

# **Flexible Electronics: Why the Interest? Where Are The Markets? What's Next?**

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CEO  
April 14, 2010

# What Is the FlexTech Alliance?

- A membership-driven organization serving the common interests of the flexible, printed electronics and displays industries in North America
  - Built on success of U.S. Display Consortium (USDC) with expanded R&D scope and business services
- Our mission is to advance the growth, profitability and success of our member companies and organizations by:
  - Supplying information through market reports and analyses
  - Providing R&D funding
  - Advocating for industry interests
  - Creating networking and information gathering opportunities

# Who Should Join FlexTech?

- Current supply chain companies, developers and manufacturers of displays, flexible and printed electronics
- R&D organizations and universities
- Government organizations which fund R&D
- Any company or organization interested in getting involved with the displays and flexible, printed electronics industries



Is your  
customer or  
competitor  
a member?

# What's in a Name?

- Flexible electronics (substrate is conformable)
- Large area or macro electronics (military)
- Organic electronics (Europe)
- Plastic electronics (academia, UK)
- Printed electronics (primary printing platforms + conductive ink)
- **Flexible, printed electronics (FlexTech)**

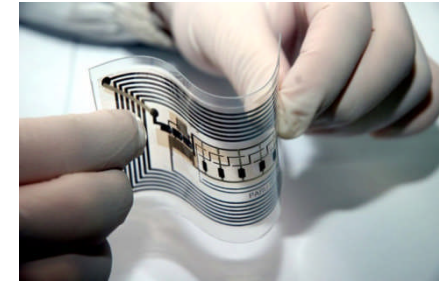
# Why the Interest in Flexible Electronics?

# Flexible, Printed Electronics

- Microelectronics changed the world by putting intelligence in products, thereby enabling many new products
- A new field of electronics is emerging which cannot be made small, but must be big in order to interact with big things
- This is flexible, printed electronics and its salient feature is that it can conform to surfaces to impact a wide range of applications



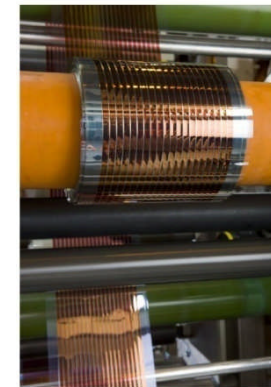
Lightweight, flexible display from Army/ASU FDC



Printed RFID from Sunchon National Univ. and Rice Univ.



THINERGY Micro-Energy Cell (MEC) - Infinite Power Solutions



Konarka's flexible OPV

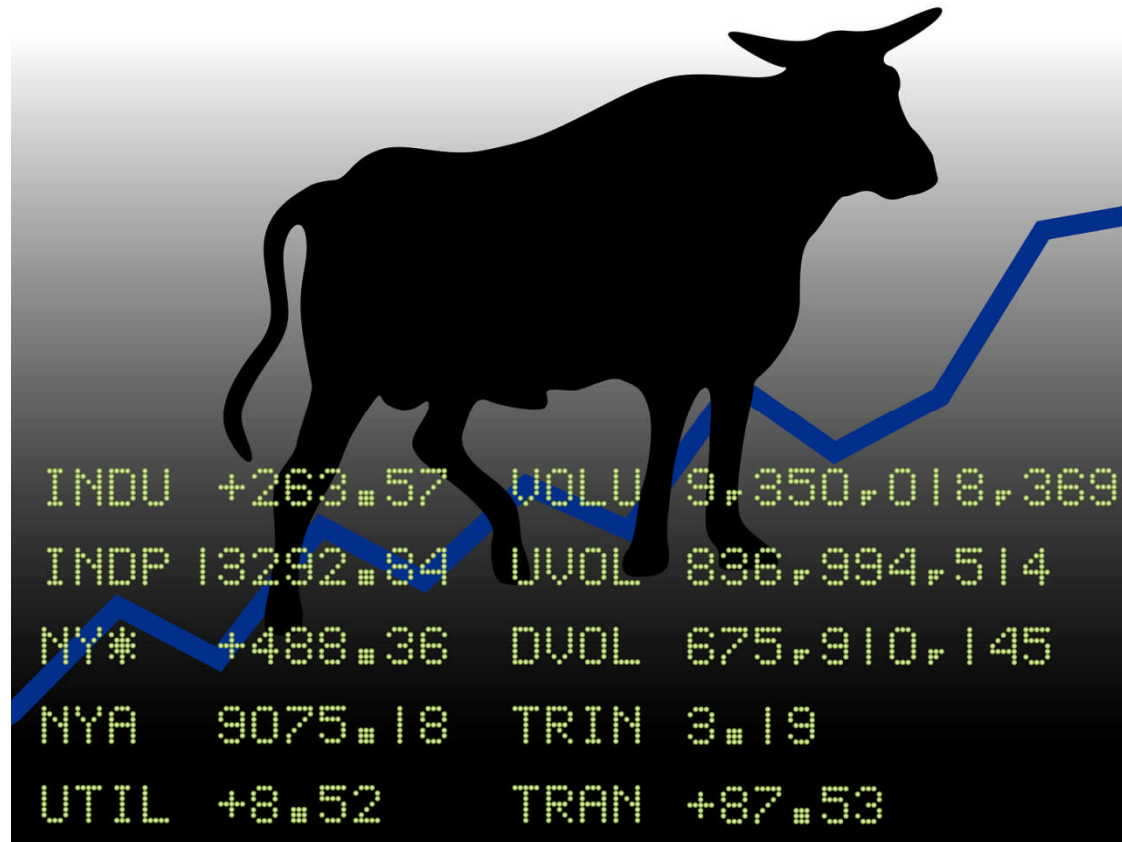
# Flexible, Printed Electronics: A Different Path than Moore's Law

- Moore's Law in silicon electronics drives to smaller features, higher density and complexity, higher costs
- Flexible (and potentially printed) electronics enables sufficient functionality at lower cost

|               | Flexible & Printed  | Silicon            |
|---------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Transistors   | thousands           | billions           |
| Feature Sizes | 10's of microns     | 10's of nanometers |
| Cost of Fab   | ~\$ 10M-\$200 M/fab | \$ 2-3 B/fab       |

# What's the Market Opportunity?

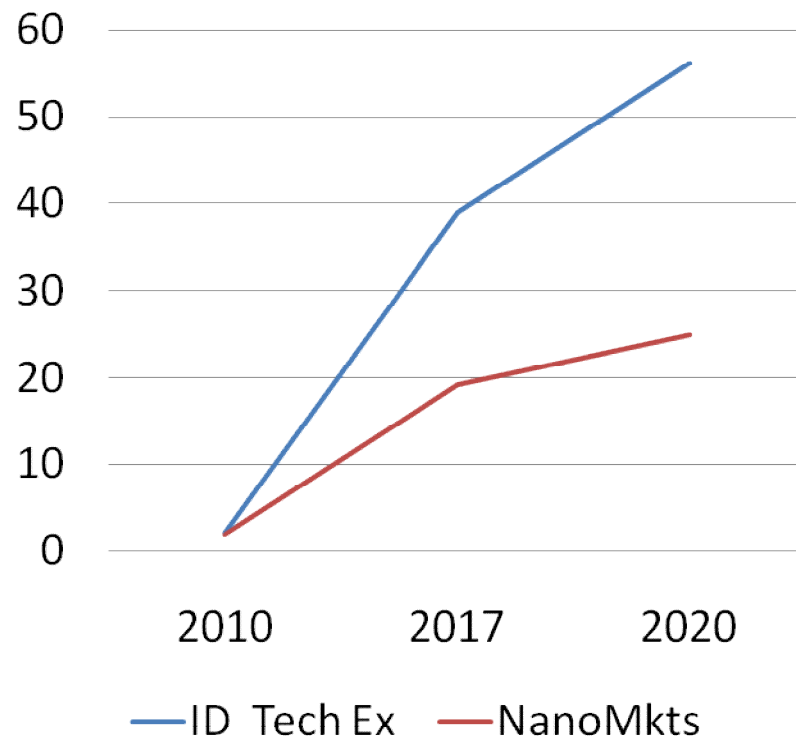
## Competing Views...





# Competing Views

**Flexible Electronics:  
Market Size - \$B**



- Primary Applications

- Displays
- Lighting
- Sensors
- PV
- RFID

Source: Presented at the 2010 Flexible Electronics and Displays Conference.

# Where Are The Markets?

# Areas of Agreement

- Analysts and business development executives agree that there is a flexible, printed electronics industry emerging
- Multiple technical and business challenges
- Primary applications are:



| Analysts                   | FlexTech Alliance |
|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Sensors                    | Sensors           |
| OLED Displays and Lighting | Flex Lighting     |
| RFID                       | Communications    |
| PV                         | Power Films       |




# OE-A's View

OE-A Roadmap for Organic and Printed Electronics Applications



© OE-A 2009

# Federal Agency Unmet Needs

| Application  | DoD   | DOE   | NIH   | DOT  | FAA  | HSA   |
|--|---|---|---|--|--|---|
| <b>Sensors</b><br>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•medical: low cost bandages for treatment, triage, trauma care, patient monitoring</li> <li>•force protection</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low cost energy usage control for Smart Buildings</li> </ul>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•medical: low cost bandages for treatment, triage, trauma care, patient monitoring</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low cost conformal sensor for infrastructure maintenance and safety for structures</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• airframe structural integrity</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low cost border security sensors</li> <li>large area sensors for WMD detection and plume tracking</li> </ul> |
| <b>Power Harvesting Photovoltaics</b><br> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• portable, durable, low cost, large area solar cells (off grid)</li> <li>•UAV power on conformal surfaces</li> </ul>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low cost, lightweight, durable integrated solar cells (on grid)</li> </ul>                   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• integration with conformal sensors above</li> </ul>   |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• power sources for unattended, long life, durable sensors above</li> </ul>                                    |
| <b>Power Storage Batteries</b><br>        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• portable, conformal, long-life, durable</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conformal batteries off grid for alternative energy sources</li> </ul>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• power sources for medical sensors</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• remote power sources for structural sensors</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•power sources for conformal sensors above</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• power sources for unattended, long life, durable sensors above</li> </ul>                                    |
| <b>Conformal, Printed Light Emitters</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• mission planning/training: low cost, large area displays</li> <li>• conformal maps for dismounted soldier</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• large area smart lighting</li> <li>•flexible under counter, around edges lighting</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• medical light therapy</li> <li>• professional, collaborative training</li> <li>• more effective patient treatment at lower cost</li> </ul> |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• conformal displays for collaborative air traffic control</li> <li>• conformal cockpit displays</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• on-site, large area displays for first responders</li> </ul>   |
| <b>Biotechnology Devices</b>   |   |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• non invasive devices</li> </ul>  |  |  |   |
| <b>RFID</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• low cost logistics planning/distribution</li> <li>• tracking inventory</li> </ul>                                      |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• surgical item tracking</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•low cost logistics planning/distribution</li> <li>• tracking inventory</li> </ul>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• parts tracking and shelf life (out of date)</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• personnel tracking</li> </ul>  |



# Flexible Electronics in Military Applications



Information devices



Solar power

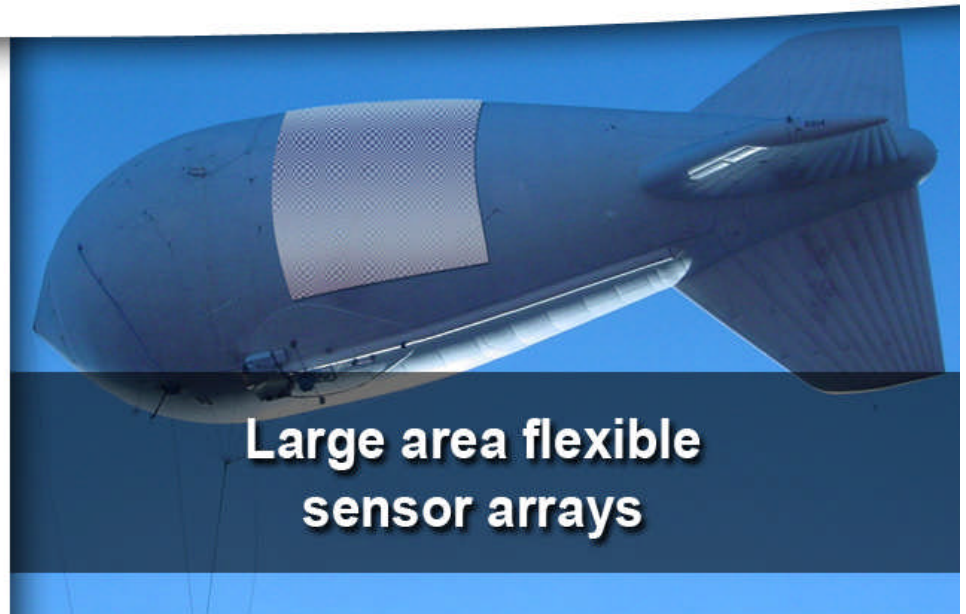


Communications

## **PRINTED ELECTRONICS WILL IMPACT A BROAD ARMY BASE**

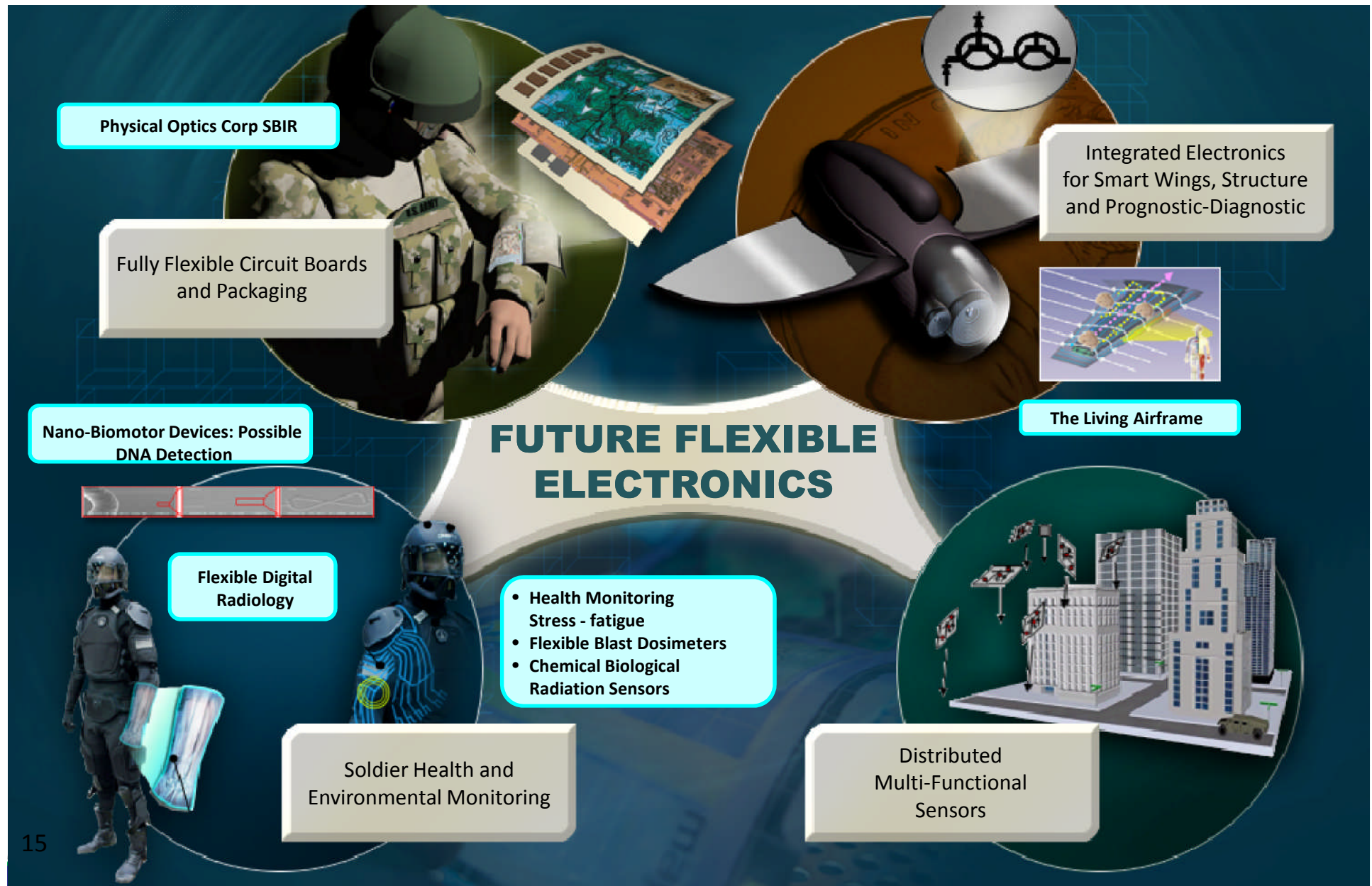


Tracking, locating,  
targeting



Large area flexible  
sensor arrays

# U.S. Army -- Defense and Security Applications





# MeadWestvaco: Enabled Smart Packaging

**More than a container. A smart package enhances the customers product experience.**



## Promotes

- Entertain
- Lights
- Sounds
- Interactive
- Multiple Touch Points



## Informs

- Prompts
- Resets
- Reminds
- Recommends
- Helpful
- Motivates



## Communicates

- Connection
  - Wired or Wireless
- Interactive
- Updates
- Ease of Use
- Programs



## Secures

- Theft Deterrence
- Tamper Evident
- Screamer Tag
- RFID:
  - Attached to smart package
  - Anti-counterfeit



# Lots of Start-ups



innovaLIGHT is redefining solar energy manufacturing by using high precision inkjet manufacturing to replace many of the costly manufacturing steps required to make solar modules today.



Kovio is developing a new category of semiconductor products using printed silicon electronics and thin film technology.



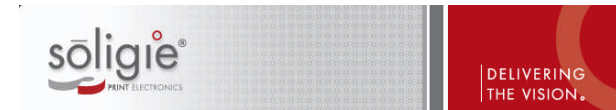
The Paper Battery Company is developing energy storage devices engineered as integrated nanocomposites, enabling properties that create strong customer value propositions.



Plextronics, Inc. is an international technology company that specializes in printed solar, lighting and other electronics.



Solarmer Energy Inc. is a developer of transparent, flexible plastic solar panels, the next wave in generating renewable energy from the sun.



Soligie® is dedicated to providing manufacturing solutions for printed electronics.



# What's Next?

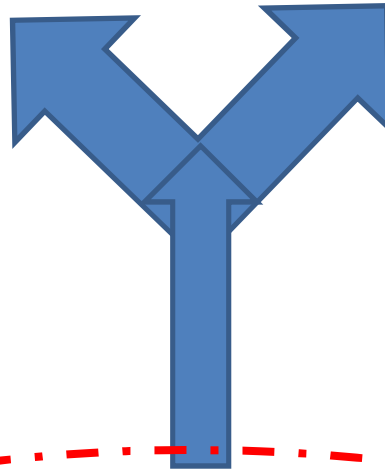
# Two Paths to Commercialization?

## Good enough devices

- Suitable substrate
- Identify materials set
- Qualify a printing process
- Move to R2R

## High performance devices

- Suitable substrate
- Construct materials
- Build prototype tools
- Sheet or roll
  - Lower processing temperatures



## Conformable substrate

- Polymer
- Metal foil(s)
- Glass
- Other

Substrate as a system of materials

# Nanomarkets: What is Needed for Flexible Electronics?

- Flexible substrates
  - Resistant to high-temperature processes
- Low-temperature processes
  - To accommodate sensitive substrates
- Encapsulation
  - Prevent degradation, extend lifetimes
- Device layers
  - Avoid brittleness

FlexTech funded  
R&D in all these  
areas

# U.S. Army: Technology Challenges

| MATERIALS  | DEVICES  | INTEGRATION   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Organic engineered</li><li>• Inorganic hybrids</li><li>• Nanoparticle-matrix (printed metals)</li><li>• Multifunctional</li><li>• Uniquely processable</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2-50 cm<sup>2</sup>/V-s</li><li>• CMOS, analog circuits</li><li>• Operating Stability</li><li>• Transistors</li><li>• Sensors</li><li>• Printed antennas</li><li>• Energy harvesting</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Printing vs. photolith (add vs. subtractive)</li><li>• Flexible substrates</li><li>• Woven substrates</li><li>• Leverage Chip on flex</li></ul> |

# Challenges to North American Industry

- R&D funding
- Developing prototypes
- Transition to manufacturing
  - Establishing high volume production capability
  - Cost of initial tooling /ROI
  - High volume quality assurance & control

The Printed, Organic and Large-Area Realisation of Integrated Circuits (POLARIC) is a four-year, €9.9m project involving 13 partners from seven European countries. Launched in January 2010 by the EU, the project aims to remove the barriers preventing large-scale production of organic thin film electronics to develop electronic products such as flexible sensors, photovoltaics, batteries and lighting.

***the Engineer 3/25/10***

***The German Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) is to sponsor a €15 million project to advance the development of high-performance printable RFID tags. The BMBF will contribute about €8 million to the total project cost. One of the aims of the project is to secure Germany's current leadership as a research base in the printable electronics sector.***

***Cintelliq 2/25/2008***

PLACE-it (Platform for Large Area Comformable Electronics by InTegration) is a 40 month €10.9M project that received funding from European Community's FP7 programme. The PLACE-it project aims to realize technology platform for lightweight, stretchable and flexible optoelectronics systems.

***Cintelliq 3/23/10***

# 12 Years of Directed Funding For Flex (2001-2013)

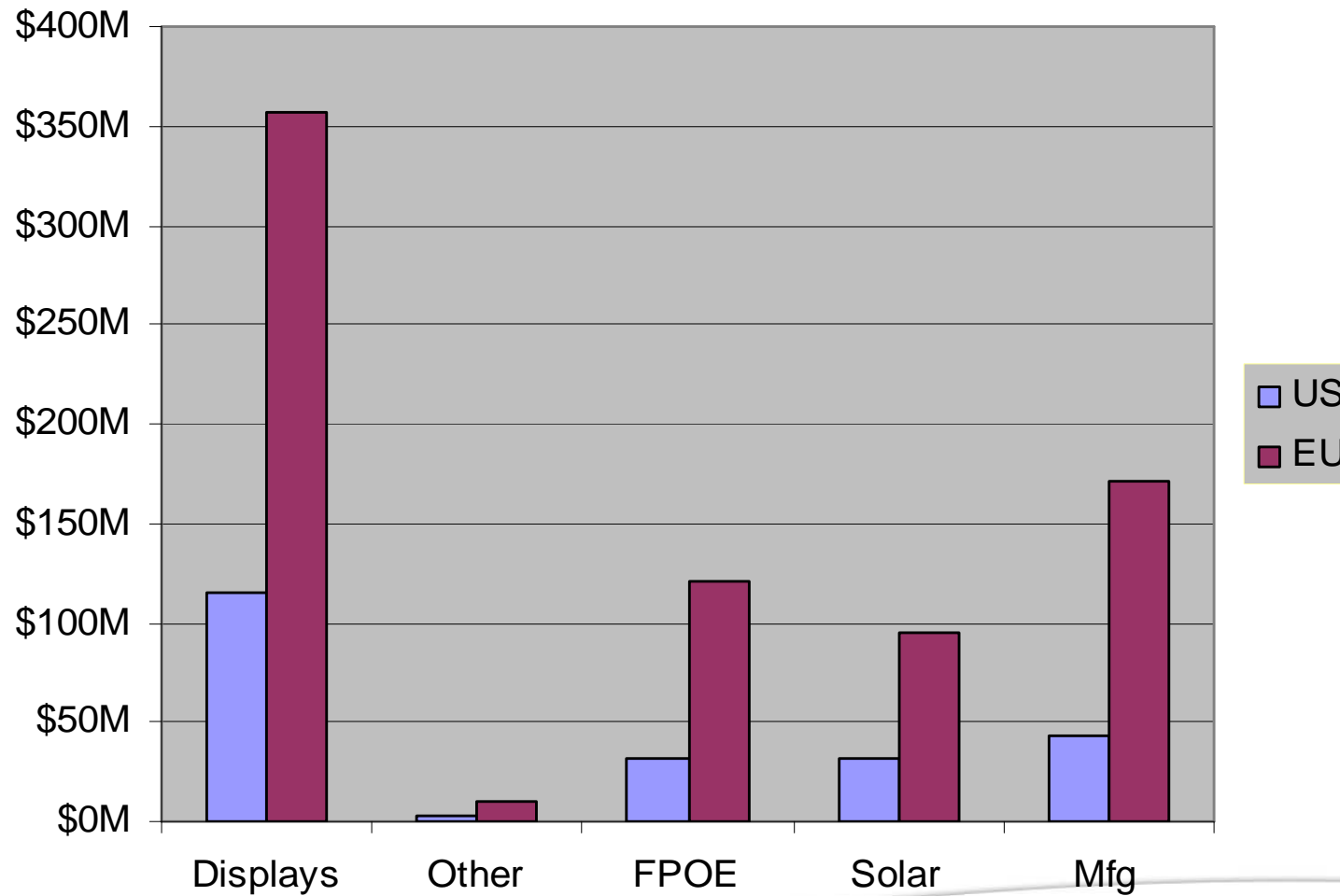
## USA - \$193M

- NIST-ATP, \$12.2M
  - 2 Projects
- DARPA, \$15M
  - Mesoscopic Integrated Conformal Electronics
  - Flexible Emissive Displays
- Army, \$97.3M
  - FDC, Phase I
  - FDC, Phase II
- USDC, \$69.3M
  - 44 cost-shared projects and centers

## EU - \$715M

- FP6, \$186M
  - Advanced displays
  - Flexidis
  - Micro/nano sub-systems
  - OLLA
- FP7, \$183M
  - Organic display systems
  - Organic Electronics
- BRD \$265M
  - Initiative Organic PV
  - OLED Initiative
  - Smart labels
- UK \$79M
  - CPI/CENAMPS

# Flex Application Funding Areas (2001-2013)





# Recent FlexTech Funded Projects

- Substrates (higher  $T_g$  - less distortion)
  - Akron Polymer Systems
  - Princeton w/ DuPont
  - Lehigh University (metal foils)
- Barrier Layers, Encapsulation, Planarization
  - Vitex
  - Dow Corning
  - Honeywell
- Printing
  - Optomec (aerosol ink jet)
  - UniPixel (high resolution ink jet)
  - Sonoco Institute (graphics printing)
  - Western Mich. Univ. (materials registry)
- Materials
  - Solarmer (polymers for OPV)
  - Polyera (high performance N-type semiconductors)
  - AKT (high performance mixed metal oxides)
  - HP (color filters)
- Tools
  - Azores
  - CHA
  - HP (imprint lithography)
  - Applied Materials

# Academic Partnerships

- U.S. Army – Arizona State University Flexible Display Center (FDC)
  - Fully operational 6” wafer pilot line and Gen 2 (370 mm x 470 mm) line in former Motorola Bldg.
- Binghamton University – Center for Advanced Microelectronics Manufacturing (CAMM)
  - R&D and prototyping facility housed in Endicott Interconnect Technologies facility with lab resources from BU and Cornell
    - Azores litho tool, CHA deposition tool, ECD inspection tool and other assets
- Others
  - Clemson University – SONOCO Institute
  - Lehigh University – metal foils
  - Princeton University – flexible electronics, OLED
  - Western Michigan University – printed electronics

# Some Federal Funding Sources

- National Science Foundation
- Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
  - Mitigation of IEDs
  - Innovative medical triage and care
- U.S. Army
  - Pervasive surveillance
  - Soldier systems incorporating communications, lighting, power and sensors
- Dept of Energy
  - Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy
  - Advanced Research Projects–Energy
- FlexTech Alliance partnership w/ Army Research Lab for supply chain development

SBIR and STTR  
Funding  
Available  
Starts at \$150K

# FlexTech's Public Policy Initiatives

- NIST and NAS have agreed to conduct a study on flexible, printed electronics
  - Launch late Spring/Summer 2010

**NIST**

**THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES**  
*Advisers to the Nation on Science, Engineering, and Medicine*

- FlexTech has briefed White House Office of Science and Technology Policy staff on flexible, printed electronics
  - Supplied several white papers



# Summary

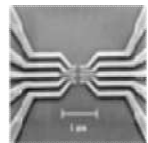
## Why Flexible Electronics?

- Form and Fit
  - Conformable substrates open up enormous application spaces
    - Textiles, buildings, paper
- Cost
  - Traditional IC lithography and vacuum processing are costly
    - Mix and match → printing → R2R provides significant savings if the target is “good enough”
- Ecology
  - Additive processes vs. removal

## Why Now?

- Electronics industry always searching for new technology for markets
- Start-up capital available
  - e.g., Kovio, Novaled, Plextronics
- Early adopters available
  - Military services
- High volume consumers seeking ideas → solutions
  - Dole, P&G, SmithKline Glaxo
- Early results promising
- EU R&D spending

# Value Chain Opportunity



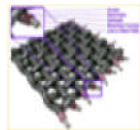
## Materials

**Non-Crystalline Materials**  
**Nanomaterials**  
**Flexible Substrates and Coatings**



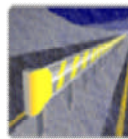
## Processes

**Printing and Patterning**  
**Roll-to-Roll Manufacturing**  
**Polymer/Organic Synthesis**



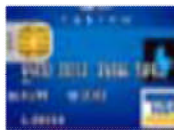
## Devices/ Integration

**Energy Conversion**  
**Sensors/Detectors**  
**Thin-film Transistors**



## Products

**Energy Harvesting and Storage**  
**Lighting, Signage, Displays and E-Books**  
**Smart Bandages & Clothing**  
**Sensor Networks**



## Markets

**Energy (flexible PV and batteries)**  
**Solid State Lighting**  
**Sensors (infrastructure monitoring for agriculture, civil, financial, medical, military applications)**  
**Medical and Healthcare**  
**Military and First Responders**

## Value Chain for Flexible, Printed Electronics

Significant market opportunities include thin film and flexible PV, solid state lighting, sensors for commercial and defense applications, and novel displays/communications products.

# Resources

- [www.cintelliq.com](http://www.cintelliq.com)
- [www.flextech.org](http://www.flextech.org)
- [www.nanomarkets.net](http://www.nanomarkets.net)
- [www.oe-a.org](http://www.oe-a.org)
- [www.PrintedElectronicsWorld.com](http://www.PrintedElectronicsWorld.com)
- 2010 DOE Solid-State Lighting Manufacturing R&D Workshop - April 21-22, 2010 in San Jose
- 2010 Flexible Electronics and Displays Conference Proceedings from FlexTech

FlexTech Quarterly Workshop –  
June 2-3, hosted by Mead  
Westvaco at NCSU – Smart  
Packaging

# Thank you!

- ❖ Maria Peterson for the invitation and content guidance
- ❖ Army Research Lab, DuPont, ID Tech Ex, MeadWestvaco, NanoMarkets for info
- ❖ Thin Film Users Group





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