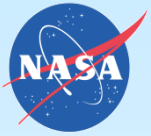


# **Smart Sensor Systems for Human Health Applications: Steps Toward Distributed Intelligence**

**Gary W. Hunter, Ph.D.  
Intelligent Systems Hardware Lead  
Smart Sensors And Electronics Systems Branch  
NASA Glenn Research Center  
Cleveland, OH**



# OUTLINE

- **INTRODUCTION**
- **DISTRIBUTED INTELLIGENCE**
- **SENSOR DIRECTIONS AND SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS**
- **SENSOR SYSTEM DEMONSTRATION AND APPLICATION**
  - **FIRE AND ENVIRONMENTAL**
  - **BREATH MONITORING**
- **NANOTECHNOLOGY**
- **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

# Smart Sensors and Electronics Systems Branch (LCS)

## Description

Conducts research and development of **adaptable instrumentation to enable intelligent measurement systems** for ongoing and future aerospace propulsion and space exploration programs. Emphasis is on smart sensors and electronics systems for diagnostic engine health monitoring, controls, safety, security, surveillance, and biomedical applications; **often for high temperature/harsh environments**.



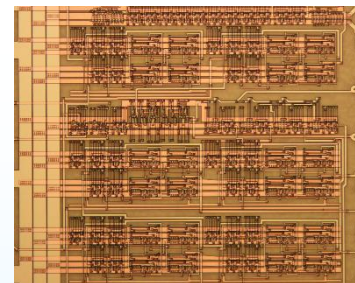
Microsystems Fabrication Facility

## Core Capabilities (technical areas)

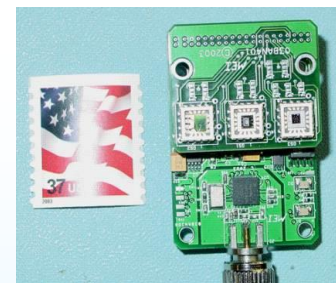
- Silicon Carbide (SiC) - based electronic devices
  - Sensors and electronics for high temp (600°C) use
  - Wireless sensor technologies, integrated circuits, and packaging
- Micro-Electro-Mechanical Systems (MEMS)
  - Pressure, acceleration, fuel actuation, and deep etching
- Chemical gas species sensors
  - Leak detection, emission, fire and environmental, and human health monitoring
- Microfabricated thin-film physical sensors
  - Temperature, strain, heat flux, flow, and radiation measurements
- Harsh environment nanotechnology
  - Nano-based processing using microfabrication techniques
  - Smart memory alloys and ultra low power devices

## Facilities/Labs

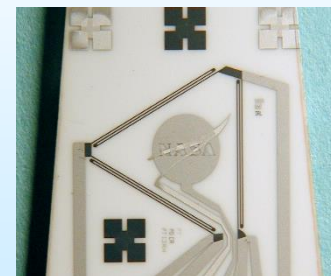
- Microsystems Fabrication Facilities
  - Class 100 Clean Room
  - Class 1000 Clean Room
- Chemical vapor deposition laboratories
- Chemical sensor testing laboratories
- Harsh environment laboratories
  - Nanostructure fabrication and analysis
  - Sensor and electronic device test and evaluation



SiC Signal Processing



Chemical Sensors

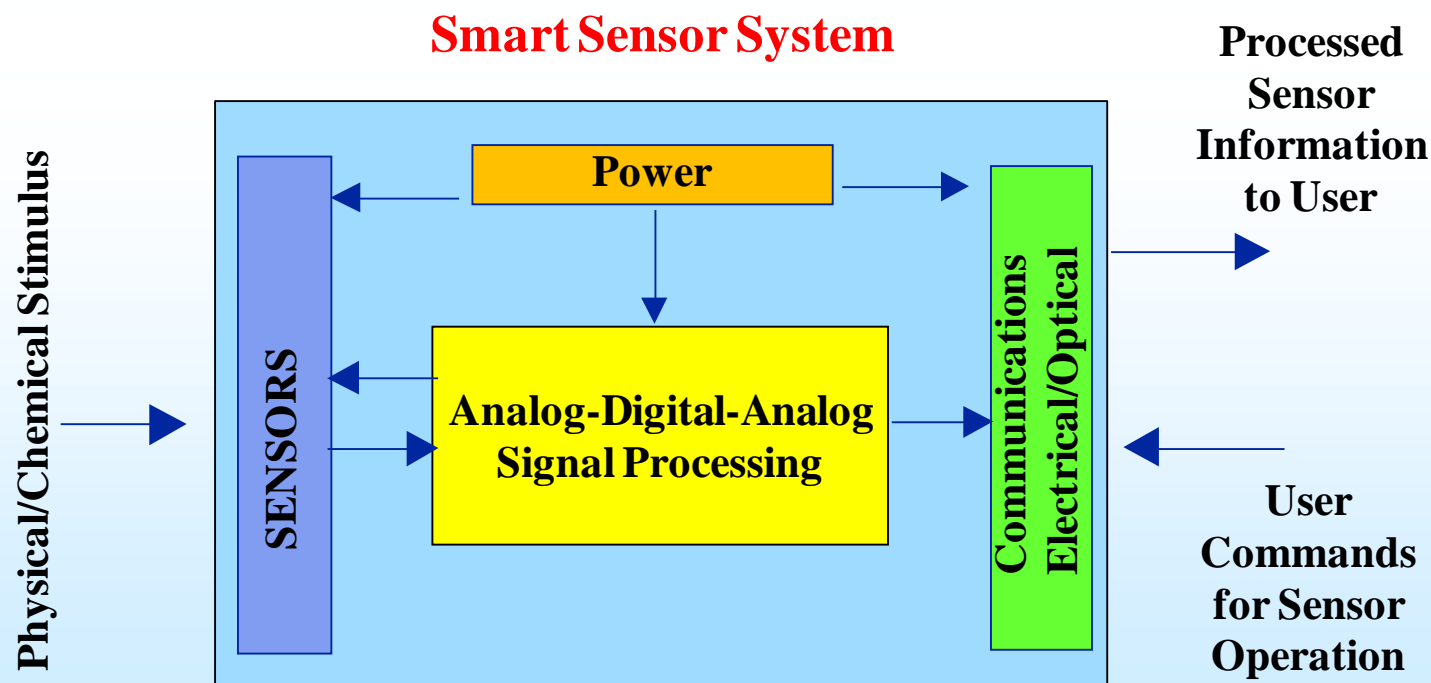


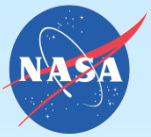
Thin Film Physical Sensors



## SMART SENSOR SYSTEMS BASED ON MICROSYSTEMS TECHNOLOGY

- A Range Of Sensor Systems Are Under Development Based On Microfabrication Techniques And Smart Sensor Technology
- Smart Sensor Systems Approach: Stand-alone, Complete Systems Including Sensors, Power, Communication, Signal Processing, And Actuation
- Microsystems Technology Moving Towards A Range Of Applications
- Enable System Level Intelligence By Driving Capabilities To The Local Level Using Distributed Smart Systems





# Smart Sensor Systems Approach

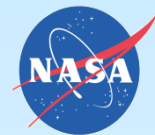
- Produce cutting edge sensor system technologies that provide critical information (data), thus, enabling vastly improved decision-making capability, whether it be regarding designs, operations, the environment, or hazards.
- In this modern era, making a measurement does not just involve a sensor element (like a thermocouple), but rather a whole sensor system that provides:
  - Multiparameter information needed to understand the problem
  - Local processing to optimize the quality and relevance of that information
  - Communication of that information in a manner that best fits the application
  - Tailoring of each integrated sensor system to meet the needs of the application.

**In this Information Age, we suggest that small, smart sensor system technologies are an enabling first step in acquiring information (data) about a system and/or an environment, leading to cognition and decision-making capabilities.**

**This includes Aerospace Systems as well as Personal Health Care**

## ***Health/Real-Time Monitoring Example***

Portable Breath Monitoring: A New Frontier in Personalized Health Care,  
Gary W. Hunter, Raed A. Dweik, Darby B. Makel, Claude C. Grigsby, Ryan S. Mayes, and  
Cristina E. Davis, "Portable Breath Monitoring: A New Frontier in Personalized Health Care",  
Interface Magazine, Volume 25, Issue 4, Winter 2016



# **MAKE AN INTELLIGENT SYSTEM FROM SMART COMPONENTS**

## **POSSIBLE STEPS TO REACH INTELLIGENT SYSTEMS**

- **“LICK AND STICK” TECHNOLOGY (EASE OF APPLICATION)**

- **Micro and nano fabrication to enable multipoint inclusion of sensors, actuators, electronics, and communication throughout the vehicle without significantly increasing size, weight, and power consumption. Multifunctional, adaptable technology included.**

- **RELIABILITY:**

- **Users must be able to believe the data reported by these systems and have trust in the ability of the system to respond to changing situations, e.g., decreasing the number sensors should be viewed as decreasing the available information flow about a vehicle. Inclusion of intelligence more likely to occur if it can be trusted.**

- **REDUNDANCY AND CROSS-CORRELATION:**

- **If the systems are easy to install, reliable, and do not increase weight/complexity, the application of a large number of them is not problematic allowing redundant systems, e.g., sensors, spread throughout the vehicle. These systems will give full-field coverage of the engine parameters but also allow cross-correlation between the systems to improve reliability of sensor data and the vehicle system information.**

- **ORTHOGONALITY:**

- **Systems should each provide a different piece of information on the vehicle system. Thus, the mixture of different techniques to “see, feel, smell, hear” as well as move can combine to give complete information on the vehicle system as well as the capability to respond to the environment.**



## **SENSOR SYSTEM IMPLEMENTATION**

- **Objective: A Self-aware Intelligent System Composed Of Smart Components Made Possible By Smart Sensor Systems**
- **Sensor Systems Are Necessary And Are Not Just Going To Show Up When Needed/Technology Best Applied With Strong Interaction With User**
- **Sensor System Implementation Often Problematic**
  - **Legacy Systems**
  - **Customer Acceptance**
  - **Long-term Vs Short-term Considerations**
  - **Sensors Need To Buy Their Way Into An Application**
- **Possible Lessons Learned**
  - **Sensor System Needs To Be Tailored For The Application**
  - **Microfabrication Is Not Just Making Something Smaller**
  - **One Sensor Or Even One Type Of Sensor Often Will Not Solve The Problem: The Need For Sensor Arrays**
  - **Supporting Technologies Often Determine Success Of A System**



## BASE PLATFORM SENSOR TECHNOLOGY

**Integration of Micro Sensor Combinations into Small, Rugged Sensor Suites**  
**Example Applications: AEROSPACE VEHICLE FIRE, FUEL LEAKS, EMISSIONS, ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING, CREW HEALTH, SECURITY**

**Multi Species Fire Sensors for Aircraft Cargo Bays and Space Applications**



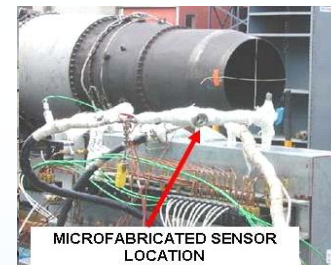
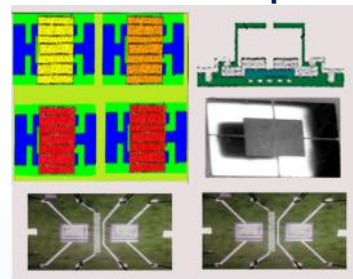
**Environmental monitoring (ISS Whitesand Testing)**



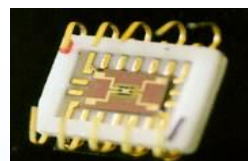
**"Lick and Stick" Space Launch Vehicle Leak Sensors with Power and Telemetry**



**Aircraft Propulsion Exhaust High Temperature Electronic Nose**



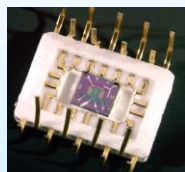
**MAKEL**  
ENGINEERING



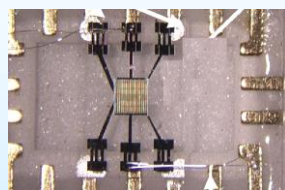
**Oxygen Sensor**



**SiC Hydrocarbon Sensor**



**H2 Sensor**



**Nanocrystalline Tin Oxide NOx and CO Sensor**



**Hydrazine EVA Sensors (ppb Level Detection)**

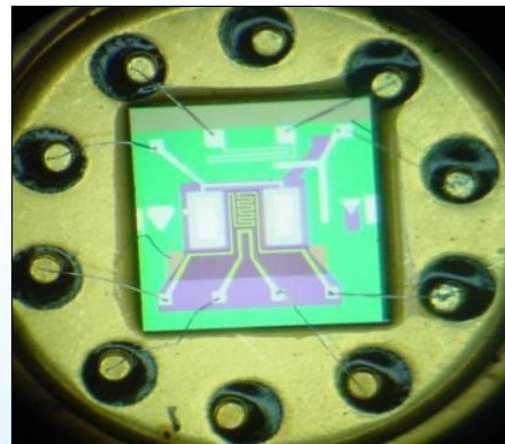
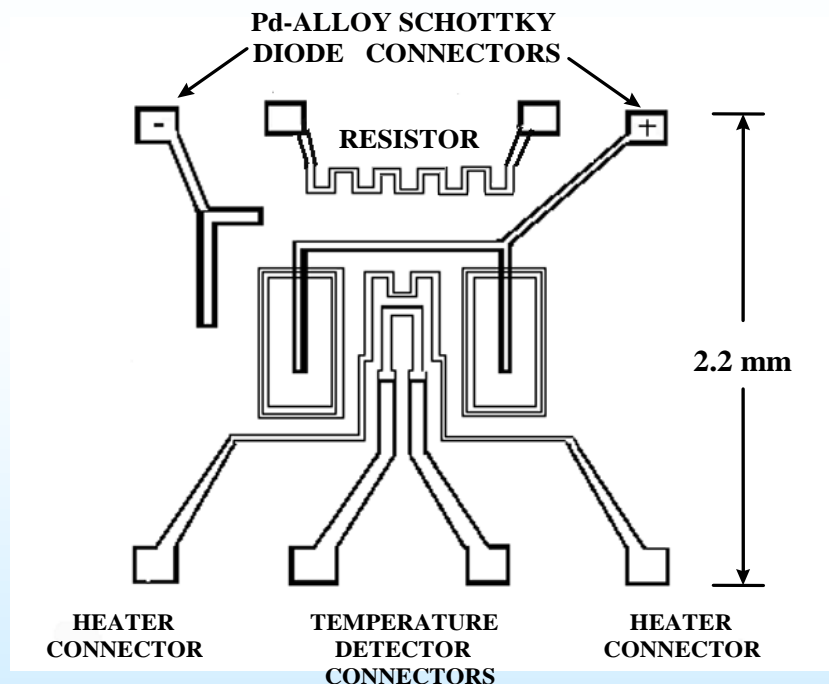


**Breath Sensor System Including Mouthpiece, PDA Interface, And Mini Sampling Pump**



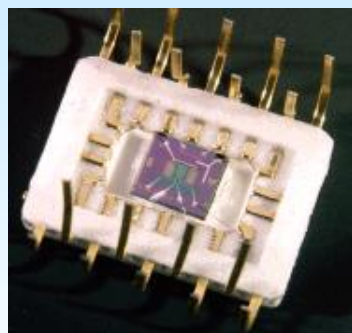
# **HYDROGEN LEAK SENSOR TECHNOLOGY**

- **MICROFABRICATED USING MEMS-BASED TECHNOLOGY FOR MINIMAL SIZE, WEIGHT AND POWER CONSUMPTION**
- **DESIGNED TO OPERATE WITHOUT OXYGEN AND IN VACUUM ENVIRONMENTS**
- **HIGHLY SENSITIVE IN INERT OR OXYGEN-BEARING ENVIRONMENTS, WIDE CONCENTRATION RANGE DETECTION**
- **TWO SENSOR SYSTEM FOR FULL RANGE DETECTION: FROM PPM LEVEL TO 100%**



## HYDROGEN LEAK SENSOR TECHNOLOGY

- STATUS: OPERATIONAL SYSTEM ON ISS WITH ASSOCIATED HARDWARE
- AVAILABLE FOR POSSIBLE CREW LAUNCH VEHICLE IMPLEMENTATION



**R&D 100 AWARD WINNER**

**NASA TURNING GOALS INTO REALITY SAFETY AWARD**

Shuttle



X33



X43



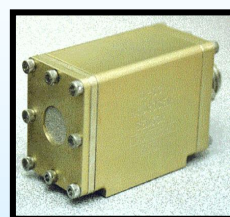
Helios



ISS



Aft Compartment  
Hydrogen  
Monitoring



Hydrogen Safety  
Monitoring



Hydrogen Safety  
Monitoring



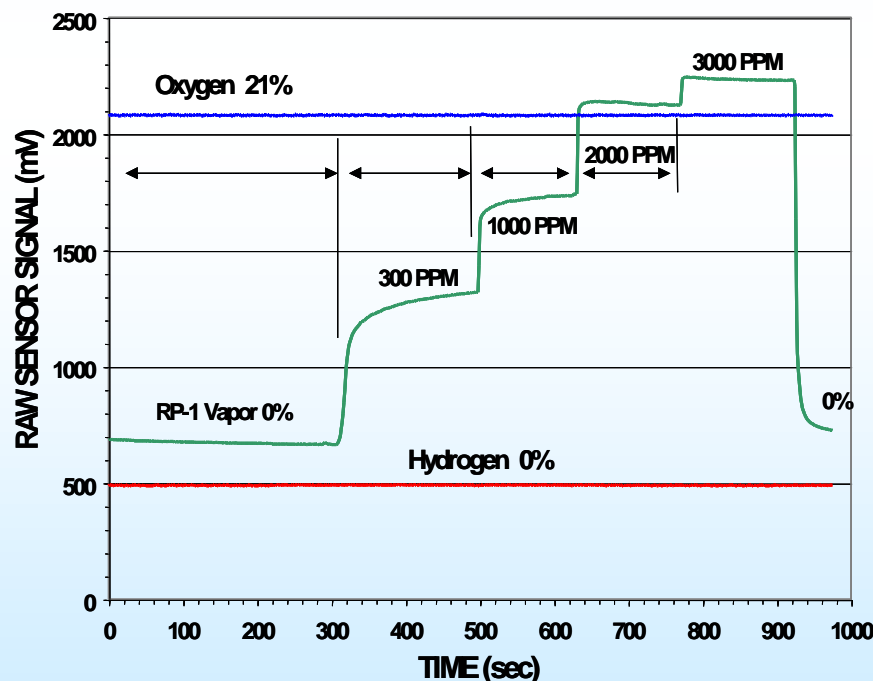
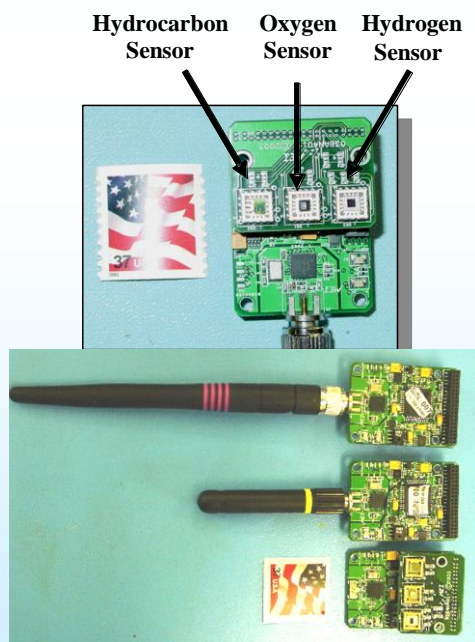
Fuel Cell Safety and  
Process Monitoring



Life Support Process  
and Safety Monitoring

## **“LICK AND STICK” SENSOR SYSTEM AVAILABLE IN STANDARD SILICON TECHNOLOGY**

- **Sensors, Power, And Telemetry Self-contained In A System Near The Surface Area Of A Postage Stamp**
- **Microprocessor Included/Smart Sensor System**
- **Adaptable Core System Which Can Be Used In A Range Of Applications**
- **Built-in Self Check, Internal Data Tables**
- **Multiple Configurations Available**



**BASIC APPROACH: MEET THE NEEDS OF MULTIPLE APPLICATIONS  
BUILDING FROM A CORE SET OF SMART MICROSENSOR TECHNOLOGY**



# Micro-Fabricated Gas Sensors for Low False Alarms

**R&D 100 AWARD WINNER**

**NASA TURNING GOALS INTO REALITY AA's CHOICE AWARD**

## FEATURES

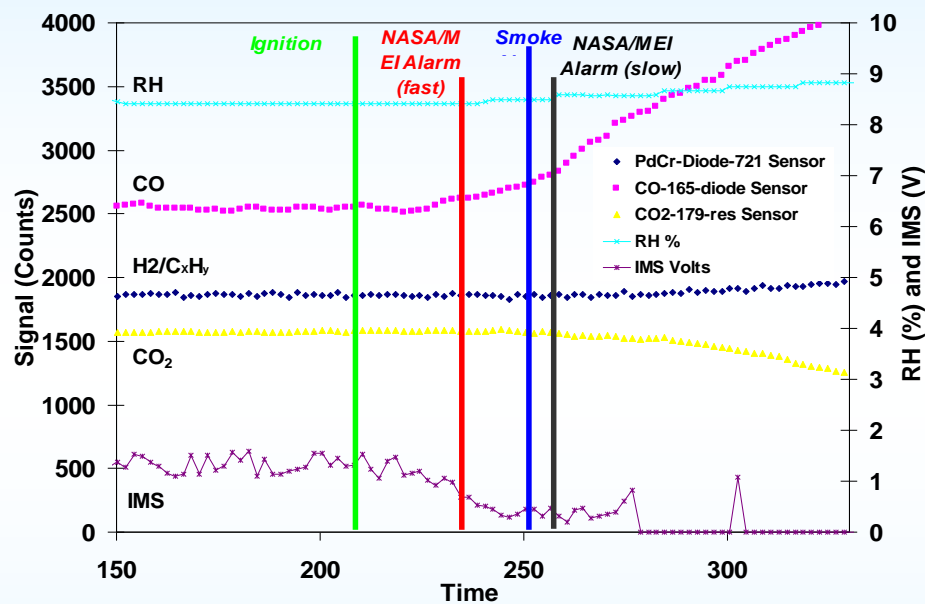
- **Microfabricated CO/CO<sub>2</sub> Gas Sensor Array**
  - **Aim To Decrease False Alarm Rate**
  - **Orthogonal Sensor Approach**
  - **Minimal Size/Weight/Power**
- **Chemical Gas Sensors Provide Gaseous Product-of-combustion Information**
  - **Sensor Array Can Detect Range Of Gas Species**
  - **To Be Combined With Intelligent Software For Pattern Recognition**
  - **Discriminate Fires From Non-fires**

# FAA Cargo Bay Fire Simulation Testing

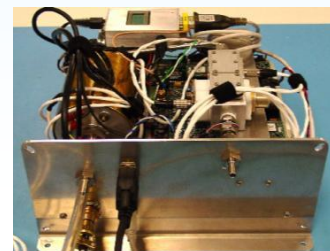
## No False Alarms/Consistent Detection of Fires

### Transitio to Space Fire Applications

### Application to Astronaut Health Safety Monitoring



FAA Cargo Bay Fire Test Data

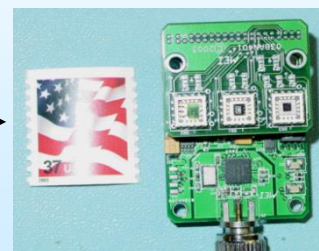
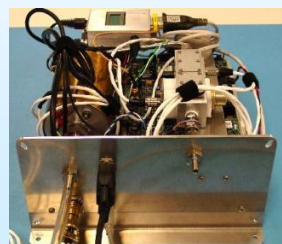


Prototype  
MultiParameter Fire  
Detection System



FAA Cargo Bay Fire  
Simulation Aircraft

TRANSITION AERONAUTICS  
HARDWARE INTO  
CORE "LICK AND STICK"  
SPACEFLIGHT  
HARDWARE PLATFORM

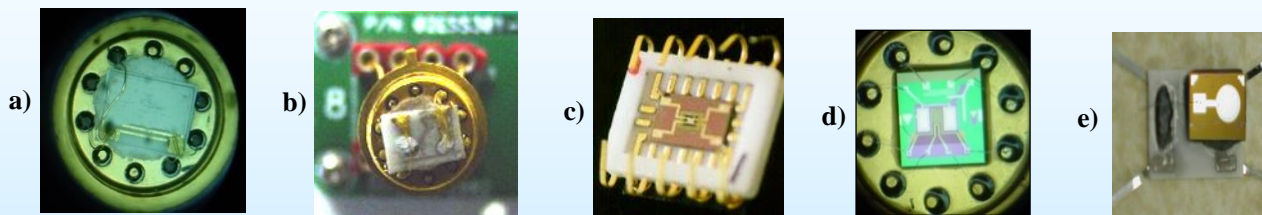




## SECOND GENERATION SMART SPACE FIRE DETECTION AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING SYSTEM EXPANDED SENSOR ARRAY

Target Analyte Detection	Range	Accuracy	Precision	Specificity
CO (environmental)	1-500 ppm	Better than +/- 5% FS	1 ppm	High, but sensitivity to low O <sub>2</sub> concentrations
CO (wide range/fire detection)	5-5000 ppm	Better than +/- 5% FS	1 ppm	High, but sensitivity to low O <sub>2</sub> concentrations
O <sub>2</sub>	0-40%	Better than +/- 5% of reading	0.10%	High
CO <sub>2</sub>	0-5%	Better than +/- 10% of reading	0.20%	High
H <sub>2</sub>	250ppm-100%	+/- 5% of reading typical	Range dependent	High
Hydrocarbons	250 ppm – 4%	+/- 10% of reading typical	Range dependent	High, but sensitivity to H <sub>2</sub>
HCN/HCI	<i>Under development/Near-term implementation: Commercial HCI/HCN cells</i>			

### SENSOR PERFORMANCE CHARACTERISTICS



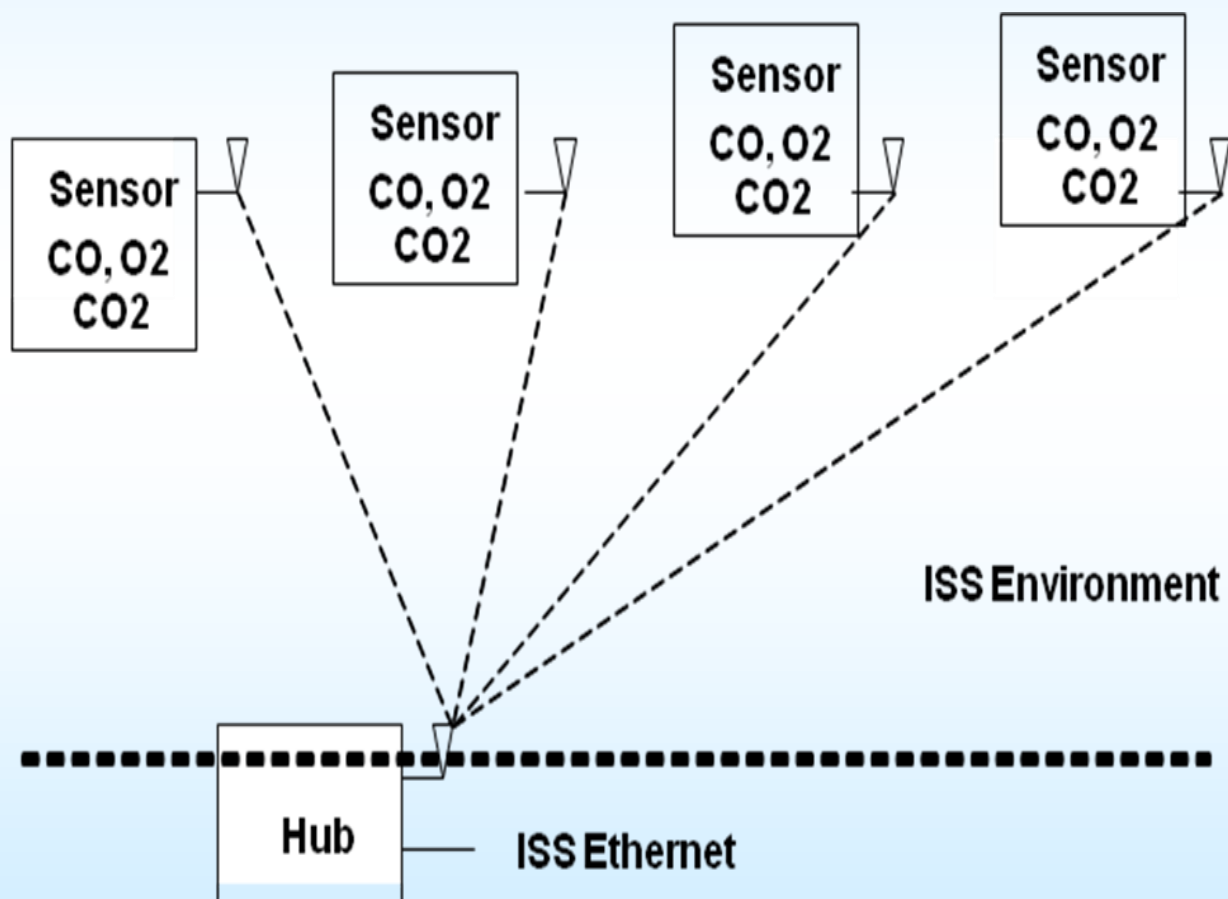
a) Titanium oxide-based CO sensor; b) Lithium phosphate-based CO<sub>2</sub> sensor; c) Zirconia-based O<sub>2</sub> sensor; d) Silicon-based H<sub>2</sub> sensor; and e) Silicon carbide-based hydrocarbon sensor.

### REPRESENTATIVE PICTURES OF PACKAGED SENSORS



## PROPOSED ISS ARCHITECTURE WITH RF WIRELESS HUBS

- FIRE AND ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING RELEVANT
- BASIC SYSTEM DEMONSTRATED WITH O<sub>2</sub> SENSORS
- APPROACH APPLICABLE TO MULTISENSOR SYSTEMS



**WIRELESS O<sub>2</sub>  
MODULE AND  
HUB**

# A WIDE RANGE OF SYSTEM DEMONSTRATIONS AND APPLICATIONS “LICK AND STICK” CORE HARDWARE

**Jet Engines  
Emissions**



**Aircraft Fire  
Detection**



**Breath Monitoring**



**NASA Helios  
Fuel Cells**



**International Space  
Station Safety System**



**Rocket Engine  
Teststands**

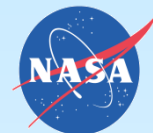


**Environmental  
Monitoring**



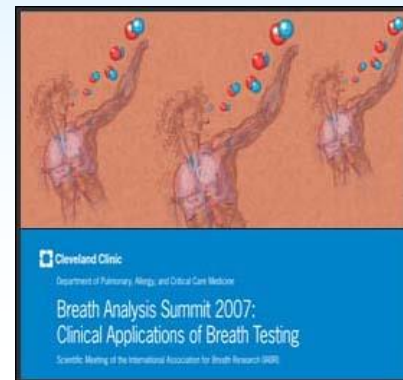
**Cryogenic Fuel  
Line Monitoring**





# MicroSensor Arrays for Exercise and Health Monitoring

- Use Array Of Sensors Of Very Different Types To Monitor Breath For Exercise And Health
- **Cleveland Clinic Foundation Leader In Exercise/Breath Monitoring Research**
- International Breath Analysis Summit
- CO2 And O2 Monitoring Expanded To Include Other Species As No And Co
- Multiple Gases Measured For Exercise Parameters But Also As Overall Health Indicators
- **State Of Ohio Third Frontier Program: Produce Commercial Breath Monitoring Product**



# FOUNDATIONAL WORK

## BREATH SENSOR RESPONSE DATA

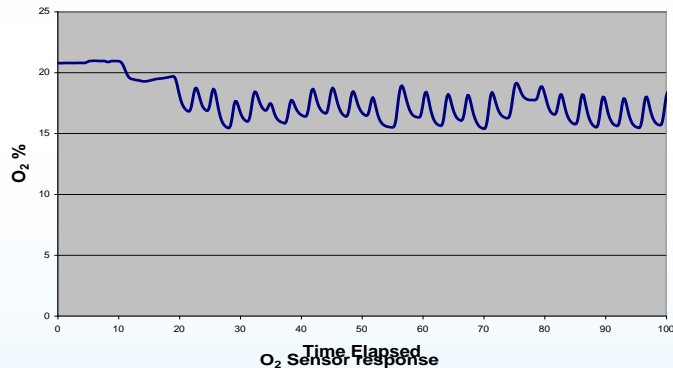
- PROTOTYPE UNITS PRODUCED AND TESTED
- HIGHER TEMPERATURE CO<sub>2</sub> AND O<sub>2</sub> SENSORS PROVIDED RESULTS COMPARABLE TO THAT OF LAB BENCH INSTRUMENTATION
- BREATH TO BREATH RESOLUTION
- FOUNDATION OF METABOLIC ANALYSIS

Previous Work:  
Sensor Equipped  
Prototype  
Medical  
Pulmonary  
Monitor

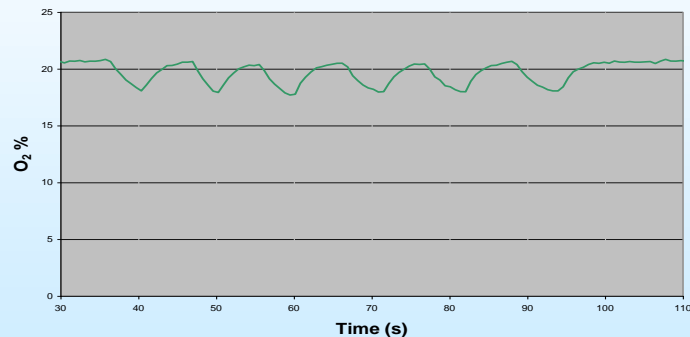


Breath Sensor System  
including mouthpiece,  
sensor manifold, PDA  
interface, and mini  
sampling pump

O<sub>2</sub> Analyzer Response



O<sub>2</sub> Sensor Response



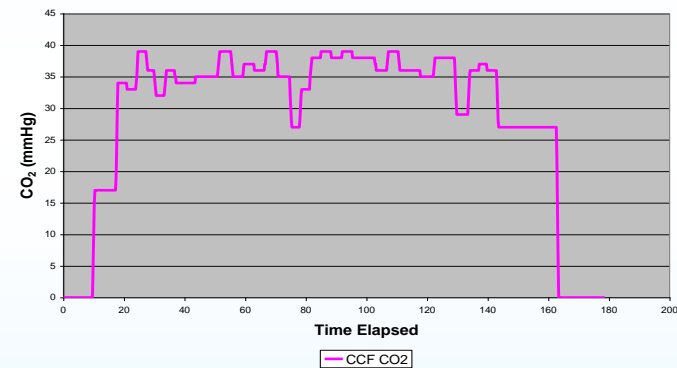
Analyzer

O<sub>2</sub>

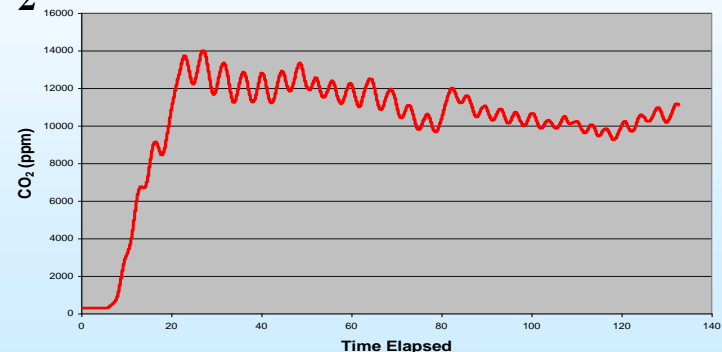
CO<sub>2</sub>

Sensor

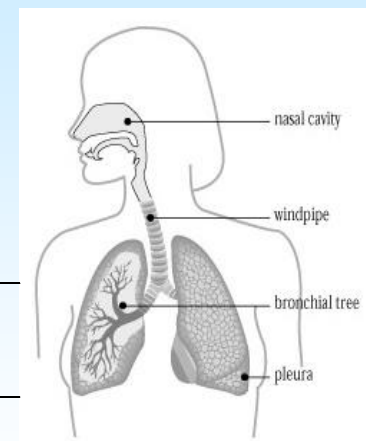
Benchtop CO<sub>2</sub> Monitor



CO<sub>2</sub> Sensor Breath by Breath Response



# Biomarkers for the diagnosis of disease by breath test

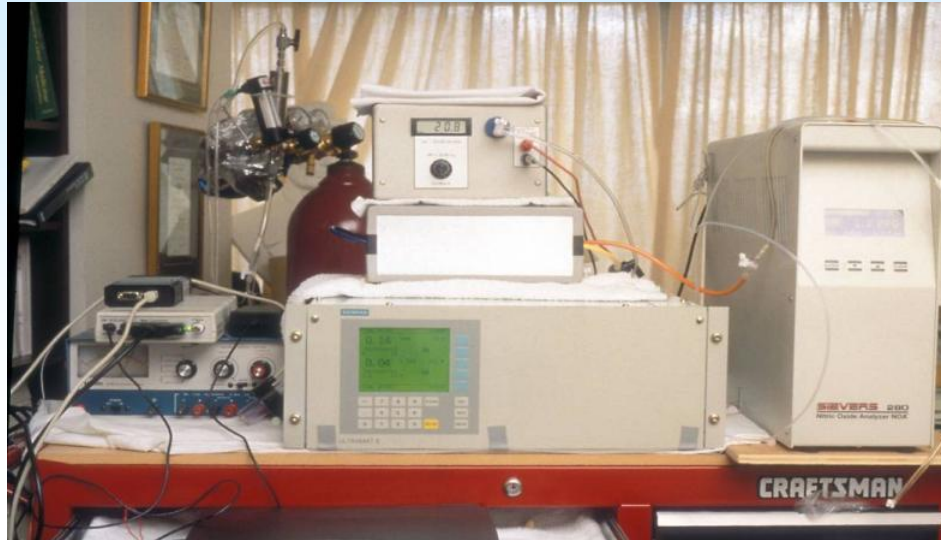


Disease	Compound as a disease marker	Analysis Instrument
Acute cardiac allograft rejection	Pentane	GC/FID
Myocardial infarction (MI)	Hydrocarbons	GC/FID
Asthma	Nitric Oxide	CL analyzer
COPD / ARDS	NO, CO	CL analyzer
Breast Cancer	Pentane	GC/FID
Diabetes	Acetone	GC/FID
Hemolysis	Carbon monoxide	EC CO analyzer
		GC/TCD
H. pylori infection	$^{13}\text{CO}_2$ or $^{14}\text{CO}_2$	Isotope Ratio MS
		Isotope Ratio IR
Alcoholic liver disease	Pentane	GC/FID
Liver cirrhosis	Dimethyl sulfide	GC/FPD
	Volatile fatty acid	GC/FID
Weight Reduction	Acetone	GC/FID





# NO Measuring Systems



## Need for Mobile Systems





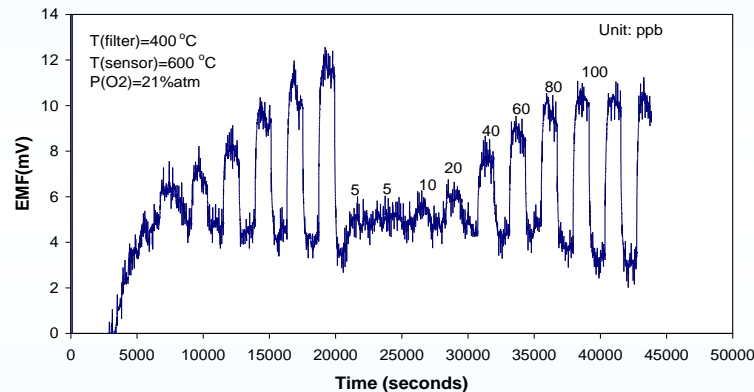
# Exhaled NO analysis using electrochemical sensor

## Goal:

Measurement of NO in exhaled air makes a non invasive monitoring of the inflammation possible; Development of a electrochemical NO sensor or sensor array **which is able to detect NO in the concentration range 5 ppb-30 ppm; has good selectivity against CO, CO<sub>2</sub>, hydrocarbon.**

## Approach: Single Sensor Or Sensor Array Integrated Into Hardware Platform

Sensor signal of Pt/8YSZ/WO<sub>3</sub>III(12sensor array) to 3.04 ppm  
NO at total flow rate of 3L min<sup>-1</sup>



Electrochemical Cells in series yields high levels of sensitivity

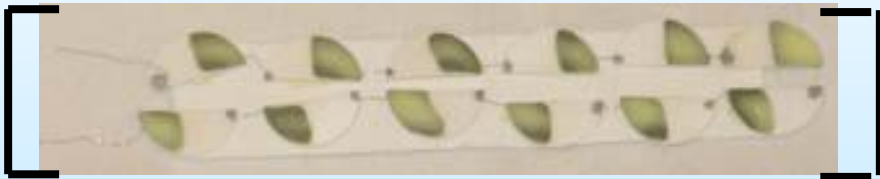


## NASA role: Sensor Miniaturization to Enable a Hand-Held Home Health Care Unit

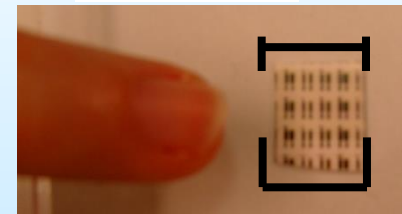
From centimeters....



...to microns



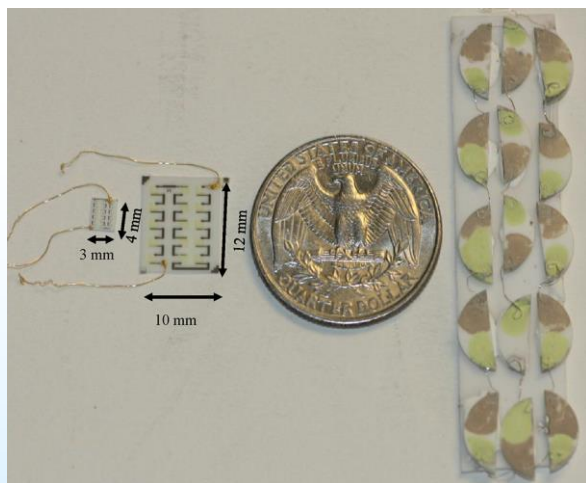
12 Sensor  
Array



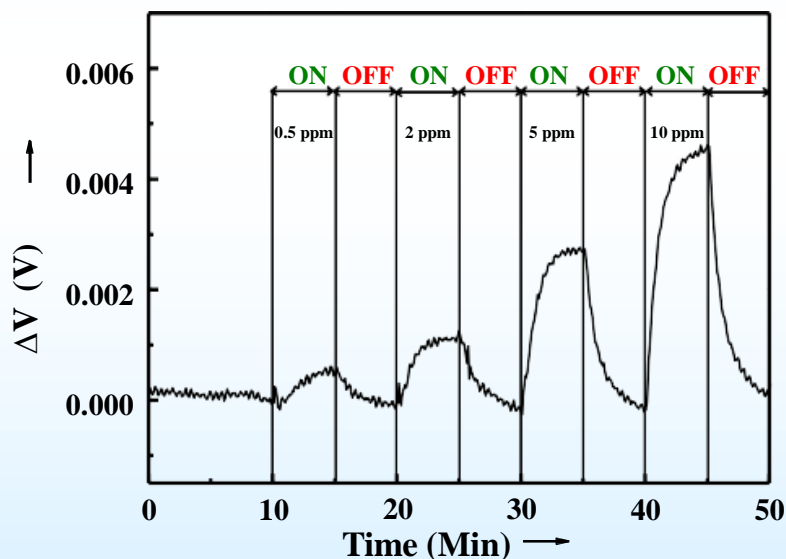
# Exhaled NO analysis using electrochemical sensor

- Sensor Miniaturization Using Silicon Processing Techniques
- Electrochemical Cells In Series To Reach High Levels Of Sensitivity (500 PPB) With More Than An Order Of Magnitude Size Reduction
- Fundamental Understanding Of Sensing Mechanism Needed
- Integration into a system needed for evaluation/implementation

Sensors and Actuators B 204 (2014)  
183–189



**Miniaturization Activity:** Hand fabricated sensor (baseline), shadow mask sensor, and photoresist processed sensor



**Sensor response of photoresist version sensor with 15 sensor arrays for 0.5–10 ppm in 20% O<sub>2</sub> with 200 cm<sup>3</sup>/min total flow rate at 550°C.**

 Cleveland Clinic

 MAKEL  
ENGINEERING

 CWRU

 THE  
OHIO  
STATE  
UNIVERSITY



# Development of Real-Time Particulate and Toxic-Gas Sensors for Firefighter

Health and Safety

DHS/FEMA AFG FP&S R&D Project  
EMW-2014-FP-00688  
(Preliminary Study: EMW-2012-FP-  
01284)

Fumiaki Takahashi



Fumiaki Takahashi, Case Western Reserve University,  
Sensor Project Kick-off Meeting

# Research Team & Partnership



**CWRU**

**Dr. Fumiaki Takahashi (PI)**

**Dr. Chung-Chiun Liu**



**NASA Glenn Research Center**

**Paul Greenberg Dr. Gary Hunter Dr.  
Michael Kulic**

**MEI** Makel Engineering Inc.

**Dr. Susana Carranza**

**Dr. Darby Makel**



**Cleveland Division of Fire**

**BC Sean DeCrane**



**Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue**

**DC Deric Weiss, DC Kenny**

**Frentress Lt Dave Pearson**



**U.S. Forest Service**

**George Broyles**



**FPRF**

**Casey Grant**

**Sreenivasan Ranganathan**

**Project Technical Panel**

**Bob Athanas** (Chair NFPA

TC/FDNY) **Dr. Christina Baxter**

(DOD/TSWG) **Nelson Bryner** (NIST)

**Robert Doke** (OK State Marshal)

**Dr. Martin Harper** (NIOSH, WV) **Max**

**Kiefer** (NIOSH, CO)

**Dave Trebisacci** (Staff Liaison

NFPA TC) **Doug Wolfe** (IAB

Rep/Sarasota Co FR)



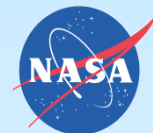
# Objectives

## ➤ Firefighter environmental sensors development

- Develop prototypes of a particulate and toxic-gas detection system to improve health and safety of **structure** and **wildland** firefighters
- Newly develop **acrolein** and **formaldehyde** micro-fabricated sensors
- Integrate new aldehyde sensors and existing NASA-developed particulate, CO, O<sub>2</sub>, hydrocarbons sensors into a hand-held prototype capable to indicate/store real-time concentrations and trigger alarms when exceeding the exposure limits

Fumiaki Takahashi, Case Western Reserve University,  
Sensor Project Kick-off Meeting

# HARSH ENVIRONMENT ELECTRONICS AND SENSORS APPLICATIONS



- Needs:

- Operation In Harsh Environments
- Range Of Physical And Chemical Measurements
- Increase Durability, Decrease Thermal Shielding, Improve In-situ Operation

- Response: Unique Range Of Harsh Environment

## Technology And Capabilities

- Standard 500°c Operation By Multiple Systems
- Temperature, Pressure, Chemical Species, Wind Flow Available
- High Temperature Electronics To Make Smart Systems

- Enable Expanded Mission Parameters/In-situ Measurements

- Long Lived High Temperature Electronics At 500°C

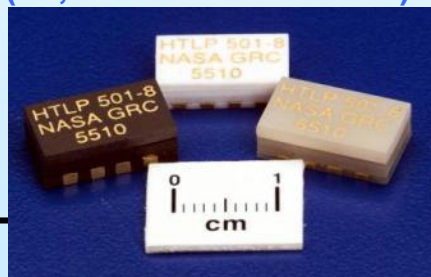


Long Lived In-Situ  
Surface Explorer  
(LLISSE)

## Range of Physical and Chemical Sensors for Harsh Environments



## Harsh Environment Packaging (10,000 hours at 500°C)



## High Temperature Signal Processing and Wireless



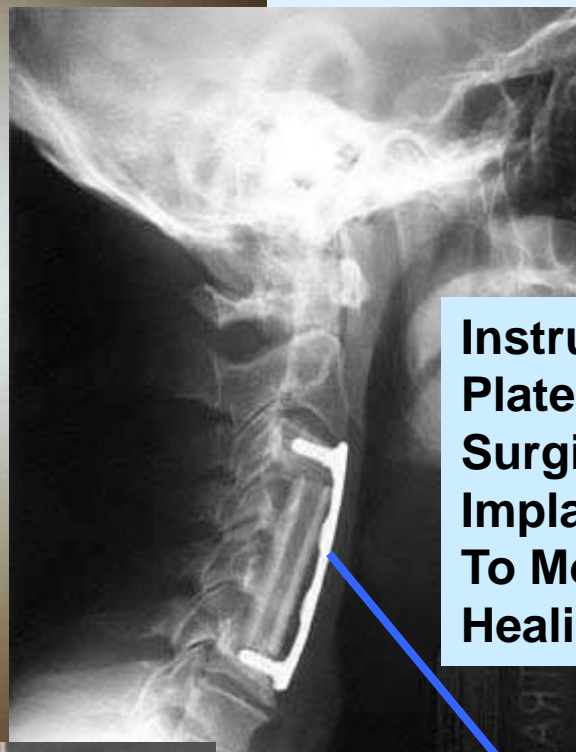
## Moving Towards: High Temperature “Lick and Stick” Systems



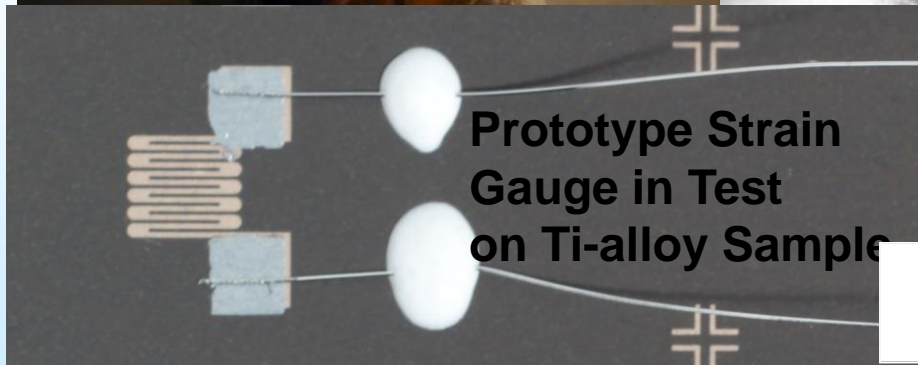


# Cervical Plate Instrumentation Concept for Spinal Implants

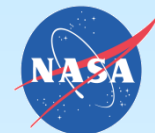
**Conceptual  
Strain Gauge  
Fabricated on  
a Ti-alloy  
Cervical Plate  
to Assist in  
Bone Fusion**



**Instrumented  
Plate  
Surgically  
Implanted  
To Monitor  
Healing**



**LERNER RESEARCH INSTITUTE**  
THE CLEVELAND CLINIC



# **NANO DIMENSIONAL CONTROL PREVALENT IN CHEM/BIO**

## **SENSOR DEVELOPMENT**

- **Nano Control Of Chemical Sensor Structures Strongly Preferred Even If Sensor Isn't Labeled A "Nano Sensor"**
  - **We Are Measuring Varying Numbers Of Molecules**
- **If Nanotechnology Already Present In Chem/Bio Sensor Development, Then:**
  - **What Stays The Same And What's New?**
  - **What Are The Challenges In Nanotechnology Development?**
  - **What Is The Role/Advantage Of Nano Technology**

### **Same**

- **Applications Don't Care That Is Nano, Need Improved Capabilities**
- **Standard Sensor Technology Requirements, Potential, And Directions Set By The Advent Of Microtechnology Remain Constant**
- **Sensitivity, Selectivity, Stability, Response Time, Tailor For The Application, "Lick And Stick", Etc.**
- **Packaging Still Significant Component Of System**
- **As With Micro, Can Only Go As Far As The Supporting Technologies**
- **Multiple Sensor Platforms May Still Be Necessary Depending On The Application/Environment**

# Metal Oxide Nanostructures for Chemical Sensor Development

**Move Towards Nanostructure e.g. Tubes, Rods, Ribbons**

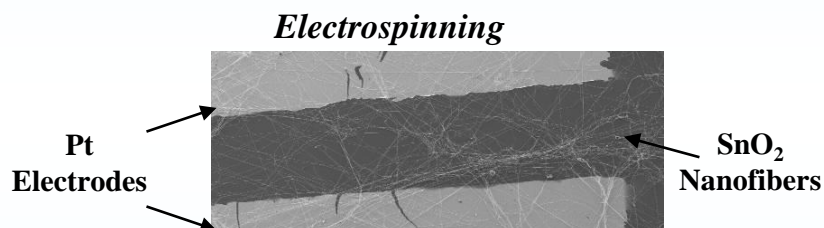
- Develop Basic Tools To Enable Fabrication Of Repeatable Sensors Using Nanostructures
- Approach 3 Basic Problems In Applying Nanostructures As Chemical Sensors

► *Micro-Nano Contact Formation*

► *Nanomaterial Structure Control*

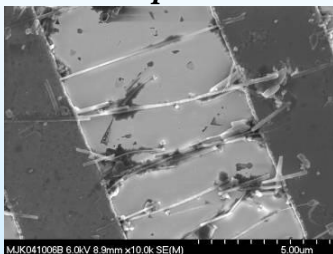
► *Range Of Nano Structured Oxides Available*

## IMPROVE NANOSTRUCTURE TO MICROELECTRODE CONTACTS



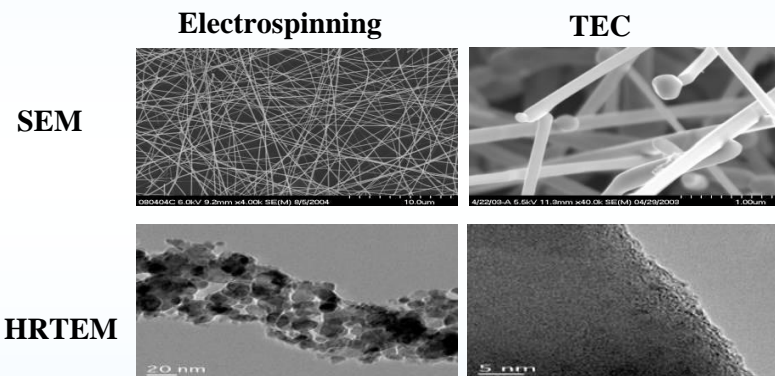
Bridging of electrospun SnO<sub>2</sub> nanofibers across electrodes.

*Dielectrophoresis*



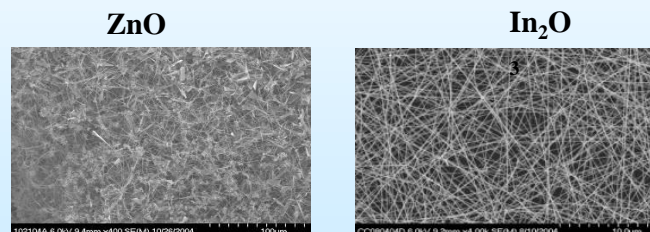
TiO<sub>2</sub> Nanorods aligned by dielectrophoresis across interdigitated electrode patterns.

## NANOMATERIAL STRUCTURE CONTROL



Different Processing of nanostructures produces different crystal structures

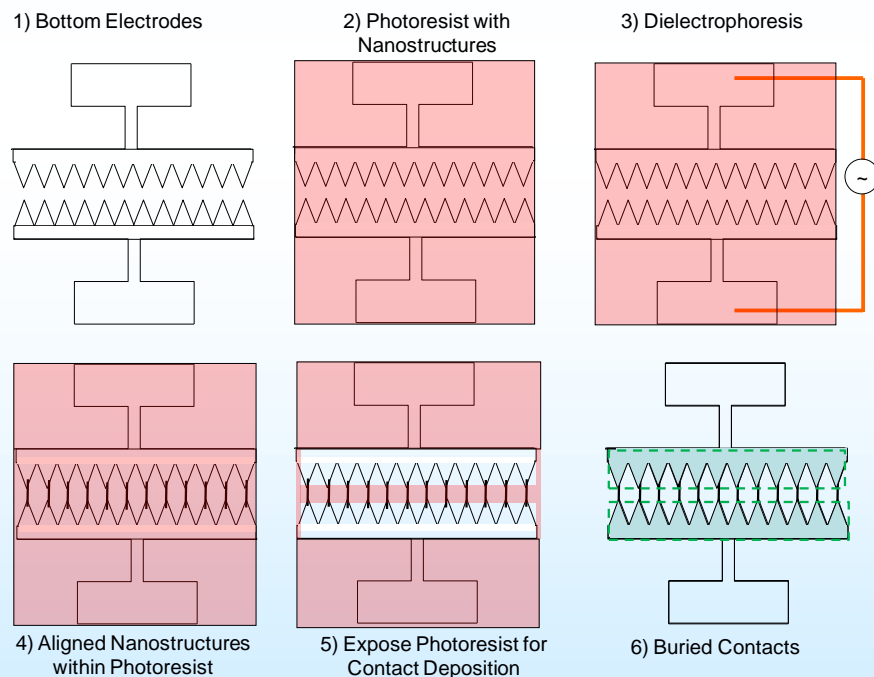
## EXPAND RANGE OF NANOSTRUCTURES AVAILABLE



Multiple oxide nanostructured materials fabricated

# Microfabrication Techniques Applied To Nanotechnology

- Integration of standard microfabrication techniques with the alignment of nanostructures
- Core of the approach is to Mix Nanomaterials into the Photoresist Standardly Used for Microfabrication, Followed By Dielectrophoresis for Alignments
- Implies that Nanostructures Can Be Integrated into Standard Microfabrication Processing At Multiple Stages in Sensor/Device Processing

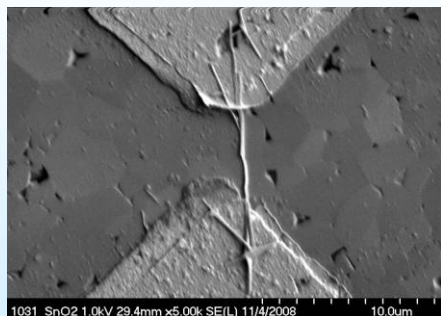
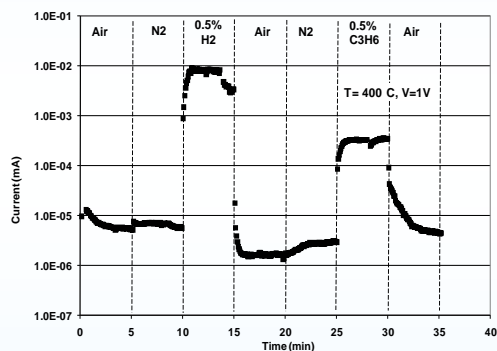


- 1) Deposit opposing sawtooth patterns on a substrate using standard photolithographic techniques.
- 2) Coat the electrodes with a photoresist mixture containing nanostructures.
- 3-4) Use the sawtooth electrodes and dielectrophoresis to align the nanostructures.
- 5) Expose the electrodes while the nanostructures are held in place with photoresist.
- 6) Deposit the top metallic layer over the bottom sawtooth electrode pattern leaving nanostructures buried in the electrodes and complete photoresist removal. The dotted line is an alternate pattern for the top metallic layer that broadly covers the bottom electrodes in a rectangle, rather than the sawtooth electrode pattern.

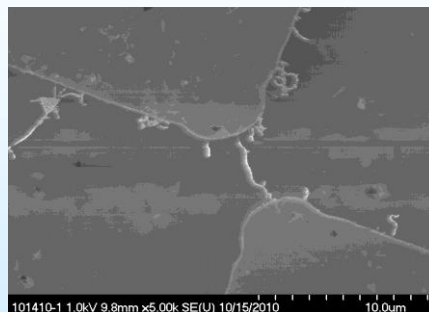
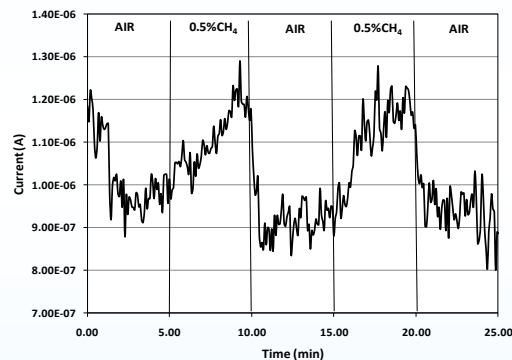
G.W. Hunter, et.al. Nanostructured Material Sensor Processing Using Microfabrication Techniques, Sensor Review 32/2 (2012) 106-117. (Paper of the year) Patent US 8,877,636 B1

# Microfabrication Techniques Applied To Nanotechnology

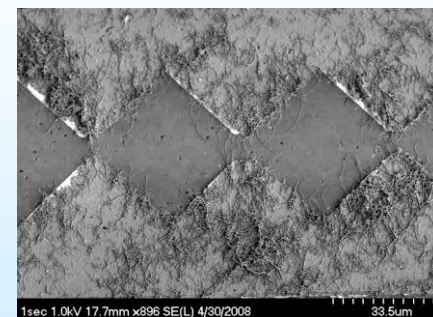
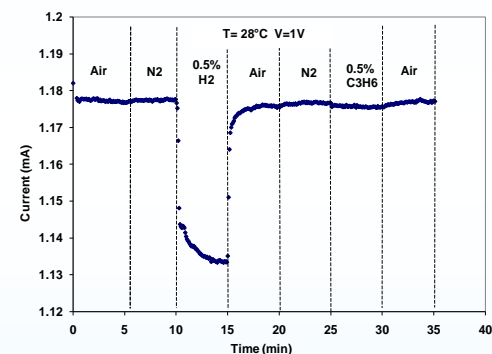
- Integration of standard microfabrication techniques with the alignment of nanostructures
- Length of nanostructures are affected by AC frequency used for alignment
- Core of the approach is to Mix Nanomaterials into the Photoresist Standardly Used for Microfabrication, Followed By Dielectrophoresis for Alignments
- Implies Nanostructures Can Be Integrated into Standard Microfabrication Processing At Multiple Stages in Sensor/Device Processing



**Tin Oxide Operational at 400°C**  
Measuring Hydrogen and Hydrocarbons



**Templated Tin Oxide Measuring Methane at Room Temperature**  
*New capability*

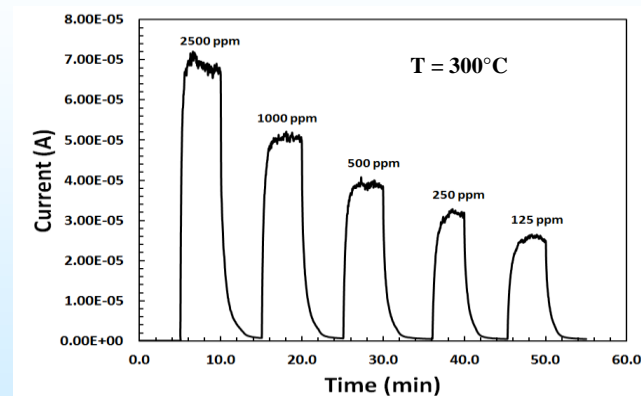
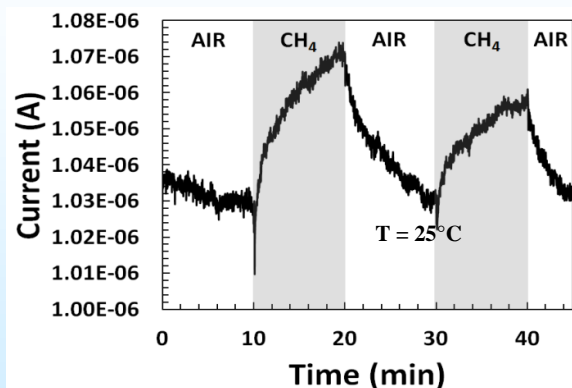
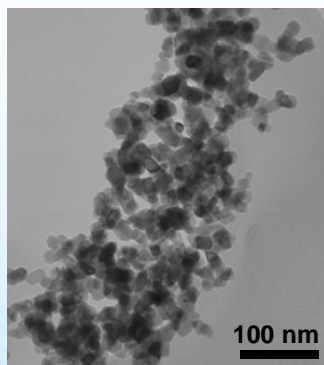


**Carbon Nanotubes Operational at Room Temperature**



# Templated Approach To Sensor Fabrication

- Template Approach
  - Carbon Nanotube as a Template Coated with Tin Oxide
  - Burn Off Carbon Leaving Only Tin Oxide
  - Resulting Tin Oxide Has Sensing Properties More Similar to Carbon than Tin Oxide
- Porous  $\text{SnO}_2$  nanorods via templated approach
  - Integrated into Micro Sensor Platform Using Micro Techniques
  - Room temperature methane detection
  - High temperature methane detection (up to  $500^\circ\text{C}$ )
- Can Be Used for Other Templates e.g., biological materials



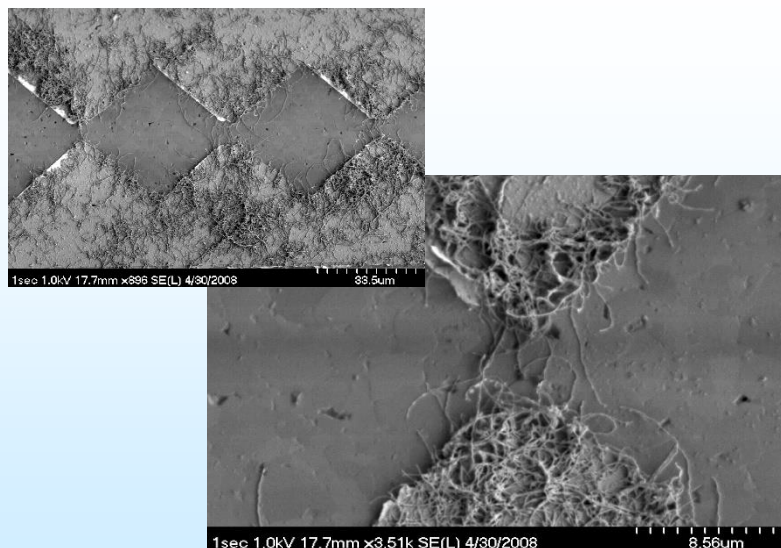
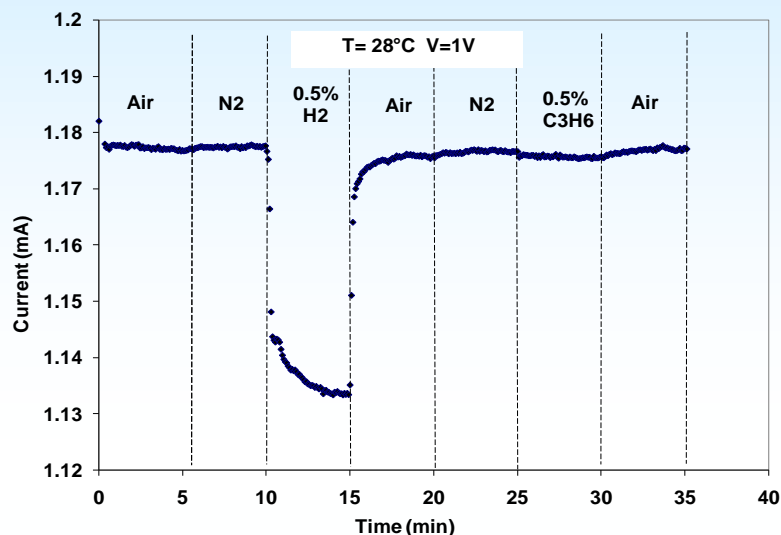
A. Biaggi-Labiosa, et.al. A Novel Methane Sensor Based on Porous  $\text{SnO}_2$  Nanorods: Room Temperature to High Temperature Detection, *Nanotechnology* 23 (2012) 455501.



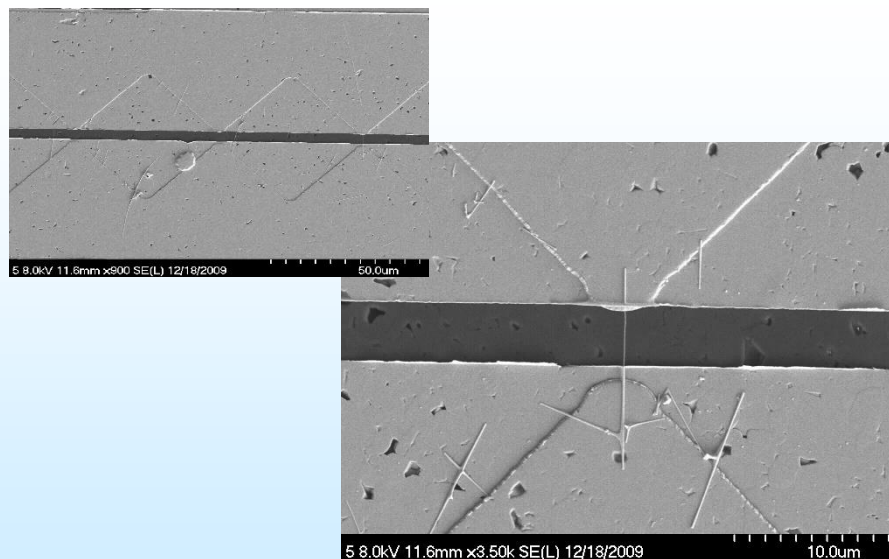
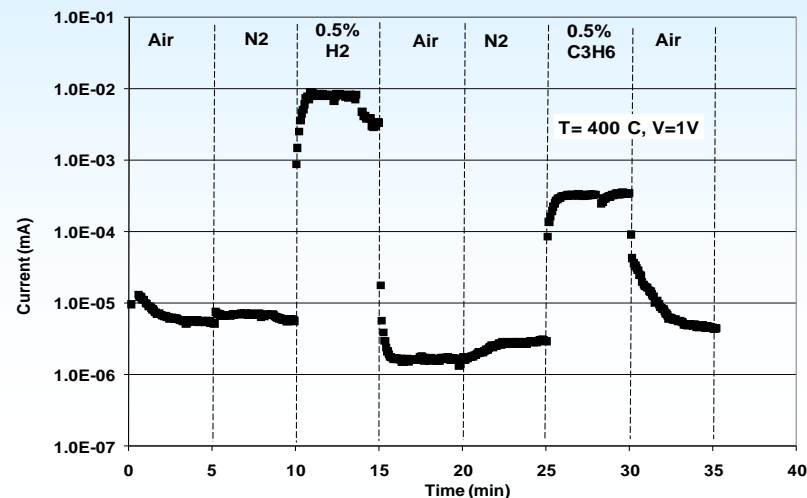
# MICROFABRICATION APPLIED TO NANOTECHNOLOGY

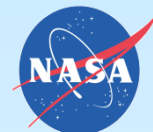
## Both Oxides and Carbon Demonstrated

### Carbon Nanotubes



### Tin Oxide Nanostuctures



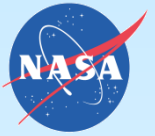


## SUMMARY AND LONG-TERM VISION

- **One of the Fundamental Suggestions Implied By This Presentation Is That Multiuse Micro/Nano Sensor Technology Combined With A Basic Hardware Platform (E.G. “Lick And Stick” Technology) Can Enhance The Viability Of Implementing Smart Sensor Systems**
- **Revolutionary Changes In A Range Of Applications Can Be Enabled By Intelligent Micro/Nano Systems**
- **A Range Of Systems Under Development; Begin With A Smart Core And Adapt To The Application**
- **Future Vision: Designer Diagnostics/Monitoring Systems Tailored To Optimize The Measurement Down To The Individual Application Environment for Distributed, Localized Care**
- **Part Of Full Field Diagnosis System Which Could Also Be Enabled With Intelligent Micro/Nano Systems**
  - **Ideally A Range Of Non-invasive Diagnostic Measurements**
  - **Diagnostics Systems Which Can Smell, Hear, See, Feel, Process Information And Communicate, And Self-reconfigure All In Miniaturized Field Applicable Systems**
- **Do Something With The Data: Diagnosis Combined With Treatment**
- **No Matter How Good The Technology, It Will Not Be Used Until It Proves Itself**



**A POSSIBLE VISION:  
A “SMART” SUIT  
ABLE TO PROVIDE  
COMPLETE  
DIAGNOSTICS AND  
HEALTH CARE**



# BACK UP

# Facilities and Laboratories



## Microsystems Fabrication Facility (Class 100 Cleanroom Facility)

### Features:

- 3000 square feet class 100 and class 1000 cleanroom space, Photolithography tools suitable for 2 micrometer linewidth
- Chemical work stations for substrate cleaning and wet etching
- Physical vapor thin film deposition systems, Plasma etchers, including deep reactive ion etcher for SiC micromachining
- Low pressure chemical vapor deposition system for silicon dioxide films
- Annealing and oxidation furnaces, Rapid thermal annealers

### Research Projects:

- SiC electronic devices –worlds first 500°C integrated circuit
- High temperature wireless sensors using 500°C SiC electronics
- Thin film sensors in-situ monitoring of high temperature processes
- Chemical sensors for active emissions control and health monitoring
- High temperature SiC pressure sensors for active combustion control
- SiC microactuators for control of fuel flow to minimize combustion instability