SPACE STATION POWER SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT

Power Technology Components
Microsemi Corporation
23201 South Normandie Avenue
Torrance, California 90501

Prepared for:
National Aeronautics & Space Administration
NASA-Lewis Research Center
Contract NAS3-24662
SPACE STATION POWER

SEMICONDUCTOR PACKAGE

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**Title and Subtitle**: Space Station Power Semiconductor Package

**Abstract**: Under this program a package for high power switching semiconductors for the Space Station was designed and fabricated. The package includes a high voltage (600 Volts) high current (50 Ampere) NPN Fast Switching Power Transistor and a high voltage (1200 Volts), high current (50 Ampere) Fast Recovery Diode. The package features an isolated collector for the transistors and an isolated anode for the diode. Beryllia is used as the isolation material resulting in a thermal resistance for both devices of .2 degrees per watt.

Additional features include a hermetical seal for long life—greater than 10 years in a space environment. Also, the package design resulted in a low electrical energy loss with the reduction of eddy currents, stray inductances, circuit inductance and capacitance.

The required package design and device parameters have been achieved. Test results for the transistor and diode utilizing the Space Station package is given.

**Key Words**: beryllia - circuit inductance - eddy currents - fast recovery - fast switching - isolated anode - isolated collector - stray inductances - thermal resistance

**Distribution Statement**: Unclassified-Unlimited

**Security Classification**: Unclassified

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1.0 SUMMARY

The requirement of this contract, advanced development of the packaging for high power switching semiconductor devices, (transistors, diodes, MOSFET devices, GTO thyristors, etc.) is an integral part of the overall program at NASA Lewis Research Center to build high power distribution systems for the initial Space Station and future space craft.

As specified in the statement of work, the emphasis of the task to be performed is on the design, fabrication and testing of suitable packages to house power semiconductor devices, while conforming to the constraints of the Space Station, defined in terms of the package thermal, electrical and mechanical parameters. The package concept has to be adaptable to various types of devices as well as be scalable to higher and lower power levels.

A transistor and diode with specified electrical ratings and characteristics are used as a vehicle to establish and test the package design. The chip procurement for these devices was an option, but considering the experience in high current and high voltage device design and manufacturing at Power Technology Components (P.T.C.) and the advantage of improved compatibility, complete device design has been performed for both transistor and diode. The major physical dimensions of the two chips, the external package outline and most of the internal assembly components are identical and conform to the same or similar chip fabrication and assembly techniques.

The main common features of both devices are:

1. High temperature glass passivated junctions.
2. Chip surfaces coated with high voltage junction coating.

3. All of the interior surfaces of the assembly cavity are vacuum process coated with Parylene.

4. All electrical, thermal and mechanical interfaces are metallurgically bonded.

5. Thermal conduction accomplished across a single surface.

6. Hermetically sealed in nitrogen.

7. Electrically isolated package.

8. Thermal resistance junction to case 0.2°C/W, typical.

9. Power dissipation greater than 250W at 75°C.

Major electrical ratings and typical characteristic requirements:

**Transistor**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Collector Base voltage</td>
<td>600 volts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collector Emitter voltage</td>
<td>500 volts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(sustaining)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gain Rated Coll. current</td>
<td>50 ampere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous Coll. current</td>
<td>100 ampere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Switch time (off)</td>
<td>3.0µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(at rated current)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Diode**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameter</th>
<th>Value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DC Blocking voltage</td>
<td>1000 volts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average forward current</td>
<td>50 ampere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak surge current</td>
<td>600 ampere</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reverse Recovery</td>
<td>0.5µs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(at rated current)</td>
<td></td>
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All of the major package design features and test parameters as well as the device characteristics have been met or exceeded. The exceptions are elevated temperature (100°C) diode leakage currents and reverse recovery time.
2.0 INTRODUCTION

Nasa Lewis Research Center has in the past been instrumental in the development of power semiconductor components for space power distribution. These components include bipolar power transistors and fast switching power diodes. These devices are now commercially available. The Lewis program with Westinghouse developed the D60T/D62T capable of 50 amperes and 500 volts with switching frequencies of 20 to 50 KHZ.

P.T.C., under contract to Lewis, previously developed two high voltage, high current fast recovery diodes. These diodes are now commercially available as P.T.C.'s PTC923 (50A) and PTC953 (130A) diodes. The previous device development program at Lewis, however, concentrated on chip development and did not address the problem of packaging high current, high voltage semiconductor devices. The devices developed were encapsulated in existing power semiconductor packages. These packages were designed for terrestrial applications, where weight, size and isolation were not problems.

The benefits of high voltages and high frequencies can reduce conductor and magnetic material weight. The power semiconductor devices themselves would need a new type of package to make them comply to the weight reduction program for space flight.

The current development program is a program to develop a package to house both a high current, high voltage transistor and a high voltage, high current, fast recovery diode in an isolated housing.

The transistor specifications call for a 50 ampere gain of
12 at 2.5 volts, and a sustaining voltage of 500 volts. The diode specification calls for a 50 ampere forward voltage of 1.5 volts and a reverse voltage of 1000 volts with a reverse recovery time of 500 nanoseconds at 50 amperes.

The 50 ampere and 500 volt requirement defined the design limitations of the package. The resultant package outline is larger than required for a 50 ampere diode, since it was determined that the chip design in the package could accommodate a 1000 volt, 125 ampere fast recovery diode. This report will describe a 50 ampere diode as required by the contract.
3.0 CHIP DESIGN

3.1 General

The major chip design features for both the transistor and diode are based on previous designs utilized at P.T.C.. Two power diodes rated at 1200 volts, 50 and 150 amperes were developed for NASA under contracts NAS3-22539 and NAS3-23280. Large area (up to .550 inch square) darlington transistors with ratings up to 1000 volts and 100 amperes were developed and fabricated for motor control applications.

To avoid the detailed matching of chip characteristics for paralleled chip assemblies, in all of these devices, a single chip has been used successfully. The same approach was chosen for this project. To take full advantage of the package dimensions, as well as provide for the maximum thermal and power characteristic evaluation, the largest area transistor and diode chips that could be accommodated in the package, have been designed. Hexagonal shape chips help to maximize the use of circular package design and allow the use of conventional processing by circular saw cutting wafers into chips.

The large chip size imposes stringent requirements on the uniformity of the silicon starting material. To obtain homogenous distribution of doping impurities, high minority carrier lifetime and low oxygen and carbon content, neutron transmutation doped, float zone processed silicon is used.

3.2 Transistor

The transistor chip is an NPN triple diffused, glass passivated mesa, with solderable metallization on the collector side. The base and emitter metallization is aluminum which
enables wire attachment by ultrasonic wire bonding. Heavily doped $N^+$ region in the collector gives the chip its mechanical strength to endure the handling during the manufacturing processes. This layer has no bearing on the operation of the transistor and constitutes a negligible series resistance. The lightly doped collector layer ($N^-$) determines the voltage capabilities of the transistor; its thickness increasing as the breakdown voltage rating ($V_{CB0}$) of the transistor increases.

The dimensions and impurity concentration of the $P$-layer base affect the switching time, emitter base voltage and gain related characteristics.

The emitter $N^+$ layer and its surface area and geometry configuration determines the gain and current carrying capability of the transistor. (Figure 1)

3.2.1. Static Characteristics

In any transistor design the basic and initial considerations are those of maximum voltage and current handling capabilities. These are the static or dc characteristics of the device.

3.2.1.1 Voltage

The requirement is for the minimum base-collector breakdown voltage ($V_{CB0}$) to be 600 volts. The collector-emitter sustaining voltage ($V_{CEO(sus)}$) is specified at 500 volts.

$V_{CB0}$. Based on previous experience and confirmed by calculations, 60 ohm cm resistivity starting material was specified. In the triple diffused transistor structure it forms the undiffused collector region and during the reverse bias conditions, will support the specified voltage.
4. PART DESCRIPTION: TRIPLE DIFFUSED MESA BIPOLAR TRANSISTOR.

3 METALLIZATION: EMITTER AND BASE - ALUMINUM. AREAS BOUNDED BY DASHED LINES INDICATE PROPOSED ALUMINUM WIRE BONDING AREAS. COLLECTOR (ENTIRE BACK SURFACE) - NICKEL FOR SOFT SOLDER SURFACE MOUNTING.

2 PHOTOMASK SET IS SHOWN IN CHART. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES.

NOTES: UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED, Unused on Next Assy.

Figure 1

---

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REV. 2

REFERENCE SHEET

DIMENSIONS APPLIED TO
 поверхностного усовершенствования

dimensions in inches
tolerances unless otherwise specified

3 PLACE DECIMAL XXX (XXX)

1 005

4 PLACE DECIMAL XXXX (XXX)

1 005

ANGLES ± 05°

DR. D&T
DATE 7-17-86

CHK'D.

APPROVED
DATE 7-17-86

AB
MILWAUKEE, WISCONSIN

60-0013
When a reverse bias potential is applied between the collector and base or emitter terminals, the undiffused, n-type intrinsic resistivity layer and the diffused, p-type base layer are depleted of free charge carriers until the electric field generated by the negative donor ions in the collector and the positive acceptor ions in the base cancels the applied field. The depletion region spreads from the p-n junction as the applied potential is increased until either the intrinsic layer or the base layer is entirely depleted. For a graded base layer, assuming that the voltage blocking capability is limited only by the depletion width and not by junction passivation or ionization effects, the thickness of the depletion region, d, at a given applied voltage, $V_{bd}$, is given by the following formula:

$$d = \left( \frac{2K\varepsilon_0 V_{bd}}{qN_d} \right)^{1/2}$$

where

- $E_0$ = permittivity of free space = 55.4 electron charges volt micrometer
- $q$ = electron charge
- $K$ = dielectric constant of silicon = 12
- $N_d$ = donor concentration in 60 ohm cm n-type silicon
  
  \[ = 9 \times 10^{13} \text{ atoms/cm}^3 = 90 \text{ atoms/cubic micrometer} \]

For $V_{bd} = 600$ volts, the calculation indicates a depletion layer thickness of 95 micrometers. Therefore, the transistors undiffused, intrinsic collector layer must be at least this thick.

$V_{CEO}^{(sus)}$. The minimum reverse bias collector to emitter avalanche voltage that occurs when the base terminal is floating or open, termed the sustaining voltage, $V_{CEO}^{(sus)}$, is less than the voltage allowed by collector base depletion that was used in
the calculation above. This is due to low level current gain of the carriers provided by the forward biased base emitter junction causing premature breakdown. An approximation of the sustaining voltage is given by the following relation:

$$V_{CEO}(sus) = V_{CBO}/(B)^{1/n}$$  \[1\]

where

- $V_{CBO}$ = the base collector breakdown voltage
- $B$ = the low level current gain
- $n$ = a parameter of the avalanche multiplication factor $M$
- $M = 4$ for npn silicon transistors

The relation indicates that a sustaining voltage of 505 volts may be anticipated for a transistor with a base collector breakdown voltage of 600 volts. \[1\]

3.2.1.2 Current

As suggested above, a tradeoff does exist between maximum controllable current density and collector-emitter sustaining voltage. These considerations are based on the work done by P. L. Hower under NASA contract NAS3-18916. The current density is calculated by dividing the maximum gain rated current by the active emitter area. The specified on-state collector-emitter saturation voltage is 1 volt at 50 amperes and the gain of 8. For chip design shown on Figure 1, the current density $J = 32.5$ amperes/cm$^2$. \[2\] Reference to graph in Figure 2 of maximum controllable current density vs. collector emitter saturation voltage, indicates that greater than 500 volt capability can be expected at the given conditions and the required gain of 12 at
Figure 2

Maximum Controllable Current Density versus Collector Emitter Sustaining Voltage [2]
50 amperes and 2.5 volts of $V_{CE}(\text{sat})$. This is also confirmed by the results of two diffusion lot evaluations shown in Figure 3,a.

3.2.2 Dynamic Characteristics

In energy conversion applications the transistor is used in the switching mode. During the last few years, following the progress made in power transistor voltage and current handling capabilities, the attention has been directed to switching characteristics between "on" and "off" states and the associated power losses. Power switching transistor must handle large voltages during the off condition and large currents during the on conditions. The switching from one state to the other should happen as rapidly as possible; therefore, the transistor must respond to a driving signal, virtually instantaneously.

In designing transistors for maximum switching speed, the primary task is to evaluate and balance the trade-off effect on other device characteristic requirements. The major parameters affected are collector-base breakdown voltage, grounded-emitter saturation voltage, base resistance, emitter-base breakdown voltage, punch-through voltage and collector capacitance.

3.2.2.1 Physical Properties

For the triple diffused power transistor structure, the physical characteristics that had to be optimized are the emitter area, the P-type base layer and the N$^-$ collector region.

To make the emitter area as small as possible for lower junction capacitance and still maintain the current carrying capability, three individual emitter cells connected in parallel have been utilized.
### Transistor Wafer Fab. Lot Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOT</th>
<th>INPUT MATERIAL</th>
<th>DIFFUSION</th>
<th>VCEO (V)</th>
<th>VCE (S)</th>
<th>TCEO (S)</th>
<th>IC (mA)</th>
<th>VCE (S)</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0051</td>
<td>N- N+ Xjb Xje Wb Ps base</td>
<td>Ohm cm μ μ μ μ Ohm/sq Spec. &gt;500 &gt;500 N/A &gt;50 &lt;1.0 &lt;1.3 &lt;2.5 &lt;5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0052</td>
<td>N- N+ Xjb Xje Wb Ps base</td>
<td>Ohm cm μ μ μ μ Ohm/sq Spec. &gt;500 &gt;500 N/A &gt;50 &lt;1.0 &lt;1.3 &lt;2.5 &lt;5</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8051</td>
<td>60 94 145 28 18 12 54</td>
<td>716 806 14.0 54 0.38 1.60 0.8 0.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>8052</td>
<td>60 99 145 30 18 12 45</td>
<td>833 531 13.0 56 0.37 1.60 1.0 0.70</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</table>

**Figure 3a**

### Diode Wafer Fab. Lot Evaluation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INPUT MATERIAL</th>
<th>DIFFUSION</th>
<th>ELECTRICAL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LOT NO.</td>
<td>N- P+ N+</td>
<td>Average VR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ohm cm μ μ μ μ</td>
<td>Spec &gt;1000V</td>
<td>&lt;1.5v</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>016 35 117 147 17</td>
<td>1100 1.30</td>
<td>440</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>019 35 117 135 18</td>
<td>1200 1.42</td>
<td>384</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Figure 3b**
The impurity concentration and the metallurgical base width are directly related to the gain of the transistor, however, the speed at which the collector current rises during the turn-on phase, is inversely proportional to the gain. A compromise has been achieved by empirical adjustments of the base parameters during diffusion processing.

The turn-off switching of the collector current is physically related to the transistor region that has to support the voltage, the N\textsuperscript{-} collector region. The higher the transistor voltage rating, the longer it takes to turn it off.

Some of the physical parameter effects and electrical characteristic trade-offs can be seen in Figure 3, a.

3.2.2.2 Switching Times

The switching period between the two stable states consists of two transitional states: turn-on ($t_{\text{on}}$) to conduction and turn-off ($t_{\text{off}}$) to return the transistor to its cut-off state.

Turn-on of a transistor from its cut-off state is characterized in the delay time ($t_{\text{d}}$) to build up the collector current to 10% of its maximum value and the collector current rise time ($t_{\text{r}}$), measured from 10% to 90% of the maximum value.

At cut-off the collector base and base-emitter junctions are reverse biased. The transition from one state to the other requires a certain quantity of charge. As the base drive is initiated, the charges are supplied by the base current and the emitter-base capacitance is charged. The time to attain the charge is a delay in rise time.

The rise time of the collector current characterizes the speed of the transition to the conduction state. It is directly
related to the effective (not metallurgical) base width thickness. The rise time of the collector current is important in applications concerned with turn-on power losses.

**Turn-off** switching also is divided in two phases, although the distinction is purely electrical and does not correspond to any physical reference. In order to return the transistor to its cut-off state, all of the accumulated charges must be eliminated. By changing the polarity of the base drive, the base-emitter junction is reverse polarized. However, the fall of the collector current cannot occur until a sufficiently large portion of the stored charges in the collector have been removed.

The time interval from the base current reversal to the time the collector voltage has increased to 10% of its maximum value is defined as storage time ($t_s$), Figure 32. The storage time is related to the minority carrier lifetime in the base and collector regions. It is also largely dependent on the base drive circuits and certain circuit design techniques are used to limit this time considerably.

As the operating point of the collector current moves from the quasi-saturation to the linear portion of the load line it traverses through the active region into the off state. This turn-off portion is defined as collector current fall time ($t_f$). The fall time is of particular importance in applications with inductive loads because the majority of power losses occur during the end of storage time and especially during the fall time; therefore, it must be as short as possible. The fall time physically is related to the collector thickness and its...
resistivity. The higher the collector region resistivity, the longer the fall time.

3.3 Diode

The diode design calculations and analysis were performed and proven under NASA contract NAS3-23280 and reported in final report No. CR168196. Although a new chip has been designed, increasing the area to fit the maximum space allocated in the package, the design approach remains the same. (Figure 4)

3.3.1 Physical Properties

The chip is fabricated from 35 ohm cm, float zone, neutron doped n-type silicon. The p-n junction terminates on the positive bevel of the moat and is high temperature glass passivated. The positive bevel mesa contouring allows the use of relatively low resistivity material. This improves the trade-off between blocking voltage, switch time and the forward voltage drop. A flash of evaporated gold (200-300 angstroms), deposited on the anode surface, in addition to the tri-metal (Al-Ti-Ni), improves the solderability, thereby reducing the contact resistance. The following parameters have been established and used to fabricate the device:

Starting material resistivity = 35 ohm cm
Background impurity conc. = $1.5 \times 10^{14}$ atoms/cm$^3$
Anode surface impurity conc. = $2.5 \times 10^{19}$ atoms/cm$^3$
p$^+$ anode junction depth = 140 microns
Depletion layer width @ 1250 V, is 92 microns
Grade constant of the p$^+$ layer = $1.29 \times 10^{17}$ atoms/cm$^3$ [1]
4. PART DESCRIPTION: HIGH POWER DIODE, POSITIVE BEVEL MESA.

3 ENTIRE BACK SURFACE (ANODE) AND CIRCULAR FRONT (CATHODE) SURFACES ARE SOLDERABLE CONTACT AREAS.

2 PHOTOMASK SET IS SHOWN IN CHART. ALL DIMENSIONS ARE IN INCHES.

NOTES: UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED.
3.3.2 Electrical Characteristics

The blocking voltage ($V_R$) that can be theoretically achieved with this structure is approximately 1680 volts. The highest voltage obtained with this device to date is approximately 1400 volts with a typical average value of 1100 volts.

The reverse leakage current ($I_R$) is higher than specified, especially at elevated temperature. This is due to the larger chip area and gold diffusion. A typical leakage current value at rated voltage (1000V) at room temperature is approximately 100 micro amperes.

The forward voltage ($V_F$) is considerably better than specified due to large area higher current capability.

The reverse recovery ($t_{rr}$) time is the time lapse required for the diode to regain its reverse bias capabilities from a forward conduction condition, after it is abruptly reverse biased. The specification for the recovery time is at elevated temperature only (100°C) and on the average runs 150 to 250 nanoseconds higher than specified. At room temperature the readings are at or below the elevated temperature requirement of 500 nanoseconds at 50 amperes. Gold diffusion is used to reduce the minority carrier lifetime and increase the recovery speed.

Additional process and structure adjustments are required to further reduce the reverse recovery time, especially at the higher current specifications with increasing junction capacitance as the device area is increased.

In addition to the specified current rating requirements, the diode evaluation tests were increased to 125 amperes, as shown in Figure 36.
3.4 Evaluation

Every wafer fabrication lot prior to its release for assembly was evaluated by random chip selection, experimental assembly and electrical testing of the major characteristics $V_R$, $V_F$, $t_{rr}$ for the diode and $V_{CEO}$, $I_C(sat.)$, $V_{CE(sat.)}$, $V_{BE(sat.)}$ and switching times for the transistor.

The sample chips were not assembled in the newly designed package but in a special assembly arrangement to eliminate any potential variables introduced by the new design. A sample of the wafer fabrication lot evaluations is shown in Figure 3, b.

Additional information of the diffused junction parameters is included to show the correlation of the calculated target values, actual measured values and the resulting "on the target" electrical characteristics. (Figure 3, a & b)
4.0 WAFER PROCESSING

Wafer fabrication processes are mostly conventional silicon processing procedures with minor modifications. These have been described previously in detail. Process flow diagrams, Figure 5, for the transistor and Figure 6 for the diode, outline the major fabrication steps with the appropriate cross sections of the devices.
Neutron doped n-type silicon wafer

Phosphorus deposition and drive-in diffusion to form collector n+ layer

Single sided lap and polish. Oxidation and oxide removal from base side.

Boron deposition and drive-in diffusion to form p base layer

Photoresist mask, oxide etch, phosphorus deposition and drive-in to form n+ emitter pattern

Photoresist mask, oxide etch and silicon etch to form collector-base junction termination

Hard glass passivation of pn junction in moat

Contact photoresist mask and oxide etch to define base and emitter regions

Collector 3-layer and base/emitter aluminum metallization

Figure 5. Triple-diffused Transistor Process Sequence Outline
Starting material wafer, neutron doped N-type silicon

Boron deposition and drive in diffusion to form anode P+ layer

Single side lap & polish oxidation and oxide removal from cathode side

Phosphorus deposition and drive-in diffusion to form N+ cathode layer

Photoresist mask, oxide and moat etch to form positive angle bevel

Hard glass passivation of the P/N junction in the moat

Contact photoresist and oxide etch to define anode and cathode areas

Anode and cathode three layer metallization

Figure 6, Diode Process sequence outline
5.0 PACKAGE DESIGN CONSIDERATIONS

5.1 Diode and Transistor Package Features

Space station semiconductor package design reflects some of the latest technology in high power semiconductor device material and processes. The package is designed to hermetically enclose the device and provide: 1) protection from space environment, ground handling and shuttle launch conditions, long term orbit Power Management and Distribution (PMAD) operation, 2) reliable electrical, thermal and mechanical interfaces and, 3) light weight and low volume construction. (Figures 7 and 8)

As many common piece parts as possible are shared by both transistor and diode, with the assembly methods nearly identical.

The package materials were selected to be compatible to Space Station environment as well as comply with the mechanical, electrical and thermal requirements of the semiconductor devices.

5.1.1 Electrical

All electrically active components are isolated from the main body of the package. The insulation is designed to comply with the requirement to withstand a 2500 volt potential difference between the bottom plate and the collector of the transistor and the anode of the diode.

The material selection and the package structure features are designed to minimize electrical energy losses due to eddy currents, stray inductances and capacitances.

The following package features are designed to minimize energy losses:

1. The package is single-ended with all electrical terminals on a single plane. This prevents coupling into the
Figure 8

1. Before final plating (note A), flat-tack and polish bottom surface.
2. Mark part number and B.O.C. logo where shown with permanent black ink.
3. Fill cavities in items 6 (plastic cap) with item 8 (encapsulating compound) level with or slightly below top surface of item 7.
4. Attach item 7 (plastic cap) to item 6 (encapsulating compound) and before final sealing coat entire inside surface with item 8 (encapsulating compound). Then back fill with nitrogen to atmospheric pressure and hermetically seal by crimping and resistance welding filler tube as shown. Seal leak rate as per N. 2.
5. Crimp and resistance weld terminals of item 9 (cable) to items 4 and 6 (operands) approximately where shown.
6. Resistance weld items 4 (cap) to item 9 (bottom plate). Seal can be hermetic and not leak more than 1 x 10⁻⁷ std cc/sec of helium on a mass spectrometer at one atmosphere pressure differential.
7. See separate parts list P. 50-0248 (sheet 8 and 9).

NOTES:
- All dimensions are shown.
- Tolerances are ± 0.001 in. unless otherwise specified.
inherent shorted turns. The conventional double-ended package for power semiconductors has a "shorted turn" problem that must be considered when analyzing their energy loss profiles. This problem presents itself, by looking at the transformer action of the various package components. The secondaries or "shorted turns" that cause losses are conductive rings used to manufacture the package, such as glass-to-metal or metal seals or weld rings. This problem is diagrammed in Figure 9.

There are two ways to eliminate coupling into the shorted turn. One obvious way is to eliminate the rings or open them so they cannot conduct. This method is not practical. The second way is to terminate the package on one plane. This method prevents coupling even when the rings are present, see Figure 10.

2. All electrical contacts between internal conductors and the external terminals are crimped and resistance welded.

3. Stranded internal power conductors (cables) aid high frequency electrical conduction by skin effect.

4. Large, pure copper (oxygen free high conductivity) power conductors minimize electrical resistance.

5. All conductors are minimum length and maximum diameter to minimize circuit inductance.

6. Insulators have high dielectric strength and low dissipation factor.

5.1.2 Electrical/Mechanical

At the top of the diode package are two high power, threaded copper, stud terminals for anode and cathode connection. At the base of each stud terminal is a jam taper cone, which provides an interference fit with the ring tongue terminal inside diameter.
Figure 9
Simplified schematic diagram of a double-ended package with a short-ended turn as indicated.

Figure 10
Schematic of single-ended package
thereby, reducing electrical contact resistance. It also prevents the ring tongue terminal from rotating.

The ring tongue terminal and American Standard No. 10 stainless steel hardware is supplied. To provide a secure and reliable electrical/mechanical connection without damage to the soft copper stud, the following procedure is recommended:

1. Loosely assemble ring tongue terminal, lock washer, flat washer and nut as shown in drawing 50-0268.
2. Center inside diameter of ring tongue terminal on jam taper cone and hold in place by hand.
3. Center flat washer to ring tongue terminal outside diameter and hand tighten nut.
4. Torque nut to 12 inch-pounds ± 0.5 inch-pounds.

The plain nut, NAS 671C10 is a small pattern type. It allows enough clearance from the electrical barrier on the plastic cap to insert a socket or nut driver. The nut can be easily tightened to the torque specified with an 11/32 socket and a torque wrench reading in inch-pounds.

The transistor package has two stud terminals identical to the diode package. They are the emitter and collector connections. Information and description of hardware pertaining to the diode package also applies. In addition there is a smaller flattened and pierced terminal. It is the base connection and mates with the insulated terminal provided.

Terminals on the transistor package are spaced in accordance with NEMA, General Standards For Industrial Controls and Systems, No. ICS 1-1983, Table 1-111-2, which calls for 900 volts peak working voltage. The package also exceeds the requirements of
Underwriters Laboratories UL1557, Standards for Safety.

Electrically Isolated Semiconductor Devices for 600 volts RMS at the terminals. Creepage from the base terminal to either collector or emitter terminal is .575 inches. Creepage from any terminal to any conductive point on the package is .625 inches minimum. All paths through air are .438 inches minimum. The transistor package exceeds the 600 volt Underwriters Laboratories specification.

Terminals on the diode package are spaced in accordance with the same NEMA specification. The package is suitable for 1400 volts peak working voltage applied to the terminals. Creepage from terminal to terminal and from any terminal to any conductive point on the package is .625 inches minimum. All paths through air are .438 inches minimum. The package exceeds the requirements of the UL1557 specification.

5.1.3 Thermal

The prime consideration of the package design is the transfer of heat generated by the silicon chip of the device. A number of individual components and their metallurgical interfaces determine the thermal resistance of the device depending on the following parameters:

1. Material thermal resistance.
2. Material temperature.
3. Thickness of material parallel to the direction of thermal flow.
4. Area of material normal to the direction of thermal flow.
5. Amount of voids in interconnecting layers (solder).

6. Quality of interconnecting layers (solder).

7. Thermal flow (spreading) normal to the direction of major thermal flow.

In addition, the thermal performance of a package mounted to an external heat sink will depend on an intimate contact between the heat sink and the heat dissipating surface of the package.

Heat is conducted from the package across a single surface, the external surface of the bottom plate. It is surfaced and polished to remove any variation in flatness.

Internally, thermal resistance is reduced by using a beryllium oxide insulating substrate. Beryllia was chosen for mechanical strength, dielectric strength and its exceptionally low thermal resistance.

To reduce further thermal resistance and meet the ROJJC requirements of $0.2^\circ$C/W, the silicon device area is maximized, while the package size is minimized.

Thermal conductivity (K) is not a constant and does vary with temperature. To simplify calculations it is assumed to be constant. An average value is used for a temperature range from -65°C to 150°C. Plating, coatings and metallizations have been omitted from the calculations. Their thickness dimension is small, $0.0005$ inches maximum and is included in the overall dimension of the component part to which they are applied. The magnitude of their thermal resistance is small enough to be disregarded.

Based on experience, it is assumed that all solder and braze joints contain 20% voids in the form of relatively small bubbles.
evenly distributed throughout the joint. All heat is assumed to originate at the device junction located at the top of the device and is evenly distributed over the device area.

Junction temperature is determined by the total power dissipation in the device $P_T$, the ambient or case temperature $T_C$, and the thermal resistance $R_{JC}$ from junction to case.

$$T_J = T_C + R_{JC} P_T$$

The basic equation for the conduction of thermal energy is:

$$Q = \frac{KA}{L} \Delta T = \frac{KA}{L} (T_1 - T_2)$$

where $Q = \text{heat flow/unit of time}$

$K = \text{thermal conductivity constant, W/cm}^\circ \text{C}$

$A = \text{area of thermal path, cm}^2$

$L = \text{length of thermal path, cm}$

$T_1 = \text{temperature of heat source, } ^\circ \text{C}$

$T_2 = \text{temperature of heat sink, } ^\circ \text{C}$

rewritten

$$Q = \frac{T_1 - T_2}{L/KA} = \frac{T_1 - T_2}{R_{JC}}$$

and

$$R_{JC} = \frac{L}{KA}$$

It is assumed that geometries are circular and spreading occurs at a 45° angle. The equation then becomes:

$$R_{JC\text{circle}} = \frac{L}{K\pi(r^2 + rL)}$$

where $r = \text{radius of the circle}$

Thermal resistance calculated values for each assembly component of the package are shown in the following table. All components are assumed to be circular and are listed in the sequence of the thermal conductive path.
## Package Assembly Component Thermal Resistance

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<th>Component</th>
<th>Resistance</th>
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<tr>
<td>Solder Interface</td>
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<td>Molybdenum Plate</td>
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<td>Silver-Copper Braze Interface</td>
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<td>Copper Bottom Plate</td>
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</table>

The resulting theoretical junction to case thermal resistance is approximately 0.062°C/W.

### 5.1.4 Mechanical

The final package design is shown in the assembly drawings, Figures 7 and 8.

In the following outline, each component part and the associated direct materials are identified by part number. A brief description of the structure and materials is included. (Figures 11 and 12)

**Ceramic Plate Subassembly 50-0266-1**

Four component parts are brazed together using a 72% silver, 28% copper alloy commonly referred to as BT material, melting at 780°C.

The four component parts are:

1. **Ceramic plate, 50-0251-1**—a flat, circular ceramic substrate made of 99.5% beryllium oxide, metallized with a pattern on both sides with a co-fired molybdenum-manganese alloy followed by nickel plating.

2. **Conductor plate, 50-0252-1**—a flat, crescent shaped OFHC copper, stamped, electrical conductor, nickel plated.
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**DRAWN BY**

29 JUN 87

**ENGINEER**

[A/B]

**DATE**

SHEET 2 OF 3

**PROJECT**

SPACE STATION TRANSISTOR ASSEMBLY

**QUALITY CATAGORY I RELEASE**

**NEXT ASSEMBLY**

USED ON NASA NAS3-24602

**DWG. NO**

PL50-0267

**REV**

N/C

Figure II
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**Figure II (Continued)**

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- **ENGINEER:**
- **DATE:**
- **CHIEF ENG.:**
- **DATE:** 26 Aug 87
- **NEXT ASSEMBLY:**
- **TITLE:** SPACE STATION TRANSISTOR ASSEMBLY
- **QUALITY:**
- **CATEGORY:** 1
- **RELEASE:**

**Used on:**

- **NASA NAS3-24662**
- **DWG. NO:** PL50-0267
- **REV:** N/C

**Sheet 3 of 3**
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**DRAWN BY**: N. S.  
**DATE**: 29 JUN 87  
**ENGINEER**:  
**DATE**:  
**CHIEF ENG.**:  
**DATE**:  

**NEXT ASSEMBLY**:  
**TITLE**: SPACE STATION DIODE ASSEMBLY  
**USED ON**: NASA-NAS3-24662  
**DWG. NO**: PL50-0268  
**REV**: N/C  

**QUALITY**: CATEGORY I  
**RELEASE**:  

Figure 12
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**Figure 12 (Continued)**

Title: SPACE STATION DIODE ASSEMBLY

Quality Category: NASA NAS3-24662

Revision: N/C

Drawing Date: 29 Jun 87

Drawing Number: PL50-0268

Categories: SHEET 3 OF 3
3. Conductor plate, 50-0252-2--a flat semi-hexagonal shaped OFHC copper, stamped electrical and thermal conductor, nickel plated.

4. Moly, hexagon 50,0253-1--a flat .010 inch thick, hexagonal stamping, made of molybdenum with a layer of nickel cladding on both sides.

**Bottom Plate 50-0220**

An assembly of two component parts brazed together using a 72% silver, 28% copper alloy (BT). The two component parts are:

1. **Weld Ring**--an alloy C1010 steel ring, nickel plated.
2. **Plate**--a .125 thick flat semi-oval shaped stamping. It has a groove cut in it that fits the ring. It is made of OFHC copper. The finished assembly is nickel plated.

**CAP 50-0225-1 and 50-225-2**

An assembly of five component parts brazed together using a 72% silver, 28% copper alloy (BT). One component is used twice. The five different component parts are:

1. **Flange**--a deep drawn, .015 inch thick, cylindrical shape, made of alloy C1010 steel and nickel plated.
2. **Ceramic Insulator, glazed**--a solid cylindrical shaped insulator made of 92% minimum aluminum oxide, with four holes and coated with a thin layer of glass. It is 1.215 inches in diameter.
3. **Tube**--a short section of .125 inch diameter tubing made of OFHC copper.
4. **Base Terminal**--a short section of tubing, .110 inch diameter flattened and pierced at one end to form a male terminal that mates with a standard 110 female terminal. It is made of
OFHC copper.

5. **Emitter and Collector Stud Terminal**—threaded, semi-cylindrical shaped, electrical conductors made of OFHC copper. The thread size is American Standard 10-32 UNF.

The 50-0225-1 assembly contains all component parts and is used for the transistor package. The 50-0225-2 assembly does not contain the 110 base terminal and is used for the diode package.

**Transistor 60-0013, and Diode 60-0014 Chip**

Both devices are .010 inch thick, hexagonal silicon chips. The dimension across the flats is .709 inch. Back side metallization of both chips and front side of the diode is solderable nickel. For the transistor, the front side metallization is aluminum, for ultrasonic bonding of aluminum wires.

**Plastic Cap 50-0243-1 and 50-0243-2**

This is an injection molded solid, semi-cylindrical shaped insulator, 1.215 inches in diameter, with four holes. It has several ridges on the top surface that are electrical insulating barriers between the power terminals. The cap is made of a liquid crystal polymer, Vectra A130, from Celanese Engineering Resins, Inc. The material is stable up to 200°C. It is reinforced with 30% glass fiber, has a heat deflection temperature of 229°C at 264 PSI and has an Underwriters Laboratories flammability rating of UL-94 V-0. The dielectric strength is 1100 volts/mil. A very low shrink rate of .001 inch/inch allows molding of solid cross sections without warpage. This eliminates the need for making the part hollow thereby
eliminating air pockets. It has terminal identification of raised letters molded into the top surface. The 50-0243-1 part is used for the transistor package. The 50-0243-2 part has one less hole and a different ridge configuration. It is used for the diode package.

Cable 50-0256-1 and 50-0256-2

Three component parts are joined together by crimping and swaging. The three component parts are:

1. **Wire**--AWG 10 gage, stranded, OFHC copper wire.
2. **Terminal**--a short length of OFHC copper tubing.
3. **Ferrule**--a short length of a different size OFHC copper tubing.

The ferrule is crimped to the wire by squeezing both together, maintaining a cylindrical shape, until both are a solid mass. The terminal is crimped to the wire by a similar method. It is then swaged into a flat "S" bend shape.

A quantity of two of the 50-0256-1 cables are used in the transistor package. One each of the 50-0256-1 and 50-0256-2 are used in the diode package.

**Aluminum Wire** 50-0259-7

Twenty five mil diameter wire made of 99.99% pure aluminum is used only in the transistor package.

**Moly, Round** 50-0254

Circular stamping, .020 inch thick, .625 inches in diameter, made of molybdenum with a layer of nickel cladding on both sides. It is used only in the diode package.
Solder Preform, Round 50-0259-4

Circular stamping, .002 inches thick, 1.150 inches in diameter, made of 95.5% lead, 2.5% silver and 2.0% tin alloy.

Solder Preform, Hexagon 50-0258-1

Hexagonal stamping, .002 inch thick, of same alloy as above.

Solder Preform, Rectangle 50-0257-1

Rectangular stamping, .002 inch thick, .100 inches x .250 inches alloy same as above, used only in the transistor package.

Solder Preform, Rectangle 50-0257-2

Rectangular stamping, .005 inch thick, .100 inches x .250 inches and made of soft solder alloy as above.

Solder Preform, Round 50-0259-1

Circular stamping, .002 inch thick, .625 inches in diameter, made of same soft solder alloy as above. The preform is used only in the diode package.

Base Insulator 50-0244

Rectangular ceramic insulator, .030 inch thick, .250 inches x .110 inches and made of 96% aluminum oxide, metallized on both sides with a secondary firing of a molybdenum-manganese alloy followed by nickel plating. It is used only in the transistor package to provide isolation and bonding pad for the base terminal.

Base Pin 50-0245

Four-slide formed pin with three 90° bends, made of OFHC copper wire, .032 inches in diameter. It is used only in the transistor package.
Coating, Dielectric, Polymer

A dielectric coating applied by vacuum deposition, .001 inches to .0015 inches thick. The material is Parylene N, a polymer, made by Union Carbide Corporation. It will withstand 220°C in the absence of oxygen. The dielectric strength is 5000 volts/mil of thickness.

Encapsulating Compound

A silicon rubber called Thermasil, type 1, made by Transene Company. It is a fire-resistant, noncombustible, thermally conductive, dielectric, encapsulating compound. It will withstand temperatures up to 250°C. The dielectric strength is 490 volts/mil. It is used only on the transistor package.

Adhesive, Structural

Speedbonder 325, made by Loctite Corporation, is a strong activator cured adhesive that is solvent resistant. The dielectric strength is 752 volts/mil of thickness. It can withstand temperatures up to 209°C.

Coating, Dielectric, Junction

A dielectric coating, v-176 made by Visilox Systems, Inc., is a one part siloxane polymer dispersion, developed for application on semiconductor devices. It will withstand temperatures up to 200°C. The dielectric strength is 2700 volts/mil of thickness. The dissipation factor is .003 at 1000Hz. It is used only on the diode package.

Hardware

Standard size 10, 300 series stainless steel hardware, two each: plain nut, flat washer and split lock washer. It is corrosion resistant and there is no plating to chip or flake off.
Terminal, Ring Tongue

A standard ring tongue terminal made by AMP Incorporated, part number 35273. It is a copper, crimp type with vinyl insulation and tin plating. It accepts wire sizes of AWG 12 or 10 stranded and will withstand temperatures up to 105°C.

Terminal, Insulated

A standard receptacle made by AMP, Incorporated, part number 2-520084-2. It is a tin plated, copper alloy, crimp type, .110 size, fully insulated FASTON terminal, part no. 2-520084-2. It accepts wire sizes of AWG 22 to 18, stranded and its nylon insulation will withstand temperatures up to 105°C. It is used only on the transistor package.

5.1.5 Environmental

All external metal portions of the package are nickel plated with Fidelity 4875. This is a high-phosphorus, electroless nickel plating, 150 to 200 microinches thick.

External metal portions are the copper electrical terminals, steel cap flange and copper bottom plate. This is necessary to prevent oxidation or corrosion of these areas. Oxidation of the terminals would increase electrical contact resistance. Corrosion on the surface of the bottom plate would reduce thermal conductivity.

High phosphorus electroless nickel plating provides all of the qualities necessary for protection from a Space Station environment, during ground handling, through launch and during long term orbit operation. It insures reliable electrical and thermal interfaces. The external surface of the ceramic
insulator is glazed. This is a glass coating used to protect the aluminum oxide ceramic from contamination such as metal smears and oils. Any contamination on the surface of the glaze is easily removed by normal cleaning methods and its smooth nonporous surface resists metal smears.

5.1.6 Reliability

Thermal fatigue occurs during the normal course of the operation of the device as it is cycled over a wide range of temperatures. It is generated by the mechanical stresses caused by the differences in thermal expansion of the components used in the device assembly. This can be a result of a temperature differential between the adjacent component parts or the difference in their coefficient of thermal expansion or both. Fatigue is normally experienced as cracks or separations within the component parts or the interfaces joining them. Often it appears in the silicon device and joints.

The large ceramic substrate is solder mounted to the bottom plate for a different reason. A large mismatch in the coefficient of thermal expansion, a significant temperature differential and large size cause a large difference in thermal expansion. Cracking the relatively tough component parts is not the main concern. Solder is used to absorb stresses thereby preventing severe warping of both bottom plate and ceramic substrate.

A molybdenum plate is used between the silicon device and copper conductor plate carrying the device current. Molybdenum has a coefficient of thermal expansion close to silicon, reducing
stress to a minimum.

The temperature differential between bottom plate and ceramic substrate is reduced by using beryllium oxide rather than the more commonly used aluminum oxide. Thermal conductivity of BeO (2.20 W/CM°C) is closer to copper (3.91 W/CM°C) so there is a reduction in thermal stress.

Large flexible, stranded and braided, copper cables connect the external terminals with the internal conductor plates. In the case of the diode package, one cable is attached to a molybdenum disc, soldered directly to the diode. The cables absorb minor assembly misalignments and package thermal expansion and prevent transmission of stress to devices and solder joints. A bend in the internal base pin achieves the same objective.

Aluminum wires connecting transistor emitter and base contacts to the internal package conductors are looped for flexibility, providing the means to absorb package thermal expansion and relieving stress on the ultrasonic bonds at each end of the wires.

Internal conductors are crimped and welded to external terminals. Resistance welding is a significant improvement over crimping only. Reliability and consistency of the contact is improved while lowering electrical resistance and the heat generated thereby.

Package conductors are as large as possible considering all aspects of the package requirements. They are made of the highest electrically conductive material consistent with overall goals. Reliability degrading heat generated due to electrical
resistance is minimized.

Ceramic plate subassembly component parts are joined by brazing with a silver-copper alloy. The strength of the components are able to withstand thermal induced stresses. Reliability is enhanced by the strength of the brazing alloy and its superior thermal conductivity.

Solder joints will eventually fail from thermal fatigue, probably before any of the component parts. Solder joints are a critical element in package reliability. Several measures were taken in the design and assembly of the package to insure highly reliable solder joints.

High purity solder alloy preforms (99.99% pure) are used exclusively for all solder joints. Extreme care is taken during assembly to prevent contamination from entering the solder joints. No flux is used. Impurities and contamination in the solder would result in dislocation pileup, thereby accelerating failure.

Appropriate precautions are taken to prevent oxidation of the solder preforms. Packages remain sealed until ready for use and parts are stored in a dry nitrogen desiccator. Oxidation contributes toward solder joint voids which create hot spots and act as crack nucleation sites thereby accelerating thermal shock failure.

Through the use of solder preforms the volume of solder is controlled. Voids are reduced and unwanted overflow is minimized.

A lead-silver-tin solder alloy is used (304°C liquidus) to insure melting temperatures well above 200°C. This is a
relatively strong solder having a mechanical strength which lies between that of the hard and soft solders, thereby avoiding damage to component parts (especially the silicon device) while resisting thermal fatigue between silicon and substrate.

5.2 Alternative Design Approaches

This contract presented the opportunity to investigate several new materials and processes for power semiconductor device fabrication. Listed in this section are several approaches investigated prior to the selection of the final design for the Space Station power semiconductor packaging.

**Bottom Plate**

There are three basic bottom plate approaches. The first is a hermetically brazed assembly consisting of a flat ceramic disc surrounded by a flat nickel-iron frame. Mounting holes pass through extensions on the frame. Internal component parts can be stacked on the ceramic disc. There is a weld projection on the frame for cap attachment. The ceramic disc can be either metallized with fired molybdenum-manganese alloy or layered with copper foil by the directly bonded copper (DBC) method.

Second is a hermetically brazed assembly consisting of a flat ceramic substrate and a flat nickel-iron frame both having identical external shapes. Mounting holes pass through both parts. There is a weld projection on the frame for cap attachment. In the center of the frame is a large circular cutout so internal component parts can be stacked on the ceramic substrate, which can be either metallized with fired molybdenum-manganese or layered with copper foil by the DBC method.
In both designs the intent is to eliminate the thick copper heat sink normally present in order to reduce thermal resistance. The ceramic would directly contact an external heat sink for heat transfer. If the DBC substrate is used, a molybdenum under the silicon device may not be needed, thereby further reducing thermal resistance. Neither design was used because of concerns for reliability and hermeticity. Hermetic sealing appeared difficult and there existed the probability of a cracked ceramic from use or rough handling.

The third approach consists of a flat pure copper stamped plate with a steel weld projection hermetically brazed. There are mounting holes at each end and internal components are stacked on the plate.

**Internal Connectors**

Three forms have been considered for the conductors connecting external terminals to internal components. An early design consisted of a copper cable split into a "y" shape with terminals swaged on each end. The design allowed too much flexibility for fixturing and was too complicated to make.

Next was a flat copper stamping, bent at 90°, with a cylindrical copper shaft attached by swaging. After soldering in place and wire bonding an additional 90° bend was applied bringing the shaft into position to mate with the cap. The bend was necessary since the shaft in its final position obstructed wire bonding operations. Because it was too rigid and the bend difficult to make accurately this design was dropped in favor of the third, a simplified copper cable used in the final design.
Internal/External Terminal Contacts

Two methods considered but not used are soldering and crimping. Soldering would consist of remelting a solder deposit within the joint between internal cable and external terminal, a preform could be placed inside the terminal prior to assembly or the cable end solder plated. Soldering was rejected in favor of welding. Difficulties anticipated were as follows: Heating and melting the solder might disturb previous solder joints, maintaining a forming gas atmosphere at the joint, inspecting the joint and avoiding contamination to internal parts. Crimping involves squeezing the external terminal inward to contact the internal cable forming a mechanical/electrical contact. Voids in the contact area have been observed with crimp contacts, resulting in high contact resistance.

Internal Contacts

Initial designs called for an assembly stack brazed with 780°C silver-copper and consisting of a copper bottom plate, ceramic substrate, copper conductor plates and molybdenum plate. After encountering severe warpage the same assembly was made using a 640°C silver-copper-phosphorus alloy with similar warpage. Next an all soft solder assembly was considered, but not tried. It was felt that as many component parts as possible should be brazed together. A brazed subassembly was used.

Ceramic Plate

In the final design it is possible to substitute two variations that were considered. These were aluminum nitride as a substitute for alumina and direct bonded copper.
Aluminum nitride is in the development process. It appears to be a good compromise between the high cost of beryllia and the poor thermal conductivity of alumina. Thermal conductivity of aluminum nitride is as high as 2.00 watts per centimeter per °C and the coefficient of thermal expansion is 4.6x10^{-6} meter per meter per °C, with a dielectric strength and resistivity similar to beryllia and alumina. [6] There are two significant differences. The thermal conductivity of beryllia drops rapidly between 100°C and 300°C. At about 100°C to 200°C the thermal conductivity of aluminum nitride equals that of beryllia. The low coefficient of thermal expansion will increase thermal expansion mismatch with other components in the package.

Ceramic with copper sheet directly bonded on both sides is available. Bonding a .032 inches thick copper layer on both sides is state of the art. Copper coefficient of thermal expansion is reduced by an intrinsic bond with the ceramic. A molybdenum plate would be needed under the silicon device. Thermal expansion mismatch from the molybdenum plate to the directly bonded copper would be reduced. Test data taken from P.T.C. high power modules constructed with both conventional metallized ceramic and direct bond copper ceramic, indicates a slightly lower Rθjc with the conventional ceramic construction.

Cap

1. Zirconium copper CDA 150, chrome copper CDA182 and iron-nickel alloy 42 were considered for the external terminals.

2. Dielectric insulator:

   A. Aluminum oxide was to be used if plastic proved
unacceptable. Plastic has the preferred characteristics of lightweight and ease of manufacturing.

B. Valox 420-SEO, General Electric Co., is a thermoplastic polyester, 30% glass fiber filled. The heat deflection temperature @264 PSI is 204°C. It is affected by alkalies. Mold shrink rate is high and this material tends to warp.

C. Ryton R-7, Phillips 66 Co., is a polyphenylene sulfide, glass and mineral filled. The heat deflection temperature @264 PSI is 260°C. It is affected by ethers and amines and may outgas in a vacuum. It is difficult to mold and has moderate mold shrink rate.

D. Rynite FR-530, DuPont and Co., is a thermoplastic polyester, 30% glass fiber filled. The heat deflection temperature @264 PSI is 224°C. It is affected by alkalies and some polar solvents. Mold shrink rate is high.

E. Ultem 2300, General Electric Co., is a polyetherimide, 30% glass fiber filled. The heat deflection temperature @264 PSI is 210°C. It is affected by trichloroethane and phenol. Mold shrink rate is moderate.

Solder Preforms

Solder alloy selection is an important part of packaging design. Listed below are those alloys studied but not used in the final design:

- 50% Pb, 50% Sn
- 50% Pb, 50% In
- 95% Pb, 5.0% Sn
- 92.5% Pb, 5.0% In, 2.5%Ag
- 92.5% Pb, 5.0% Sn, 2.5%Ag

A new process for manufacturing solder has been developed by
Allied Corporation with the trade name of Metglas. Although information was received too late for implementation, Metglas materials show promise. Metglas solder alloys are produced by Rapid Solidification (R/S). As a result, according to Allied, solder joints exhibit a fine grained homogenous microstructure. The uniform microstructure eliminates crack nucleation sites and defers crack propagation, thereby improving both the shear strength and resistance to thermal fatigue failure. Metglas solders achieve complete liquidity faster than conventional alloys. Since the foil is cast rather than rolled (conventional method), there are less surface oxides and other impurities are not rolled in, resulting in reduced joint voids and improved wetting. These high purity solders are available in most of the commonly used alloys. Of particular interest for this package is alloy MSFA-103, 92.5 Pb, 5.0% In, 2.5 Ag, Liquidus 310°C, solidus 300°C. A high lead content allows plastic deformation. The addition of silver improves thermal conductivity while indium improves wetting, contributes to plasticity and resistance to thermal fatigue. The Metglas solder will be used on all future programs at P.T.C., utilizing the Space Station semiconductor power package.
6.0 ASSEMBLY PROCESSING AND EVALUATIONS

6.1 Process

The assembly of the piece parts, as described, is a process that utilized the same processing steps for the diode and transistor.

6.1.1 Diode

Assembly process steps are outlined in the flow chart, Figure 13.

6.1.2 Transistor

Assembly for the transistor is outlined in the flow chart, Figure 14.

6.2 Equipment

6.2.1 Diode

Controlled atmosphere conveyor furnace
Watkins-Johnson Co.--Model number 8CS-96(S)

Inspection Microscope

Ultrasonic Vapor Degreaser
Delta Sonics--Model DS1012R

Automatic Dispensing System
EFD Corp.--Model No. 1000 DF/DG

Vacuum Bake Oven
Blue M Co.--Model POM-18VC-2

Semiconductor test system (in-process test)
Lorlin Impact II

Resistance Cap Welding System
Polaris Electronics Corp.--Model 5100 AC, 125KVA

Crimp Welding System
Unitek Co.--Phasemaster 1, Model PMI

Bubble Testers
Trio-Tech--Model G-203

Rotary Disk Polisher
NASA DIODE ASSEMBLY FLOW CHART

Figure 13
6.2.2 Transistor

Controlled atmosphere conveyor furnace
Watkins-Johnson Co.--Model number 8CS-96(S)

Inspection Microscope

Orthodyne Wirebonder
Model 20

Bond Pull Tester (0 to 2000 gms)
Hybrid Machine Products--Model M2305

Ultrasonic Vapor Degreaser
Delta Sonics--Model #DS1012R

Automatic Dispensing System
EFD Corp.--Model No. 1000 DF/DG

Vacuum Bake Oven
Blue M Co.--Model POM-18VC-2

Semiconductor test system (in process test)
Lorlin Impact 11

Resistance Cap Welding System
Polaris Electronics Corp.--Model 5100 AC, 125KVA

Crimp Welding System
Unitek Co.--Phasemaster I, Model PM1

Bubble Testers
Trio-Tech--Model G-203

Rotary Disk Polisher

6.3 Tooling

6.3.1 Furnace Soldering Fixture

All soldering for both the diode and the transistor package is accomplished with the aid of a solder reflow fixture. One fixture design is used for both devices. It holds the component parts in place while the solder melts during a furnace pass and continues to hold the parts while the solder solidifies.

One fixture is used for each assembly. A single fixture consists of an assembly, one each of the following pieces:
Weight Plate  50-0260
Locator Plate  50-0261-1
Spacer  50-0262
Weight  50-0263-2
Weight  50-0264
Spring Pin  0 3/32x.50, S/S

Assembly begins with a furnace boat, 50-0265. This is a four position carrier tray used to hold the piece parts and fixture parts in a convenient position for easy assembly. It then serves to carry assemblies through the belt furnace, in a group of 4 assemblies, that is both compatible with the furnace capacity and efficient from a production standpoint.

The package piece parts and the fixture piece parts are assembled in a fixed order. All solder joints are individually weighted so that the weighting is both independent and appropriate to the size of the joint.

The fixture, furnace boat and package were designed for easy, efficient production. All soldering is accomplished with one pass through the belt furnace. Piece parts are properly located so they fit together with mating parts in later assembly operations, without additional bending or fitting. This system is easily expandable for larger assembly runs. All excess material has been removed, where practical, to minimize the mass of the fixture and furnace boat.

The component parts of the fixtures are made of AISI 410 stainless steel. The choice of material is as important to the functioning of the fixture as its design. Areas of the fixture come in contact with molten solder while in the furnace and must resist becoming soldered to the assembly. Type 410 stainless steel, containing about 12% chromium was chosen because it is
difficult to solder. It develops an oxide coat after heating and exposure to air, further reducing its solderability. Its life expectancy is long. The industry standard material for furnace fixtures has been graphite. Unlike graphite, stainless steel does not crack, chip, break or shed. It can be repaired or modified more easily than graphite because material can be added by welding. It is easy to clean and keep clean since it is nonporous and does not absorb oil from the hands or moisture from the air.

In an annealed condition, type 410 stainless steel is mechanically stable. There has been no warping, twisting or bending observed after repeated temperature cycling through the furnace at peak temperatures of 400°C. It has the lowest coefficient of expansion of all the other stainless steels considered.

The wire Electronic Discharge Machine (EDM) and ram EDM processes were used to make critical portions of the fixture. Remaining parts were made by conventional machining. The fixture was designed to take advantage of the computer controlled EDM process. Key features are:

1. Repeatability. Any number of identical pieces can be produced any time. Reorders are guaranteed to be identical.

2. Stackability. Work pieces can be stacked and wire cut at one time lowering costs.

3. Machinability. The process can cut difficult to machine materials or hardened tool steel easily and economically.

4. Burrs. The process makes a clean burr free cut.
5. **Accuracy.** Excellent precision is easily achieved.

6. **Intricate Shapes.** Fine, small, intricate shapes can be made that are not possible or practical with conventional machining.

7. **No Stress.** Stresses are not introduced into the work piece and as a result there is no bending or warpage.

8. **Cost.** With improvements in equipment and electronics, cutting speeds have increased thereby lowering piece part cost.

6.3.2 **Cap Welding Electrode**

Polaris Electronics Corporation working with P.T.C. designed and fabricated a set of tooling used to resistance weld the cap and bottom plate. The tooling consists of copper alloy, cylindrical upper and lower electrodes that were designed for a 125 KVA Polaris resistance welder. Both electrodes are easily removed for service. Plastic locator pins are incorporated into the lower electrode retaining ring, for automatic alignment of the cap and the bottom plate.

6.4 **Assembly Problems and Solutions**

6.4.1 **Bottom Plate**

The bottom plate consists of a copper plate with a weld ring brazed to it.

Some bottom plates were received with different types of weld rings and some of the weld ring cavities were not completely filled with solder braze, which produced voids under the weld ring resulting in leaks at capping.

The plates, as received from the vendor, were not flat. A dish shaped cavity was located in the center of the bottom plate.
This cavity severely affected the thermal resistance. It was required to surface all of the transistor and diode bottom plates prior to final plating.

Besides the voids in the weld ring, excessive braze material had overflowed from the ring cavity onto the top of the plate, creating a problem of nonuniform plating and mounting areas. Surface profile variations are shown in Figure 15.

The bottom plates were plated with high phosphorous, electroless nickel.

6.4.2 Ceramics

Both alumina and beryllia ceramics were used in this program. The alumina substrates were used to establish the process. Once processes were established, the beryllia (BeO) was used to assemble the engineering models.

The alumina ceramics were received with metal bridging along the edges. This necessitated sanding the sides of the ceramic to remove the metal bridges. This problem was created during the laser scribing operation done by the vendor. The BeO ceramics were not laser scribed and did not exhibit this problem.

Problems were encountered in trying to achieve a void free solder bond between the ceramic and the copper bottom plate. Gold plating of the ceramics resulted in poor solderability to the copper plate. The plating on the top did not present any problems in solder bonding the chip to the ceramic assembly. Some ceramics were sent to NASA Lewis for recleaning, using an atomic oxygen cleaning process. Also, an asher plasma cleaning process was used. There was no improvement using these cleaning
Figure 15, Bottom Plate Surface Profile
technologies. Because of the continuing problems with the back metallization on the ceramics, samples were sent for Scanning Auger Microanalysis (SAM). Several samples were analyzed and the results indicated traces of tungsten on the nickel surface to a depth greater than 100 Å. The Auger analysis did not show any traces of tungsten prior to the brazing process. (Figure 16, a and b) To correct this problem it was necessary to remove or cover the tungsten. The final plating process for the ceramics was as follows: 150 microinch copper, 100 microinch nickel, 5 microinch gold strike (Au & Ni), 5 microinch pure gold.

Prior to assembly the gold plated ceramics were cleaned in a solution of 10% acetic acid and DI water. This process produced void free solder joints.

During the in-process test of thermal resistance ($R_{\theta JC}$) the initial transistors tested, read approximately 0.2°C/W up to 40 or 50 watts. Above 50 watts the $R_{\theta JC}$ would increase to levels as high as 1.5°C/W or higher. Some units would go into a forward bias secondary breakdown mode. When testing these same units on the Forward Bias Safe Operating Area Tester (FBSOA), they would pass at 10V/50A (500 watts). Some units passed at 10V/60A (600 watts). It was determined that voids between the ceramic interface and the copper metallization were causing the thermal resistance problem. The ceramics were then sent for radiographic inspection (x-ray), to check for voids between the ceramic-copper interface. Three groups were x-rayed.

Group #1 Al$_2$O$_3$ 100 ea = 100% failed with voids >25%
Group #2 BeO 100 ea = 70% failed with voids >20%
Group #3 BeO 321 ea = 51% failed with voids >20%
Figure 16a, Scanning Auger Microanalysis of Ceramic Metallization

Prior to Braze

61
Figure 16b, Scanning Auger Microanalysis of Ceramic Metallization

Post Braze
The 164 BeO ceramics in group #3 that passed were used for the final assembly of both the transistor and the diode engineering models.

Figure 17 shows large circular voids were present under both the copper heat sinks and also under the hexagonal molybdenum pads on top of the copper. The vendor who brazed the copper to ceramic was contacted to determine the cause of the voids. Their response was that they had used round washer shaped braze preforms, where a disc shaped preform should have been used. These washer shaped preforms created the voids under both the molybdenum and the copper resulting in the marginal thermal resistance.

6.4.3 Cables

The first attempts of soldering the braided copper cables to their respective bonding pads did not work. The problem was the solder which should have remained at the bottom of the cable to provide the proper fillet, was wicked (sucked) into the center of the sleeve and climbed up the inside of the cables. Two corrective measures were taken simultaneously:

1. All the remaining cables were returned to the manufacturer for recrimping of the bottom sleeve.

2. All the recrimped cables were sent out for plating, first with nickel followed by a flash of gold. This corrected the wicking problem and produced fillets which are well feathered, continuous and smooth.

6.4.4 Wire Bonding

Electrical contacts to the active areas of the transistor consist of 25 mil aluminum wire ultrasonically bonded to the base
Figure 17, Ceramic-Copper Interface Inspection by X-Ray
and emitter bonding pads. Only minor problems were encountered with excessive solder reflow on the emitter bus.

6.4.5 Cap Welding

Some of the transistor caps had obstructions blocking the tubular portion of the base terminal. Because of this blockage, the cap would not seat properly without deforming the base pin. Correction for this problem was to use a go/no-go gage and test all of the tubes, discarding the blocked ones.

At capping, some of the caps had a misalignment of the ceramic and the steel welding flange which made them unusable, because they would not seat properly in the cap welder electrodes. All the caps were tested in a go/no-go fixture and separated prior to capping. After welding and tube sealing, the caps were tested for gross leakage.

6.4.6 Crimp Welding

A Unitek, Phasemaster I, Model PMI, was used to crimp weld the collector, emitter and base on the transistor and a cathode and anode on the diode. No major problems were experienced once the processing cycles were established.

6.4.7 Post Cap Interior Coating

The Parylene passivation was performed by Nova Tran Corp. When the units were received from Nova Tran the filler tube had a coating of Parylene on the inside. It was necessary to remove this coating prior to sealing the tube.

The initial attempts at crimp welding the tubes resulted in approximately 50% gross leak test failures. To improve the weld, the crimp area was moved up to .025" from the end of the tube. Crimping in this area would smash and melt all the copper at the
end of the tube, producing a tight seal.

6.4.8 **Bottom Plate Surfacing**

The weld ring brazing process leaves a concave area, located in the center of the bottom of the plate. To correct this, surfacing on a rotary grinder/polisher was performed.

6.4.9 **Finish Plating**

After surfacing, the units are final plated with 100 microinches copper per MIL-C-14550, class 0 and 150 microinches Electroless Nickel per MIL-C-26074B.

6.4.10 **Plastic Cap**

Filling the cavities which surround the copper terminals was more of a problem than anticipated. Only after several potting material evaluations, a satisfactory material and application technique was selected.

The cap is installed by first using a high temperature (−54°C to 177°C), high impact strength (2.1 J/cm²) adhesive which gives maximum reliability under severe environmental conditions. The void is completely filled with the high temperature silicone rubber which was used to form the gasket. The silicone rubber used is solventless, forms a flexible heat-resistant seal which will withstand temperatures in excess of 275°C and electrical properties are not sacrificed at the high operating temperatures. Dielectric strength is 490 volts/mil. This potting compound will expand during the curing cycle but the excess can be trimmed.
7.0 ELECTRICAL TESTING

All electrical testing, from chip evaluation to final characteristic testing, is performed on equipment available in P.T.C.'s electrical test facility. The equipment calibration is maintained as defined in P.T.C. Q.A. Procedure, Document Number QRS-2003, Rev. A, that defines the control of all P.T.C.'s measurement and test equipment as required by MIL-STD-45662.

7.1 Chip Testing

Due to the large size of the chips and the necessity of staggering them on the wafer, it is not possible to automatically probe the wafers. Therefore, it is necessary for us to probe each chip by hand. To do this we had a dice probing fixture made by Martronic Engineering, Simi Valley, Calif. Each chip is placed into the dice cavity using a vacuum pickup tool, and the cover containing the spring loaded probing needles is lowered on to the top of the chip. The test fixture can be plugged into a Tektronix curve tracer or into an automatic tester. No guard band is added to the chip parameters because assembled chips improve in all of the characteristics.

7.1.1 Diodes

The diodes in chip form are tested for the following parameters prior to assembly:

1. $I_R$ Reverse Leakage Current @ $V_R=1000V$ <.200mA
2. $V_F$ Forward Voltage @ $I_F=50A$ <1.5V
3. $t_{rr}$ Reverse Recovery Time @ $I_F=50A$ <500nS
4. The average test values for the last eleven lots are:
   A. $V_R = 1068V$
   B. $V_F = 1.48V$
   C. $t_{rr} = 416nS$
7.1.2 Transistor

The transistors in chip form are tested to the following parameters:

1. $V_{CBO}$ Collector-Base Voltage @ $I_C = 0.300\text{mA} > 600\text{V}$
2. $V_{CEO(sus)}$ Collector-Emitter Sustaining Voltage
   @ $I_C = 200\text{mA}, \quad I_B = 0, \quad 0.300\text{ms pulse} \quad > 500\text{V}$
3. $I_C(\text{rated})$ Gain Rated Collector Current
   @ $I_B = 4.16\text{A} \quad V_{CE} = 2.5 \quad > 50\text{A}$
4. The average test values for the last 13 lots are:
   
   $V_{CBO} = 713\text{V}$
   $V_{CEO(sus)} = 492\text{V}$
   $I_C = 58\text{A}$

7.2 Assembly In-Process Testing

After the assembled units are cleaned and coated with the respective passivation coatings, and prior to pre-cap visual inspection, they are electrically tested to eliminate the poor subperformance units. This test is performed on the Lorlin Impact II automatic tester, which has the capability of testing up to $100\text{A}$ and $2000\text{V}$. At this stage of the assembly all tests were performed to specified parameters and at room temperature. All tests are datalogged for comparison with the finished tested units.

7.3 Final Characteristic Tests

7.3.1 Diode

1. DC Blocking Voltage ($V_R$)
   @ $0.050\text{mA}$ at $25^\text{°C}$
   and $5\text{mA}$ at $100^\text{°C}$

2. Peak nonrepetitive reverse voltage ($V_{RSM}$) is specified
at 100°C. Typical blocking voltage and peak reverse voltage values are plotted as a function of reverse current and temperature. (Figure 18 and Figure 23) The Tektronix Curve Tracer, Model 370 is used to plot a typical DC Blocking Voltage characteristic at 25°C as plotted on an Epson HI-80. (Figure 19)

3. Average Forward Current @100°C (IF). The average current was measured on the Tektronix Curve Tracer, Model 576 and the data is presented in Figure 20, as a function of the forward voltage (VF).

4. Nonrepetitive Peak Surge Current (IFSM).@ 1/2 cycle, 60Hz. resistive load, 600A min. Measurements are made on the Martronic Surge Current Tester, Model 30. Figure 21 shows the typical wave forms of two devices under test. For surge current at specified conditions for the proposed 125A rated device, the surge current rating is increased to 2100A min.

5. Forward Voltage @ 50 ampere (VF). The data was taken on a Tektronix Curve Tracer, Model 576 with a high current adapter Model 176. The data is shown in Figure 20 and Figure 23.

6. Reverse Recovery Time and Peak Reverse Recovery Current (tRR) and (1RR),@IF=50A,dl/dt=25A/us TJ=100°C. Both tests were performed on a Martronic Reverse Recovery Time Tester using the JEDEC circuit. Figure 22 shows the tRR wave forms at 25°C. Figure 23 lists the tRR at 100°C for all engineering models delivered.

7. Interterminal Capacitance, anode to cathode

\[ V_R = 350V, \quad f = 0.1M \text{ Hz} \quad (\text{Figure 34}) \]
7.3.2 Transistor

1. Collector-Emitter Sustaining Voltage ($V_{CE0(sus)}$)
   @ $I_C=200\,mA$, $I_B=0$, 300 us pulse

   Martronic Sustaining Voltage Tester Model, 11 was used to measure the sustaining voltage. (Figure 24 and Figure 25)

2. Collector-Base Voltage ($V_{CBO}$)
   @ $I_C=300\,mA$

   A Tektronix, Model 370 was used to test the collector-base voltage. (Figure 24 and Figure 26)

3. Gain-Collector Current Product ($hFEI_C$)
   @ $V_{CE}=2.5\,V$

   The tests were performed on the Mastech, Model 216 CUM Automatic Tester. The data is presented in Figure 27 and 24.

4. Gain Rated Collector Current ($I_C(rated)$)
   @ $hFE=12$, $V_{CE}=2.5\,V$

   Mastech, Model 216 was used to measure gain rated collector current, $I_C(rated)$, Figure 24.

5. Continuous Collector Current ($I_C(\text{cont.})$)

   Test performed on Forward Bias Safe Operating Tester, Martronic, Model 29. Conditions were 10 volts $V_{CE}$ and a base drive of 5.0 amperes.

6. Peak Collector Current, Pulsed ($I_C(\text{peak})$)

   The peak collector current was tested on the High Current Surge Tester, Martronic, Model #30. Parameters were 200 volts $V_{CE}$ with a base drive of 10 amperes.

7. DC Current Gain ($hFE$)
   @ $I_C=50\,A$, $V_{CE}=2.5\,V$ (Pulsed with duty cycle <2%)

   The DC current gain was measured on a Tektronix, Model 576 with high current adapter, Model 176, and the Mastech Automatic Tester. The data is present in a gain hold-up curve, Figure 27.
and Figure 24.

8. Base Current, continuous ($I_B$)

Measured on the Tektronix 576 with a high current adapter, Model 176.

9. Collector-Emitter Saturation Voltage ($V_{CE}^{(sat)}$)

@ $I_C=50A$, $I_B=6.25A$

The Mastech Automatic Tester was used. The data is presented in Figure 24 and Figure 28.

10. Base-Emitter Saturation Voltage ($V_{BE}^{(sat)}$)

@ $I_C=50A$, $I_B=6.25A$

Measured in the same method as $V_{CE}^{(sat)}$, the data is shown in Figure 24 and Figure 29.

11. Switch Time. ($t_{on}, t_{off}, t_{st}, t_{r}$)

$V_{cc}=300$ volts, $I_C=50/A, I_B=I_B=4.2A$

The turn-on, rise, storage and fall times were measured on a Martronic Resistive Switch Time Tester. The storage and fall times are shown in Figures 24, 30, 31, 32, and 33.

12. Input Impedance: approximately 18000 ohms measured on Tektronix, Model 576.


14. Interterminal Capacitance, Collector to Base

$V_{CB}=350v$, $I_E=0$, $f=0.1$ MHz,

and C vs. $V_R$, Figure 35.
Figure 18, Diode Blocking Voltage ($V_R$) or Peak Inverse Voltage (PIV) vs. Reverse Leakage Current.
Figure 19
Figure 20, Diode Average Forward Voltage ($V_F$) vs. Forward Current ($I_F$).
Figure 21, Nonrepetitive Peak Surge Current
Scale: 1000A per V
Figure 22, Reverse Recovery Time

\[ I_F = 50A, \quad \text{d}I/\text{d}t = 25A/\mu s \@ 25^\circ C \]

(JEDEC Circuit)
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Figure 23, Final Test Data of Diode Engineering Models
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Figure 24 (Continued), Final Test Data of Transistor Engineering Models
Figure 27, DC Current Gain ($h_{FE}$) vs. Collector Current ($I_c$)
Figure 28. Collector - Emitter Saturation Voltage \( V_{CE(sat)} \) vs. Collector Current \( I_c \).
$V_{CC} = 300 \text{V}$

$I_{B1} = I_{B2} = 4.2 \text{A}$

$PW = 50 \mu \text{S}$

Figure 30. Storage Time ($t_s$) vs. Collector Current ($I_c$)
Figure 31, Fall Time ($t_f$) vs. Collector Current ($I_C$)

- $V_{CC} = 300V$
- $I_{B1} = I_{B2} = 4.2A$
- $PW = 50\mu S$
Figure 32, Storage Time ($t_s$) and Turn-off Time ($t_{off}$)

Storage Time ($t_s$) @ $V_{cc} = 32V$ (approximately 10% of total)

$\quad t_s = 2.4\mu s$

Turn-off Time ($t_{off}$) @ $V_{cc} = 278.4V$

$\quad t_{off} = 2.9\mu s$
Figure 33, Collector Current ($I_c$) and Collector Supply Voltage ($V_{cc}$) Display for Switching Time Measurements in Figure 32
Figure 34: Diode Interterminal Capacitance (Anode to Cathode)

$T_J = 25^\circ C$
Figure 35, Transistor Interterminal Capacitance (Collector to Base)
<table>
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<tr>
<th>DEVICE NUMBER</th>
<th>t_{rr} @ 125A</th>
<th>V_F @ 125A</th>
<th>V_R @ 500\mu A</th>
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Figure 36, Diode Evaluation at 125A Rating
7.3.3 Thermal Resistance

Thermal resistance is used to reference thermally sensitive characteristics of a device. It is also the bases of a circuit design for establishing and specifying thermal limits under operating conditions. The importance of it can not be over-emphasized.

It is essential that reliable thermal resistance measurements are obtained using standard measurement methods and to focus attention of both manufacturers and users on the thermal management of the high power semiconductor devices.

Diode Thermal Resistance Measurement

In order to measure thermal resistance of the diode, the forward voltage \( V_F \) is monitored with respect to temperature. This data relates the thermal resistance of the diode to the \( V_F \) of the diode.

Measurements are taken at a controlled 50°C. Since the readings are to reflect the junction to heat sink thermal resistance, it is necessary to control and hold the temperature of the heat sink at a constant 50°C. The temperature of the heat sink, after every measurement, is recorded. The equipment consists of an IBM-PC, an oven, a Fluke D.V.M., a constant current power supply, a relay matrix and an IEEE interface.

By using an IBM-PC and interface boards (with A-D's, parallel I/O and serial communications) this test is also automated. The test is started at a heating time of 10 ms and is finished with a 30 second heating time. Before every thermal resistance measurement, the PC monitors the heat sink temperature to insure a stable 50°C. Also, a delay between each test of 5
times the previous heating time is used to allow the junction to return to 50°C. The individual thermal resistance measurements consist of a cold $V_F$ reading (taken at the selected current), an applied heating current (a selected dc current based on the chip size and for a selected period of time) and a hot $V_F$ reading (taken with the same current used for the cold reading). Also, during the time the current is applied, a power dissipation measurement is taken. With this information and the K-factor obtained from the calibration test, the thermal resistance junction to heat sink is calculated.

$$R_{\theta JS} = \frac{\text{delta } T}{PD}$$

where

- delta $T = (V_F \text{ cold} - V_F \text{ hot})K$-factor
- PD = power dissipation

Plots of the individual $R_{\theta JS}$ readings vs. time of diode samples are shown in Figures 37 and 38.

**Transistor Thermal Resistance Measurement**

The transistor thermal resistance tester is a self contained NPN transistor/darlington tester which measures the base-emitter voltage before and after a set power pulse has been applied. The tester then senses the change in the voltage from the base to the emitter (delta $V_{BE}$) and the change is displayed on the front panel, digital volt meter. This delta $V_{BE}$ can be used to calculate the temperature rise and thus the thermal resistance ($R_{\theta JC}$) of the device. The tester can also heat the device up slowly and measure the base-emitter voltage at a preselected temperature. A plot of the junction temperature and $V_{BE}$ can be made on the device under test.

The tester has a liquid cooled heat exchanger designed to
cool the devices during a 1 second and greater thermal resistance test. This heat exchanger was used to maintain the case temperature at 50°C when the ROJC vs. time plots submitted in this report were generated. (Figure 39)
Figure 37, Diode Thermal Resistance (0-1 second)
Figure 38. Diode Thermal Resistance (0 to 10^4 seconds)
Figure 39, Transistor Thermal Resistance
8.0 RELIABILITY TESTS

To maintain uniform methods and have readily available standard references of the reliability evaluation, MIL-STD-750C (test methods for semiconductor devices) have been specified as the bases to define the methods, conditions and limits of the tests performed. Electrically tested and accepted random sample sets at a minimum of ten transistors and ten diodes have been evaluated for each of the reliability performance tests outlined in the plan.

Only the test method, major test conditions and the results are listed in the following outline. Complete documentation of the test processes, detailed conditions and the evaluation results on data acquisition is available at P.T.C. to NASA Project Manager for review.

8.1 Test Plan and Results

8.1.1 Environmental Tests

Thermal Shock (temperature cycling)

Method: 1051.2

Conditions: -65°C to 125°C, 5 cycles

Results: No failures

High Temperature Life (non operating)

Method: 1031.4

Conditions: 150°C, 500 hours

Interim electrical check points at 168, 304 and 500 hours

Results: No failures
Hermetic Seal (fine leak)

Method: 1071.2

Conditions: "H₁", (helium fine leak test, fixed method)

Reject limit: $1 \times 10^{-7}$ at m.cm$^3$/s

Results: 3 failures of 20 units tested

8.1.2 Mechanical Characteristics Tests

Shock

Method: 2016.2

Conditions: 1) Acceleration of 50 G peak for 0.5 milliseconds

2) Six directions

(+Z, -Z, +Y, -Y, +X, -X) of blows

Results: No visual damage

No electrical failures

Constant Acceleration

Method: 2006

Conditions: 50 G centrifugal force

Results: No physical damage

No electrical rejects
9.0 **PROJECT CONCLUSIONS**

The design, development, fabrication and evaluation of the power semiconductor package for the Space Station applications have been successfully completed.

The package specifications required new approaches in design, material selection and processing techniques. In choosing the metal components, and dielectric materials, particular attention has been given to the energy loss considerations, both electrical and thermal. New materials used for this type of application include liquid crystal polymer plastic and polymer (Parylene) coating.

The package outline fits within a rectangular envelope of 1.445 by 2.250 by 1.640 inches. The complete diode and transistor packages weigh 84.5 grams and 86.0 grams respectively. Electrical hardware supplied with each unit weighs additional 9.0 grams.

In accordance with NEMA standards, the diode and the transistor packages comply with the ratings of 1400 volts and 900 volts peak.

A number of problems encountered in the processing, resulting from particular material selection or component design, will be resolved during the proposed prototype fabrication of these devices as part of P.T.C.'s new POWERMODE product line. Some of the recommended and intended areas for improvements are solder reflow assembly, component plating, subassembly brazing and surface passivation of the chip.

Material improvements can be made by more directly evaluating: 1) Metglas R/S solder made by Allied Corporation, 2)
directly bonded copper to ceramic substrate made by Toshiba, Doduco and BBC, 3) external terminals made of chrome-copper or zirconium-copper to improve mechanical strength and electrical conductivity and, 4) the metallized ceramic plate made of aluminum nitride that is in the evaluation stages at several potential suppliers.

The unique package features developed under this contract will allow P.T.C. to enter the power semiconductor market with a new series of devices intended for the commercial market. P.T.C. will market them as the POWERMODE series, consisting of power transistors, darlings and diodes. This development will allow P.T.C. to compete in a market dominated by several foreign competitors.

The initial introduction of the POWERMODE series will include 50 ampere, 500 and 1000 volt transistors and 125 ampere, 1200 volt diode, followed by a 125 ampere, 500 volt darlington.
10.0 ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Editor: Vilnis Balodis

Contributors:
Albert H. Berman
Darrell C. Devance
Gerry Ludlow
Lee Wagner
11.0 REFERENCES


## 12.0 APPENDICES

### 12.1 SPECIFICATIONS FOR SPACE STATION POWER SEMICONDUCTORS

**SPECIFICATIONS FOR SPACE STATION POWER TRANSISTOR**

Case Temperature = 25°C unless otherwise specified

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SYMBOL</th>
<th>CHARACTERISTICS WITH TEST CONDITIONS</th>
<th>VALUE/UNITS</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>VCEO(sus)</td>
<td>Collector-Emitter Sustaining Voltage @ I_C=200mA, I_B=0, 300 μs pulse</td>
<td>500 V</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCBO</td>
<td>Collector-Base Voltage @ I_C=0.300mA</td>
<td>600 V</td>
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<tr>
<td>hFEIC</td>
<td>Gain-Collector Current Product @V_CE=2.5V</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>I_C(rated)</td>
<td>Gain Rated Collector Current @h_F=12, V_CE=2.5V</td>
<td>50A</td>
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<tr>
<td>I_C(cont.)</td>
<td>Continuous Collector Current</td>
<td>100A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I_C(peak)</td>
<td>Peak Collector Current, Pulsed</td>
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<tr>
<td>h_FE</td>
<td>DC Current Gain @ I_C=50A, V_CE=2.5V (Pulsed with duty cycle&lt;2%)</td>
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<td>I_B</td>
<td>Base Current, continuous</td>
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<tr>
<td>VCE(sat)</td>
<td>Collector-Emitter Saturation Voltage @I_C=50A, I_B=6.25A</td>
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<td>V_BE(sat)</td>
<td>Base-Emitter Saturation Voltage @I_C=50A, I_B=6.25A</td>
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<td>T_J</td>
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<tr>
<td>t_d</td>
<td>Turn-On Delay Time</td>
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<td>t_r</td>
<td>Rise Time (10 to 90% I_C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>t_s</td>
<td>Storage Time (time from I_B&lt;0 to 0.9I_C)</td>
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<tr>
<td>t_f</td>
<td>Fall Time (90 to 10% I_C)</td>
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All switching times measured with resistive load, supply voltage VCC=300V, I_C=50A, I_B=I_B=4.2A using 50 to 100 μs pulses with duty cycle<2%.  

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12.2 SPECIFICATIONS FOR SPACE STATION DIODE

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<td>Peak Non-repetitive Reverse Voltage, $T_J=100°C$</td>
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<td>$I_R$</td>
<td>Reverse Leakage Current @$V_R=1000V$ @$T_J=25°C$ @$T_J=100°C$</td>
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<td>$I_F$</td>
<td>Average Forward Current @ $T_J=100°C$</td>
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<td>$I_{FSM}$</td>
<td>Non-repetitive Peak Surge Current (1/2 cycle, 60 Hz, Resistive Load)</td>
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<td>$V_F$</td>
<td>Forward Voltage @$I_F=50A$</td>
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<td>$T_J$</td>
<td>Operating Junction Temperature Range</td>
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<td>$T_{STG}$</td>
<td>Storage Temperature Range</td>
<td>-65 to 200°C</td>
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<td>$t_{rr}$</td>
<td>Reverse Recovery Time @$T_J=100°C$ $I_F=50A$, $dI/dt=25A/\mu s$ (JEDEC Circuit)</td>
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Robert Hendrix

NASA Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD 20771
ATTN: R. Biehman
F. Ford

Wright Patterson Air Force Base
Wright Patterson, OH 45433
ATTN: W. Borger, AFWAL/POOA
J. Weimer, AFWAL/POOA
E. Lake, AFWAL/POOA

University of Toledo
Department of Electrical Engineering
2801 W. Bancraft St.
Toledo, OH 43606
ATTN: Dr. T.A. Stuart

Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue
Washington, DC 20585
ATTN: Dr. R. Eaton, CE 32

SDI Office
1717 H. Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20301
ATTN: Dr. J.H. Hammond, SDE/KE
R. Wiley, SDI/SLKI

Jet Propulsion Laboratory
California Institute of Technology
4800 Oak Grove Drive
Pasadena, CA 91109
ATTN: J.A. Stallkamp
Dr. G. Wester M.S. 198-220

Power Conditioning Laboratory
University of Texas
P.O. Box 19016
ATTN: W.C. Nunnally

General Dynamics
Space Systems Division
P.O. Box 85990
San Diego, CA 92138
ATTN: Jim Mildice, Cl-7103
General Electric
Corp. Research Center
P.O. Box 8
Schenectady, NY 12301
Attn: Dr. V.A.K. Temple

University of Wisconsin - Madison
Dept. of Electrical & Computer
Engineering
1415 Johnson Drive
Madison, WI 53706
Attn: Dr. T. Lipo

McDonnell Douglas Aircraft Company
3855 Lakewood Blvd.
Long Beach, CA 90846
Attn: D.H. Blyther, 36-43

U.S. Army Electronics Technology
& Devices Laboratory
Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703
Attn: Dr. M. Weiner, S. Levy-SLCET/ML

The Pentagon
Washington, DC 20301-7100
Attn: R. Verga, OSD/SD10 - SLKT

T.R. Burkes, Inc.
P. O. Box 16577
Lubbock, TX 79490
Attn: T.T. Burkes

Laser Laboratory
University of Rochester
250 E. River Road
Rochester, NY 14623
Attn: W.R. Donaldson

HQ DNA
5801 Telegraph Road
Alexandria, VA 22811
Attn: J. Farber, RAEV

State University of New York
4232 Ridge Lea Road
Amherst, NY 14226
Attn: Dr. W.J. Sarjeant

Capt. Jere Brown
AF Armament Test Lab.
Attn: AFATL-SAS
Eglin AFB, FL 32542-5434

Boeing Commercial Airplane Co.
P.O. Box 3707
Seattle, WA 98124
Attn: C.W. Clay

Electric Power Research Institute
3412 Hillview Avenue
P.O. Box 10412
Palo Alto, CA 94303
Attn: N.G. Hingorani

General Dynamics
P.O. Box 748
Forth Worth, TX 76101
Attn: J.R. McKenzie, Jr.

Texas Technical University
Electrical Engineering Dept.
Lubbock, TX 79409
Attn: Dr. W. Portnoy

Sandia National Laboratory
P.O. Box 5800
Albuquerque, NM 87115
Attn: W. McCollough

Westinghouse Electric Corp.
P.O. Box 989
Lima, OH 45802
Attn: D. Fox

RCA/Aerospace and Defense
Astro-Electronics Division
P.O. Box 800
Princeton, NJ 08540
Attn: J.A. D'Arcy

Boeing Aerospace Co.
P.O. Box 3999
Seattle, WA 98124
Attn: I.S. Mehdi, M.S. 47-03
A.L. Angel

Rockwell International
P.O. Box 4192
3370 Miraloma Ave.
Anaheim, CA 92803
Attn: P.E. McCollum

Mr. John Carter
U.S. Army Electronics Technology and
Devices Laboratory
Attn: SLCET-ML
Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703
Mr. Terry Ericsen  
David Taylor Naval R&D Center  
Code 2713  
Annapolis, MD 21402

Mr. Ralph Ferraro  
Electric Power Research Institute  
P.O. Box 10412  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dr. Frank Goodman  
Electric Power Research Institute  
P.O. Box 10412  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dr. Marain Hingorani  
Electric Power Research Institute  
P.O. Box 10412  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dr. Carl Kellenbenz  
NASA Goddard Space Center  
Code 711.3  
Greenbelt, MD 20771

Dr. Peter Kemmey  
DARPA  
1400 Wilson Boulevard  
Arlington, VA 22209

Mr. Steve Levy  
U.S. Army Electronics Technology  
and Devices Laboratory  
ATTN: SLCET-ML  
Fort Monmouth, NJ 07703

Dr. Harshad Mehta  
Electric Power Research Institute  
P.O. Box 10412  
Palo Alto, CA 94303

Dr. Jim Murphy  
DARPA/DSO  
1400 Wilson Blvd.  
Arlington, VA 22209-2308

Mr. Richard Verga  
SDIO/SL  
Pentagon  
Washington, D.C. 20301-7100

Mr. Don Walczak  
Powerex  
Hollis Street  
Youngwood, PA 15697

Mr. Joseph Weimer  
Wright-Patterson Air Force Base  
ATTN: AFWAL/P00A  
Wright-Patterson, OH 45433

Dr. Richard Swanson  
Stanford University  
Dept. of Electrical Engineering  
McCullough 206, Stanford Elect. Lab.  
Stanford, CA 94305