

High Temperature Devices For Aerospace Applications

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Outline

Part 1: High Temperature *Aerospace* Applications (Why?)

- Missions, Benefits, Requirements
- Aeronautics and Space

Part 2: High Temperature *Electronics* Technologies (How?)

- Semiconductor Technologies
- NASA Glenn SiC JFET-R Approach

Sensors & Electronics Benefit "Non-Electronic" Applications

The incorporation of "conventional temperature" silicon IC electronics capabilities into traditionally "non-electronic" systems has enabled critical performance improvements to:

Automobiles and Aircraft (Combustion Engine)

- Sensors & controls for improved fuel efficiency and lower pollution

Energy Production Drilling (Oil, Gas, Geothermal)

- Telemetry for lower-cost and faster drilling

Space Exploration

- Enabled by ICs in launch vehicles and spacecraft

High temperatures are inherent to important applications

Silicon ICs engineered to perform in high-T applications, often with drawbacks

- Specialized silicon ICs (e.g., silicon on insulator) for $T < 250$ °C
- Remotely located ICs with wiring and/or environmental shielding
- Limited operating lifetime or other special operating limitations

Impact of High Temperature Electronics

Slide presented by D. Shaddock of GE Research at 2023 IMAPS International High Temperature Electronics Conference

Distribution A - Approved for public release, distribution unlimited

GE Research (beginning in 1900)

CREATING THE FUTURE

2026

2025 Hypersonics

Bioelectric Medicine

2027 **RISE** Engine

2027 Superconduct-**Direct Air** ing Wind Capture

2027

NNOVATION LEGACY

Slide presented by D. Shaddock of GE Research at 2023 IMAPS International High Temperature Electronics Conference

SCALING IMPACT ACROSS GE

 $7,000+$ $~\sim$ 4M Gas turbines

Imaging, mobile **Aircraft** diagnostic & engines monitoring units

 $^{\sim}50,000$ Wind turbines

GRCTHINK

- Powering 2/3 of commercial departures
- Generating 1/3 of world's electricity \bullet .
- Providing health professionals 16,000+ scans \bullet every minute

Power and High Temperature are characteristics across product

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS, VOL. IE-29, NO. 2, MAY 1982

High-Temperature Electronic Requirements in Aeropropulsion Systems

WILLIAM C. NIEBERDING AND J. ANTHONY POWELL, MEMBER, IEEE

Abstract-This paper discusses the needs for high-temperature electronic and electrooptic devices as they would be used on aircraft engines in either research and development applications, or operational applications. The conclusion reached is that the temperature at which the devices must be able to function is in the neighborhood of 500° to 600°C either for R&D or for operational applications. In R&D applications, the devices must function in this temperature range when in the engine but only for a moderate period of time. On an operational engine, the reliability requirements dictate that the devices be able to be burned-in at temperatures significantly higher than those at which they will function on the engine. The major point made is that semiconductor technology must be pushed well beyond the level at which silicon will be able to function.

I. INTRODUCTION

THE PURPOSE of this paper is to describe the needs for high-temperature electronics in the aircraft engine field.

During this process many prototypes are development purposes. These prototypes, engine components, are operated repeat facilities. For each of these test runs the e is instrumented with the maximum numbe so that as much of the desired information tained from each facility run. Even after for flight, problems arise in its operation of improving its operational characteristic so that this testing process continues well of an engine model. An example of this gram conducted by NASA to modify enging DC9 and the Boeing 727 to reduce the model engine had been in service for many sures generated by environmental concern to an hank and radacion norto of it for rad

CONCLUSION: "We cannot help but feel that high-temperature electronics will indeed have wide application not only to the areas discussed at this conference but also to far more important areas which we just do not have the vision to predict."

Sourc[es: https://doi.org/10.1109/TIE.1982.35664](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIE.1982.356644)4 [& https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/glenn-history/hall-of-fame/biographies/j-anthony-powel](https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/glenn-history/hall-of-fame/biographies/j-anthony-powell/)l/

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Potential Benefits of High Temperature Electronics Has Been Recognized for Decades

Conference Organizers: Sandia National Laboratory (US Dept. of Energy) and US Air Force Research Laboratory

High Temperature Electronics Benefits to NASA Missions

(Electronics thermal limits impacts most missions, even in cold places)

Intelligent Propulsion Systems Space Exploration PMAD

More Electric + Distributed Control Aircraft

Venus Exploration

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Extreme Environment Application Drivers

- Thermoacoustic instabilities
	- Active combustion control
	- Exhaust noise emission
- **Turbine Engines**
- **Combustion**
	- Unstart

Venus

- 460 °C
- **Aggressive** chemistry
- Atmospheric pressure (93 Earth atm.)

X-43A Scramjet with supersonic **Combustion ramjet engine**

instabilities • Mode Transition

sensors for Thermal Protection Systems

Recession

Pressure pulse/shock quantification

Pulse detonation engine

Source: R. Okojie, NASA Glenn Research Center [https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2023000141](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20230001416)6

Instrumentation for Advanced Micro Nuclear Reactors

Intelligence included throughout the engine requires the development of High Temperature Electronics capable of prolonged operation

Key compressor and exhaust regions beyond realm of silicon

Source: S. Garg et a[l., https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2010002960](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20100029602)2

Shorter Term Application: Turbine Engine Ground Test Instrumentation

(~ 1000 hours duration)

Typical - 1300 wires for sensor data communication. Multiplexing, amplification, signal conditioning, and wireless data transmission functionality at point of sensing in high temperature regions would enable greatly improved test instrumentation capability while simultaneously reducing wires & connectors.

What is a FADEC, and what does it do?

Video: https://www.baesystems.com/en-us/productfamily/electronic-engine-controls

Jet Engine Control Architectures

FADEC=Full Authority Digital Engine Controller

Centralized Architecture

Distributed "smart nodes" (some High-T) enable improved combustion control with far less wiring.

Source: S. Garg et a[l., https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2010002960](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20100029602)2 Additional Inf[o: https://www.decwg.or](https://www.decwg.org/pages/difference)g

Longer Term Application: On-Engine Electronics, MEMS, Actuators

Add capability without adding connectors, cables, plumbing need for Ultimate goal: "Lick and Stick" high temperature self-powered wireless nodes.

Active Control for enhanced performance and reliability, and reduced emissions - active control of combustor, compressor, vibration etc. - MEMS based control applications

Advanced Health Management for self diagnostic and prognostic propulsion system

- Life usage monitoring and prediction
- Data fusion from multiple sensors and model based information

Distributed, Fault-Tolerant Engine Control for enhanced reliability, reduced weight and optimal performance with system deterioration

- Smart sensors and actuators
- Robust, adaptive control

Multifold increase in propulsion system affordability, reliability, performance, capability and safety

Longer Term Application: MEMS Jet Engine Compressor Surge/Stall Control

Jet engine with array of MEMS highly sensitive pressure sensors, smart processing electronics, and microactuators/micro bleed valves located on the shroud surrounding the compressor rotor.

Sensors and smart electronics would register pressure instabilities indicating imminent onset of compressor stall, open microbleed valves to alter flow in time to prevent compressor stall.

Would enable significant reduction of compressor over-design (excess stages) and improve engine reliability.

Mass Flow

Source: S. Garg et a[l., https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2010002960](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20100029602)2 a[nd https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2013001343](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20130013439)9

approaches are enabled!

Pressure Sensor Approaches for Enabling Active Jet-Engine Control

(Simplified Cross-Section of **Pressure Sensor** Mounted on **Jet Engine Outer Wall**)

P-Sensor Remote

Location

Sensor

Engine Wall **Engine Wall Liquid Cooled Sensor High-T Sensor Remote** Gas Pressure
Pressure
Propagation Tube
Vietname **Location** High-T P Sensor Low-T P Sensor High-T P Senso Galant
Gas Flush-Mount
Low-T P Senso
Com-T P Senso **Sensor** Flush-Mount -Mount Pipe to Pump Flush Engine Wall Engine Wall Engine Wall Engine Wall Gas Flow **Hot Pressure Region of Action** Hot Pressure Region of Action Hot Pressure Region of Action (e.g., Compressor, Combustor) (e.g., Compressor, Combustor) (e.g., Compressor, Combustor) Major Drawbacks: Adverse overhead of **If long-term durable & stable response,** Major Drawback: Tube loss of high-f **advanced stall and combustion control** pressure behavior impedes timely cooling system (weight & reliability), and

For more info see: Jang & L[ee https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csite.2022.10218](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.csite.2022.102184)4

coolant-flow crosstalk.

detection of flow instability.

High Temperature SiC Pressure Sensors at NASA Glenn

Single-chip of 4H-SiC piezoresistors etched over thinned diaphragm region. Packaged in tube/header for flush-mount insertion into small hole in wall of jet engine (is very challenging!!). Enables direct sensing of hot-zone high-frequency pressure signals without active cooling. HIGH-T ELECTRONICS TO AMPLIFY SMALL SENSOR SIGNALS FOR TRANSMISSION OUT OF HOT ZONE IS ALSO VITAL!

Integrated Pressure/Temperature Sensor for 800 oC Operation

Integrated Pressure/Temp Sensors at 800 °**C without Cooling**

Accurate Pressure/Temp Relationship, Real-time Temperature Compensation and Voltage-Pressure Conversion.

Full-bandwidth Capture of Pressure Transient due to Direct Interaction with Flow-Field at High Temperature.

Unique Characteristic: No wire bond Direct Chip Attach

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 1.282 nm^2

Source: R. Okojie NASA Glenn

Reliability by Design-Matching Critical Components

The Case for High Temperature Electronics in Aircraft Power Systems

(Conventional combustion jet engine propulsion aircraft)

Growth of electrical systems/power demand on commercial and military aircraft has continued unabated for decades.

- Performance-driven, providing both commercial competitive and tactical military advantages
- Mechanical/pneumatic actuation replacement with electric motor actuation
- Communications, radar, information/entertainment displays, electronic warfare, safety & redundant systems

The power management and distribution hardware must:

- Have highest efficiency (wasted electrical energy turns into unwanted heat energy)
- Lowest mass and smallest size possible (size and weight are vital to aircraft capability)

Environmental and design challenges for power electronics thermal management in aircraft

- Thermal management system overhead (liquid cooling, fan cooling) INCUDING ELECTRICAL POWER!
- Numerous heat sources, often within confined aircraft spaces (jet engines, skin heating, electronics heating).

R. Brewer, Lockheed-Martin Corp. Fellow at 2023 IMAPS Int. High Temperature Electronics Conference: "Increased power loads and temperatures drive to self-defeating demand for more cooling system power" Unsustainable **"POWER THERMAL DEATH SPIRAL"** is at hand with conventional-T (silicon or SiC) power devices

Glenn **Research Center**

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Research & Engineering

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Electrified Aircraft Propulsion (EAP)

NASA Glenn's research in Electrified Aircraft Propulsion (EAP) offers new possibilities for reducing fuel and energy usage in aviation. Innovative technologies, aircraft concepts, test aircraft, and ground test facilities will turn this vision of efficient flight from science fiction to reality.

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Source: https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/aeronautics/eap/

Variety of Approaches to Electrifying Aircraft Propulsion

(Reducing carbon emissions of passenger aviation)

All-Electric Concept Aircraft

Hybrid Turbo-Electric Concept Aircraft

Battery or hydrogen fuel-cell electrical power

- Many small electric motors along wing
- Enhance airfoil lift and reduce drag
- Smaller range, smaller aircraft
- Substantial energy storage weight

Combustion power (jet-fuel or hydrogen)

- Jet-engine driven generators power tail electric motor fan
- Significantly reduced aerodynamic drag
- Reduced fuel and emissions
- Longer range, larger aircraft

More inf[o: https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/aeronautics/eap](https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/aeronautics/eap/)/ and Fard et a[l., https://doi.org/10.1109/TTE.2022.319733](https://doi.org/10.1109/TTE.2022.3197332)2

Design of a High Power Density, High Efficiency, Low THD 250kW Converter for Electric Aircraft (Granger et al., NASA Glenn Research Center, 202[1, https://doi.org/10.2514/6.2021-333](https://doi.org/10.2514/6.2021-3332)2)

Thermal management required to keep all electrical components < 140 °C is 33% of converter mass. HOWEVER, mass of cooling system supplying cooled liquid to the Cold Plate is NOT included!

Structure 10% 19% **Electronics** Inductors 23% Thermal/Mechanical 24% Cold Plate 20% **Bus Bar** (b)

Fig. 9 Mass breakdown of preliminary converter design, (a) table and (b) pie chart.

SiC power devices operating above 200 °C offer thermal cooling system mass reductions to electric aircraft and spacecraft power converters (degree of improvement is mission-specific).

Electric Energy In-Space Propulsion

(Solar power source or nuclear power source)

- Electrically accelerated propellant velocity >> Chemically accelerated propellant velocity
- Small thrust for long duration provides larger change in momentum using far less propellant

Sourc[e: https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/space/sep](https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/space/sep/)/

Why Nuclear Thermal Propulsion?

- For human Mars missions, first generation NTP can reduce crew time away from earth from >900 days to <500 days while still allowing ample time for surface exploration
	- Reduce crew exposure to space radiation, microgravity, other hazards
- First generation NTP can enable abort modes not available with other architectures
	- Potential to return to earth anytime within 3 months of earth departure burn, also to return immediately upon arrival at Mars
- First generation NTP is a stepping stone to fission power systems and highly advanced nuclear propulsion systems that could further improve crew safety and architectural robustness

Source: King & Houts [https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2018000866](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20180008667)7

Sensor Needs for Engine System Design

Instrumentation is needed for engine control and health monitoring:

- High thermal temperatures and \bullet vibration levels
- Nuclear radiation composed of \bullet neutron fluxes and gamma rays
- Non-invasive sensor designs for: \bullet
	- o Neutron flux (outside reactor)
	- o Chamber temperature
	- Operating pressure
	- \circ LH2 propellant flow rates

Source: King & Houts, https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20180008667

Heavy Ion Strike Single-Event Burnout of SiC Power Devices

Catastrophic failure that forces HUGE de-rating of SiC power devices for aerospace missions!

This issue has been a major impediment to actual flight deployment of SiC power device benefits!

- Aerospace devices and systems MUST demonstrate immunity to space radiation (including jet aircraft)
- Amount of de-rating necessary drastically cuts otherwise large SiC performance benefit to power systems
- Progress on reducing amount of de-rating is being made, but more is needed to enable full SiC benefits

Interesting Circumstellar Habitable Zone Exoplanets

(Out of 5000+ planets detected & confirmed, majority by NASA Kepler ST transit observations)

More inf[o: https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.ed](https://exoplanetarchive.ipac.caltech.edu/)u

Which Planet is Earth's Closest Planetary Neighbor?

Mars Mass: 10% Earth Orbit: 150% Earth T (surface): -143 °C to +35 °C Lander Missions: Years of data

Venus (Radar Image) Mass: 82% Earth Orbit: 72% Earth T (surface): +460 °C Lander Missions: Hours of data

Surface of Venus: Toughest Place In Solar System Combination of Temperature, Pressure, and Reactive Gas Extremes

Figure modified from E. Kowala et al., Extreme Environment Technologies for Future Space Science Missions, NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, CA, USA, 2007, Report JPL D-32832. p. 49.

Past Missions: Russian Venus Lander Missions (1965-1981)
Sour[ce: https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/chapman_conf/presentations/ocampo_for_saunders.p](https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/chapman_conf/presentations/ocampo_for_saunders.pdf)df

The longest surface mission survived for almost 2 hours

 $\overline{3}$

Source: https://www.lpi.usra.edu/vexag/chapman_conf/presentations/ocampo_for_saunders.pdf

ASA's Flagship Mission to Venus

A Future Mission Concept

Venus Flagship Science Themes and Objectives

Despite ~ 30-year technology update:

- Electronics is environmentally shielded
- Heavy lander mass (686 kg)
- 5 hours of science on surface

Mass (CBE + Cont.)

686 kg; Payload mass: 106.2 kg

Sourc[e: https://www.lpi.usra.edu/science/kiefer/Publications/venusSTDT2009_finalreport.pd](https://www.lpi.usra.edu/science/kiefer/Publications/venusSTDT2009_finalreport.pdf)f

NASA Glenn Extreme Environment Rig (GEER)

[https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/space/gee](https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/space/geer/)r/

800-liter test chamber for high-fidelity simulation of Venus surface environment

- First 10 chemical constituents of Venus atmosphere
- 460 °C (860 °F), 1350 psia (~ 92 Earth atmospheres)
- Long duration (months) test runs

NASA Glenn GEER Testing Experience

Full surface conditions (including gas composition to small concentrations) is relevant! Many commonly-used elements react badly. Sufidization instead of oxidation. Encapsulation/passivation of parts against Venus surface atmosphere is problematic.

Large sulfide crystals formed on metal-alloy waveguide exposed to Venus surface conditions for 60 days in GEER.

60 Day SiC Integrated Circuit Venus Test (in GEER)¹

Two NASA Glenn SiC IC Gen. 10 circuits passed 60 days of stable electrical operation directly exposed to the Venus surface environment (no package lid). Time in Venus Surface Conditions (Earth Days)

Source: Neudeck et a[l., https://doi.org/10.1109/JEDS.2018.288269](https://doi.org/10.1109/JEDS.2018.2882693)3

21 42 60 200 Output Signal Frequency (kHz) FT4 IC \cdots FT5 IC 150 $100₁$ $SELECT = -10 V$ $SELECT = 0 V$ 50 (a) IC Signal Frequencies 10 500 Temperature (°C) 400 Pressure (MPa) 300 200 **Temperature** Pressure 100 (b) GEER Ambient Conditions 500 1000 1500

Time in Venus Surface Conditions (hours)

Impact of Venus Durable SiC Electronics

Completely new engineering approach enabled by SiC!

"Old school" Venus Lander using environmental sheltering Lander Mass > 500 kg Mission Duration: < 10 hours

Source: T. Kremic & G. W. Hunt[er, https://doi.org/10.3847/25c2cfeb.cb6775e](https://doi.org/10.3847/25c2cfeb.cb6775e1)1 Neudeck ICSCRM 2023 Tutorial

Lander Mass < 20 kg

Mission Duration: > 1400 hours

2020 Venus Flagship Mission Update

Small and independent all-SiC "LLISSE" lander would deploy along with heavy "old-school" Venus lander.

Technology demonstration proofs needed to justify full future transition to all-SiC Venus lander approach.

Sourc[e: https://science.nasa.gov/science-red/s3fs-public/atoms/files/Venus%20Flagship%20Mission.pd](https://science.nasa.gov/science-red/s3fs-public/atoms/files/Venus%20Flagship%20Mission.pdf)f

Parker Solar Probe Mission

Mission to study the Sun, including a series of the closest flybys ever attempted

Sourc[e: https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/parker-solar-prob](https://www.nasa.gov/content/goddard/parker-solar-probe)e

Why Doesn't Parker Solar Probe Need High-T Electronics?

Sourc[e: https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2018/traveling-to-the-sun-why-won-t-parker-solar-probe-mel](https://www.nasa.gov/feature/goddard/2018/traveling-to-the-sun-why-won-t-parker-solar-probe-melt)t

It's The Capability, NOT The Technology

While the High Temperature Electronics (HTE) consumer market size is relatively small compared to conventional-temperature electronics market, competitive advantages HTE offers to crucial competitive performance advantages to very high-value aerospace systems.

New aerospace missions and new systems are enabled by High Temperature Electronics capability, but only if:

- 1. HTE is accessible for beneficial infusion and use = commercially manufactured & affordable & customizable
- 2. HTE is reliable, durable, predictable, *including the packaging and electrical connections to the system*

The aircraft system designer will not care which semiconductor is sitting inside avionics bays, so long as they are reliably helping aircraft performance at lowest cost.

Use HTE to do the most necessary (highest system impact) functions in the harsh environment

- Never intended to completely supplant conventional-temperature aerospace electronics

"Simple" ICs Explored The Solar System

(NASA Images)

Apollo flew using 6 transistors per chip ICs.

Voyager spanned the solar system using few thousand transistors/chip ICs.

500 °C durable SiC ICs are already reaching a useful level of complexity.

Outline

Part 1: High Temperature *Aerospace* Applications (Why?)

- Missions, Benefits, Requirements
- Aeronautics and Space

Part 2: High Temperature *Electronics* Technologies (How?)

- Semiconductors
- Packaging
- NASA Glenn SiC JFET-R Approach

IC Electronics Technology Chain

Chain that is taken for granted at conventional temperatures **is far from trivial to expand to temperature extremes.**

Any single weak link will prevent practical infusion and deployment of electronics.

IN THE DESIRED APPLICATION ENVIRONMENT, ALL LINKS MUST

- 1. FUNCTION INTEGRATED TOGETHER
- 2. BE PROVEN LONG-TERM DURABLE/STABLE WITH MARGIN!

High-Temperature Electronics-A Role for Wide Bandgap Semiconductors?

PHILIP G. NEUDECK, SENIOR MEMBER, IEEE, ROBERT S. OKOJIE, MEMBER, IEEE, AND **LIANG-YU CHEN**

[https://doi.org/10.1109/JPROC.2002.102157](https://doi.org/10.1109/JPROC.2002.1021571)1

Invited Paper

There are many definitions and flavors of the term, "High Temperature Electronics"

Atmospheric-temperature? Device-temperature? Package-temperature? Constant-temperature? Peak-temperature? Transient-temperature?

Typically, $T > 125$ °C

Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect Transistor (MOSFET)

How does device operation change when temperature is increased?

Reverse bias leakage current of drain pn junction I_{DL} dictates MOSFET off-state current floor I_{OFF}

MOSFET Cross-Sectional Structure MOSFET Turn-Off I-V Characteristics

Source Neudeck, Okojie, & Che[n: https://doi.org/10.1109/JPROC.2002.102157](https://doi.org/10.1109/JPROC.2002.1021571)1

High-Temperature Electronics - A Role for Wide Bandgap Semiconductors?

PHILIP G. NEUDECK, SENIOR MEMBER, IEEE, ROBERT S. OKOJIE, MEMBER, IEEE, AND **LIANG-YU CHEN**

[https://doi.org/10.1109/JPROC.2002.102157](https://doi.org/10.1109/JPROC.2002.1021571)1

Invited Paper

Approximation formula for reverse-biased pn junction leakage:

$$
I \cong -qAn_i \left[\frac{n_i}{N_D} \sqrt{\frac{D_P}{\tau}} + \frac{W}{2\tau} \right]
$$

Strongest temperature dependence is *ni* the intrinsic carrier concentration:

 $n_i = \sqrt{N_C N_V} e^{-E_G/2kT}$

which has exponential dependence on semiconductor bandgap *EG* and temperature *T.*

Leakage current is often the factor limiting device/circuit high temperature functionality instead of intrinsic carrier conduction

Silicon-On-Insulator (SOI) MOSFET

By decreasing pn junction leakage area, leakage current is lowered permitting operation at higher temperature.

- Amount of leakage, highest temperature are circuit and application-specific!
- For example, "Signal integrity" criteria will be different for digital vs. analog circuits.

Source Neudeck, Okojie, & Che[n: https://doi.org/10.1109/JPROC.2002.102157](https://doi.org/10.1109/JPROC.2002.1021571)1

High Temperature Semiconductor Device Development

Prototype T > 450 °C operation has been reported for decades.

- Multiple research groups (industrial, academic, and governmental)
- Multiple semiconductor materials (SiC, III-N, silicon-on-insulator)
- Multiple transistor approaches (JFET, MESFET, MOSFET/CMOS, and Bipolar)

Missing from majority of reports: Long term operational stability at T > 450 °C - In most cases, only brief $($ \sim 1 hour) heated probe-station testing

Demonstrations insufficient for serious consideration by aerospace systems designers

NASA Glenn SiC IC Technology Development Goals

Greatly expand the application-viable IC operating temperature envelope

Bring initial IC electronics capability reliably to previously unthinkable places - Enable new approaches to systems dealing with harsh environments

- At least 500 °C operation for long duration
	- More than 200 °C above silicon-on-insulator practical limit
- At least 2000 hours of stable electrical operation at 500 °C
	- Jet engine ground test, Venus surface missions
- At least 2 levels of 500 °C durable on-chip interconnect
	- Enable more complex, higher density ICs
- Chip packaging and multi-chip circuit boards for 500 °C operation
	- Integration with sensors, wireless communications, subsystems
- Infusion of beneficial 500 °C ICs into missions and systems

High Temperature Electronics Technology Chain

Chain that is taken for granted at conventional temperatures **is far from trivial to expand to temperature extremes.**

"Learn by Doing" Prototype SiC Design, Fab, Package, & Test Workflow

NASA Glenn SiC IC Development Philosophy

"Over-design" every aspect to make high temperature durable ICs

- De-prioritize other device metrics (such as power & frequency)
- Seek compatibility IC manufacturing materials, tools, and techniques

Device Foundation

- SiC epilayer PN homojunction transistor (not metal-semiconductor or MOS gate)
- Stable ohmic contacts

On-chip Integration

- Stable interconnect
- High circuit density (2-level interconnect, small devices & isolation)
- Temperature and process tolerant circuit design

Ceramic packaging and circuit boards

Demonstrate initial 500 °C durable IC capability, infuse and improve in parallel

"LEARN BY DOING" OVER SUCCESSIVE GENERATIONS (CYCLES) OF PROTOTYPE IC FABRICATION AND CHARACTERIZATION.

Transistor Device Approach

Epitaxial SiC n-JFETs developed as the most straightforward foundational transistor for achieving long-term device stability at $T \ge 500$ °C

SiC is the most stable/inert semiconductor crystal

- Low impurity diffusion, low reactivity

Inherent JFET High-T Stability Advantages

- Majority carrier device
- Low-leakage epilayer PN homojunctions
- Minimal sensitivity to p-type (gate) contact
- N-type ohmic contacts/implants

Other transistor types more challenging to render stable/durable at T > 450 °C.

- Bipolar transistors: n-type AND p-type contact AND minority carrier sensitivity
- MOSFETs/CMOS: MOS junction sensitivity
- MESFETs: Rectifying metal-semiconductor junction leakage & sensitivity
- III-N HFETs $& Ga₂O₃$: Heterojunction sensitivity, more reactive than SiC

[1] Neudeck et al., IEEE Electron Device Lett. vol. 25, no. 5, pp 456-459 (200[8\) https://doi.org/10.1109/LED.2008.919787](https://doi.org/10.1109/LED.2008.919787)

Basic Device & Circuit Approach^{1,2}

OUT

- **Resistors made with same epi as JFET** \rightarrow **well-matched T dependence**
- Layout ratio-based circuit design (not absolute component values)
- Negative threshold voltage $V_T \rightarrow$ negative signal voltages (roughly -1V to -10V logic)
- Typical V_{DD} = +25 V, V_{SS} = -25V Chip backside is biased at V_{SS}

¹M. J. Krasowski, US Patent 7,688,117 (2010) [https://image-ppubs.uspto.gov/dirsearch-public/print/downloadPdf/768811](https://image-ppubs.uspto.gov/dirsearch-public/print/downloadPdf/7688117)7 2Neudeck, Spry, Chen: [https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2016001488](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20160014886)6

SiC JFET-R Temperature Performance

-190 °C to +812 °C "Go Anywhere" Functionality

- 1000 °C temperature span WITHOUT changing signal/supply input voltages!
- SiC JFET ICs function in cold environments WITHOUT "cold start" issues.
- Temperature-accelerated 800 °C lifetime testing for long-duration 500 °C missions.
- Straightforward functional yield screening at 25 °C (on-wafer probe test).

Source: Neudeck, et [al: https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2019002735](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20190027358)8

Sheet Conductance & Ring Oscillator Frequency vs. Temperature

Circuit frequency & power track 4H-SiC n-layer conductivity change

Low Temperature $(T < 0 °C)$:

Incomplete ionization "freezeout effect" dominates 4H- SiC n-layer conductivity

High Temperature $(T > 0 °C)$:

Carrier mobility reduction due from thermal phonon scattering dominates 4H-SiC n-layer conductivity.

Circuit frequency and power are highest near 0 °C, decrease by roughly factor of 4-5 as temperature increased to 500 °C.

Neudeck, et a[l., https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2019002735](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20190027358)8

500 °C Stable Two Levels Interconnect¹

IC processing and materials compatible with SiC power device tools & manufacturing

- Close-proximity sputtering of TaSi₂ (21mm target to substrate spacing)
- LPCVD tetraethyl orthosilicate (TEOS) and $Si₃N₄$ layers deposited at 720 °C
- **All interconnect completely buried/passivated beneath dielectric.**

1P. G. Neudeck, et al., 2018 IMAPS High Temperature Electronics Conf. pp. 71-78 [https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2018000339](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20180003391)1

500 °C Stable Bond Pads and Packaging^{1,2}

- \cdot "IrIS" bond pad metal stack anchored directly to SiC¹
- Pt thick-film traces, Au/Pt pads, Au die attach (600 °C), and Au ball bonding².

1D. Spry & D. Lukco, J. Electronic Materials 41 p. 915 (2012)

2L. Chen, et al., Proc. 2016 IMAPS High Temperature Electronics Conf. pp. 66-72 [https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2016001486](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20160014867)7

500 °C Durable "Iridium Interfacial Stack" (IrIS) Bond Pad¹ (FESEM FIB Cross-Section) $20 \mu m$ Buried Metal 1 Topology **Dielectric Buried** Edge of Bond p_{ad} Surface Image Surface Image **Surface** Via 1 $(SiO₂)$ **Topology Pad Surfac** l Go Metal Added for FIB Milling **Metal Added for FIB Milling** <u>"IrIS" Stack1</u> X-Section X-Section 0.2 µm Pt (Top) 0.3 µm Ir Metal 1 TaSi₂ (in Via 1) $0.2 \mu m$ Pt N⁺ Implanted SiC Mesa 0.4 μ m Ta Si_2 (Bottom) **X-Section Electrical Signal Path**

Large-area "IrIS" metal bond pad stack is anchored directly to hard SiC crystal foundation. Interconnect Metals 1 & 2 are 100% buried in dielectric and DO NOT TOUCH "IrIS" metal. - N+ Implanted SiC connects "IrIS" with Metal 1 (\sim 100 Ω series resistance).

1Spry et al., J. Electronic Materials 41(5) p. 915 (2012).

Annealing Study of Thermal Limits of "IrIS" Bondpads

The first clear structural temperature limit is just above 700 °C.

Image **a** after 500 °C anneal the IrIS stack has segregated into its planed layers of TaSi_2 that contacts the underlying SiC, $PtSi_x$, Ir, Pt.

Image **b** post 700 °C image of bond pad without Au cap reveals a thickened $PISi_x$ zone that comes closer to SiC interface, the contact remains a smooth and abrupt interface between TaSi₂ and SiC.

However, image **c** of 700 °C anneal IrIS stack with Au cap shows evidence of oxygen accumulation at the Au/Pt interface which could become a bonding failure point if the Au ball bond attached during chip packaging is not thick enough to prevent oxygen penetration.

Image **d** at 900 °C, the Fig. 2d image shows Pt has reached the SiC interface along with evidence of voiding (white arrow).

D. Spry & P. Neude[ck, http://csmantech.org/wp-content/uploads/Digest/Digests-2021/4.3.2021-CSMantechReportSpryF1.pd](http://csmantech.org/wp-content/uploads/Digest/Digests-2021/4.3.2021-CSMantechReportSpryF1.pdf)f

Short-Term Operation Demonstrated Above 900 °C1

Enables temperature-accelerated lifetime qualification testing for 500 °C applications.

• Packaging leakage was limiting experimental factor, package was designed for 500 °C.

• "Intrinsic" JFET-R IC high-temperature limit remains to be ascertained.

1P. Neudeck, et al., IEEE Electron Device Lett. 38 (2016) 1082-10[85 https://doi.org/10.1109/LED.2016.254470](https://doi.org/10.1109/LED.2016.2544700)0

Electronics Qualification for Long-Term 500 °C Operation

Unit #1 Unit #2 Unit #f Data logging

Aerospace & automotive electronics qualification processes practiced for decades need to be extended/adapted to cover much higher temperature

- Testing statistics (parallel testing)
- Chips, packages, and multi-chip circuit boards
- Temperature acceleration, voltage/current acceleration
- Repeated thermal cycling and shock testing
- Vibration testing at high temperature
	- **Failure mechanism documentation & understanding across the intended application environment**

NASA Glenn expansion of parallel testing capacity using "small pizza oven" concept¹

- Chip (+package) on ceramic board inserted into oven slit.
- Goal is 50+ parallel IC tests with rapid thermal cycling.

Source: Izadnegahdar et a[l., https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2021001167](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20210011676)6

Reliability Testing Approach (QALT)

Validation

How good is the

prediction?

(Y6)

Slide presented by D. Shaddock of GE Research at 2023 IMAPS International High Temperature Electronics Conference

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prediction at the use condition?

Prediction

What is the component life

" Let the parts do the talking and the engineers do the guessing" - former Motorola trainer

Life

DOE Test

What are the model

coefficients?

IC Gen. 10 Primary Durability Limitation

Sudden and unpredictable "open-circuit" failures occur due to dielectric crack formation^{1,2}.

- Unacceptable random failure risk for missions

Table I. 500 °C JFET IC Test Summary

Above table is the total oven-test data set for complicated Gen. 10 ICs.

Much larger quantities of oven-tests needed to meet standard practices/statistics for aerospace-mission qualification of ICs.

White arrows denote examples of dielectric cracks and metal trace discoloration/oxidation are observed in the oven-failed Clock #1 IC.

1D. J. Spry, et al., Proc. IMAPS High Temperature Electronics Conf., 2016, pp. 249-2[56 https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2016001487](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20160014879)9 2P. G. Neudeck, et al., Proc. IMAPS High Temperature Electronics Conf., 2018, pp. 71-[78. https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2018000339](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20180003391)1

Back End Of Line (BEOL) Interconnect Process Experiments

Sourc[e: https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2023000264](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20230002648)8

Experimental "test flights" of six different BEOL interconnect stack structures on SiC wafers

- Full interconnect trial fabrication run (from dummy SiC wafers through 500 °C oven-testing)
- Realistic SiC epilayers, mesas, ion implants, bond pads, and mask layouts found on IC Gen. 12
- Ascertain interconnect process of lowest dielectric crack density and highest electrical yield
- Deliver SiC resistor test chips of identical bond pad layout as IC Gen. 12 for verification of packaging, multi-chip boards, and high temperature testing (by NASA and external partners)

Back End Of Line (BEOL) Interconnect Process Experiments

Experimental Results: BEOL6 is best process

- Fewest observed cracks, all confined to wafer edge
- Highest electrical probe-test yield

Quarter-wafer region maps showing optically counted number of cracks observed on each 5 mm x 5 mm die

Dicing, packaging & oven testing remains to be conducted

Sourc[e: https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2023000264](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20230002648)8

IC Gen. 12 Chipset Overview

50 Application Specific Integrate Circuit (ASIC) chip designs are being fabricated in IC Gen. 12

Including:

- Microprocessor dual-chip (assembly language)
- 8-bit analog to digital (serial output), digital to analog
- 2-kbit mask-programmed ROM, 248-bit RAM
- Venus lander control and analog-to-digital conversion
	- 4-channel 6-bit "Tech Demo"
	- 16-channel 8-bit "Exploration Mission"
	- Microseconds to hours clock/timer
- Venus imager array signal processing
- 12 customized analog sensor amps (op-amp based)
	- Wind, pressure, temperature, gas, & battery
- Power JFET chips for paralleling in power module
- External customer Space Act Agreement chips
	- Makel Engineering (NASA/MEI designed chip)
	- Ozark IC (Ozark IC designed chip)
	- Draper Labs (Draper designed half-chip)

- Miscellaneous logic (gates, flip flops, multiplexors, tri-states), analog (op-amp), and process test chips

Sourc[e: https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2023000264](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20230002648)8

Online SiC JFET IC Design Guide

<https://go.nasa.gov/jfetic>

- SPICE models for circuit design and mask layout rules (Gen. 12 and Gen. 13)
- External partner IC designs are in Gen. 12 fabrication run (Space Act Agreements)
- Commercial SiC JFET-R IC design services availabl[e \(https://www.ozarkic.com](https://www.ozarkic.com/))
IC Gen 12 LLISSE-TD Chip

Low-power simple state-machine control chip for Venus lander technology demonstration mission

Chip after transistor processing, ready for interconnect processing

Sourc[e: https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/2023000264](https://ntrs.nasa.gov/citations/20230002648)8

LLISSE Tech Demo Control Demonstration Board

Accomplishes timing, control, and digitization for Venus lander technology demonstration mission

Circuit Board Manufactured by Thick Film Technology, Inc., to be populated with packaged IC Gen. 12 chips

NASA Glenn SiC IC Gen. 12 SiC Microprocessor

Extreme Environment Programmed Operations

Microprocessor-Based Motor Control Demo Board

2-stepper-motor robot can follow line on floor using left, right, and front optical sensors

controlled by sensor inputs

IC Gen 12 chip list & 2-sided circuit board

Rill Of Materials

l ine#

Portion of assembly program compiled & built into IC Gen. 12 ROM chip

SiC high temperature power modules needed to switch each stepper motor phase on/off

Notable 500 °C Durable Electronics Technology Gaps

SiC JFET-R is confined to relatively low operating frequency (few MHz at most) - Other technologies (e.g., SiC BJT) needed for ≥ 100 MHz (e.g., RF transmitter)

SiC JFET-R is "normally on" device poorly suited for power switching & management

- Other technologies (e.g., SiC BJT) needed for "normally off" high power switching
- High-voltage (kV) high-current (10-100A) 500 °C durable chip packaging not demonstrated

SiC JFET-R logic requires more than 10-fold higher power than complementary (CMOS) logic

500 °C durable memory is primitive compared to modern room-temperature memories

- Less than 1 kbit/chip, mW/bit RAM storage power, mask-programmed ROM
- Electronically burnable 500 °C durable non-volatile memory/FPGA yet to be demonstrated

500 °C durable "quartz crystal" like timing reference clock has yet to be demonstrated - SiC JFET-R ring oscillators are non-precise, though stable to within 10%

Alternative Device Approaches

• Worthwhile benefits IF/WHEN prolonged and stable 500 °C operation achieved

• Challenging integration with durable interconnect & packaging?

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS, VOL. IE-29, NO. 2, MAY 1982

High-Temperature Electronic Requirements in Aeropropulsion Systems

WILLIAM C. NIEBERDING AND J. ANTHONY POWELL, MEMBER, IEEE

Abstract-This paper discusses the needs for high-temperature electronic and electrooptic devices as they would be used on aircraft engines in either research and development applications, or operational applications. The conclusion reached is that the temperature at which the devices must be able to function is in the neighborhood of 500° to 600°C either for R&D or for operational applications. In R&D applications, the devices must function in this temperature range when in the engine but only for a moderate period of time. On an operational engine, the reliability requirements dictate that the devices be able to be burned-in at temperatures significantly higher than those at which they will function on the engine. The major point made is that semiconductor technology must be pushed well beyond the level at which silicon will be able to function.

I. INTRODUCTION

THE PURPOSE of this paper is to describe the needs for high-temperature electronics in the aircraft engine field.

During this process many prototypes are development purposes. These prototypes, engine components, are operated repeat facilities. For each of these test runs the e is instrumented with the maximum numbe so that as much of the desired information tained from each facility run. Even after for flight, problems arise in its operation of improving its operational characteristic so that this testing process continues well of an engine model. An example of this gram conducted by NASA to modify enging DC9 and the Boeing 727 to reduce the model engine had been in service for many sures generated by environmental concern to an hank and radacion norto of it for rad

CONCLUSION: "We cannot help but feel that high-temperature electronics will indeed have wide application not only to the areas discussed at this conference but also to far more important areas which we just do not have the vision to predict."

Sourc[es: https://doi.org/10.1109/TIE.1982.35664](https://doi.org/10.1109/TIE.1982.356644)4 [& https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/glenn-history/hall-of-fame/biographies/j-anthony-powel](https://www1.grc.nasa.gov/glenn-history/hall-of-fame/biographies/j-anthony-powell/)l/

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