## Contents

- vii Conference Committee
- ix Introduction
- xi Lateral spread of MEMS WDM technologies (Plenary Paper) [7930-202]
  H. Toshiyoshi, The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan)
- xxiii Toy Story: what I have learned from playing with toys about the physics of living cells (Plenary Paper) [7929-203]
  R. H. Austin, Princeton Univ. (United States)

### SESSION 1 PACKAGING AND INTEGRATION TECHNOLOGIES OF MOEMS/MEMS/NEMS I

#### 7928 02

Atomic layer deposition/molecular layer deposition for packaging and interconnect of N/MEMS (Keynote Paper) [7928-01]
Y. C. Lee, Univ. of Colorado at Boulder (United States)

#### 7928 03

Revolutionary innovation in system interconnection: a new era for the IC (Invited Paper) [7928-02]
M. S. Bakir, P. A. Thadesar, C. King, J. Zaveri, H. S. Yang, C. Zhang, Y. Zhang, Georgia Institute of Technology (United States)

#### 7928 04

Spherical and non-spherical high fill-factor microlens arrays fabricated by polymer coating on isotropically etched quartz [7928-03]
M. Nam, H. Oh, G. Kim, Ajou Univ. (Korea, Republic of); H. Seo, Y. Song, Opto FineTech Inc. (Korea, Republic of); S. S. Yang, K.-K. Lee, Ajou Univ. (Korea, Republic of)

### SESSION 2 PACKAGING AND INTEGRATION TECHNOLOGIES OF MOEMS/MEMS/NEMS II

#### 7928 05

Packaging of MEMS/OEEMS and nanodevices: reliability, testing, and characterization aspects (Invited Paper) [7928-04]
T. Tekin, H.-D. Ngo, Technische Univ. Berlin (Germany); O. Wittler, Fraunhofer-Institut für Zuverlässigkeit und Mikrointegration (Germany); B. Bouhlal, Technische Univ. Berlin (Germany); K.-D. Lang, Technische Univ. Berlin (Germany) and Fraunhofer-Institut für Zuverlässigkeit und Mikrointegration (Germany)

#### 7928 06

Silicon TSV interposers for photonics and VLSI packaging (Invited Paper) [7928-05]
N. Vodrahalli, C. Y. Li, V. Kosenko, ALLVIA, Inc. (United States)
SESSION 3 TEST METHODOLOGY AND RELIABILITY

7928 08 Fiber-based multi-beam laser Doppler vibrometer for measuring transient vibrations [7928-07]
M. Guo, Y. Fu, Nanyang Technological Univ. (Singapore); P. B. Phua, Nanyang Technological Univ. (Singapore) and DSO National Labs. (Singapore)

7928 09 Infrared scanning white light interferometry using a solid state light source [7928-08]
V. Heikkinen, Univ. of Helsinki (Finland); J. Aaltonen, Helsinki Institute of Physics (Finland); B. Wächli, H. Räikkönen, Univ. of Helsinki (Finland); I. Kassamakov, Univ. of Helsinki (Finland) and Helsinki Institute of Physics (Finland); T. Cholakova, Central Lab. of Applied Physics (Finland); K. Grigoras, S. Franssila, Aalto Univ. (Finland); R. Kakanakov, Central Lab. of Applied Physics (Finland); E. Hæggström, Univ. of Helsinki (Finland)

7928 0A ESD testing and combdrive snap-in in a MEMS tunable grating under shock and vibration [7928-09]
S. Sundaram, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland) and Birla Institute of Technology and Science (India); M. Tormen, B. Timotijevic, R. Lockhart, R. P. Stanley, Ctr. Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique SA (Switzerland); H. R. Shea, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)

7928 0B Reliability of MEMS (Invited Paper) [7928-10]
A. Dommann, A. Neels, Ctr. Suisse d'Electronique et de Microtechnique SA (Switzerland)

7928 0C Reliability enhancement of Ohmic RF MEMS switches [7928-11]
S. Kurth, S. Leidich, Fraunhofer-Institut für Elektronische Nanosysteme (Germany); A. Bertz, M. Nowack, Technische Univ. Chemnitz (Germany); J. Frömel, Fraunhofer-Institut für Elektronische Nanosysteme (Germany); C. Kaufmann, Technische Univ. Chemnitz (Germany); W. Faust, T. Gessner, Fraunhofer-Institut für Elektronische Nanosysteme (Germany); A. Akiba, K. Ikeda, Sony Corp. (Japan)

7928 0D Crack growth and reliability modeling of multi-layer capacitors in microelectronics applications [7928-12]
G. Sharon, D. Barker, Univ. of Maryland, College Park (United States)

SESSION 4 RELIABILITY OF MEMS FOR SPACE APPLICATIONS

7928 0E Effects of radiation on MEMS (Invited Paper) [7928-13]
H. R. Shea, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)

7928 0F Reliability of Sn/Pb and lead-free (SnAgCu) solders of surface mounted miniaturized passive components for extreme temperature (-185°C to +125°C) space missions [7928-14]
R. Ramesham, Jet Propulsion Lab. (United States)

7928 0G Displacement damage effects in silicon MEMS at high proton doses [7928-15]
J. Gomes, H. R. Shea, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland)
SESSION 5  DEVICES FOR SPACE APPLICATIONS I

7928 OH  MEMS technology to achieve miniaturization, redundancy, and new functionality in space (Invited Paper) [7928-16]
T.-A. Grönland, M. Bendixen, J. Bejhed, H. Johansson, K. Jonsson, P. Rangsten, NanoSpace AB (Sweden)

7928 0I  MOEMS for prospective space applications (Invited Paper) [7928-17]
T. Viard, C. Buisset, Thales Alenia Space (France); F. Zamkotsian, Lab. d’Astrophysique de Marseille (France); V. Costes, Ctr. National d’Études Spatiales (France); L. Venancio, European Space Research and Technology Ctr. (Netherlands)

7928 0J  Expanding the spacecraft application base with MEMS gyros (Invited Paper) [7928-18]
T. Brady, The Charles Stark Draper Lab., Inc. (United States)

SESSION 6  DEVICES FOR SPACE APPLICATIONS II: JOINT SESSION WITH CONFERENCE 7930 AND 7931

7928 OK  Improved coupling to integrated spatial heterodyne spectrometers with applications to space [7928-19]
A. Scott, COM DEV Ltd. (Canada) and York Univ. (Canada); P. Bock, National Research Council Canada (Canada) and York Univ. (Canada); C. A. Ramos, Univ. of Malaga (Spain); B. Lamontagne, P. Cheben, National Research Council Canada (Canada); M. Florjańczyk, National Research Council Canada (Canada) and York Univ. (Canada); I. M. Fernandez, Univ. of Malaga (Spain); S. Janz, National Research Council Canada (Canada); A. Ortega-Monux, Univ. of Malaga (Spain); B. Solheim, York Univ. (Canada); D.-X. Xu, National Research Council Canada (Canada)

7928 0L  Integration of optical waveguides and microfluidics in a miniaturized antibody micro-array system for life detection in the NASA/ESA ExoMars mission [7928-20]
A. Prak, H. Leeuwis, R. G. Heideman, A. Leinse, LioniX BV (Netherlands); G. Borst, Dutch Space B.V. (Netherlands)

POSTER SESSION

7928 ON  The interference effect of the Rayleigh wave and two intersecting shear-horizontal waves [7928-22]
H. Lee, H. Oh, K. Lee, S. S. Yang, Ajou Univ. (Korea, Republic of)

7928 0O  A novel wireless Love wave biosensor platform for multifunctional detection [7928-23]
T. Song, M. Nam, S. Song, H. C. Yoon, K. Lee, Ajou Univ. (Korea, Republic of)

7928 0P  An investigation into graphene exfoliation and potential graphene application in MEMS devices [7928-25]
G. Fercana, Clemson Univ. (United States) and NASA Goddard Space Flight Ctr. (United States); G. Kletetschka, Catholic Univ. of America (United States), NASA Goddard Space Flight Ctr. (United States), and Geologic Institute (Czech Republic); V. Mikula, Catholic Univ. of America (United States) and NASA Goddard Space Flight Ctr. (United States); M. Li, NASA Goddard Space Flight Ctr. (United States)
Optoelectronic properties and interfacial durability of CNT and ITO on boro-silicate glass and PET substrates with nano- and heterostructural aspects [7928-26]
J.-M. Park, Gyeongsang National Univ. (Korea, Republic of) and The Univ. of Utah (United States); Z.-J. Wang, D.-J. Kwon, Gyeongsang National Univ. (Korea, Republic of); L. DeVries, The Univ. of Utah (United States)

Author Index
Conference Committee

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Session Chairs

1 Packaging and Integration Technologies of MOEMS/MEMS/NEMS I
Sonia Garcia-Blanco, Universiteit Twente (Netherlands)

2 Packaging and Integration Technologies of MOEMS/MEMS/NEMS II
Rajeshuni Ramesham, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (United States)

3 Test Methodology and Reliability
Rajeshuni Ramesham, Jet Propulsion Laboratory (United States)
4 Reliability of MEMS for Space Applications
Sonia Garcia-Blanco, Universiteit Twente (Netherlands)

5 Devices for Space Applications I
Herbert R. Shea, Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne
(Switzerland)

6 Devices for Space Applications II: Joint Session with Conference 7930
and 7931
Sonia Garcia-Blanco, Universiteit Twente (Netherlands)
Joel. A. Kubby, University of California, Santa Cruz (United States)
Introduction

The reliability, packaging, testing, and characterization of MEMS/MOEMS are of significant importance to the commercialization of these advanced and useful emerging technologies. This is the International Reliability Conference and the contributors at this conference attended from around the world. The main objective of this one and only premier reliability conference was to provide a technical forum for in depth investigations and interdisciplinary discussions involving reliability, packaging, testing, and characterization of MEMS/MOEMS. The response to the call for papers was excellent and technically rewarding to the MEMS/MOEMS and Nanodevices community. The Reliability, Packaging, Testing, and Characterization of MEMS/MOEMS and Nanodevices conference was sponsored by SPIE, and was organized as part of the Photonics West 2011’s MOEMS-MEMS symposium. The conference was held 24–25 January 2011 in San Francisco, Moscone Center, California, USA. SPIE Photonics West is the premier international forum for presentation of the latest developments associated with MEMS and MOEMS including reliability, testing, packaging, materials, surfaces, and characterization. This conference on the topic of Reliability, Packaging, Testing, and Characterization has been held for over 10 consecutive years.

In preparing for this year’s conference, 24 high-quality papers were received from various countries. This year, the technical program covered novel advances on Packaging and Integration Technologies of MOEMS/MEMS/NEMS I and II, Test Methodology and Reliability, Reliability of MEMS for Space Applications, Devices for Space Applications I and II and a poster session. A panel discussion on Tuesday evening, “Does Space need MEMS? Qualification of MEMS for Space,” brought together world leaders from both industry and government institutions working towards the development and implementation of MEMS in space. The technical program also had three plenary speakers (symposium level) and eight invited/one keynote speakers from various reputed laboratories around the globe. We had a joint session on “MEMS Devices for Space Applications” with two other MOEMS-MEMS conferences, “MOEMS and Miniaturized Systems X” and “MEMS Adaptive Optics.”

We would like to personally thank Dr. Thomas Suleski and Dr. Harald Schenk (symposium chair and co-chair) and the SPIE staff for their unstinted timely support and encouragement. We would like to thank Dr. Herbert R. Shea and Dr. Wilfried Noell of Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (Switzerland) in supporting as moderators for the panel discussion. We would like to thank the members of the panel discussion for their invaluable views on the direction of the MEMS for space field. We would also like to thank all the session chairs and co-chairs, and the program committee members for their work and support in successfully organizing this conference and reviewing the abstract and proceedings articles. Finally, we would like to thank all the attendees and
everyone who participated in this conference and without whom its success would not have been possible.

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Sonia Garcia-Blanco
Rajeshuni Ramesham