high d_{31} or low ϵ)



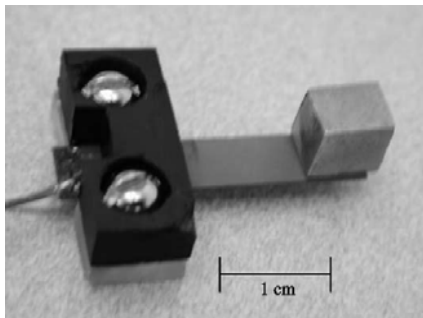
Glynne-Jones et al., 2001
University of Southampton
3 μ W, 1 g @ 80Hz



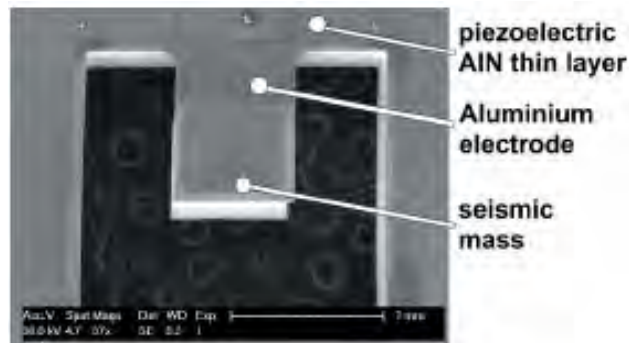
Sang-Gook Kim, Rajendra Sood, MIT, 2004
1 μ W @ 2.36 V (0.74 mW-h/cm²)



M. Renaud et al., 2007
IMEC, K.U. Leuven
40 μ W, 20g @ 1.8 kHz, 25 mm³



Shad Roundy et al, Berkeley, 2003
70 μ W, 2.25 m/s² @ 100Hz, 1cm³



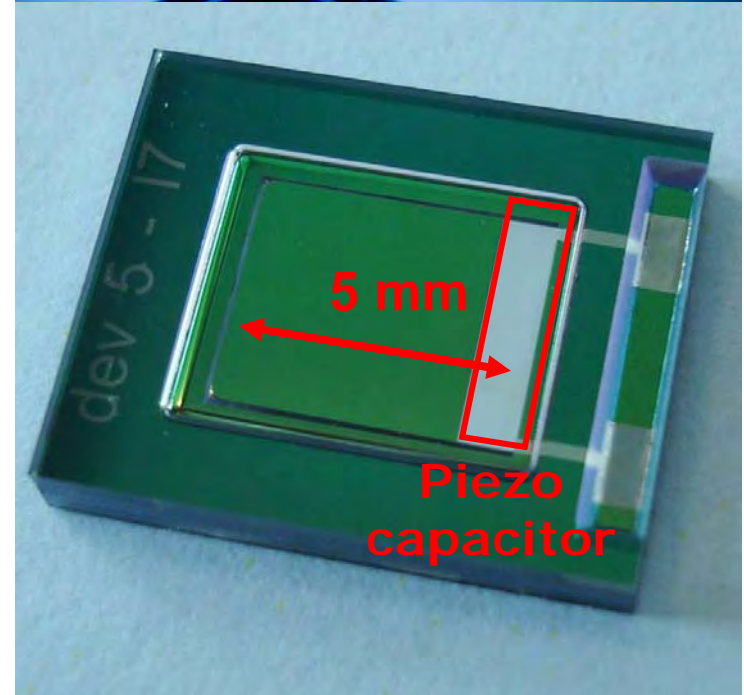
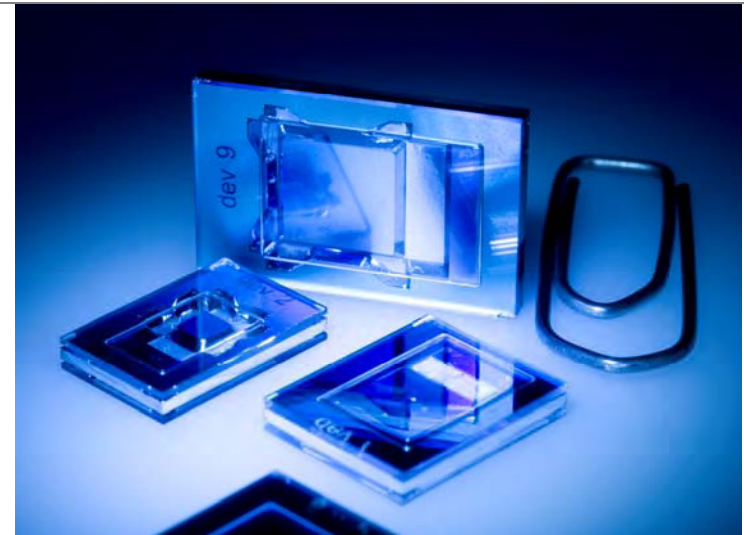
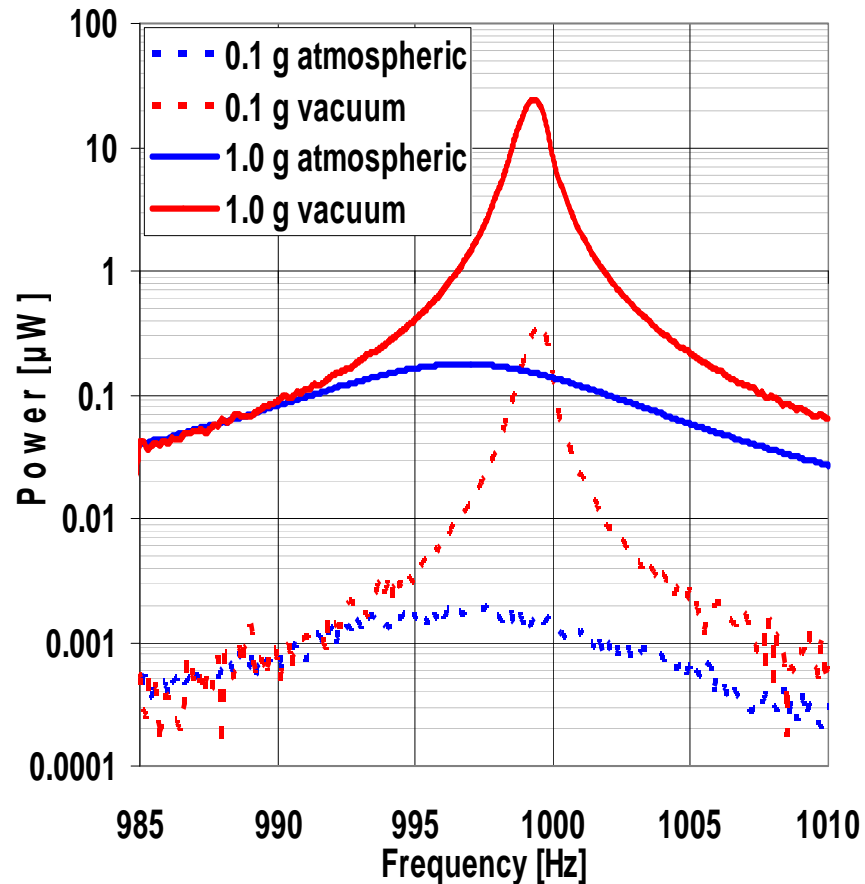
M. Marzencki et al, Tima Labs, 2007
2 μ W, 2g @ 840 Hz, 25mm³



Elfrink et al., 2008, IMEC
60 μ W, 2g @ 572Hz, 0.2 cm²

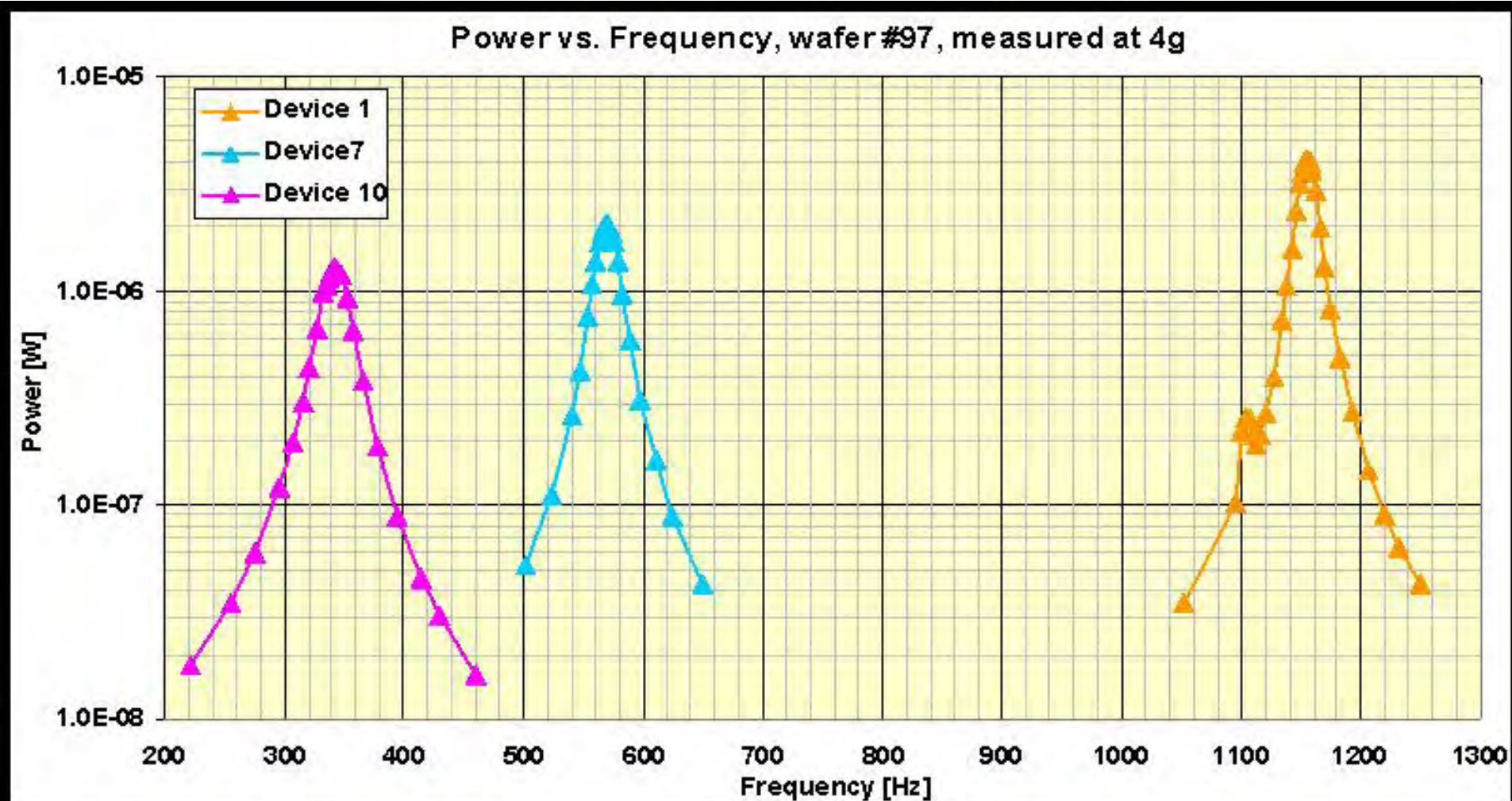
MEMS based piezoelectric energy harvesters

R. Elfrink @ HOLST/IMEC, IEDM2009



After the good ... now the bad and the ugly ...

RESONANCE



After the good ... now the bad and the ugly ...

GENERATED VOLTAGES !!

- Voltage output can be in the millivolts
- Voltage output can be in the 100's of volts

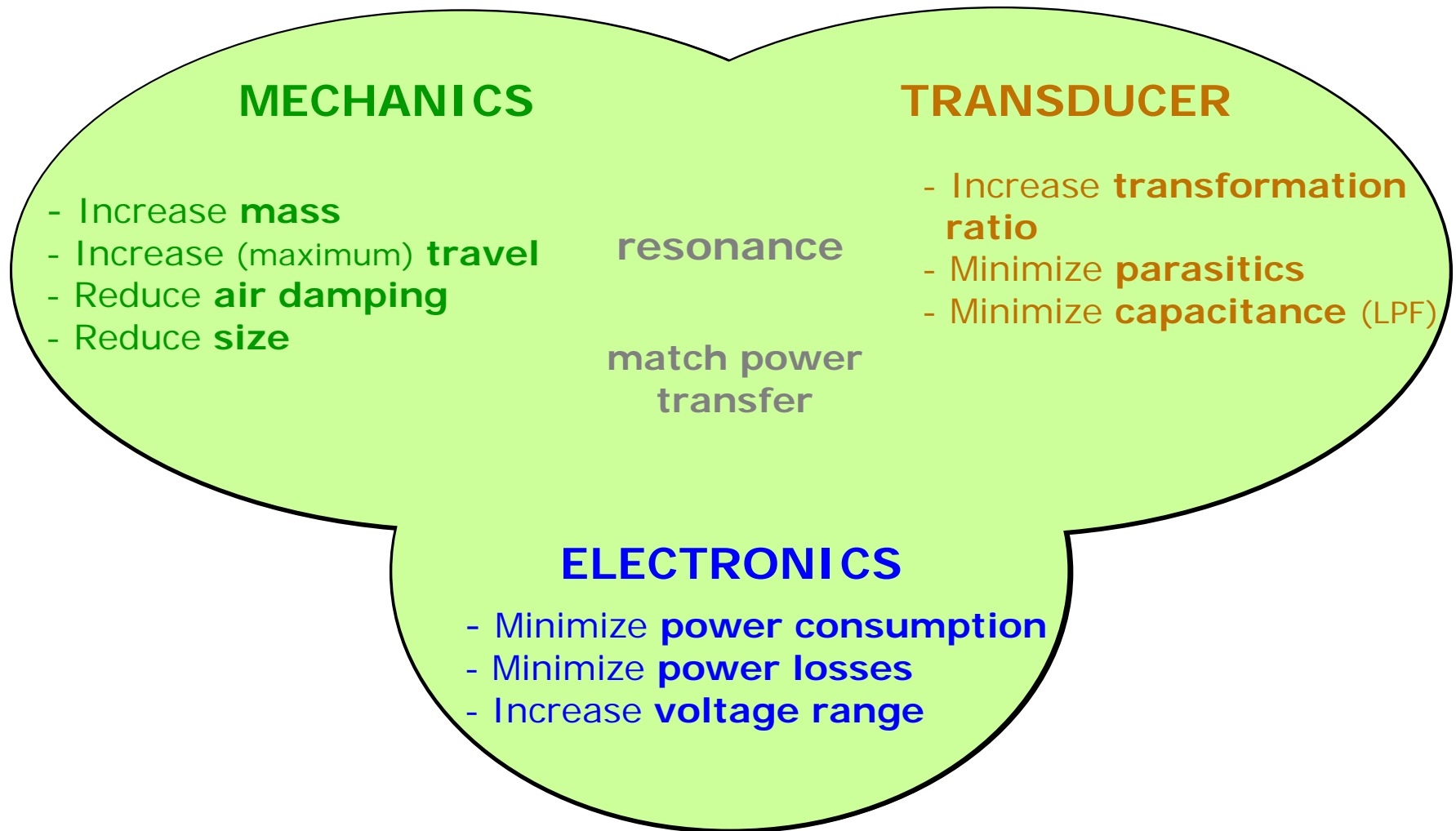
RELIABILITY !!

- Large deformation at resonance
- Friction and stiction

Need for Co-DESIGN !!

- Multiphysics problem

After the good ... now the bad and the ugly ...



Micropower: Harvesting Sources



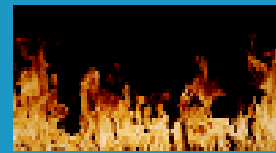
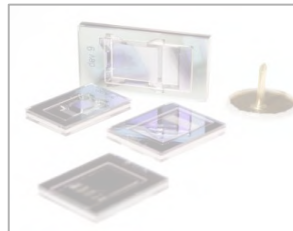
Photovoltaic

Outdoor
10 mW/cm²
Indoor
10 μ W/cm²



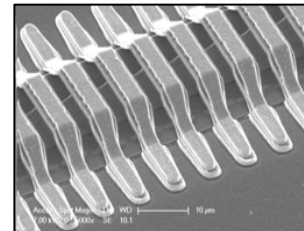
Vibration

Man
4 μ W/cm²
Machine
100 μ W/cm²



Thermal

Man
20 μ W/cm²
Machine
1-10 mW/cm²



RF

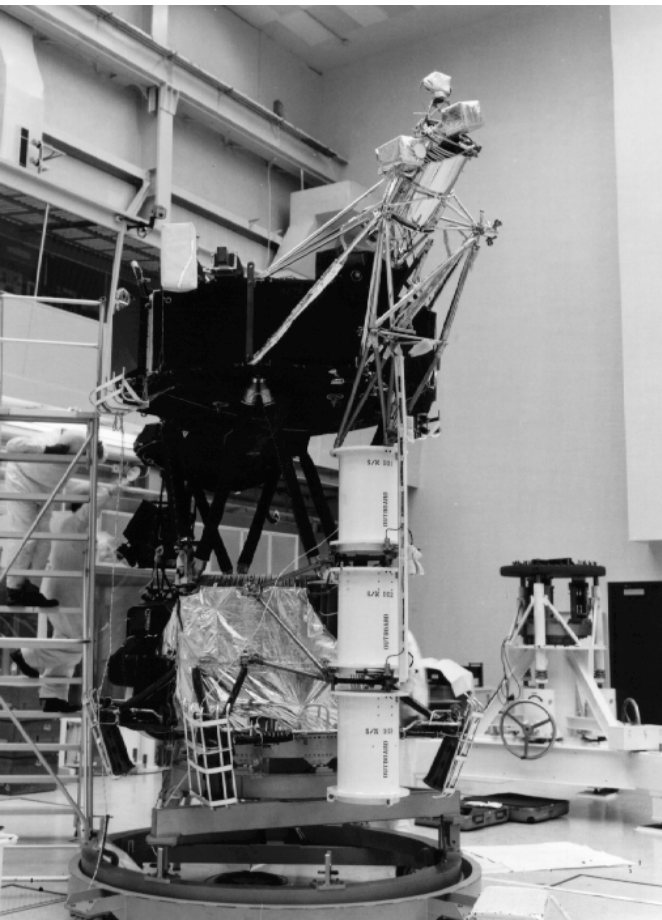
GSM
0.1 μ W/cm²
WiFi
0.01 μ W/cm²



Thermal Energy Harvester State-of-the-art

Thermoelectric generators

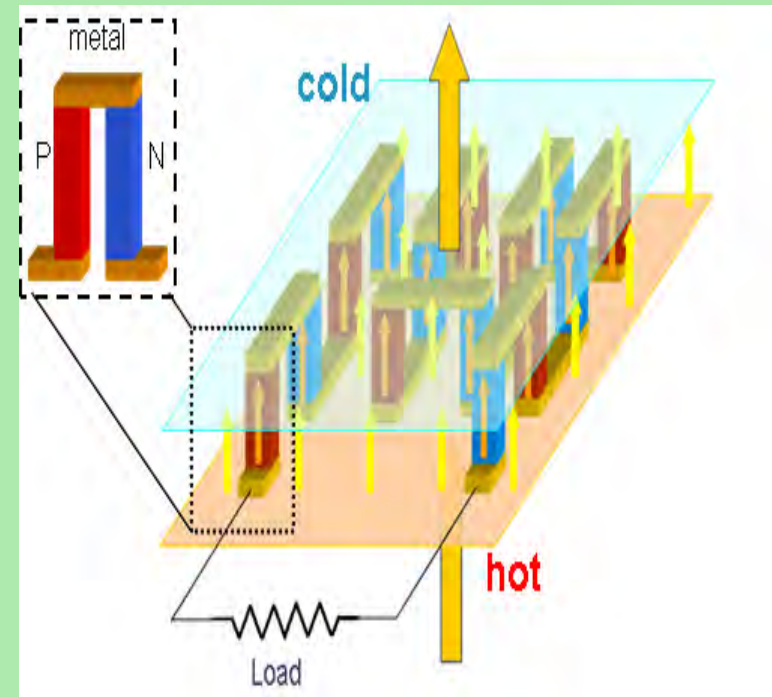
- **Basic principle: Seebeck effect**
- **Many macroscopic embodiments**
- **First miniature embodiments in watch industry**



Voyager RTG
 ^{238}Pu
87.7 years half-life
390 Watt generated
(7200 Watt thermal)

(not a 'true'
scavenger)

MACRO



Bulova, 1982

MINI

Thermal Energy Harvester State-of-the-art

Body-temperature harvesters date back 30 years !

- **Bulova Thermatron**

- Reported and introduced 1980
- 2000 \$ (1982)
- 700 thermocouples, 0.25mV/thermocouple, 175mV open circuit voltage, 10 μ Watt generated power

" Los Angeles Times Special in Chicago Sun-Times, August 17, 1980, p. 37.

Bulova Watch Co. researchers in Switzerland have scored a technological breakthrough that may have a permanent impact on not only the watch industry, but also on other small battery-powered appliances, such as hearing aids

Describing an electric quartz watch that needs no battery, the article explains:

It operates off a sophisticated new solid state device called a Thermatron, which uses body heat to generate electricity to power the watch. Unlike batteries, which last about a year, the Thermatron lasts almost indefinitely, Bulova says.

The Thermatron is a tiny thermo-electric generator that produces energy when it detects even a 1 degree difference-between body heat and an insulated portion of the quartz mechanism.



Thermal Energy Harvester State-of-the-art

Body-temperature harvesters date back 30 years !

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proved with the purchase of modern equipment and technology.

In the marketing area a new merchandising team redesigned and upgraded the entire Accutron, Bulova and Caravelle watch lines in order to give each a distinct look in its price range. Introductions will take place throughout 1981. A marketing program has been developed to emphasize the prestige and beauty of the Bulova Swiss Watch collection.

Substantial sales progress was achieved by the Bulova Clock Division, which now has a line of boutique, alarm, mantel and wall clocks comprising almost 200 models.

Confidence in the steps taken to improve quality has led to the introduction of a two-year warranty for watches instead of the one-year term customary in the watch industry.

Development of a patented new watch called Thermatron®, which incorporates a unique system using body heat to power the watch, was announced during the year.

While the jewelers' 1980 Christmas season, traditionally the most important in the watch business, was generally soft, the programs planned to mature in 1981 should result in solid progress for Bulova.

period, 2,421,521 shares of common stock were issued on exercise of outstanding warrants to purchase shares of the Company's common stock, which expired on November 29, 1980. At February 27, 1981, 12,822,000 shares of common stock were outstanding.

Loews management continues to be sensitive to the uncertain economic conditions impacting our businesses. Continued devotion to building those businesses, with careful allocation of capital where we believe it will result in the greatest returns for our shareholders, will enable us to continue to grow and prosper.

In this annual report, on pages 40 through 42, shareholders will find balance sheets, statements of income and statements of changes in financial position, accounting for CNA as an investment under the equity method of accounting, as compared to its consolidation in our financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. We think these statements will aid you in assessing our inherent strengths.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we thank our employees and shareholders for their commitment and support.

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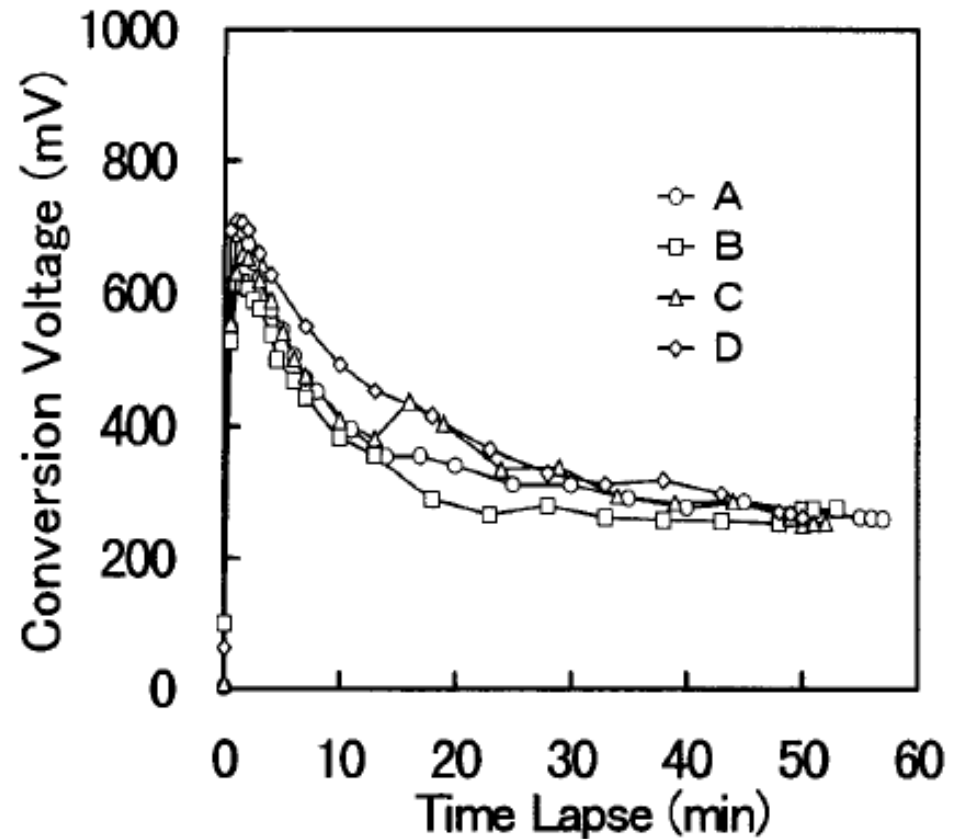
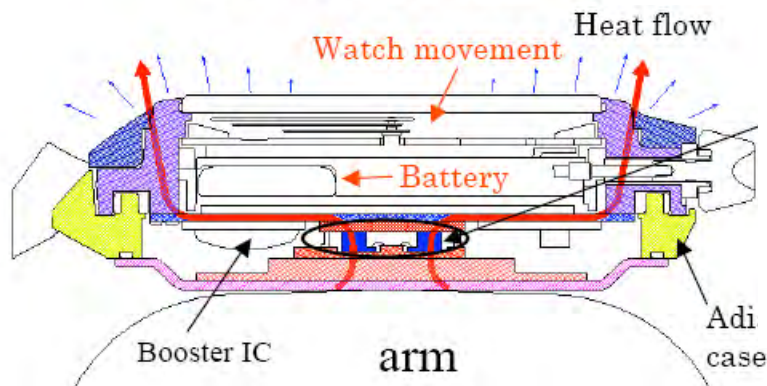
Thermal Energy Harvester State-of-the-art

Body-temperature harvesters date back 30 years !

- **TEG watches revisited: Seiko SII Thermic® from 1998**
 - Uses 10 thermoelectric generator modules and a DC/DC convertor IC
 - 300,000 yen



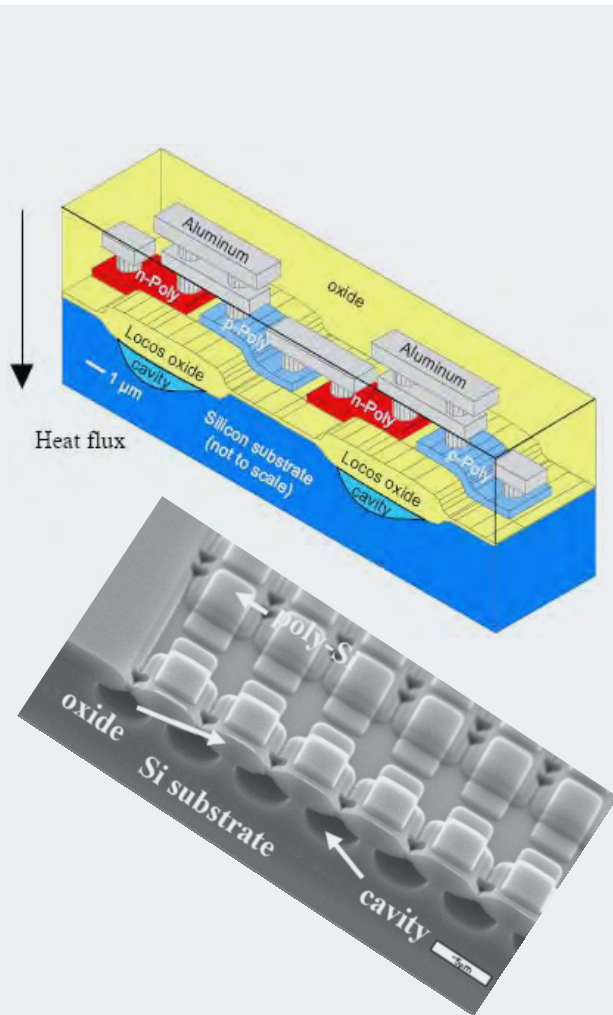
Thermal energy watch



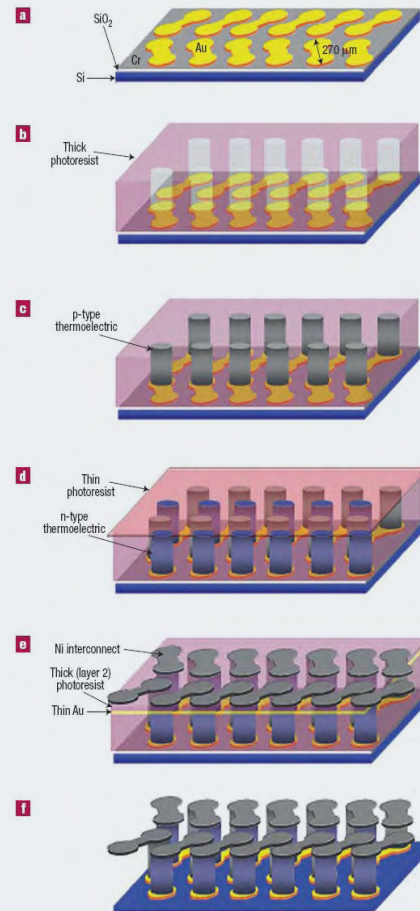
source : SEIKO

Thermal Energy Harvester State-of-the-art

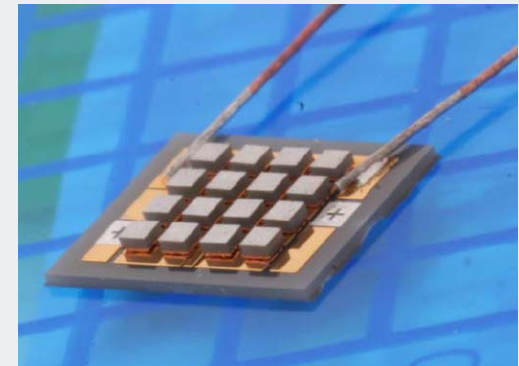
Miniature or Micromachined Thermal Generators



Strasser, Infineon,
Sensors & Actuators 2002
(0.1) 1uW/cm² for (4) 14 °C
forced temperature difference



G. J. Snyder, J.R. Lim, C-K
Huang, J-P. Fleurial, JPL
Nature Materials 2003
1μW at 2mV under
external flux



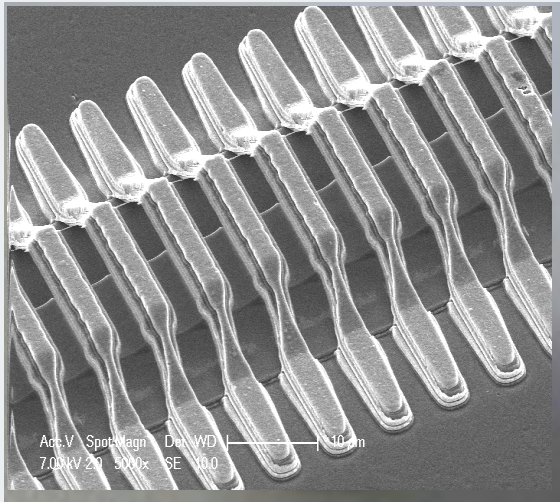
Nextreme Thermal Solutions BiTe/SbTe SL
140μW at $\Delta T = 0.8K$, 5mV open circuit
voltage



Source: Fraunhofer 2007
200mV open circuit voltage

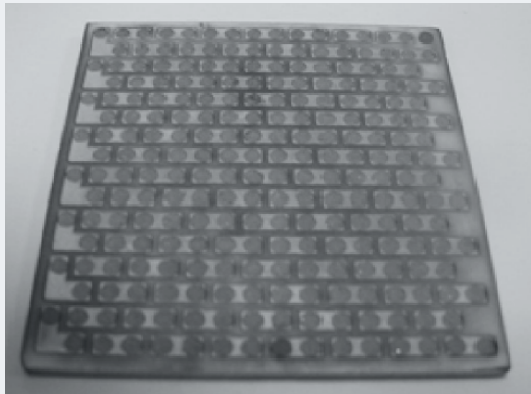
Thermal Energy Harvester State-of-the-art

Miniature or Micromachined Thermal Generators



polySiGe thermopiles

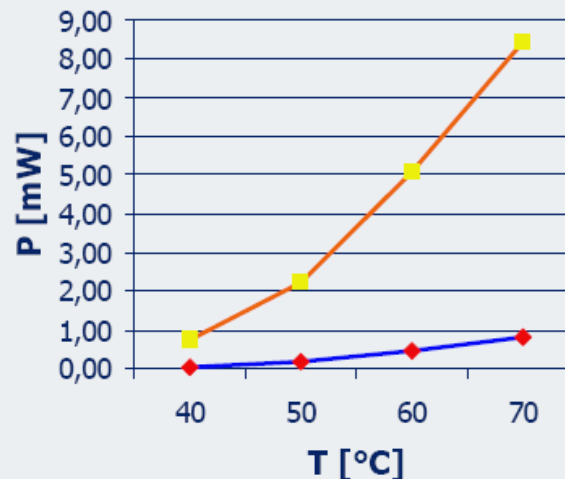
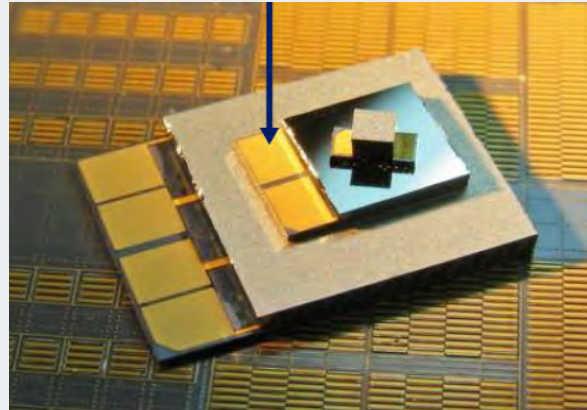
Source: Leonov & Wang, **IMEC**



Source: LETI

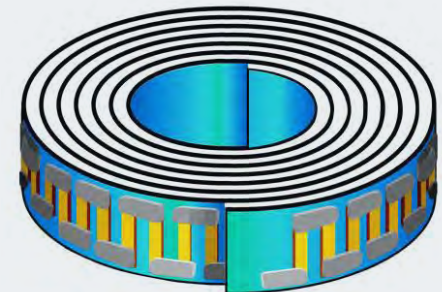
$4 \mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$ at $\Delta T = 1^\circ\text{C}$

1 V at $\Delta T = 60^\circ\text{C}$



Source: Micropelt TEG (shown without cooler)

Courtesy Harald Böttner, FhG IPM



5200 BiTe thermocouples on kapton tape

$123 \mu\text{W}$ at $\Delta T = 5\text{K}$
 $(42.5 \mu\text{A at } 2.9\text{V})$

Source: **ThermoLife**

After the good ... now the bad and the ugly ...

GENERATED VOLTAGES !!

- Voltage output can be in the millivolts

RELIABILITY !!

- MEMS production YIELD challenge: Many elements in series

COST !!

- Traditional TEG manufacturing is too expensive
- Exotic new materials are promising but cost TBD

After the good ... now the bad and the ugly ...

- Further improved **PERFORMANCE** could be achieved using new materials
- Provided the **COST** and **RELIABILITY** are manageable

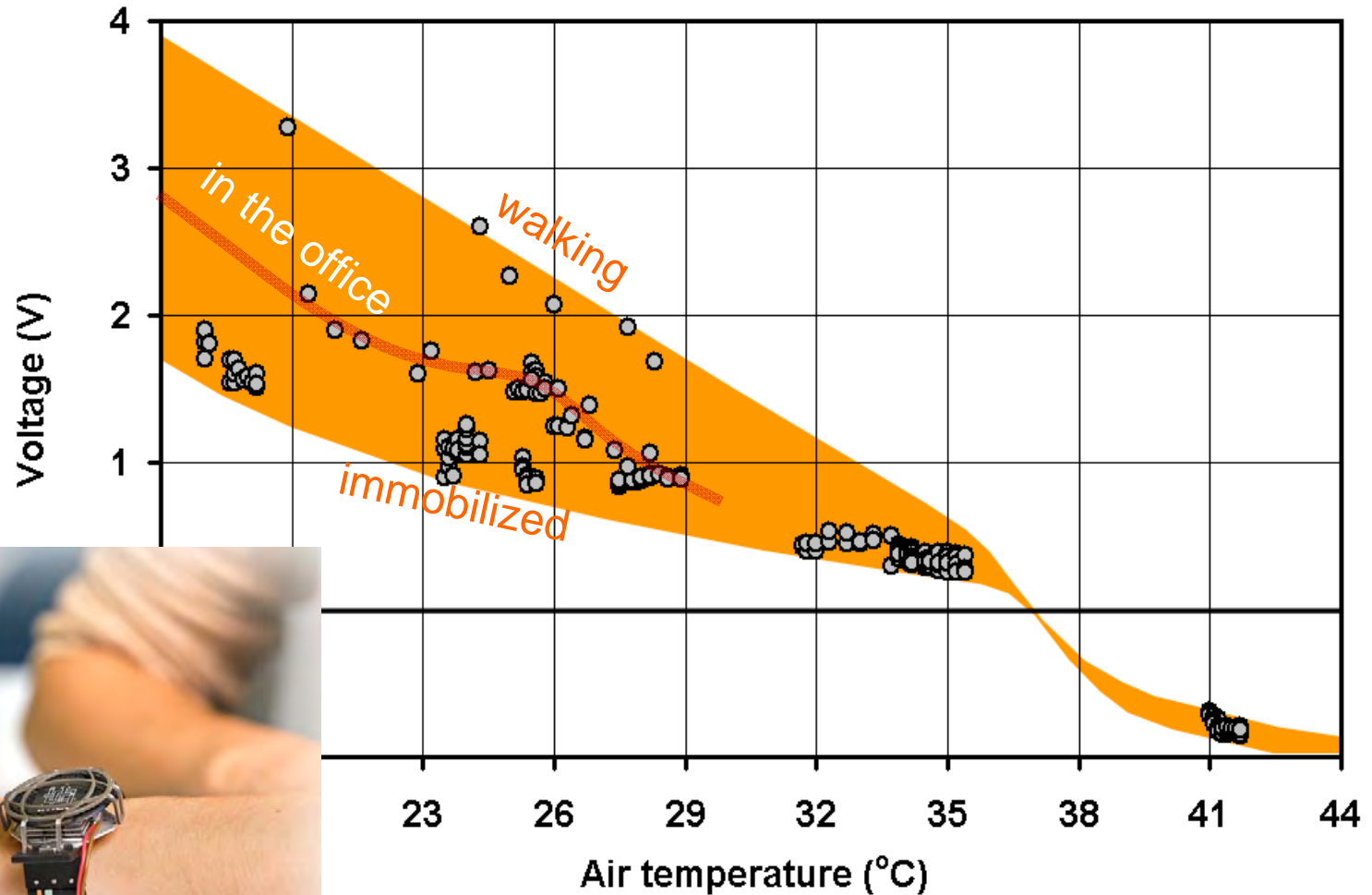


Typ	Material	Price in \$/kg (metals)
V-VI	Bi_2Te_3	140
IV-VI	PbTe	99
Zn_4Sb_3	Zn_4Sb_3	4
Silicides	p-MnSi1.73	24
	n-Mg ₂ Si _{0.4} Sn _{0.6}	18
	Si _{0.80} Ge _{0.20}	660
	Si _{0.94} Ge _{0.06}	270
Skutterutides	CoSb_3	11
Half-Heusler	TiNiSn	55
n/p-Clathrate	$\text{Ba}_8\text{Ga}_{16}\text{Ge}_{30}$	1000 without Ba
Oxides	p-NaCo ₂ O ₄	17 without Na, O
	p-Yb ₁₄ MnSb ₁₁	92
Zintl Phasen	Th_3P_4	160
	$\text{La}_{3-x}\text{Te}_4$	



After the good ... now the bad and the ugly ...

- CAUTION: thermal generation from humans in a real-life environment depends on many factors: metabolism, heat balance, activity, ambient temperature, humidity, ...



Source: V. Leonov, IMEC

Micropower: Harvesting Sources



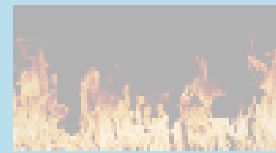
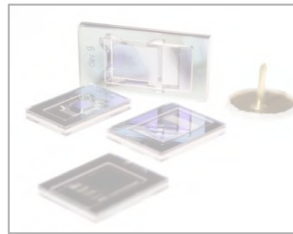
Photovoltaic

Outdoor
10 mW/cm²
Indoor
10 μ W/cm²



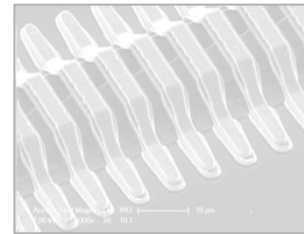
Vibration

Man
4 μ W/cm²
Machine
100 μ W/cm²



Thermal

Man
20 μ W/cm²
Machine
1-10 mW/cm²

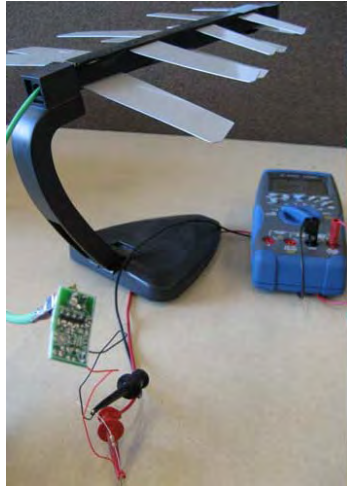


RF

GSM
0.1 μ W/cm²
WiFi
0.01 μ W/cm²



Passive vs. Active RF Harvesting



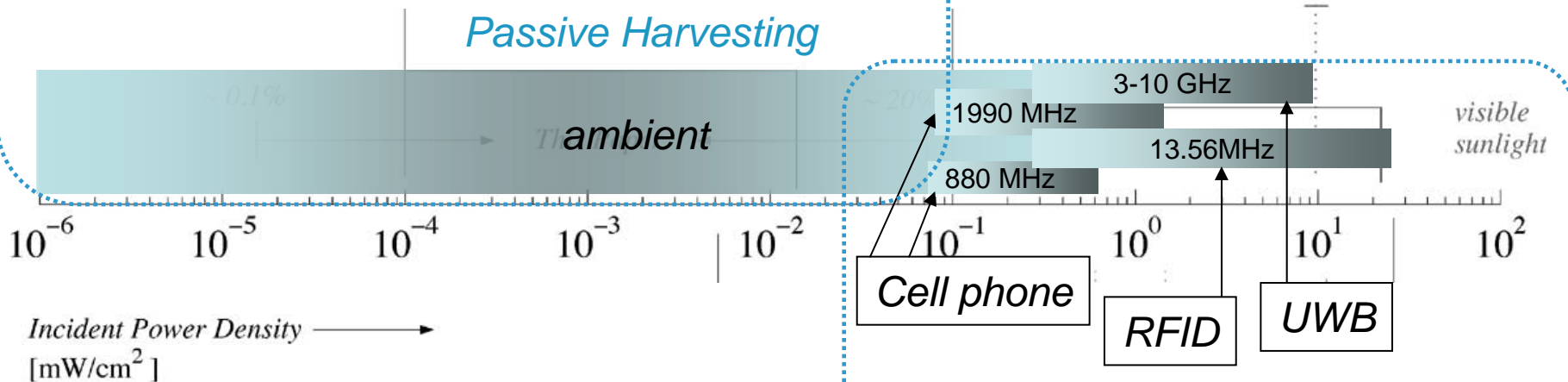
Intel demo:

Area $\sim 30 \times 20 \text{ cm}^2$

Power $\sim 60 \mu\text{W} \rightarrow 0.1 \mu\text{W}/\text{cm}^2$

At 4 km of source

Passive Harvesting



Active Harvesting (Energy Transfer)

Source: Hagerty et al.

RF Energy Transfer

First systems on the market
Room for improvement

Power transfer: Friis Eq:

$$P_R = \frac{P_T G_T G_R \lambda^2}{(4\pi)^2 R^2}$$

λ : Wavelength used

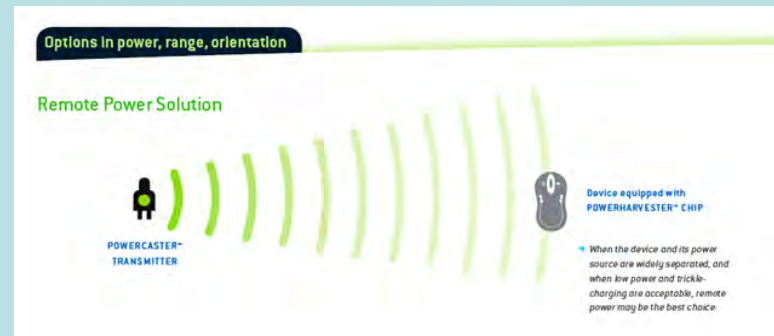
- **Standardization**

G_r, G_T : Antenna Gain

- **Optimize Design**

$P_T P_R$: Power transmitted, received

- **AC-DC converter gain**
- **Integration**
- **Legal/Health Regulations**



15mW@30cm

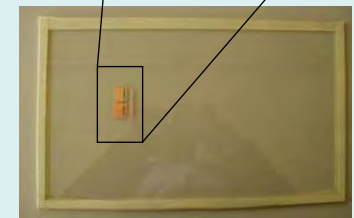
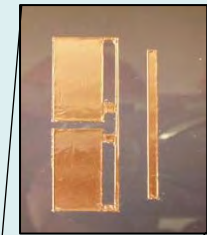
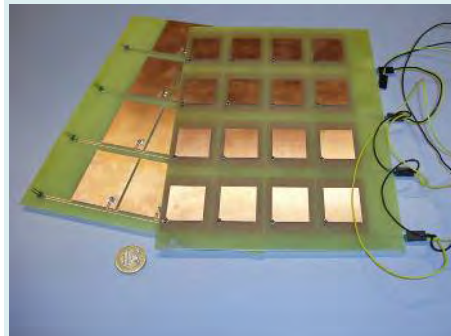
$P_T \sim 3W$

www.powercast.com

$P_T = 100mW$

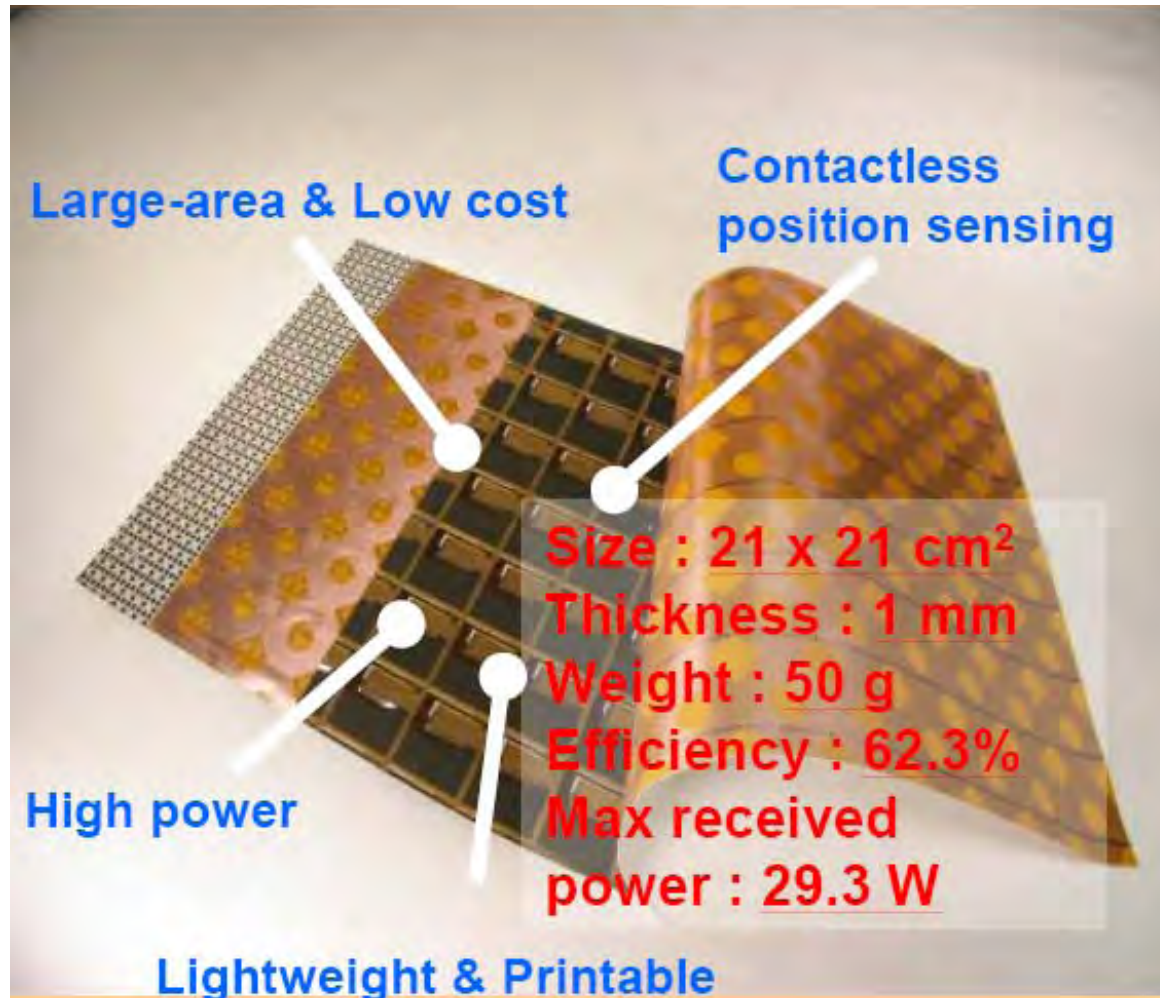
$P_R = 1.5mW@20cm$

Visser et al. (Imec)



RF Energy Transfer

RF powering for ambient intelligence applications



Takayasu Sakurai, University of Tokyo
IEDM2006, ISSCC2007, ISSCC2008

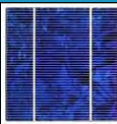
No practical power without power *management*

Harvesting Sources

Design, Fabrication and Testing



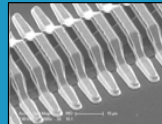
Photovoltaic



Vibration



Thermal



RF

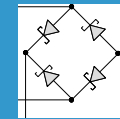


Micropower Module

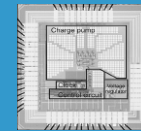
Power management

IC Design and Testing

AC/DC



DC/DC



Energy Storage Systems

Characterization and Selection

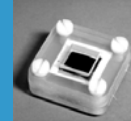
Battery



Supercap



Biofuel cell

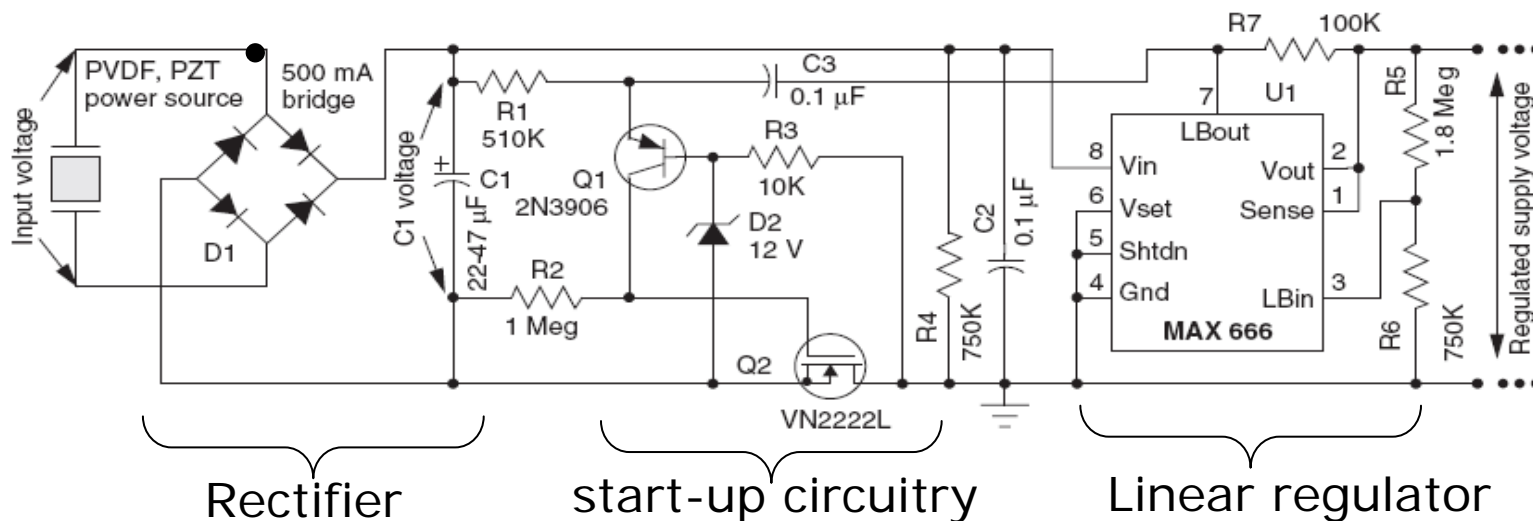


Power Management Circuits for Vibration/Motion Energy Harvesters

- **The earliest (basic but complete) system**
 - + Low power consumption, simple control: 15 μ A
 - + Input power: ~ 1.3 mW
 - + Self-starting
 - Voltage drop across diodes
 - Losses in linear regulator



source : J.A. Paradiso, 2001



Integration of micropower storage (mW- μ W range) is a challenge



Thin-film-flexible



Lithium-flexible



Lithium-coin



Printable



Supercapacitor

Emerging (thin film) storage systems are being introduced

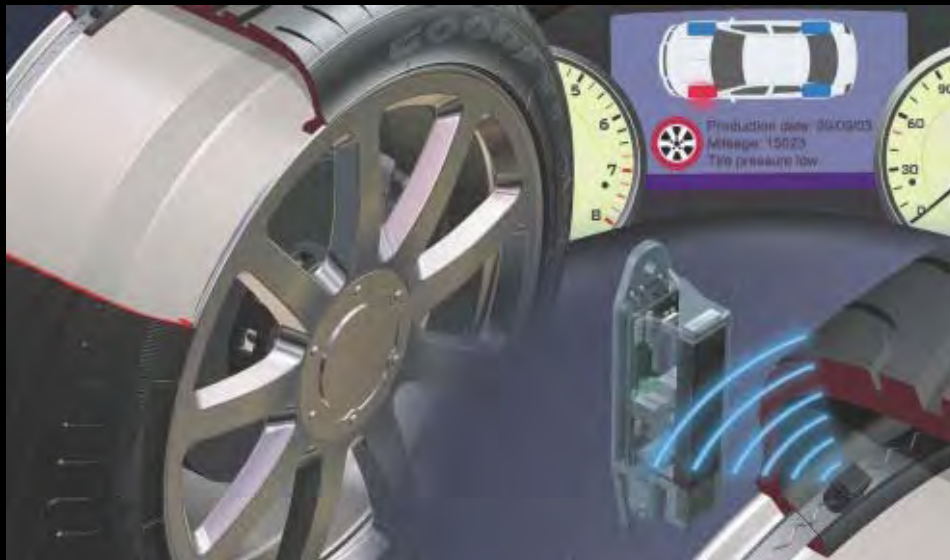
The road towards
Energy Autonomy

Towards
Practical
Use
Cases



Anticipated killer applications of Vibrational Energy Harvesting

TPMS *Tire Pressure Monitoring System*



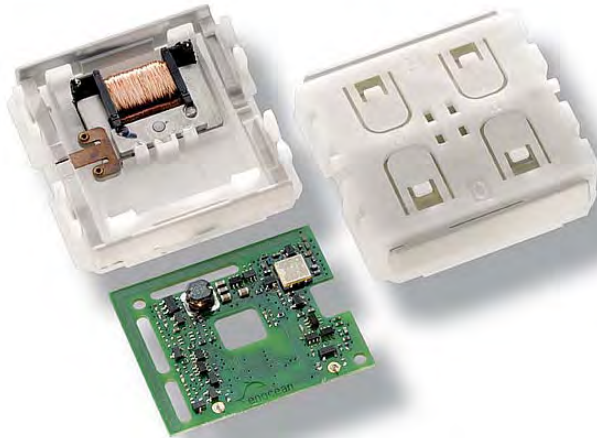
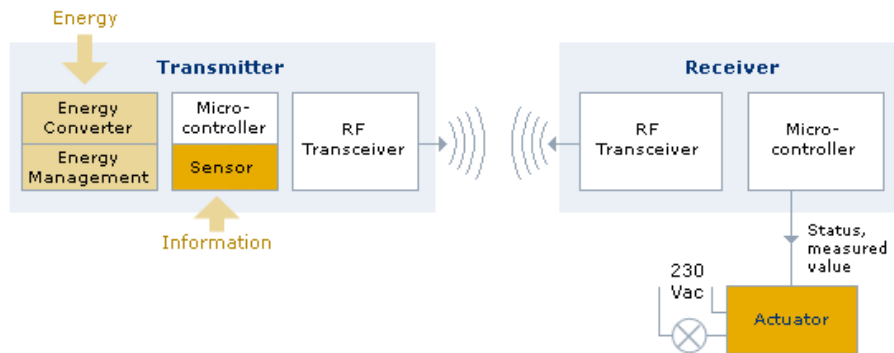
Predictive Maintenance



Selected Current Use Cases (not MEMS enabled)

Electromagnetic transducers

- ENOCEAN, targeting light switching



Source: EnOcean
<http://www.enocean.com/en/>

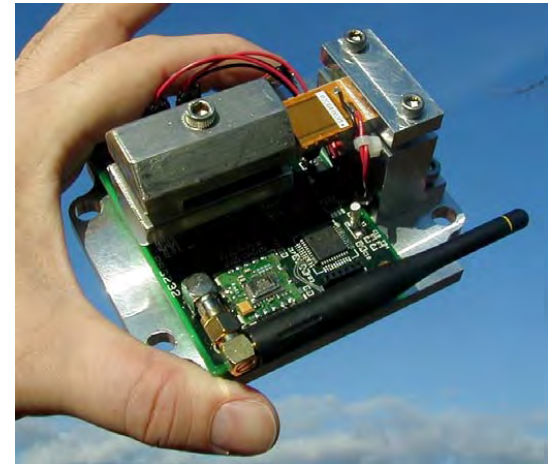
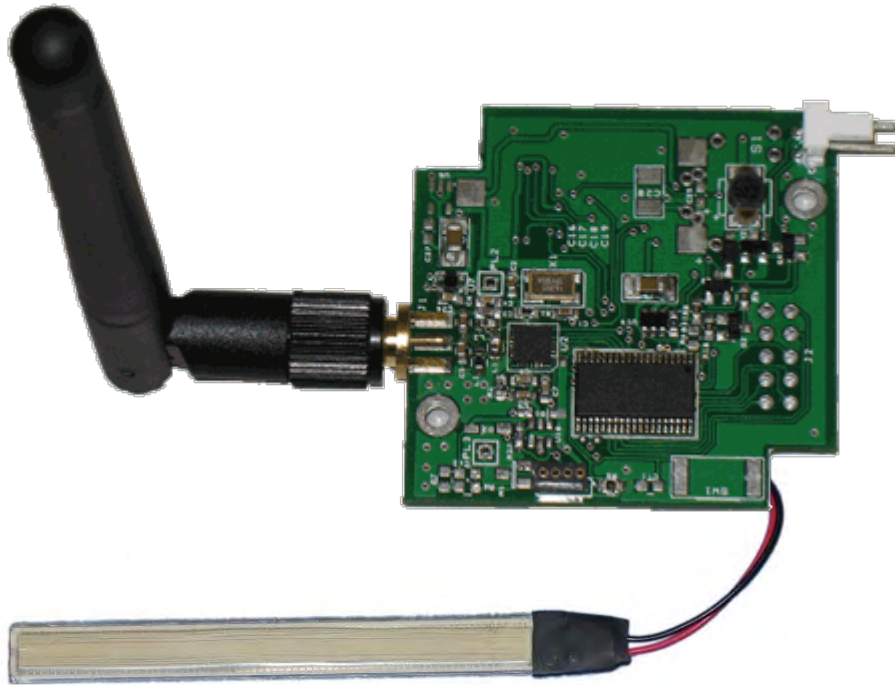
- PERPETUUM, targeting oilfield applications (intrinsically-Safe)
 - Operates from the prevalent 100Hz and 120Hz vibration bands on electrical machines
 - Typically >0.3mW power output on 95% of machines
 - Sealed stainless steel, 10 year operational lifetime



Source: perpetuum, <http://www.perpetuum.co.uk/>
 Courtesy Steve Beeby, Uni. Southampton

Selected Current Use Cases (not MEMS enabled) Piezoelectric Transducers

- Ambiosystems **Wireless Mote**
- Microstrain **Wireless Sensor Nodes**



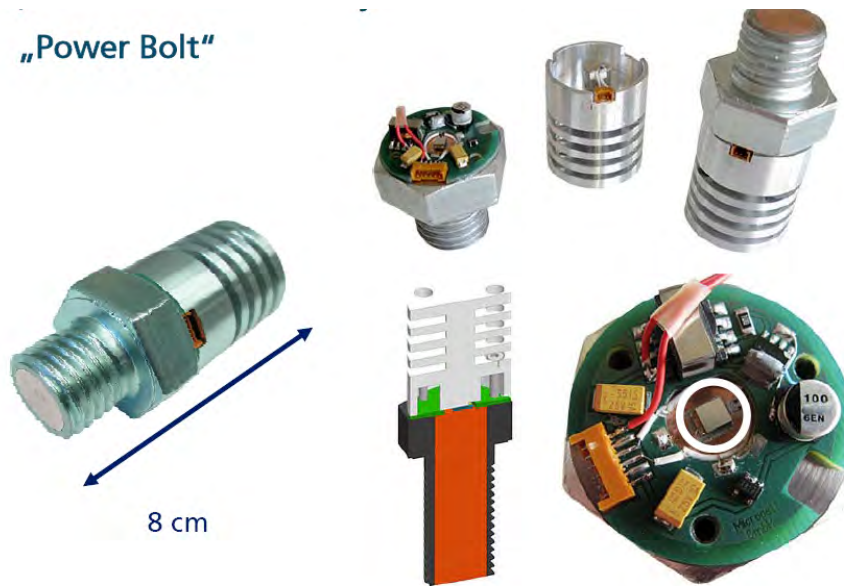
Experimental location
approximately 1/3 of
the span

Towards Practical Use Cases

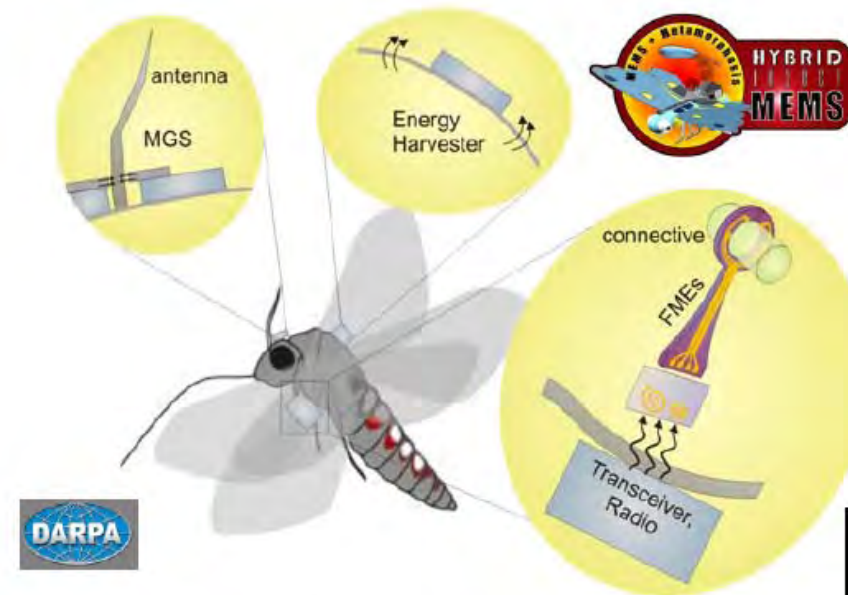
Ongoing research examples

- Powerbolt - Self-powered Status Monitoring (FhG & Micropelt)
- Self-powered flight control of flying insects (MIT)

„Power Bolt“

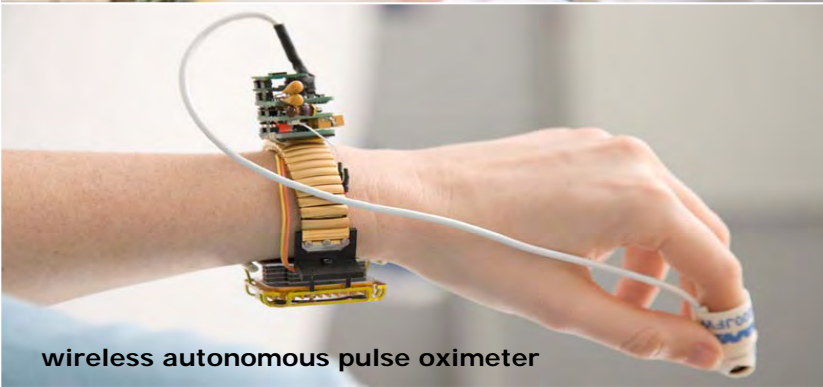


Courtesy: Harald Böttner
Fraunhofer IPM

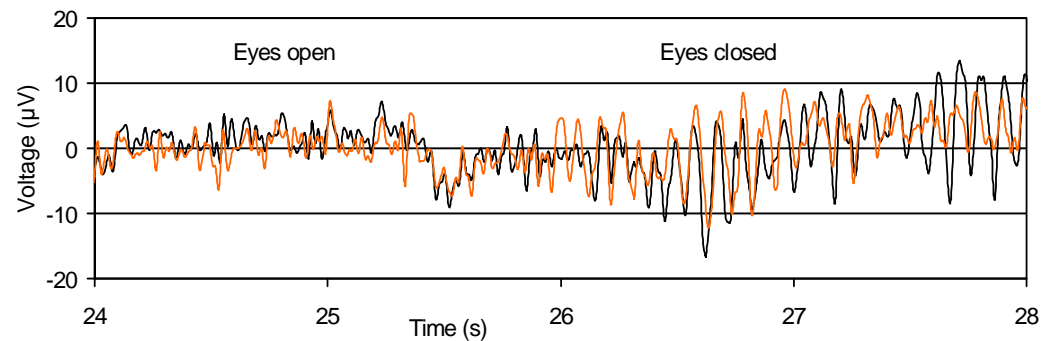


Courtesy: Anantha Chandrakasan, MIT
Program PI: Joel Voldman, MIT

Towards Practical Use Cases - Ongoing research examples: Body-heat Self-powered Devices



wireless autonomous pulse oximeter



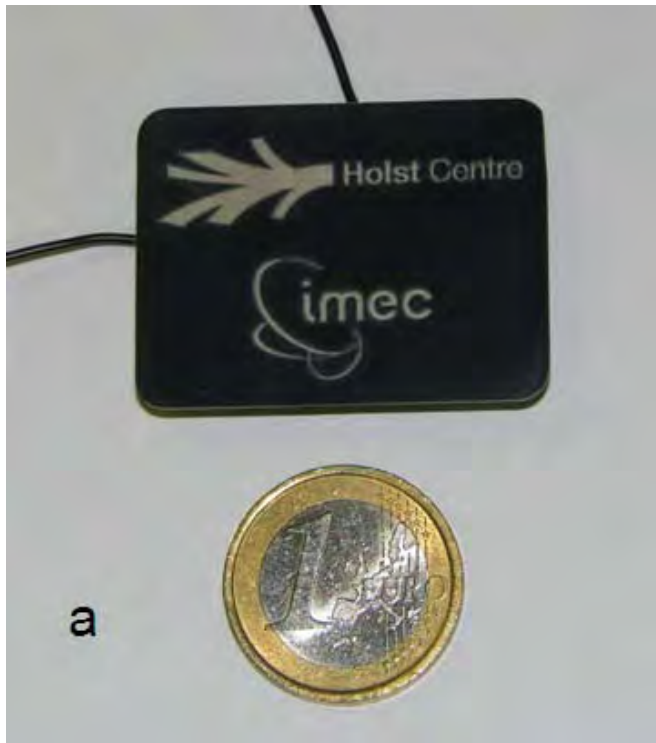
wireless autonomous EEG monitoring

Towards Practical Use: Thermal generator in-a-shirt

2 PV devices and 14 TEG

1-2mW indoor (when walking)

3mW outdoor (when walking)



**Wireless
ECG
System**

**Efficient
power
management
+
ULP
biopotential
readout ASIC**



Cost – this minor detail

- Remember: COST nearly bankrupted early adopters of thermal energy harvesting in the watch industry ...
- Micromachined energy harvesters are mainly benchmarked with respect to their power output, not their cost/Wh
- A correct cost comparison should not compare the cost of a harvester to that of a battery but to the total number of batteries or the total recharge cost



How Green is Energy harvesting (really) ?

- Whether this is "GREEN" energy depends on energy payback time (what is the energy used in the production of the harvesters)
- Whether this is "GREEN" energy depends on the bill of materials used in the production and a comparison of 1 harvester replacing many batteries

Conclusions and Outlook

- Gradual evolution from HYPE to REALITY
- Green Engineering using energy harvesting is however visibly emerging: real-life industrial (inc. automotive) and health applications are appearing on the market
- Methods to generate energy are diverse – no standard product yet
- From REALITY to MAINSTREAM/KILLER APPLICATION will depend on achievable total cost compared to competing (battery, fuel cell) technologies

Acknowledgments

- **Steve Beeby, University of Southampton**
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- **Energy Scavenging Group, Imec - Holst centre**



Feel secure

Save energy

Lower cost

Save time

Keep track

Stay tuned

Anticipate

Improve performance

Green engineering WORKSHOP

Thursday 28th January 2010, Neuchâtel



Holst Centre

Open Innovation by IMEC-NL and TNO