



# Painotekniikoilla älykkyyttä kaikkialle

BioÄly-hanke, seminaari, 10.3.2020

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Information Technology and Communication Sciences (ITC),  
Tampereen University (TAU)



Kestävää kasvua ja työtä -ohjelma

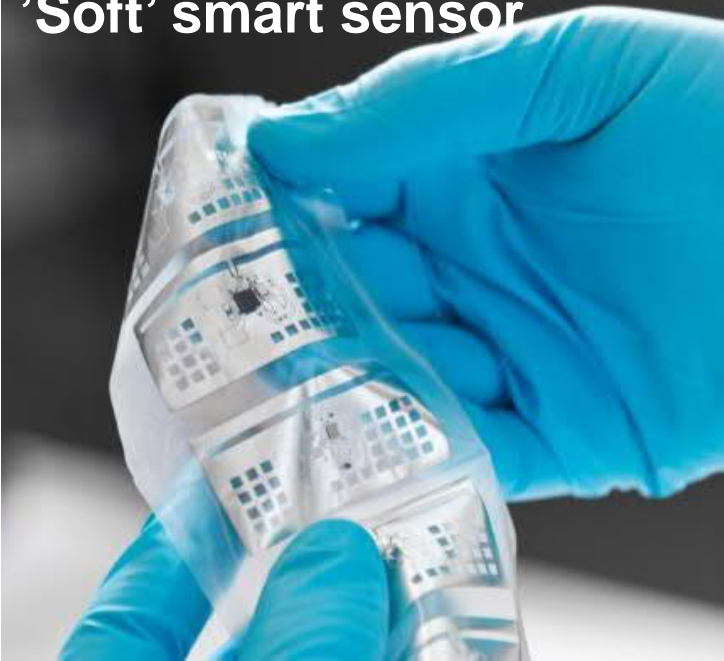
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2014–2020



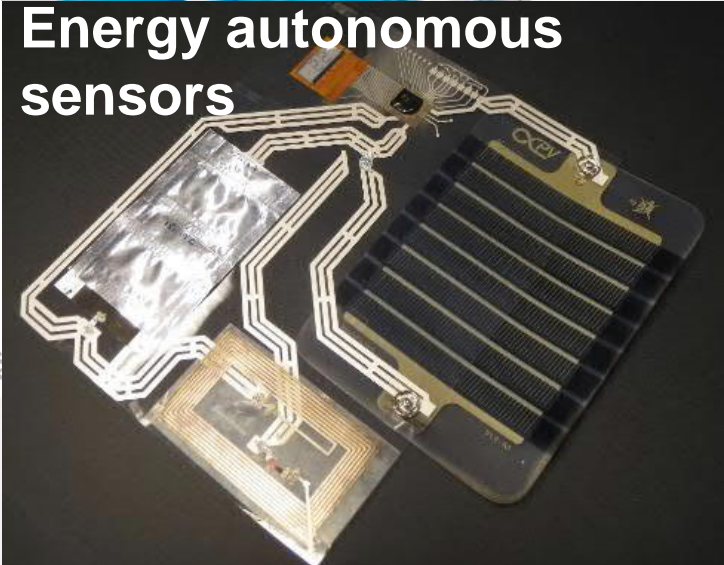
## Laboratory for Future Electronics

- LFE investigates technologies and solutions related to **energy-autonomy** (storage and harvesting), **sensors**, conformable **wearable** electronics (soft/stretchable, on-skin, textile), and **hybrid system** integration.
- Strong emphasis is placed on scalable, low-cost manufacturing methods such as **printing** as well as their integration with more conventional component assembly methods.
- LFE explores new device and circuit approaches based on printable organic and metal oxide semiconductors.

'Soft' smart sensor



Energy autonomous sensors



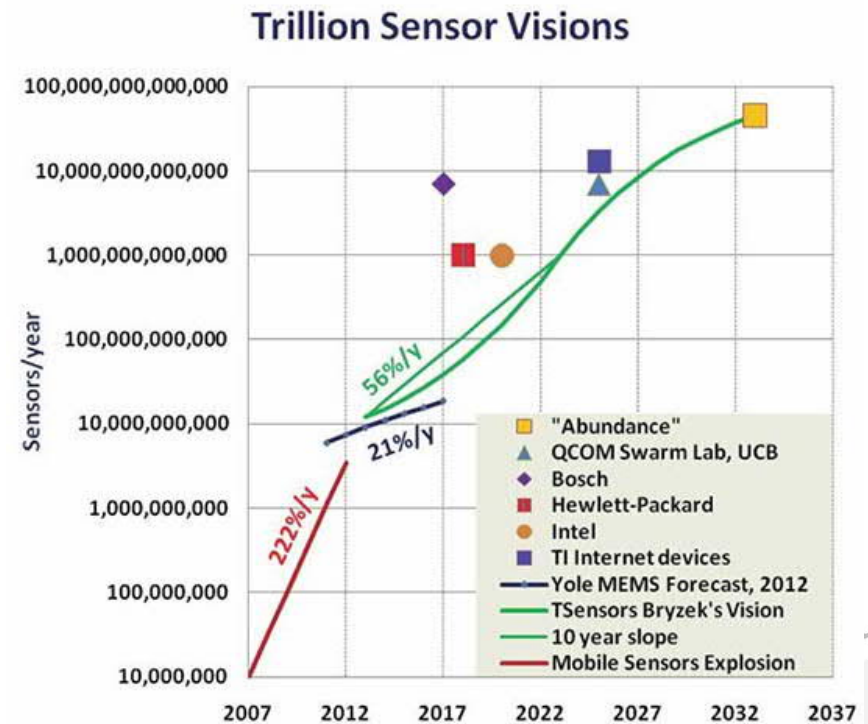
# Outline

- Internet-of-Everything
- Printed Electronics
- Stick-it-on-Device
- Research examples
- LFE infrastructure and on-going research

## Trillion sensor vision

- Billions (and potentially trillions) of MCUs are needed every year.
- World's annual manufacturing rate of MCUs is around tens of billion pieces.
- **Paradigm shift in manufacturing is needed**

Source: Thin Film Electronics



Source: FuturistSpeakers.com

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# Printed electronics

## Subtractive process

Substrate

Add material

Apply photo resist

Expose

Etching

Cleaning

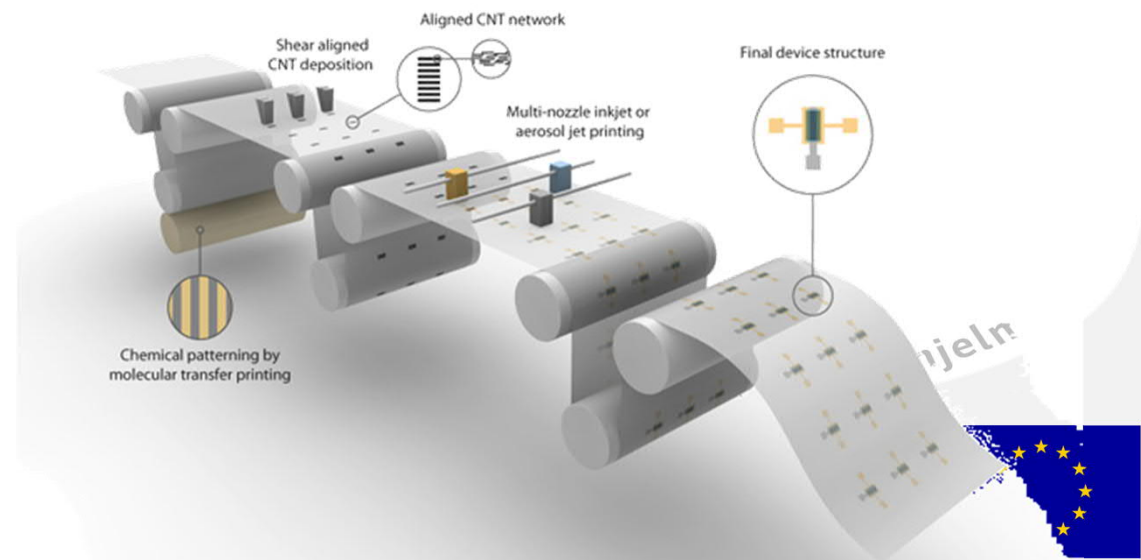
## Additive process

Substrate

Add material

*“Instead of printing graphic arts inks, families of electrically functional electronic or optical inks are used to print active or passive devices, such as thin film transistors or resistors”*

- Additive => *less material waste*
- No etching => *less harsh chemicals*
- Less process steps => *simplified process*



**Printed Electronics Processing Concept (Grant Illustration)**  
From Dr. C. Daniel Frisbie at the University of Minnesota.



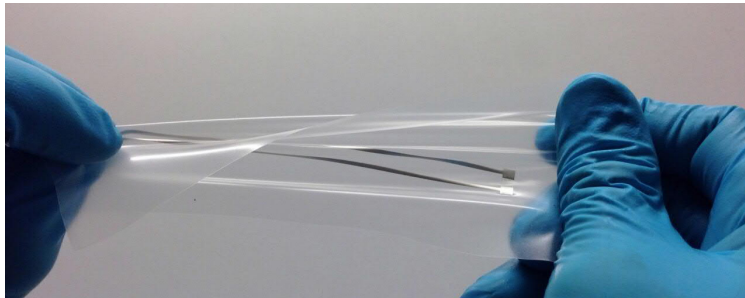
# Printed Electronics

Main advantages:

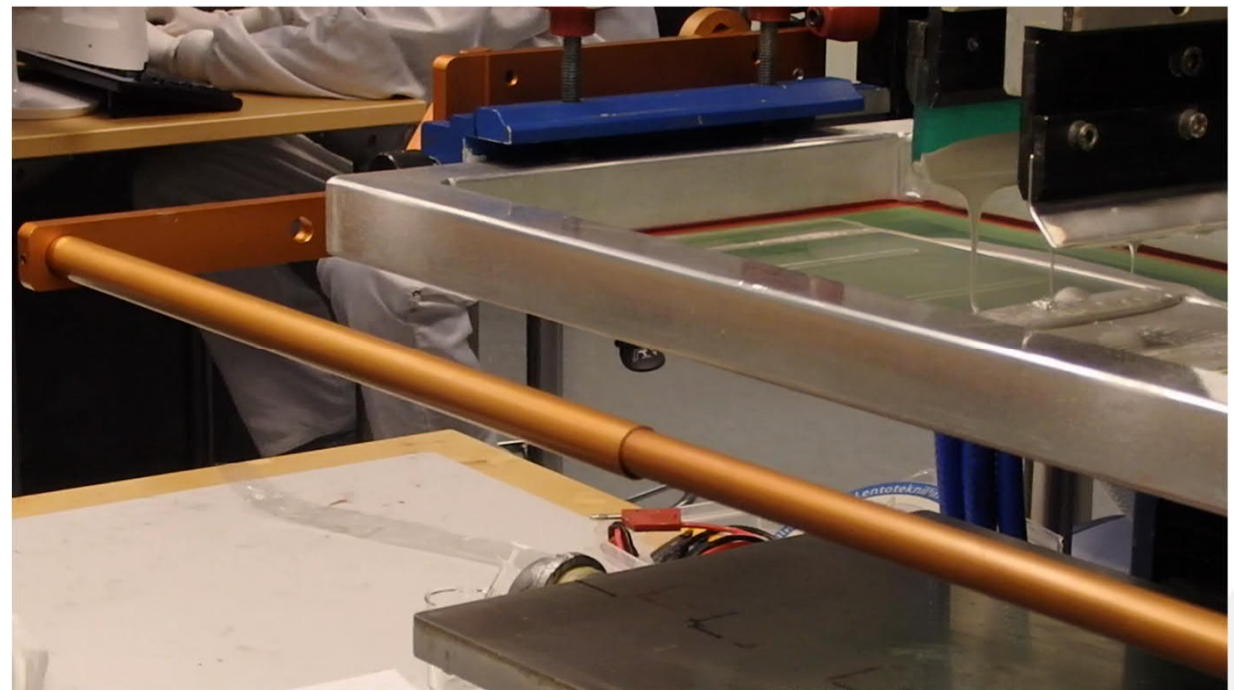
- Simplified process
- Large-area
- Cost-effective



Inks



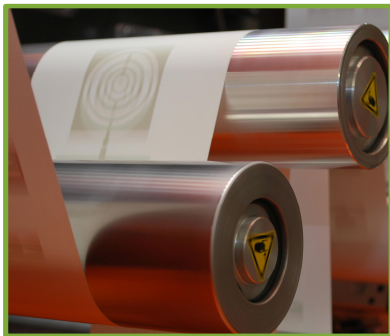
Thin foils



Printing technologies

# Large Area Printing & Patterning Techniques

## High volume printing processes



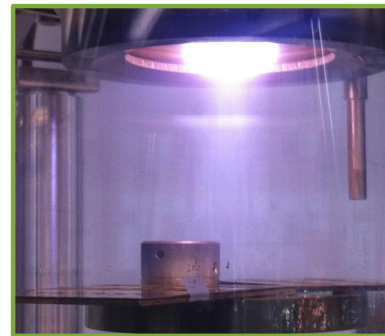
- Gravure
- Flexography
- Offset
- Lithography

## Digital patterning processes



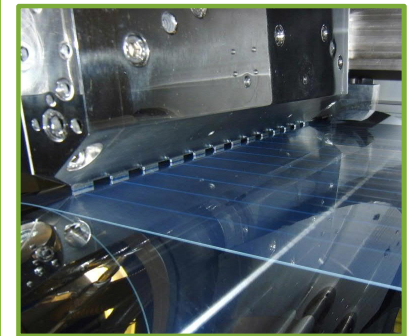
- Inkjet printing
- Aerosol jet printing
- Laser transfer & machining
- Micro-plasma printing
- Syringe deposition
- Xerography

## Further patterning & deposition processes



- Vapor phase deposition
- Soft & large area lithography
- Nano-imprint lithography
- Pad printing
- Wetting/dewetting
- Hot stamping

## Solution coating processes



- Slot-die coating
- Wire bar coating
- Curtain coating

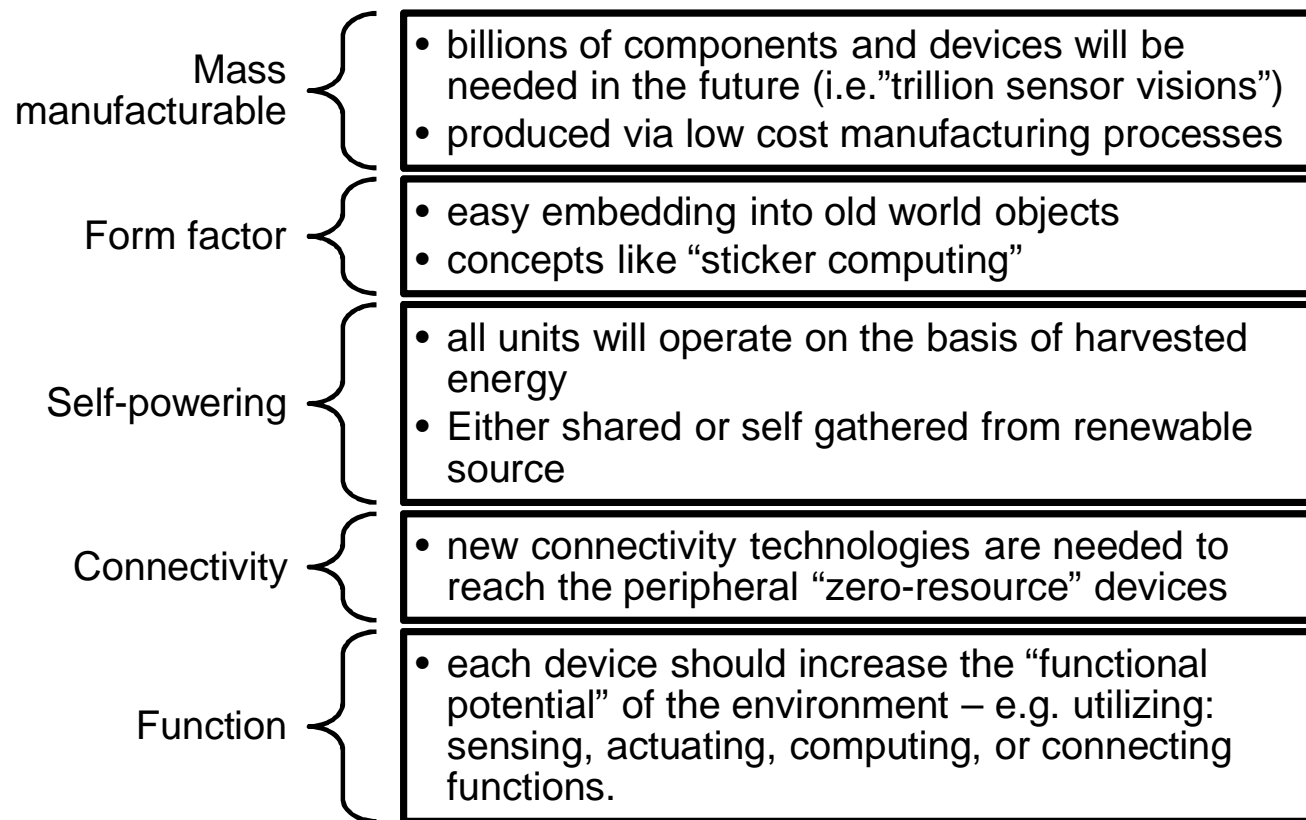
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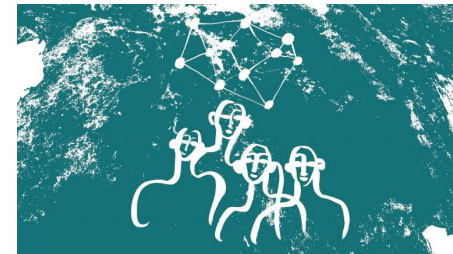
## Stick-it-on-Devices "sticker computer"

Turn "**old world**" objects  
to **smart devices**



<https://nakedapproach.fi/>

## The Nordic Digital Promise: Four Theses on a Hyperconnected Society



## On the Road to Digital Paradise

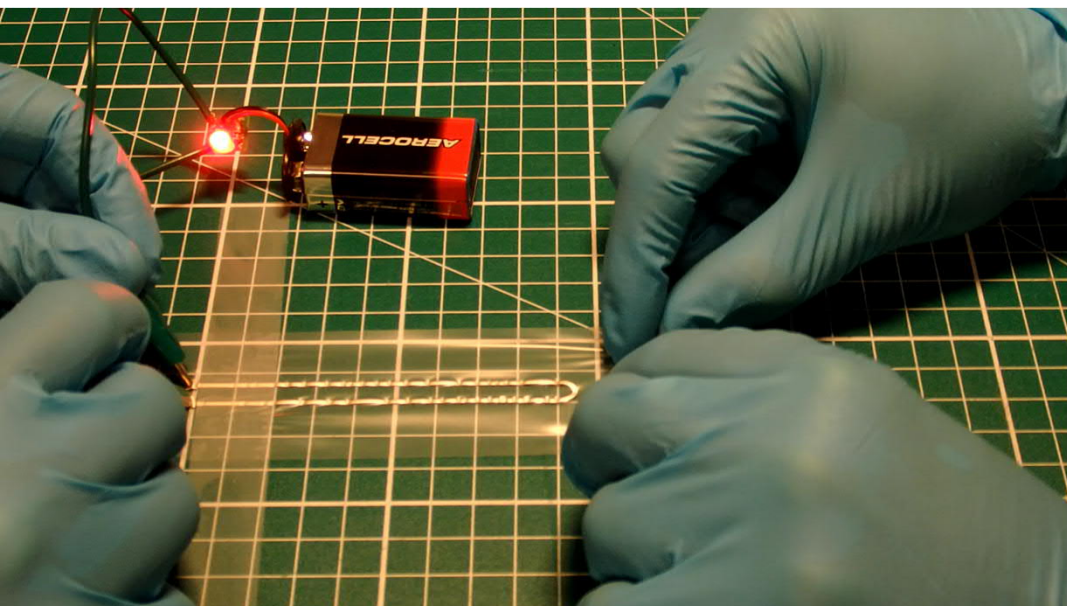


Kestävää kasvua ja työtä -ohjelma

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2014–2020







- Silver flakes:  $\sim 36 \text{ m}\Omega/\square$
- Single pull strain: 74%
- $R(\epsilon: 10\%) \sim 2 \times R_0$
- $R(\epsilon: 20\%) \sim 4 \times R_0$
- Up to 1 000 cycles (20%)

## Example: Form factor

# SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

OPEN

## Screen-Printing Fabrication and Characterization of Stretchable Electronics

Received: 21 December 2015

Accepted: 22 April 2016

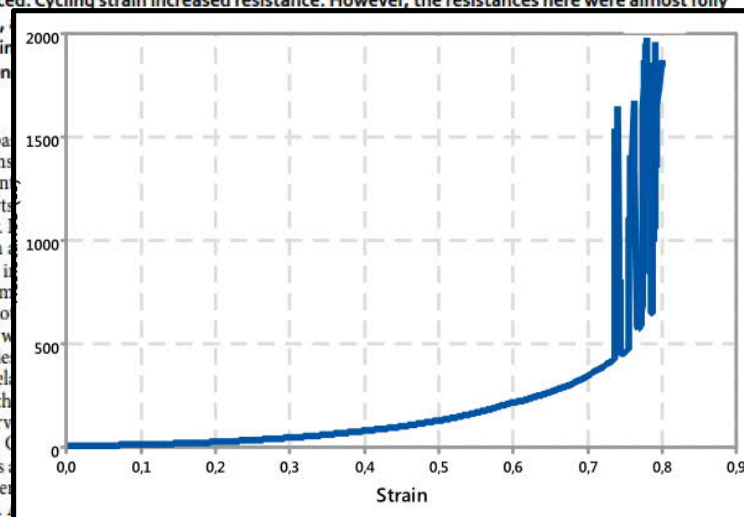
Published: 13 May 2016

Jari Suikkola, Toni Björninen, Mahmoud Mosallaei, Timo Kankkunen, Pekka Iso-Ketola, Leena Ukkonen, Jukka Vanhala & Matti Mäntysalo

This article focuses on the fabrication and characterization of stretchable interconnects for wearable electronics applications. Interconnects were screen-printed with a stretchable silver-polymer composite ink on 50- $\mu\text{m}$  thick thermoplastic polyurethane. The initial sheet resistances of the manufactured interconnects were an average of  $36.2 \text{ m}\Omega/\square$ , and half the manufactured samples withstood single strains of up to 74%. The strain proportionality of resistance is discussed, and a regression model is introduced. Cycling strain increased resistance. However, the resistances here were almost fully

reversible, cyclic strain application

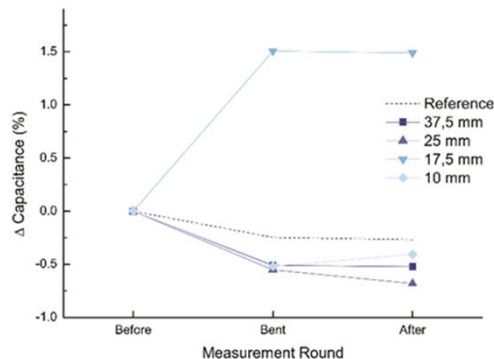
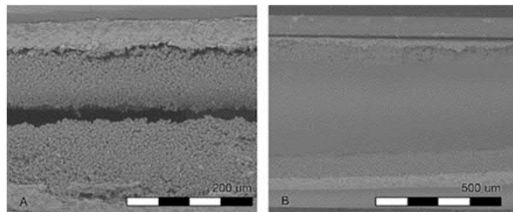
Over the past few years, there has been a growing interest in the development of stretchable electronics for wearable applications. The main challenge in this field is the fabrication of stretchable interconnects that can maintain their electrical properties under strain. This article discusses the screen-printing fabrication and characterization of stretchable interconnects for wearable electronics applications. Interconnects were screen-printed with a stretchable silver-polymer composite ink on 50- $\mu\text{m}$  thick thermoplastic polyurethane. The initial sheet resistances of the manufactured interconnects were an average of  $36.2 \text{ m}\Omega/\square$ , and half the manufactured samples withstood single strains of up to 74%. The strain proportionality of resistance is discussed, and a regression model is introduced. Cycling strain increased resistance. However, the resistances here were almost fully reversible, cyclic strain application



# Supercapacitors for non-toxic energy storage

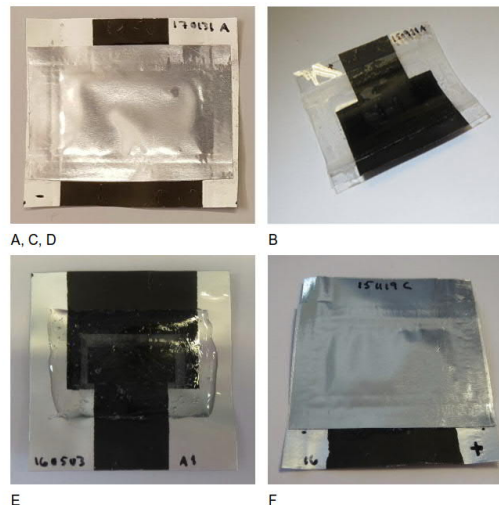
- Non-toxic materials: graphite, activated carbon, chitosan, paper, water, table salt
- Bill of materials few cents/device
- Fabrication by screen or stencil printing, bar coating
- Can hold energy for up to a month with barrier film

## Non-toxic gelatin electrolyte



A. Railanmaa et al., Appl. Phys. A, in press

## Monolithic supercaps



J. Keskinen et al., J. Energy Storage 16, 243 (2018)

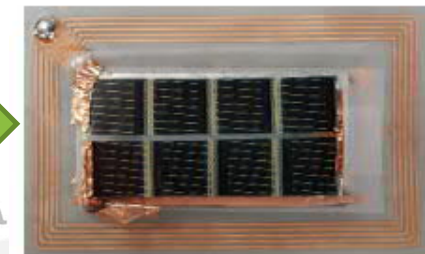
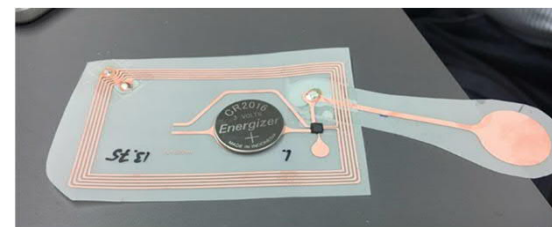
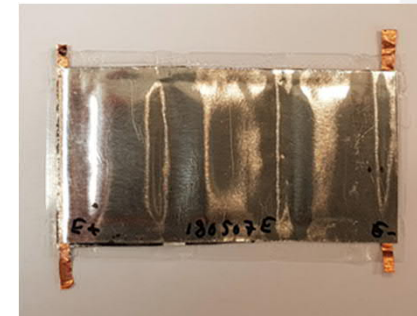
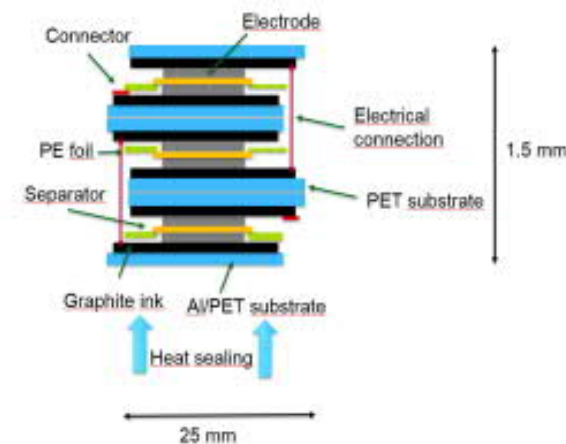
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EU:lta  
2014–2020



## Example: Self-powering

- Joint demonstrator with Confidex
- Commercial wireless temperature tracker was modified to replace coin cell with OPV module and printed supercap module
- OPV and supercaps fit within NFC read antenna and did not significantly affect reading
- Indoor light sufficient to power device and charge supercap, and supercap can power device for 18 hours in dark
- Best Poster award at InnoLAE2019 conference



Kestävää kasvua ja

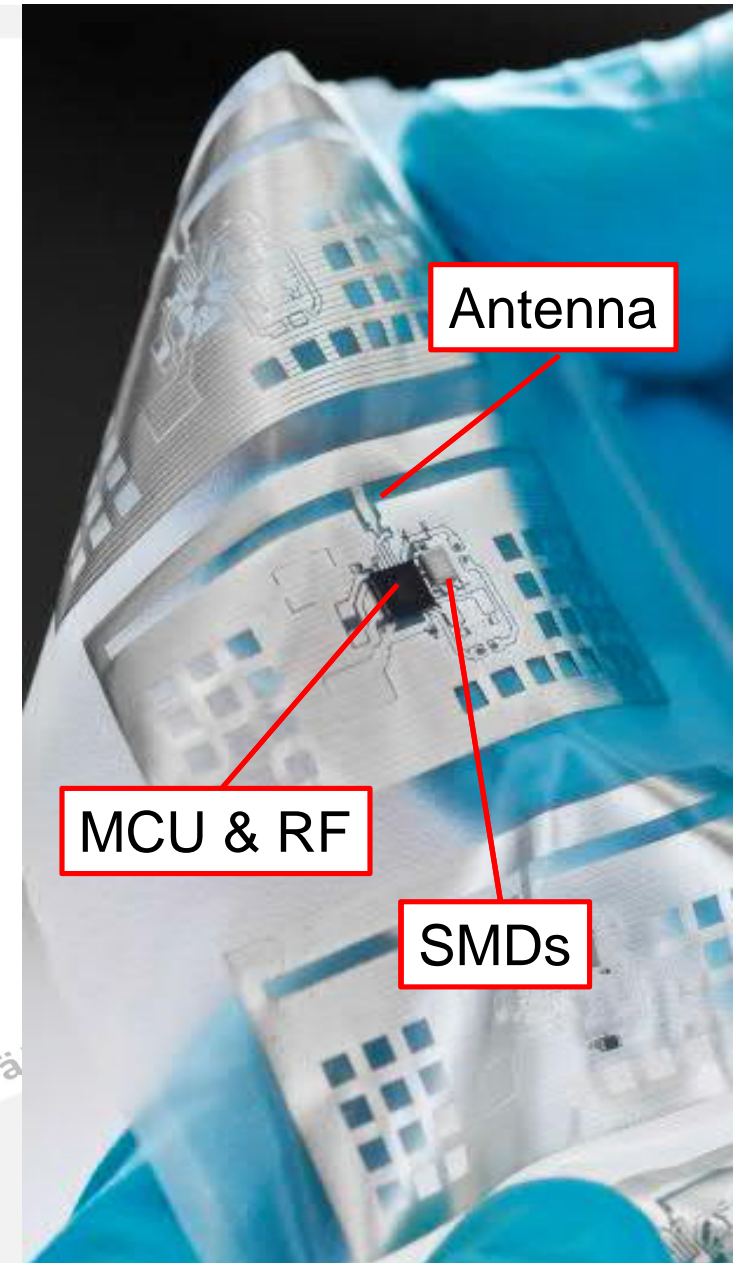
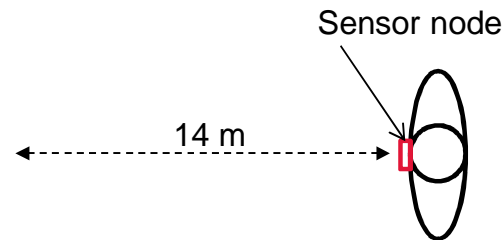
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EU:lta  
2014–2020





## Example: Connectivity

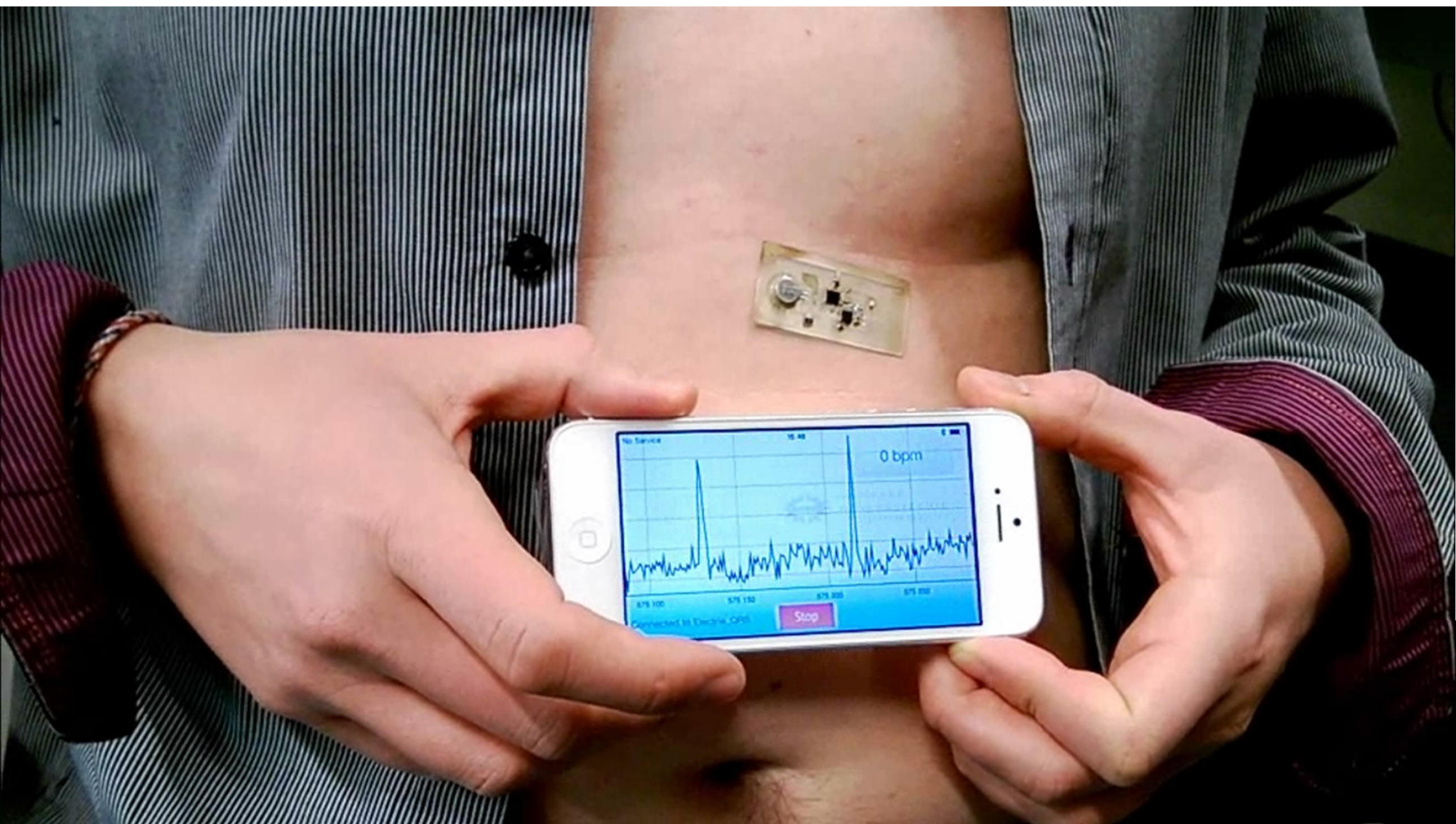
- Band-aid like sensor attached directly on the body
  - 14 m reading distance ( $P_{TX}$  @ 0 dBm)
- Commercial NRF51822 (SoC) from Nordic Semi (WLCSP package)
  - Bluetooth low-energy
  - A/D converters
- In addition, there are the
  - Antenna (printed),
  - Amplifier and discrete components
  - Gel-electrodes for measuring the ECG signal.



Sillanpää, et al., ESTC, 2014

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Kestävä

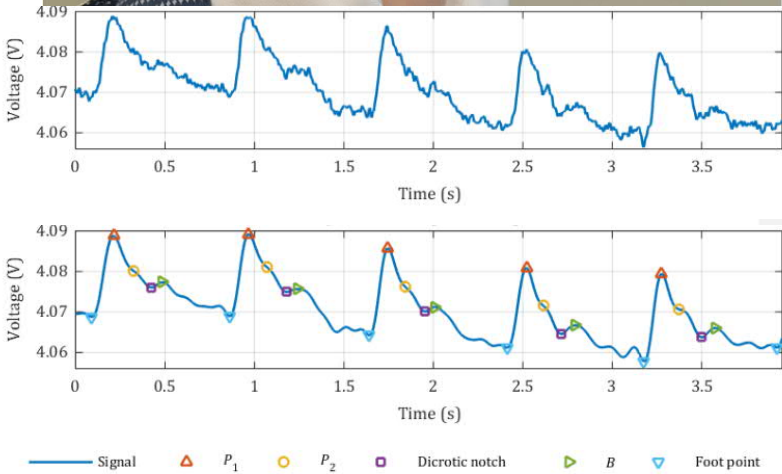
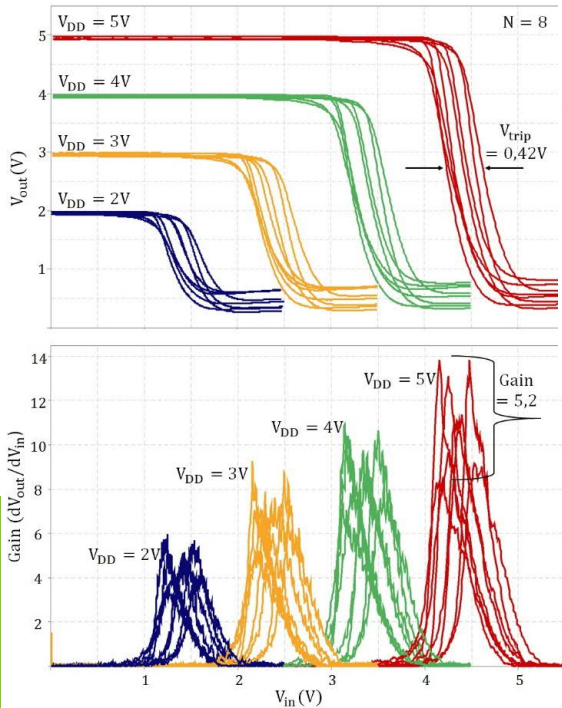
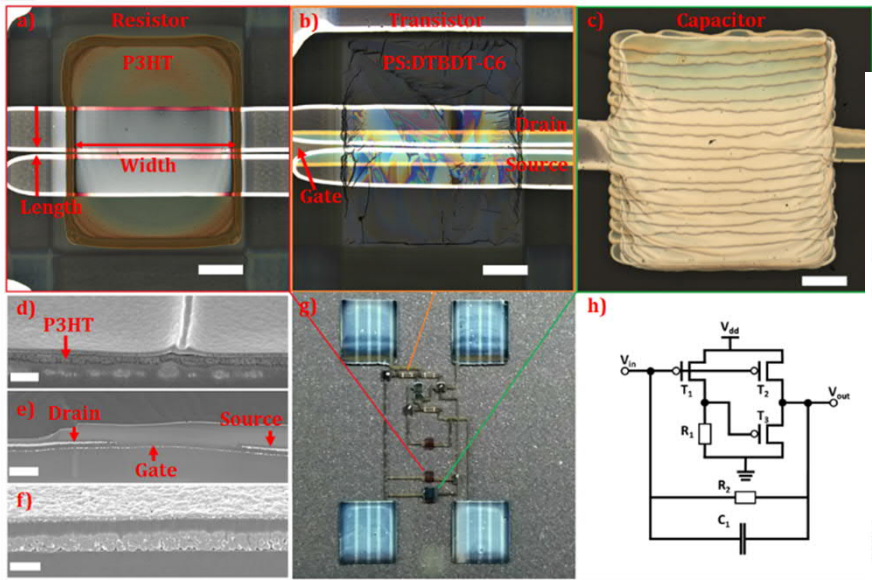




Laurila, et al., J-EDS, DOI: 10.1109/JEDS.2019.2915028

Example: Thin film circuitry

Collaboration between Tampere University, Tampere University Hospital and Yamagata University (Prof. Tokito)

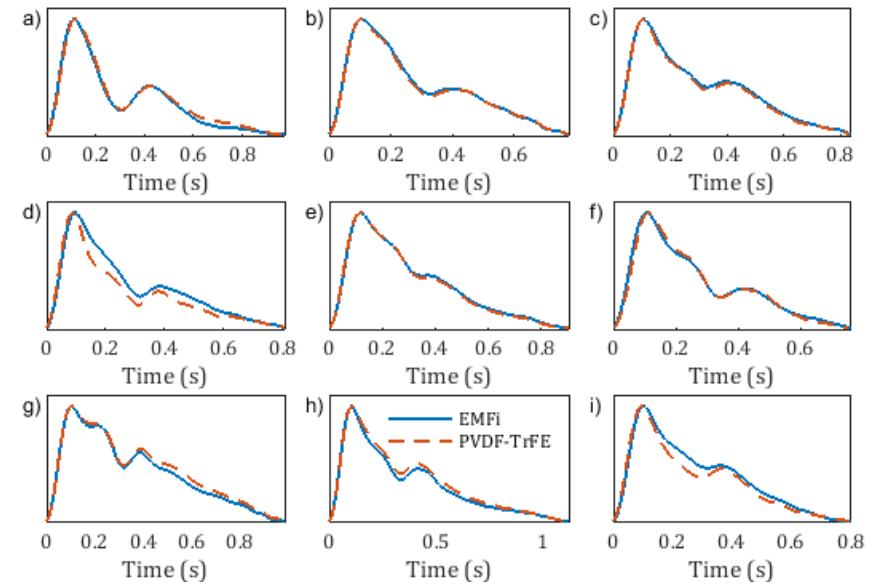
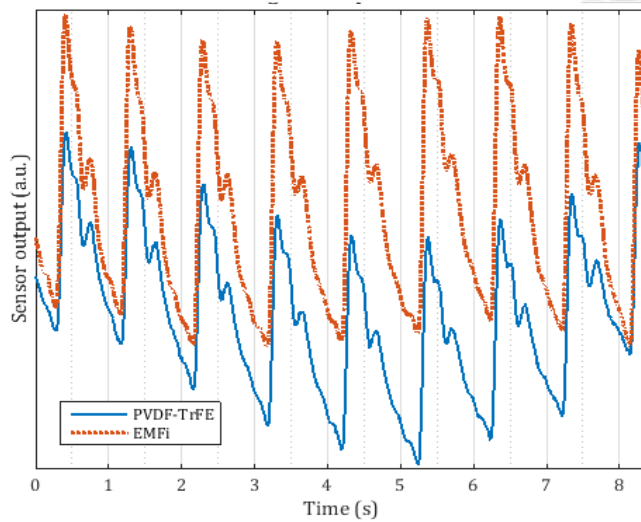
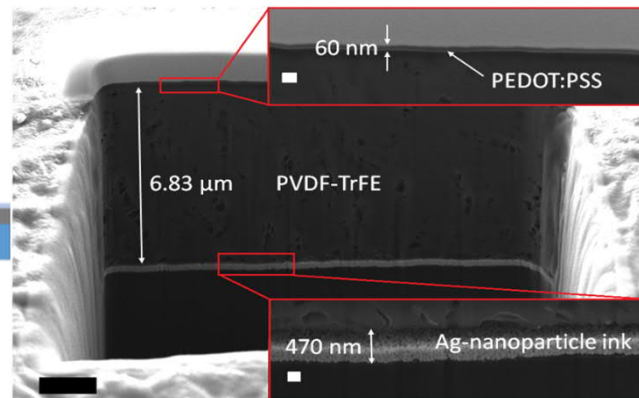
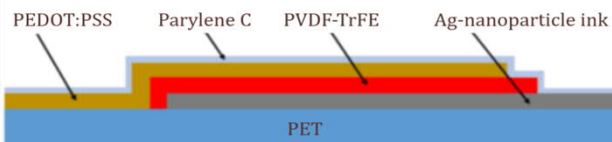


PARAMETER (N=25)	AVERAGE	STD. DEV
RI, SENSOR	0.388	0.031
RI, OUTPUT	0.404	0.044
RAIx, SENSOR	0.615	0.045
RAIx, OUTPUT	0.626	0.057

Substrate: parylene  
Conductors: NPS-JL  
Semiconductor: PS:DTBDT-C6  
Resistor: P3HT

## Example: Pressure sensor

A



N=22	BA-ratio	CCC	Pearson's correlation
rAlx	0.195	0.761	0.817
RI	0.225	0.575	0.664
SI	0.067	0.941	0.950

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2014–2020



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# Example: Temperature sensor

## SCIENTIFIC REPORTS

www.nature.com/scientificreports

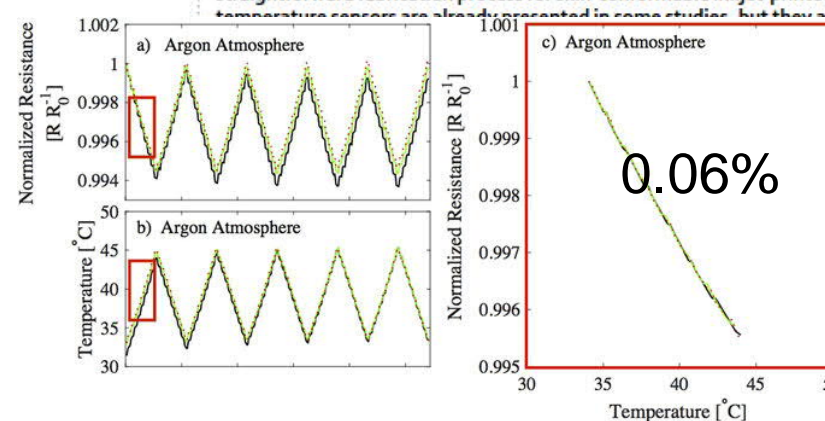
OPEN

### Inkjet-Printed Graphene/ PEDOT:PSS Temperature Sensors on a Skin-Conformable Polyurethane Substrate

Received: 15 April 2016  
Accepted: 26 September 2016  
Published: 18 October 2016

Tiina Vuorinen, Juha Niittynen, Timo Kankkunen, Thomas M. Kraft & Matti Mäntysalo

Epidermal electronic systems (EESs) are skin-like electronic systems, which can be used to measure several physiological parameters from the skin. This paper presents materials and a simple, straightforward fabrication process for skin-conformable inkjet-printed temperature sensors. Epidermal



Epidermal temperature sensors are already presented in some studies, but they are mainly fabricated using rigid substrates. However, by using flexible substrates, the manufacturing costs and reducing the weight of the sensors. Inkjet-printed graphene/PEDOT:PSS on a skin-conformable polyurethane substrate (adhesive bandage). The sensors show a low level of resistance change (0.06% per degree Celsius) dependence.

to a more mobile monitoring with low weight, and the monitoring of physiological parameters. Low levels of electrically radiating heat through the skin can be measured using skin mounted sensors. A skin thermometer can be utilized in the investigation of cardiovascular health, physical activity and ulcer prediction and prevention<sup>1-4</sup>. A variety of body monitoring systems are already familiar in both the hospital environment and more casual environments for tracking physical activity. To improve the skin/sensor interface and wearability (comfort and ease of application) in these tracking situations, the development is transitioning from rigid and planar electronic systems towards more adaptable, skin-like electronics<sup>5,6</sup>. These types of soft, stretchable, thin-film devices are

T. Vuorinen, DOI: 10.1038/srep35289

## LFE infrastructure

Contact: Dr. Jari Keskinen, Staff Scientist  
[jari.keskinen@tuni.fi](mailto:jari.keskinen@tuni.fi)  
[research.tuni.fi/lfe](http://research.tuni.fi/lfe)

250 m2 Lab space  
60 m2 Clean-room  
PrintLab  
Thin-film fabrication



Inkjet (with NIR and UV post processing), Modular printing system (gravure/flexo/rotary screen/wet and dry lamination / online annealing), screen printer, high-resolution inkjet



Inert glovebox-system including evaporator (thermal, e-beam), probe station, spin-coating, vacuum hot-plate, inkjet, ALD



# LFE On-going projects

## Academy of Finland

- HiFlex (Academy of Finland, 2017-2021) – high speed solution processed circuitry for wireless communication, based on tunnel diodes and transistors
- LightningSense (Academy of Finland, 2018-2021, with TAU Chemistry and Aalto Microelectronics) – energy autonomous wireless sensor node with printed light harvesters (lead-free perovskites) and energy storage (supercapacitors)
- VBA (AoF, 2017-2021) Vascular Biomechanics Assessment using printed soft electronics and advanced signal processing
- PII (AoF-FIRI, 2019-2021), Printed Intelligence Infrastructure
- EpiPrint (AoF Research fellow) – Development of epidermal electronics using nano-materials and advanced printing technologies 9/2015-8/2020

## Business Finland:

- Elastronics (BF co-innovation, 9/2018-8/2020) printed stretchable hybrid electronics for wearables
- ECOtronics (BF co-innovation, 10/2019-9/2021) sustainable electronics and optics

## European Union

- Smart2Go (EU H2020, 2019 – 2021, coordinator Fraunhofer) – smart and flexible energy supply platform for wearable electronics
- Charisma (EU Marie Curie ITN, 2019 – 2022) – engineering chemical irreversibility to prototype responsive smart labels
- BioÄly (EAKR EU-regional funding, 2018-2020), sustainable biodegradable materials
- InCOMeSS (EU H2020, 2020-2023) - INnovative polymer-based COMposite systeMs for high-efficient Energy Scavenging and Storage

Kestävää kasvua ja työtä -ohjelma

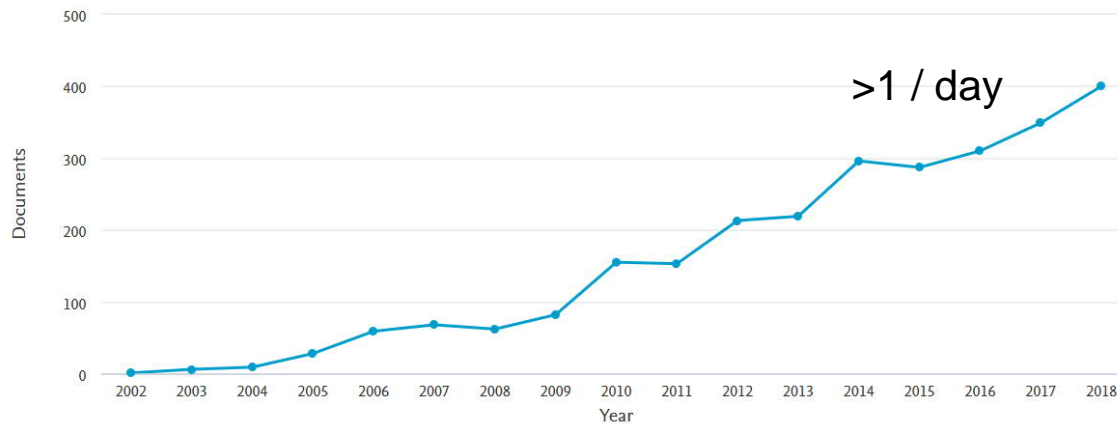
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# "Printed electronics" research articles

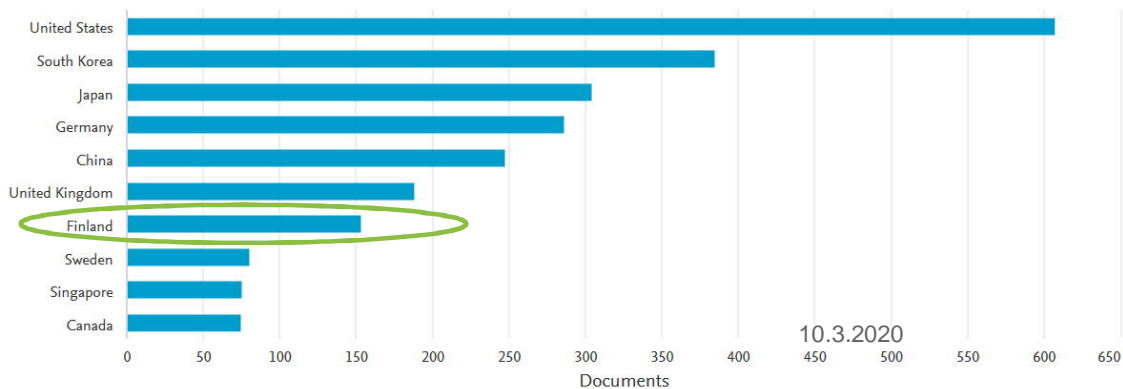
Documents by year



>1 article per day (400/year)  
 Approx 2700 articles from 2002  
 Finland is top 7  
 Tampere in top 2

Documents by country or territory

Compare the document counts for up to 15 countries/territories.



10.3.2020

Documents by affiliation

Compare the document counts for up to 15 affiliations.

