

MEMS activities in Argentina: the INTI experience

Daniel Lupi (INTI-Argentina)

lupi@inti.gov.ar

- INTI Introduction
- Electronics and Informatics Centre
- MEMS : the INTI experience
- MEMS Design and Technology Project
- The MEMS' Team

INTI is a decentralized organization from the Argentine Government established in 1957,

INTI 's mission is promoting development and technology transfer to industry...

...and help industry meet improved international competitiveness.



INTI strategic lines



Innovation and integral solution
for industry problems...

Socially valuable services..

Technological capabilities through international cooperation...



INTI major areas



Food
Materials and industrial processes
Energy and environment
Quality
Metrology
Chemistry and petrochemistry
Electronics and Informatics
Construction and infrastructure



INTI services to industry:



Technical Assistance
Research and development
Training
Product quality and certification
Environmental protection
Tests
Analyses and calibrations



Representatives of SME and firms associations are partners of INTI, in the Centres' Executive Committees and act as decision-taking authorities.

The "corporate governace" provide an active follow-up of the activities as well as the necessary guidance.

INTI 's Research and Development Centres

Twenty sectoral Research and Development Centres are located in the Province of Buenos Aires mainly in the so called Miguelete Technological Park.

Eight Regional Research and Development Centres are located in different provinces

Research and Development Centre for Electronics,
Telecommunications and Informatics

INTI-Electrónica e Informática

The Centre has as its main object to assist firms of related industrial sub sectors in their technological modernization and international competitiveness



- INTI work together with local manufactures to improve his products
- Given technical assistance and product testing

Gas Sensor Development

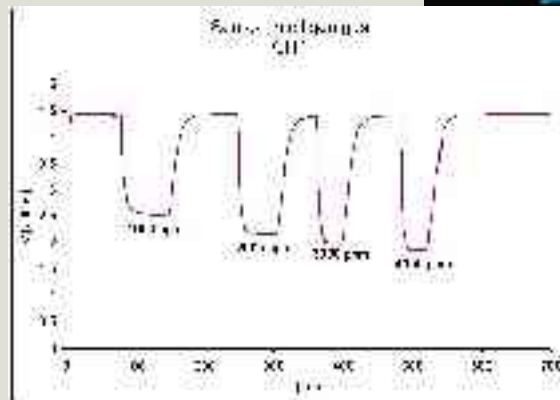


- Screen-printing technology applied to gas sensitive films
- Development of SnO₂ inks



Natural Gas Detector

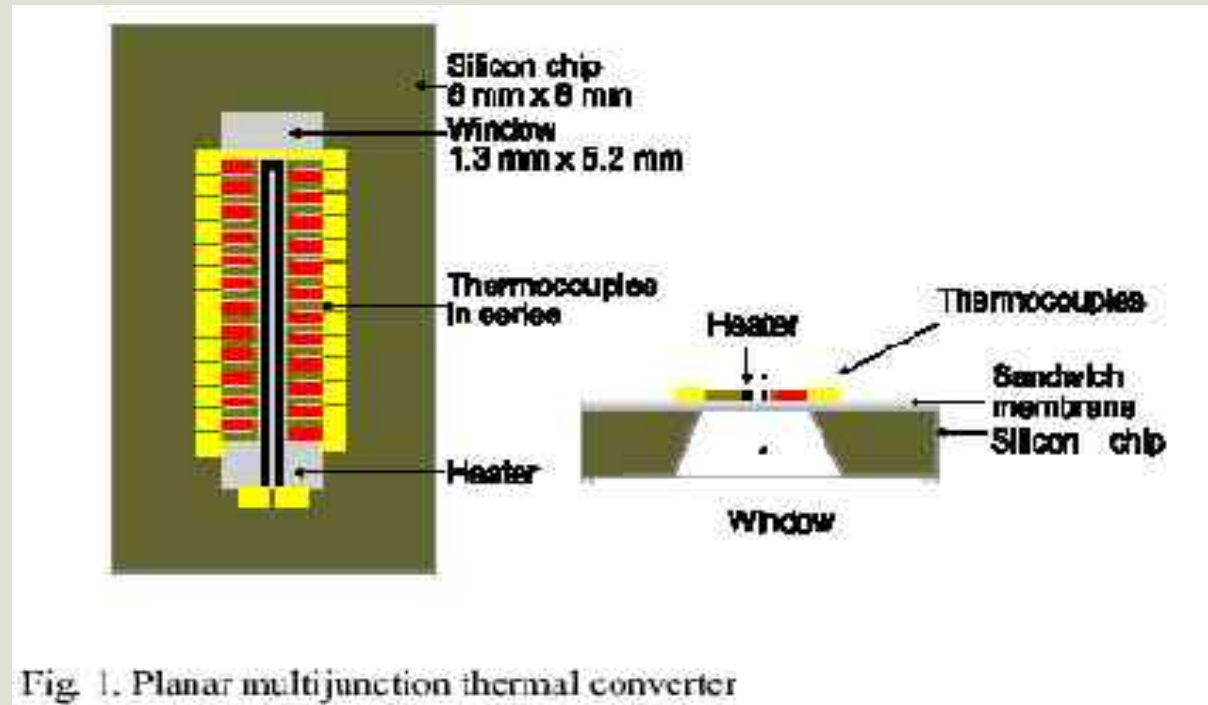
- In cooperation with the firma IBRA SRL
- INTI has develop a natural gas and monoxide detector for home and industrial use



- We see our self as: (Almost arbitrary...)
- An applied research Centre with high level industrial testing facilities, and
- Technologically oriented to the microelectronics applications and MEMS developments

- Metrology applications
- Nanostructured materials for MEMS
- Microrelay

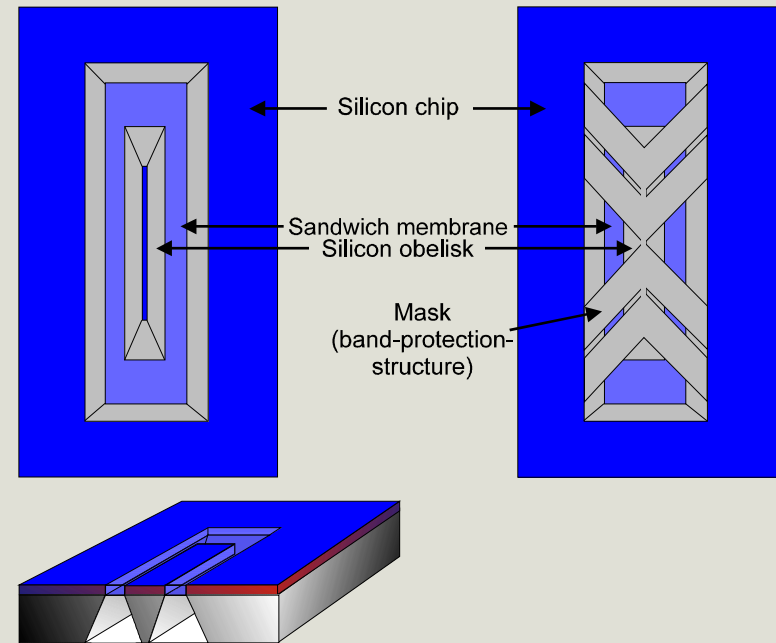
AC/DC MEMS



Thin-film Multijunction thermal converter were first developed at the PTB by Klonz and Weimann in 1986

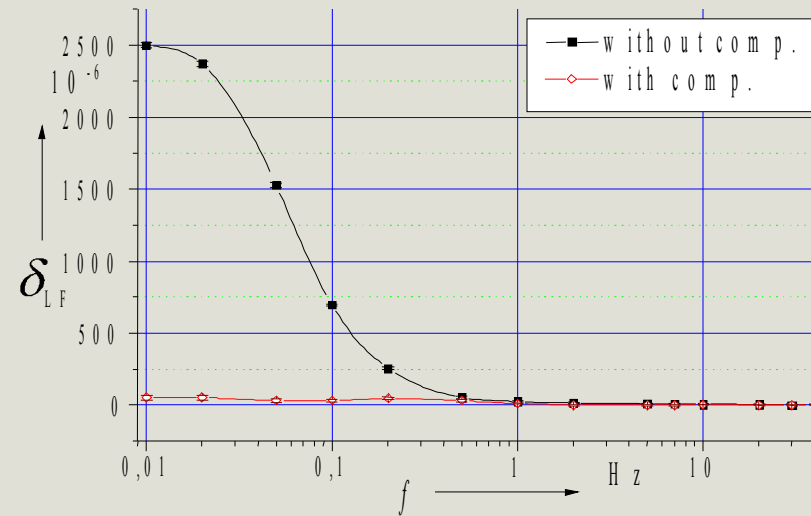
AC/DC MEMS

To increase the thermal time-constant down to 10 Hz a thermal mass has been placed under the heater

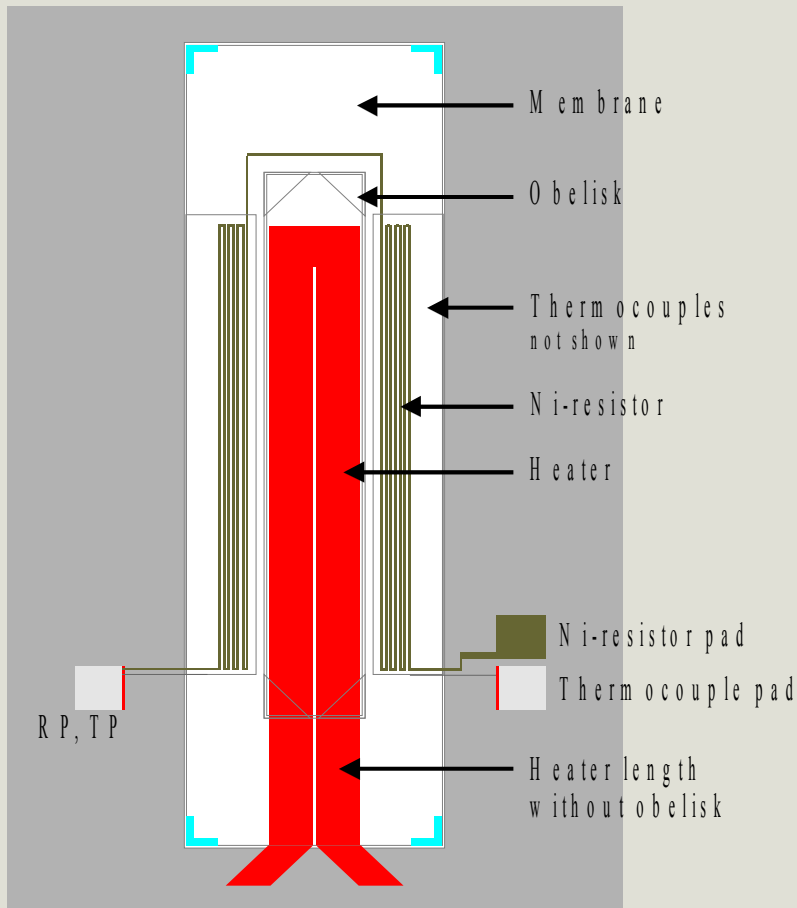


- Design Improvement

The developed electro-thermal model of the device is used to optimise the design for the reduction of the ac-dc transfer difference at low frequencies.

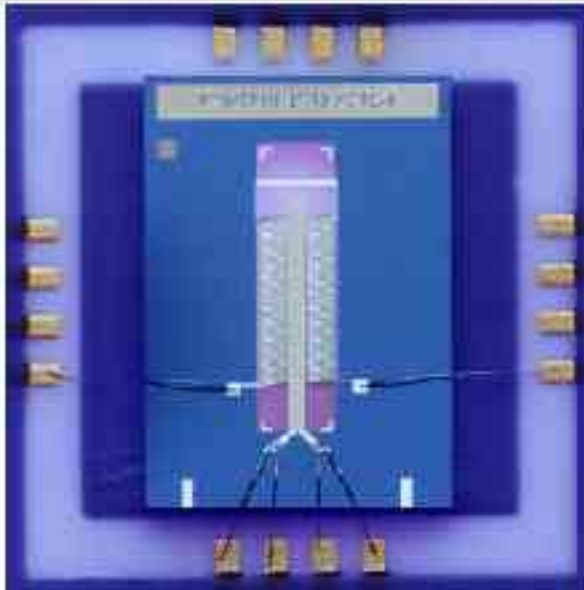


Standard uncertainty: below $0.3 \cdot \mu\text{V}/\text{V}$ at 10 Hz .



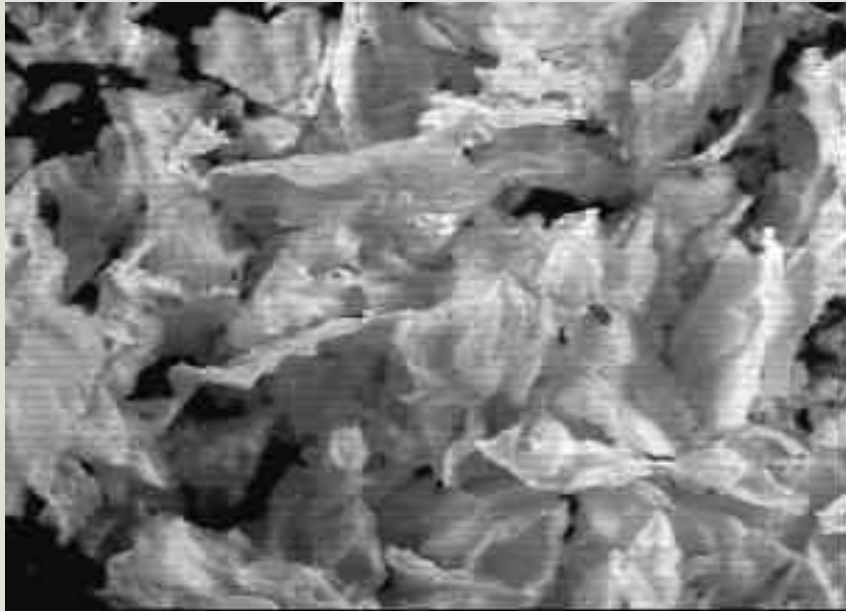
- Design Improvement

To decrease the nonlinearities AC/DC converters a thin-film Ni-resistor deposited underneath the thermocouples and connected to load the output voltage were designed and manufactured



- Al thin wires are bonding between chip and carrier Ag-pads
- The Different versions of MEMS ac-dc transfer were manufactured in IPHT of Jena Germany

The converter chip glued on a Ceramic chip-carrier



- Tin oxide nanopowder for improved response of gas sensors

- Nanocrystalline SnO₂ powder developed by novel synthesis method
- 10 nm were obtained
- process based on Gel-combustion of citric acid

Nanostructured materials for MEMS

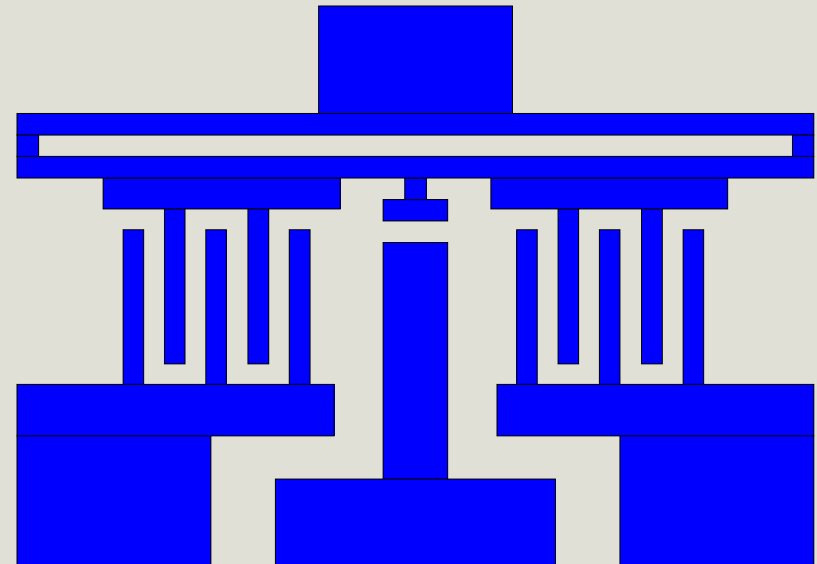
- We work in the use of standard gold pastes improves Nitrogen-dioxide sensitivity
- Thin film gold capacitors in MOS technology
- Using metal-organics gold inks for open gate structures on thick film technology



Microrelay

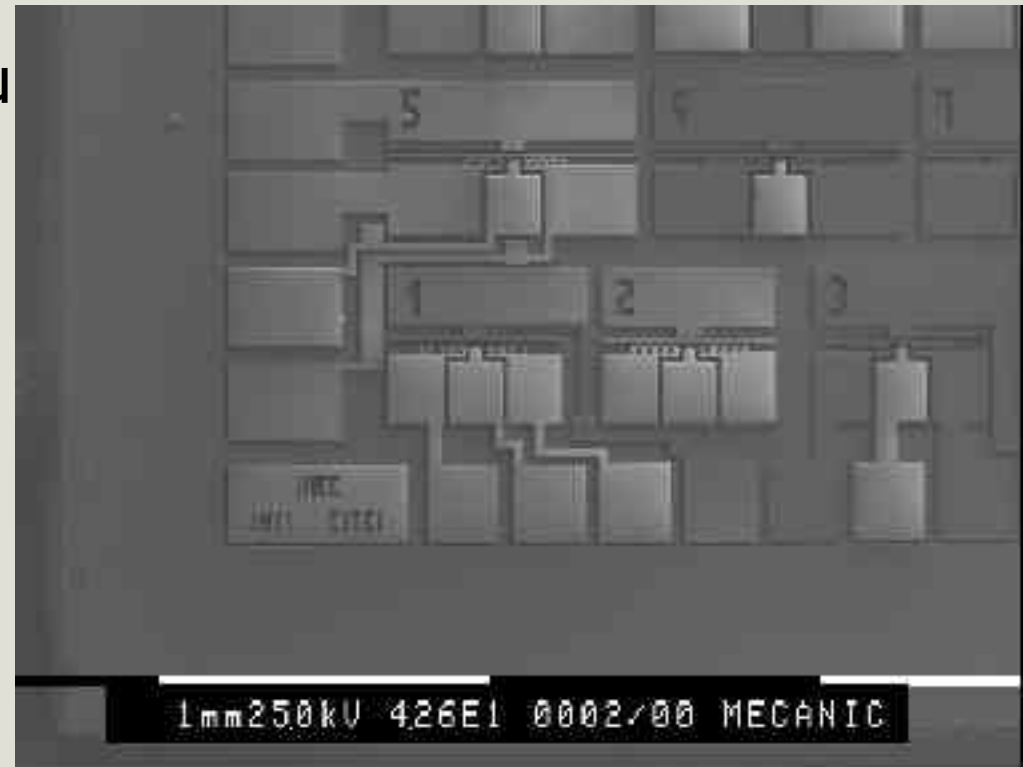
- Design parameters:
- Double-fold spring
- Size defined by its width: 700 μm
- SOI process allow complete design in one mask
- Cadence layout editor

Comb drives - Electrostatic actuator



Microrelay

- Prototypes Fabrication:
- TRONIC'S Microsystems
- Multi project Wafer ru service
- Epi-SOI Process
- 20 micro crystal thick
- 0.4 micro sacrificial layers



Microrelay

Microrelay Packaging:

Technology:

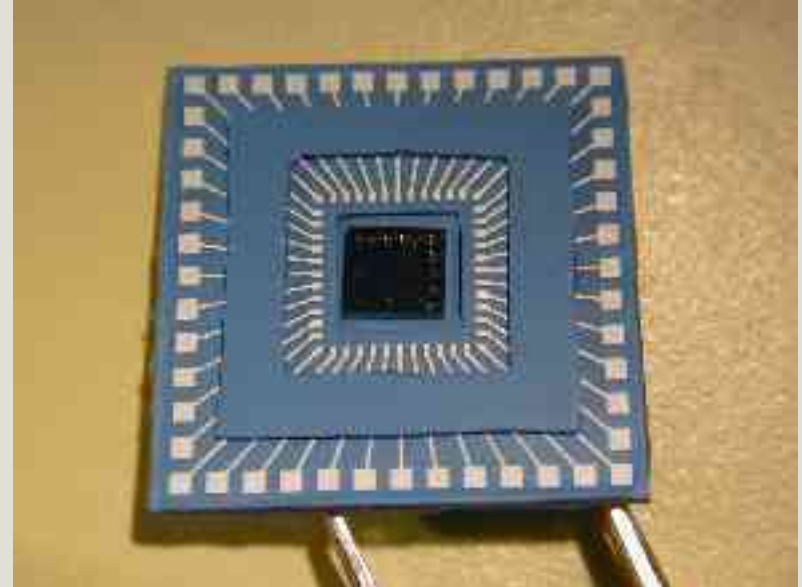
Low Temperature Co-fired
Ceramic (LTCC)

Multilayer

minimum pitch = $750 \mu\text{m}$

line width = $200 \mu\text{m}$

12 layers



Microrelay

Microrelay Testing:

Carried out in a Wentworth Probe Station.

Threshold voltage was measured for several devices.

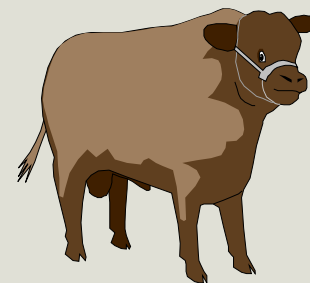
After nickel deposition



Performed in USP, Brasil

Livestock traceability

Argentine and regional requirements:



Europe demand the traceability of all meats imported since January 2003.

Potential market:

The region of the Mercosur: with 10 million heads of cattle in Uruguay, 60 millions in Argentina and more than 100 millions in Brazil.

Project Focus:

Agro-food traceability



- Microelectronics Traceability Systems for recover the confidence of the consumers and endorse the credibility in the consumption of bovine meat.
- RFID and MEMS technologies:
- RFID for the implementation of the transponder, for reading without contact
- MEMS for the incorporation of sensors, for the historical evolution of every animal or food unit.

Working program:

- In October 2000 IMEC and INTI subscribed an agreement. The program was based on the transference of IMEC's knowledges to INTI-CITEI and the mutual activities of cooperation.
- Two Argentine Scientists were coached by IMEC in Design and packaging of MEMS.

Working program:

- In 2003 the National Agency for Science and Technology sponsor an initiative to upgrade current thick film technology INTI's facilities, moving to design and packaging thin film sensors and microelectromechanical systems.
- In 2004 the European Union support the INTI's Electronics Traceability Project in the frame of competitiveness of Argentinean SME Program.

Equipment in use:

Wet Station and Spinner
Semiautomatic Screen Printer
Wedge Wire Bonder



Equipment we are buying:

Mask Aligner
Scriber / Dicing
Ellipsometer
Sputtering / Evaporation
Ball Wire Bonder
Wafer Probing System Semiconductor
Parameter Analyzer
Die Pick and Place System



Thick Film Facilities:

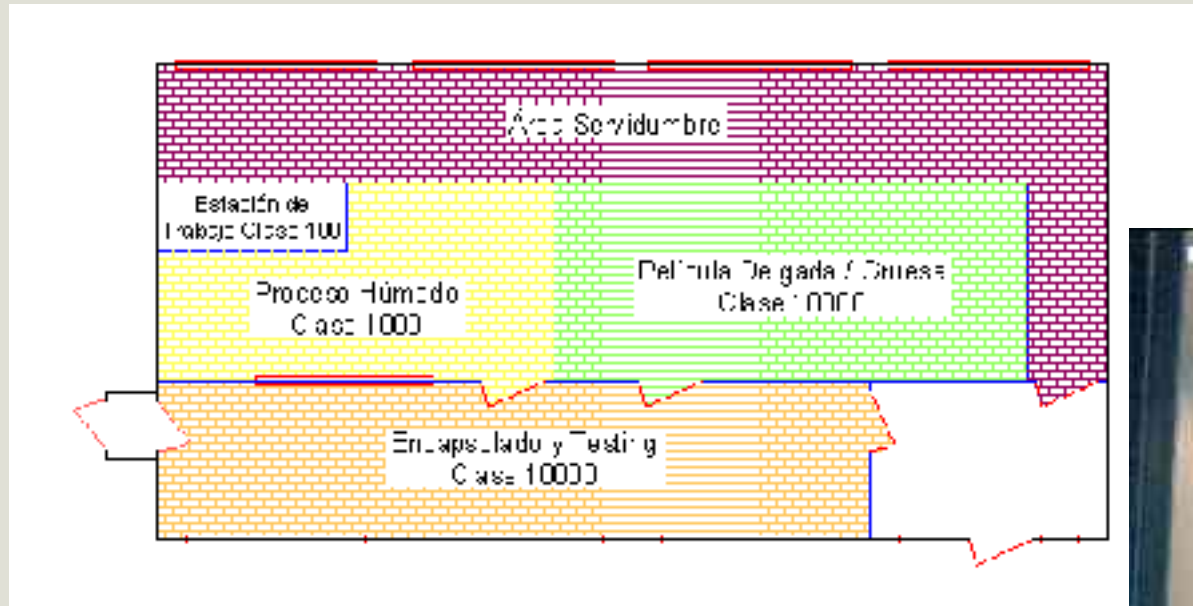


Moving to Green tape
and ceramic packaging
development

Upgrading current thick film
technology INTI's facilities



Clean Room Building



Setting up new facility at INTI

Clean room (70 m²)

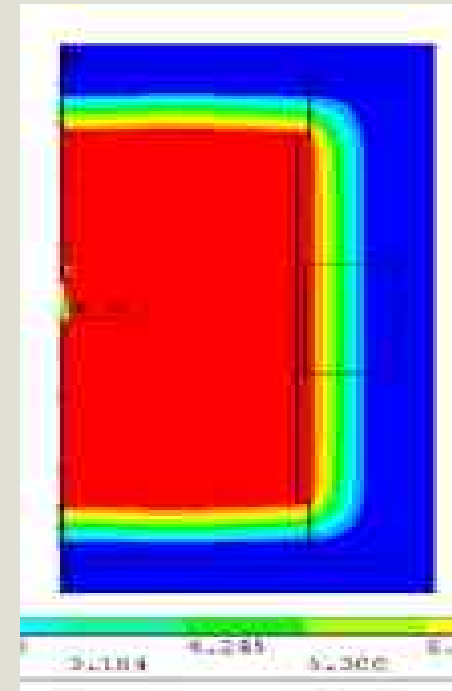
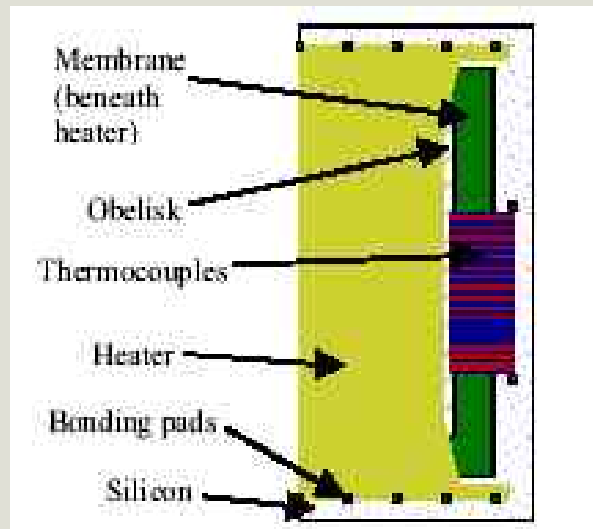
Post processing

The MEMS' Team:

- Hector Laiz

Metrology applications of MEMS,
design and thermal modelling

(Metrology Program)



Temperature distribution

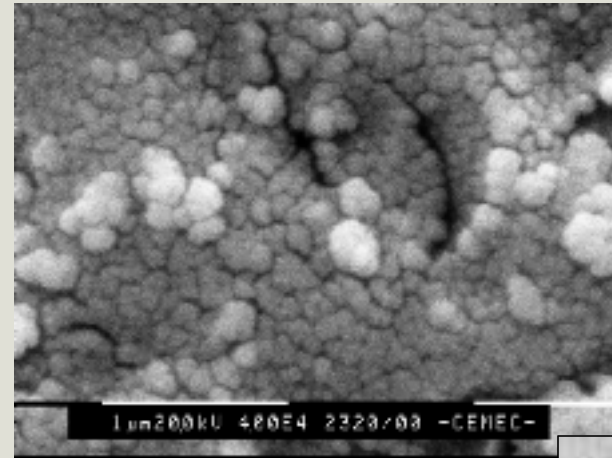
Layout of one-half of 1A
ac/dc MEMS (NIST)

The MEMS' Team:

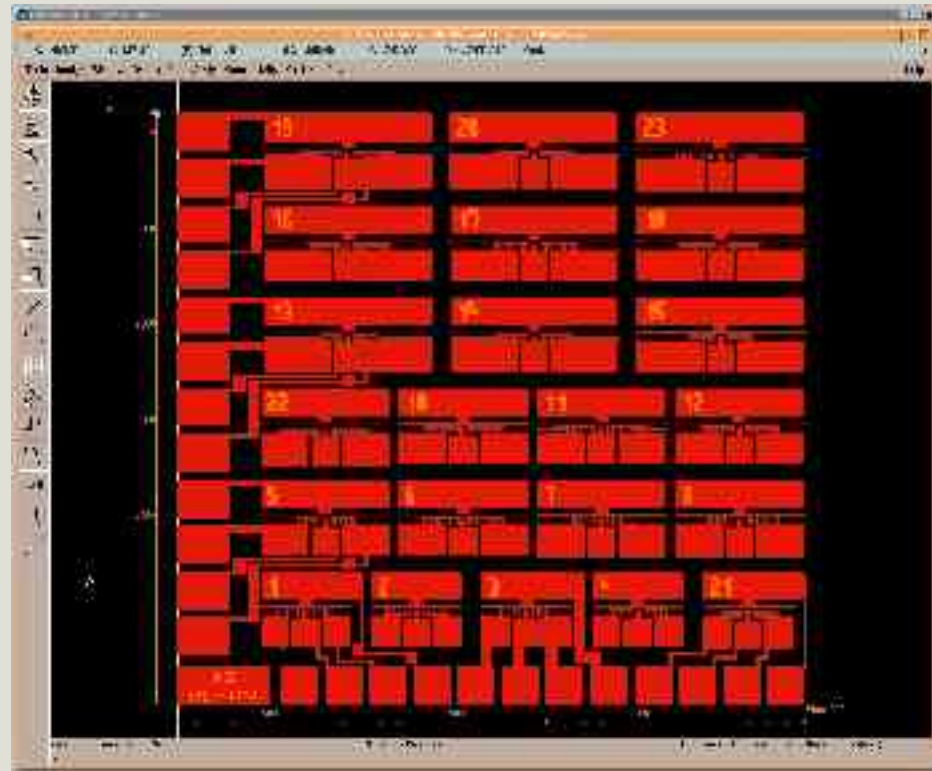
- Liliana Fraigi

Thick film Gas sensor based
on Sn O₂ Nanoparticles

(Electronics and Informatics Centre)



The MEMS' Team:



- Alex Lozano
MEMS design
applied to microsensors and microactuators.
Modeling and simulation of MEMS.
Electrical testing and characterization of MEMS devices.
(Electronics and Informatics Centre)

The MEMS' Team:



ML and UL antenna with RFID 2nd level packaging

- Laura Malatto

Packaging on LTCC

Thick film Mechanical sensors

(Electronics and Informatics Centre)

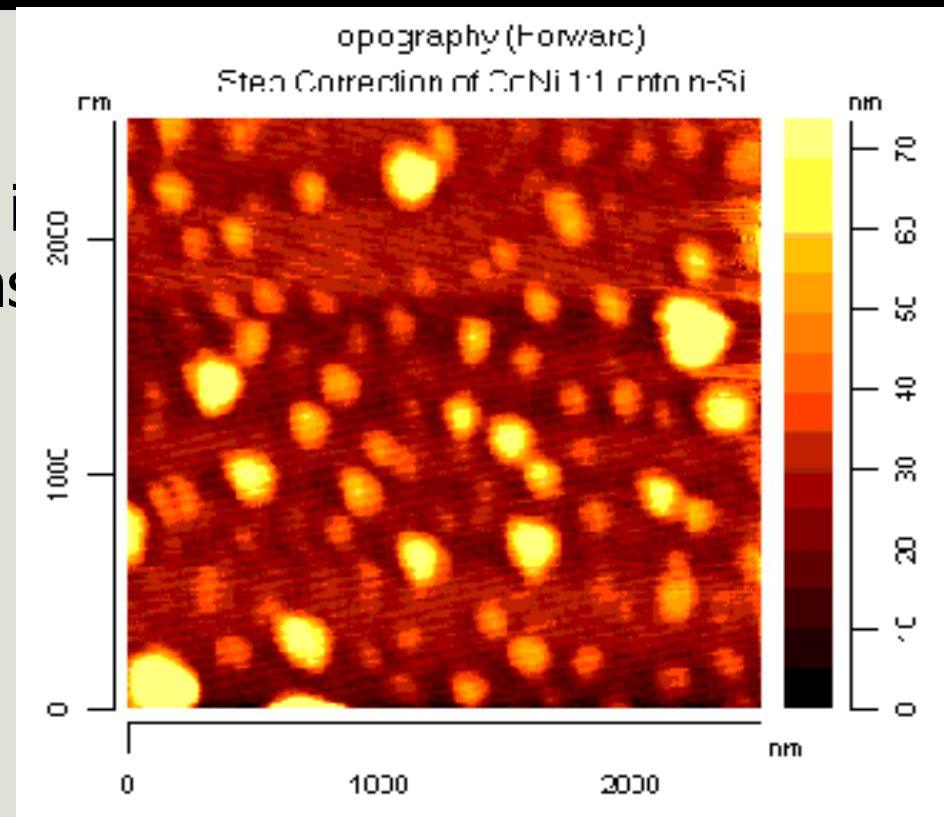
The MEMS' Team:

- Carlos Moina
Nanotechnology materials in electrochemistry and mems applications (Magnetics nanoparticles)

(Surface process Centre)

- Gabriel Ybarra
Conductive Polymer

(Surface process Centre)



Nanometer-sized nuclei of Co-Ni alloys were electrodeposited onto n-Si (100) electrodes



WWW. INTI. GOV. AR