



**Low-pressure MEMS Sensors;
the next generation of accuracy, stability
and performance**

Dr. Jim Knutti & Dr. Henry V. Allen

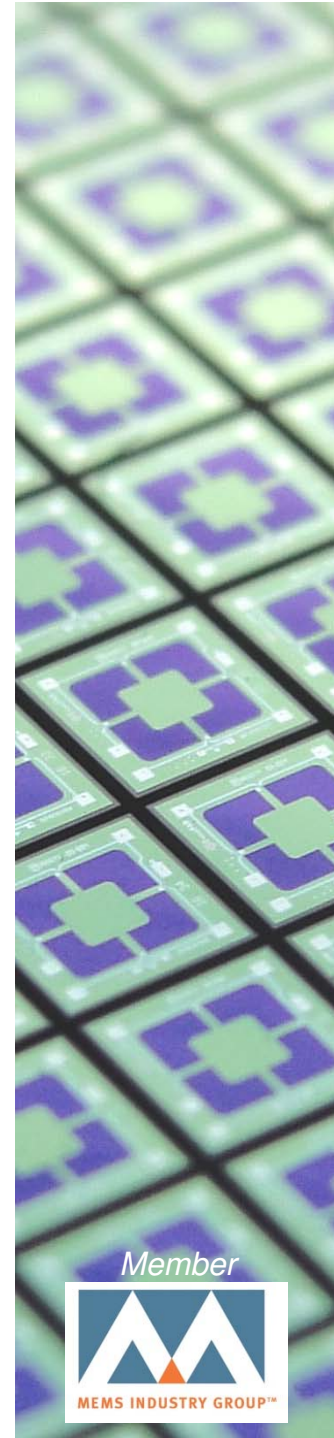
Acuity Incorporated

Fremont CA USA

www.acuitymicro.com

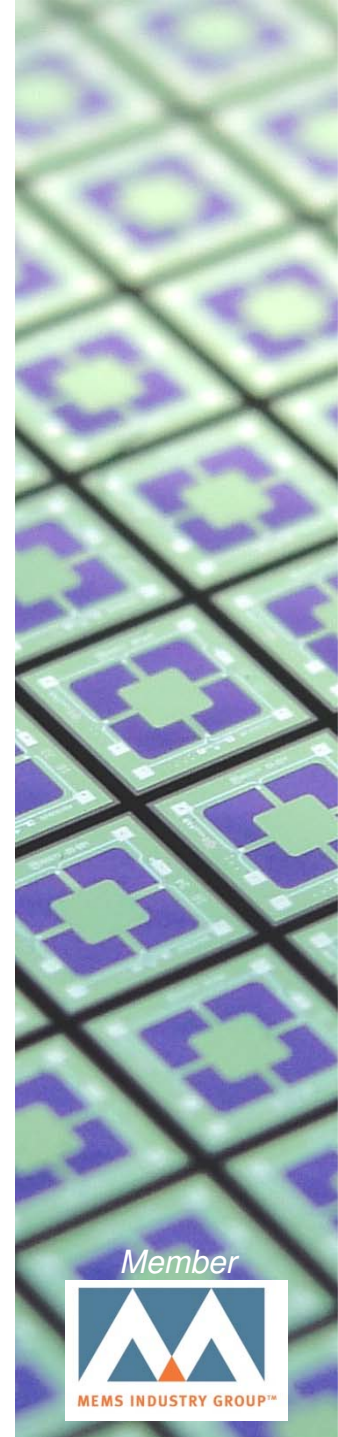
Introduction

- Focus on performance
- Comparison to typical parts
 - 2.5 mbar FS with 0.5% zero-stability
 - up to 40X more stable zero
 - MEMS technology applied to achieve accuracy
- Enable new markets
 - drift
 - resolution
 - Accuracy
- Overcome limits in existing applications
- System level component

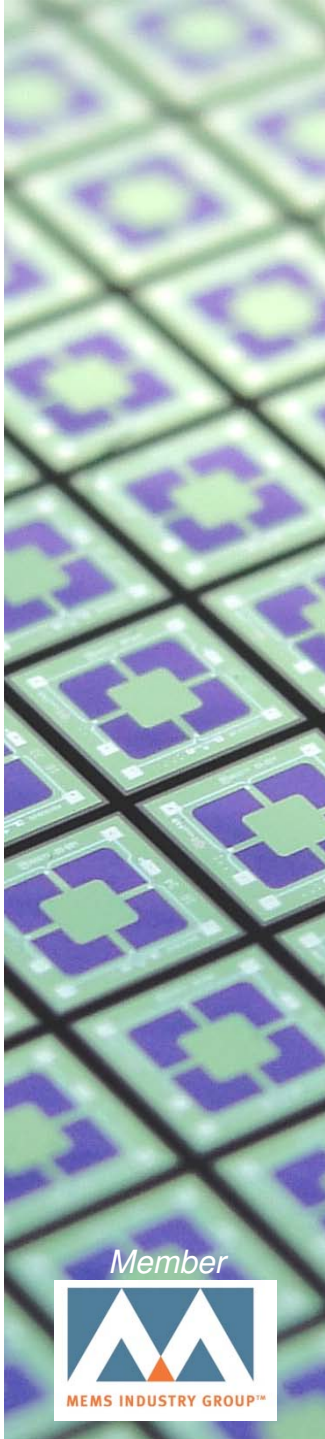
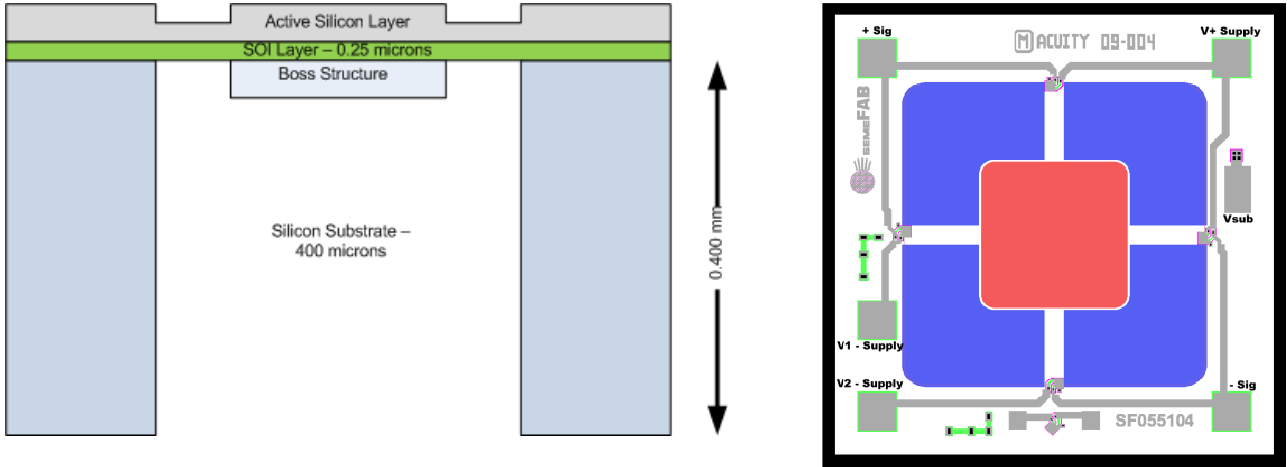


Product strategy

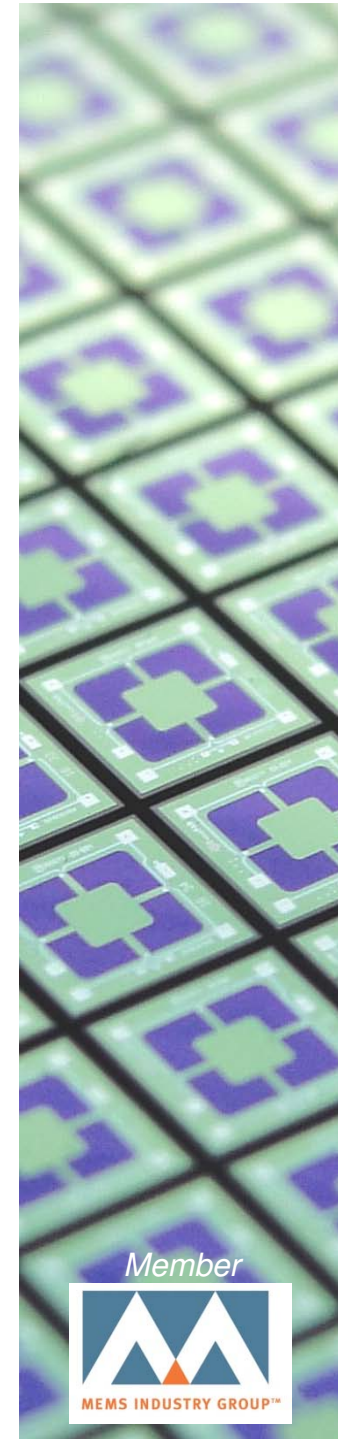
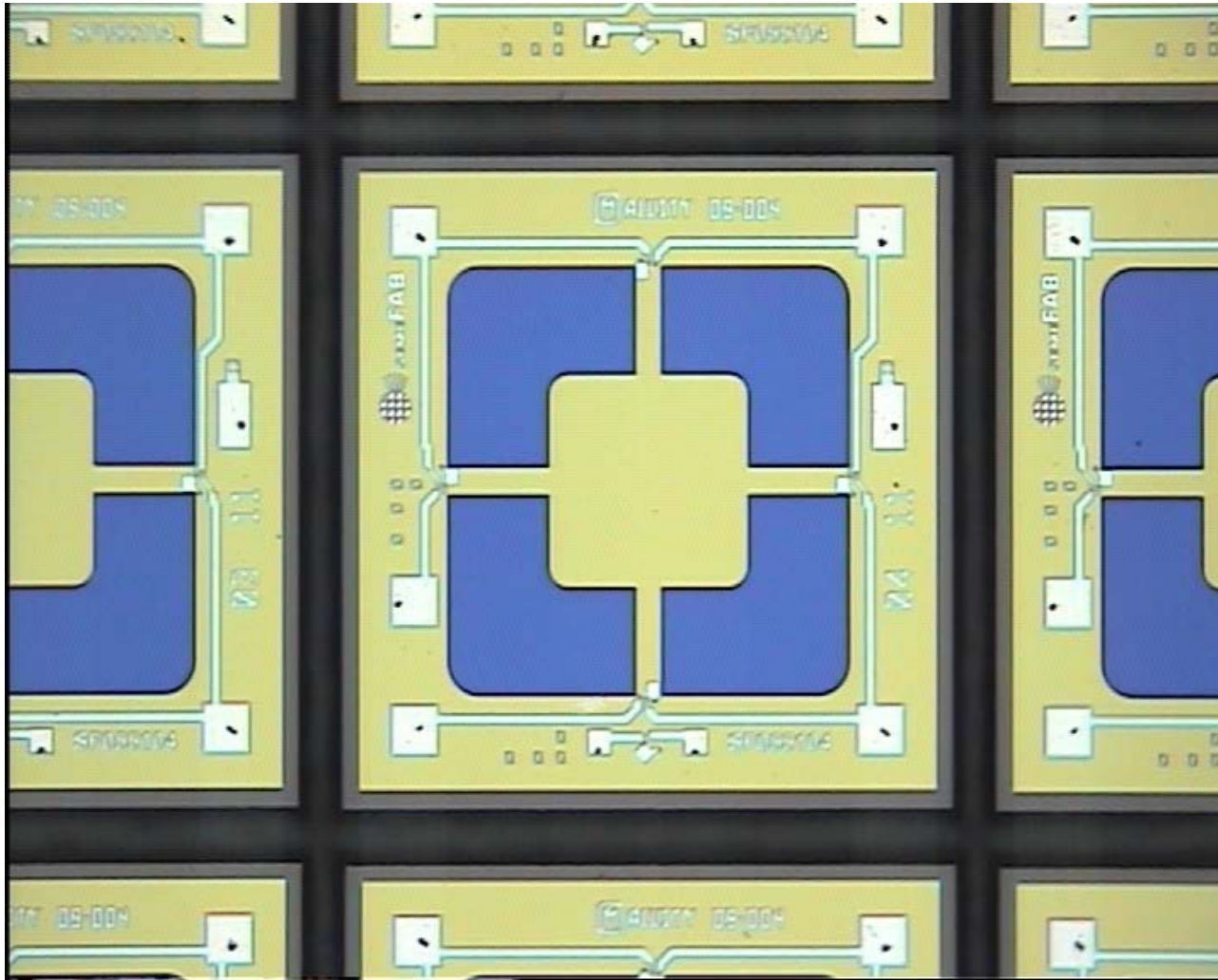
- value added performance at customer and system level
- not just reduction in manufacturing cost
- MEMS components trend toward lower percentage of system cost
- Addresses growth of high-value niche system level markets



Cross-Section

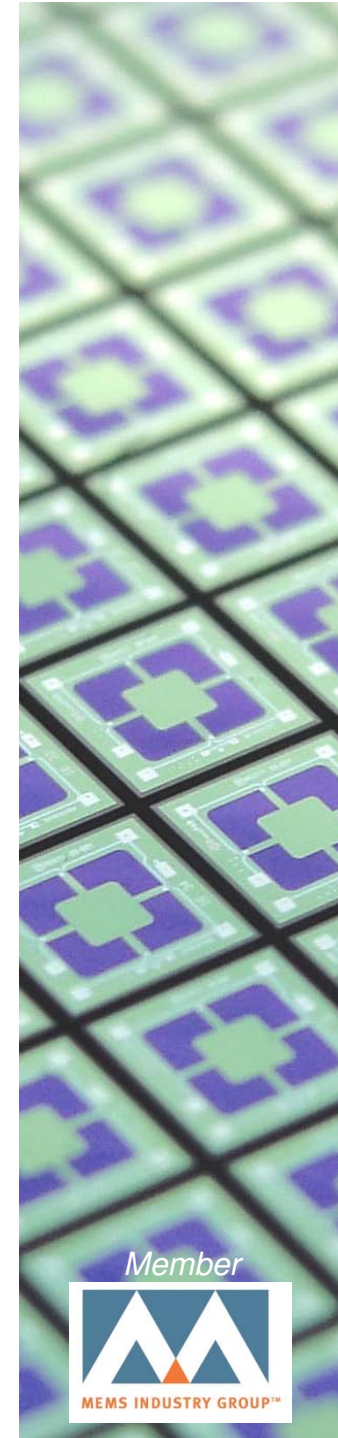
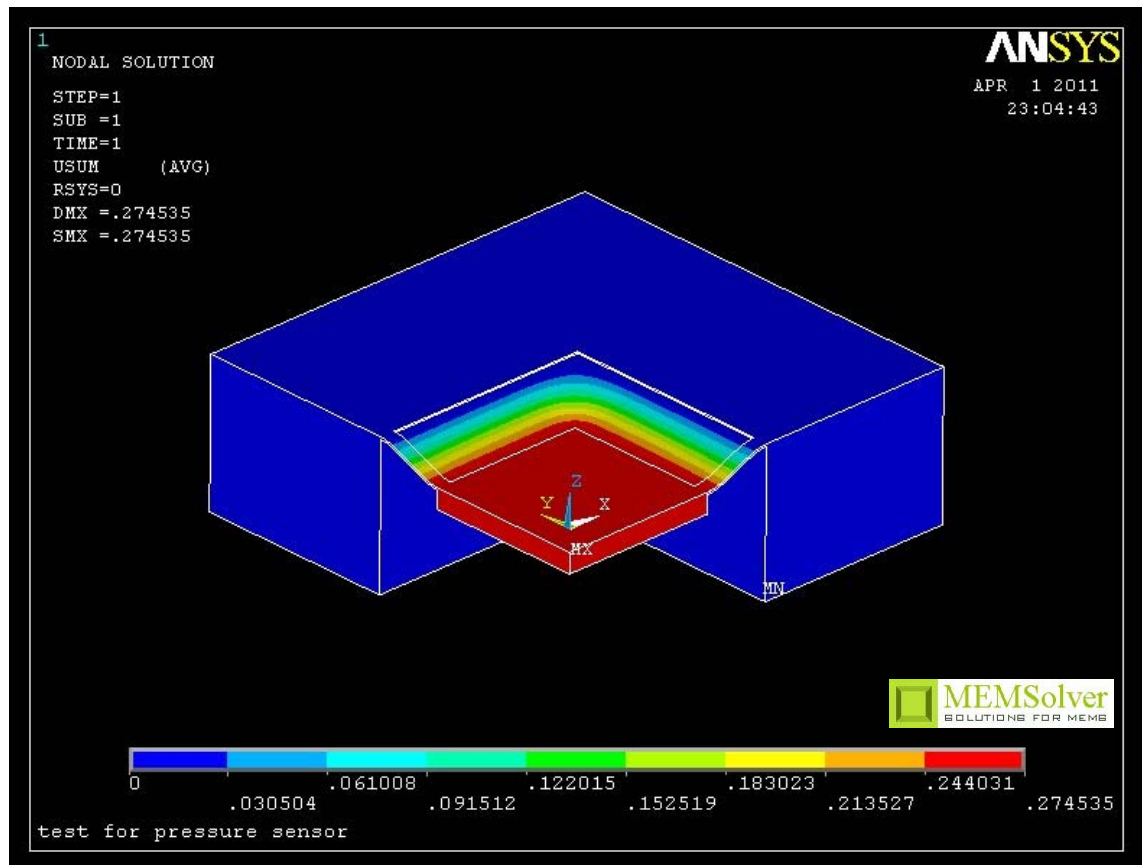


Micro-Photograph

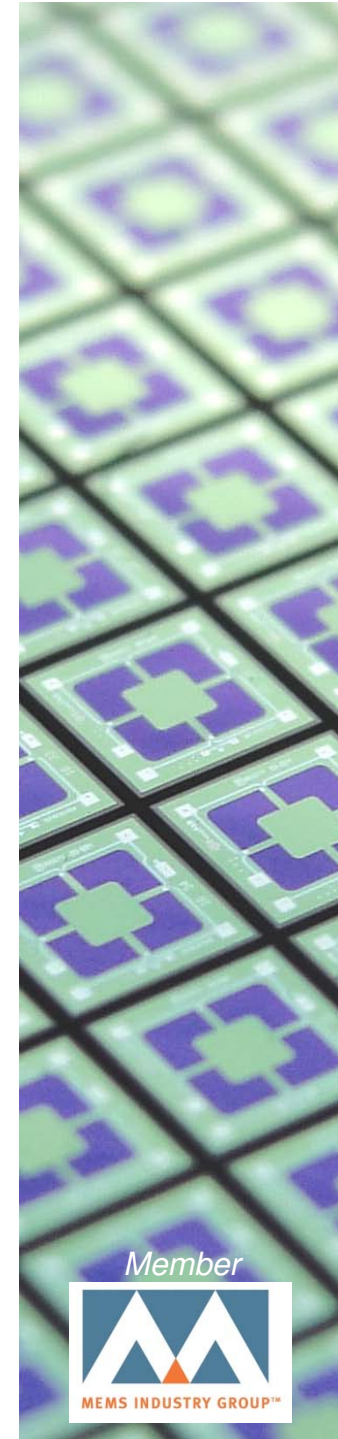
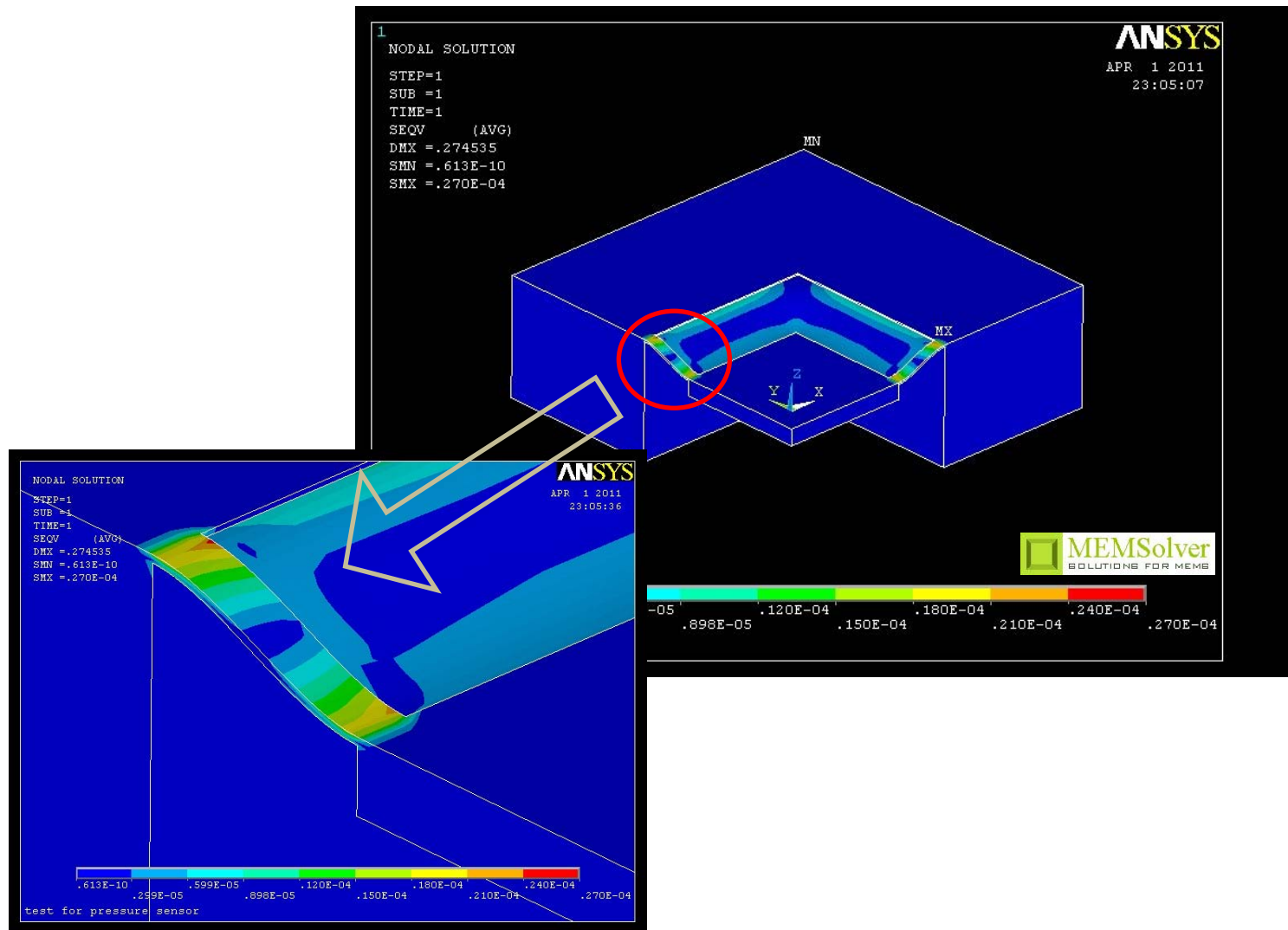


Stress Model of AC3050

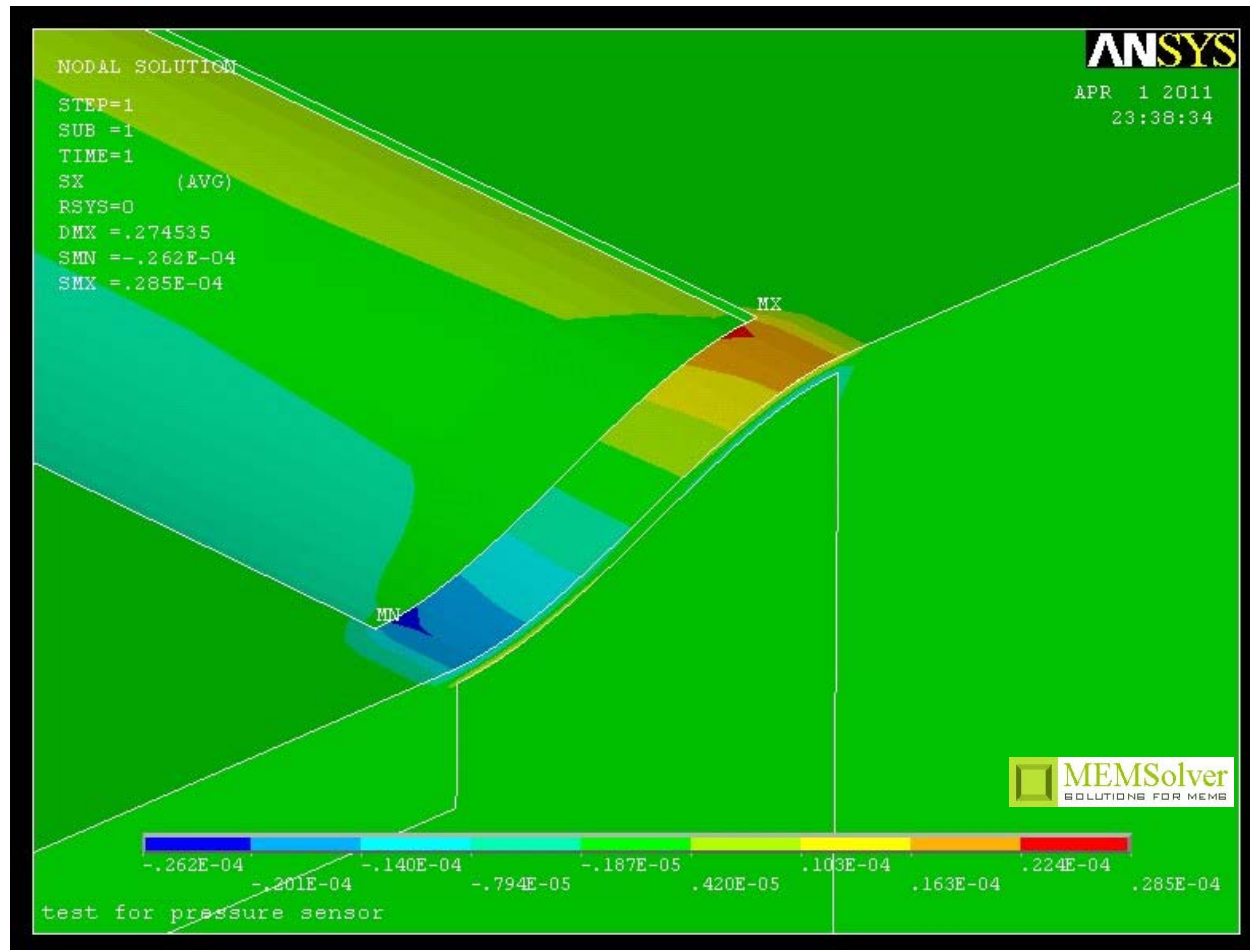
- Displacement with 6.6 mBar applied



Von Mises Stress in AC3050

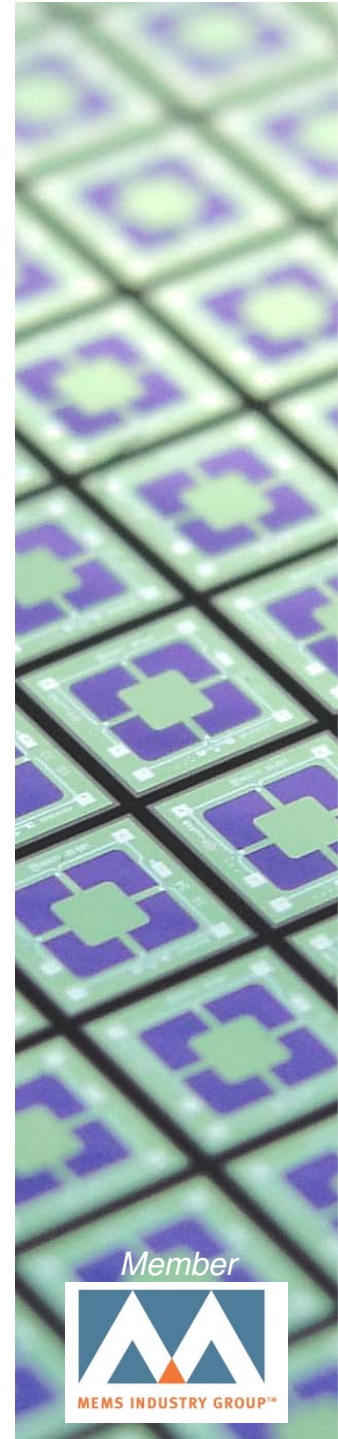


Close-up of X-Stress



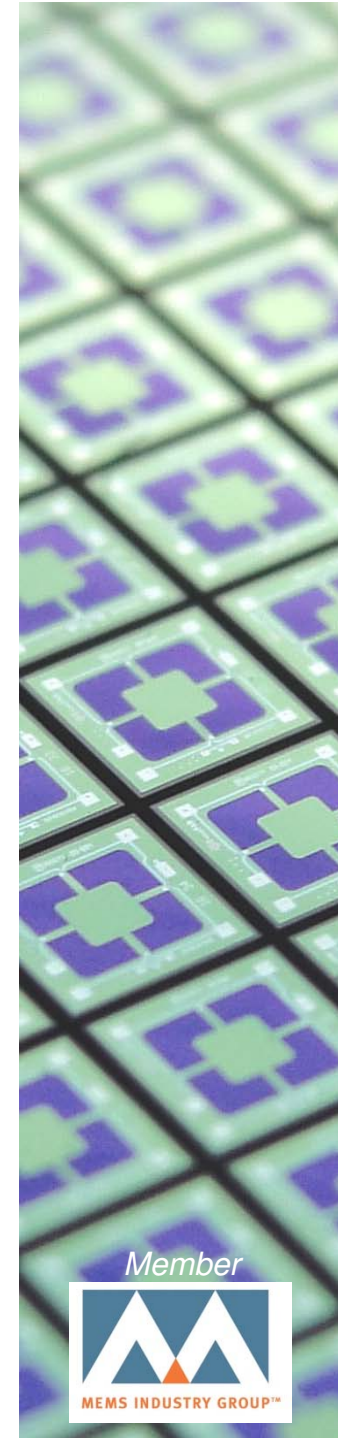
Performance Improvements

- Zero stability
- Product uniformity -- eliminate "flyers"
- Reduced position sensitivity
- Reduced moisture and ion sensitivity



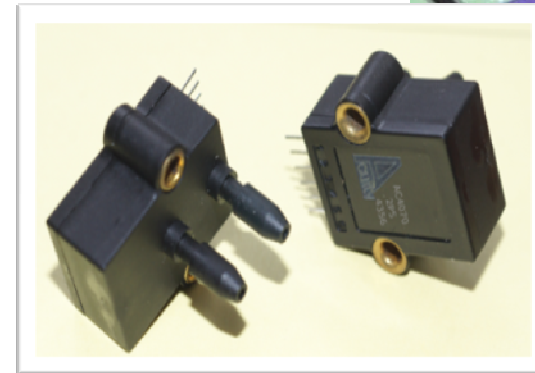
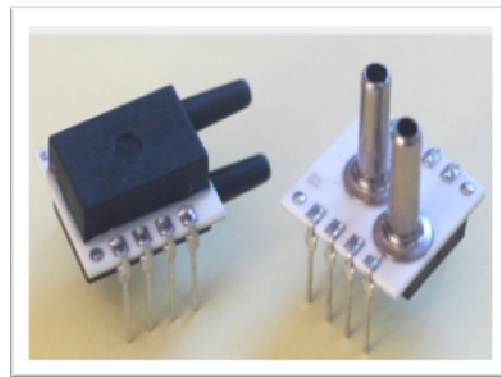
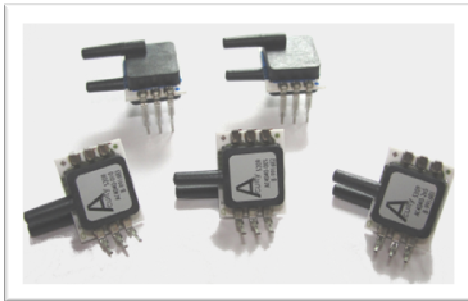
Structural Improvements

- Mechanical stress amplification
 - 20 to 40X increase in signal for pressure stress
 - Reduces relative parasitic stress
- Fully dry process
 - Stable sense resistors and surface
- Vertical walls
 - Top/ bottom symmetry
 - Parasitic stress isolation
 - Improves diaphragm to area ratio / package and substrate stress
- Elimination of edge fractures and stress initiation points
 - Long term drift
 - Die size / package and substrate stress
- Eliminates glass constraint
 - Amorphous material / drift
 - Die height / assembly
 - Edge stress / fracture



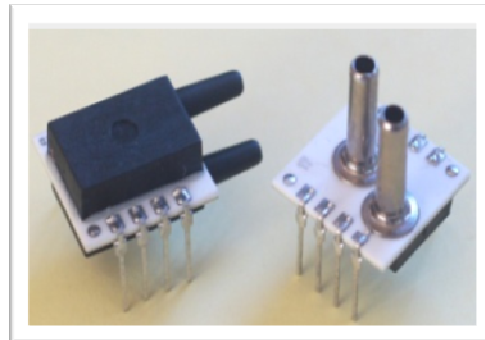
Typical First Level Packages

- OEM system components
- Fully calibrated, amplified, digital outputs



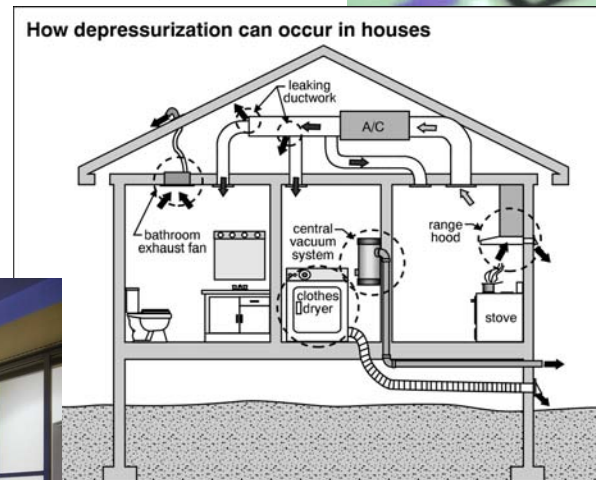
Application Example – Industrial Monitoring

- Closed loop control of material and gas flow
- Determining trends instead of limit switches -- predictive systems
- Stable zero separates pressure trends from zero drift



Application Example – HVAC and Air-handling

- Adequate ventilation
- Energy conservation -- equalizing pressure between rooms
- Control of air-delivery
- Filter monitoring



Application Example – Medical Respiration

- Sleep apnea monitoring, respiration, inhalation
- Stable zero, no recalibration
- Remote modules -- patient mobility
- Home use, cost savings



Summary

- Next generation focus on performance
- MEMS manufacturing a tool to achieve performance
- Addresses growth of high-value niche system level markets

