

# Making microLED Displays

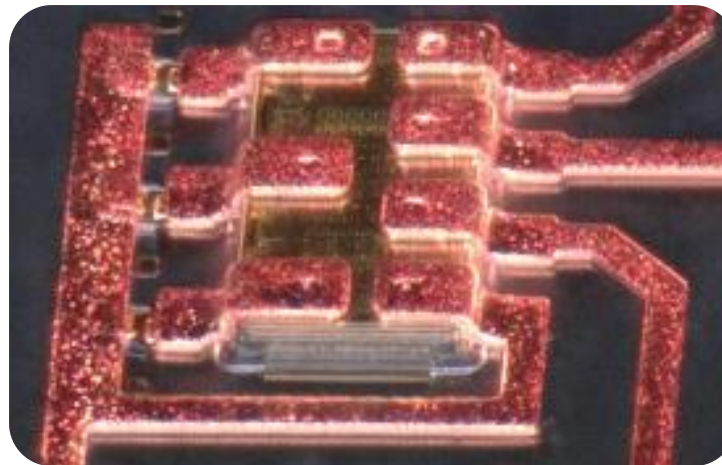
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Mass transfer with elastomer stamps for microLED displays.

Chris Bower

X-Celeprint, Inc.

[info@xdisplay.com](mailto:info@xdisplay.com)



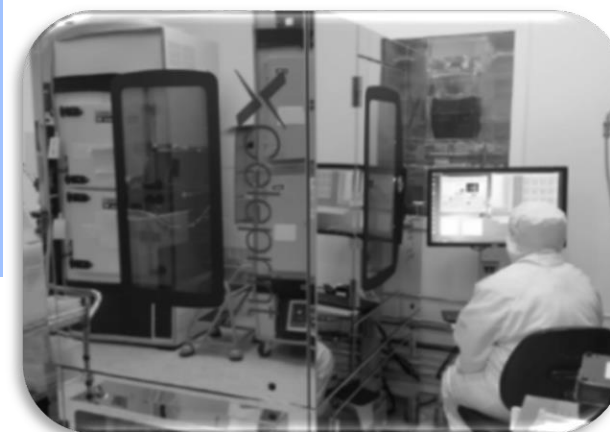
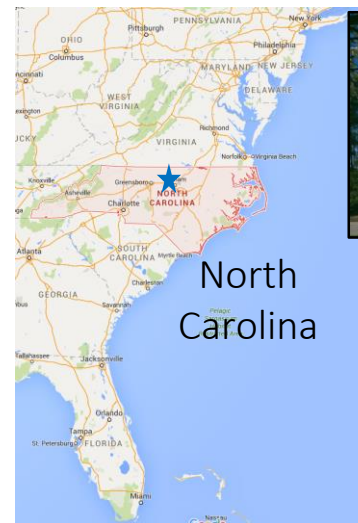


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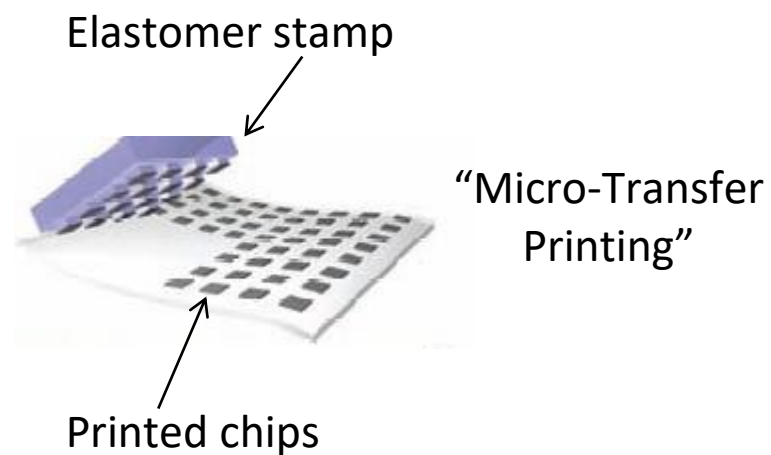
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Mass transfer with elastomer stamps for microLED displays.

1. Introduction
2. Micro-Transfer Printing
3. MicroLEDs & Displays
4. Examples of Printed Displays
5. Manufacturing Strategies



- develops and licenses advanced assembly solutions.
- is headquartered in Cork, Ireland. Offices and facilities in the Tyndall National Institute.
- has a wholly-owned subsidiary located Research Triangle Park, North Carolina.







Micro-transfer printing ( $\mu$ TP) is developed in Prof. John Rogers group in the mid-2000s.



Semprius is formed and spun-out of the University of Illinois in 2006 to commercialize  $\mu$ TP.

Semprius pursues concentrator photovoltaics (CPV) using printed 3J cells from 2007 to 2016.



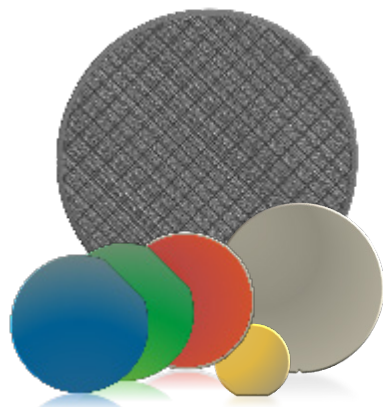
X-Celeprint forms and acquires rights to  $\mu$ TP in 2013.

X-Celeprint develops and licenses advanced assembly solutions.



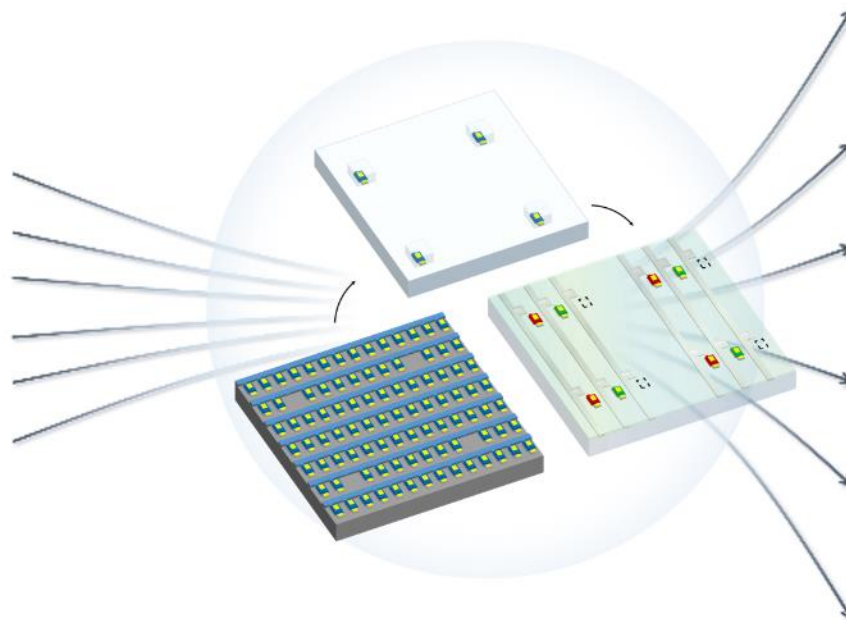


## *the best devices*

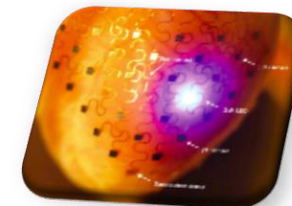


Wafer Fabricated Devices  
Single-crystal  
Fine lithography  
(ICs, LEDs, Lasers, etc...)

## *rapid & precise assembly*



## *novel hybrid formats & cost structures*



wearable  
med-tech



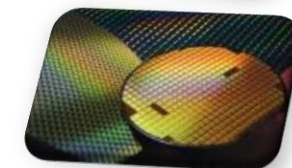
plastics  
flexible



large-format



thermal  
low-cost



heterogeneous  
3-D

# The best materials for the best displays

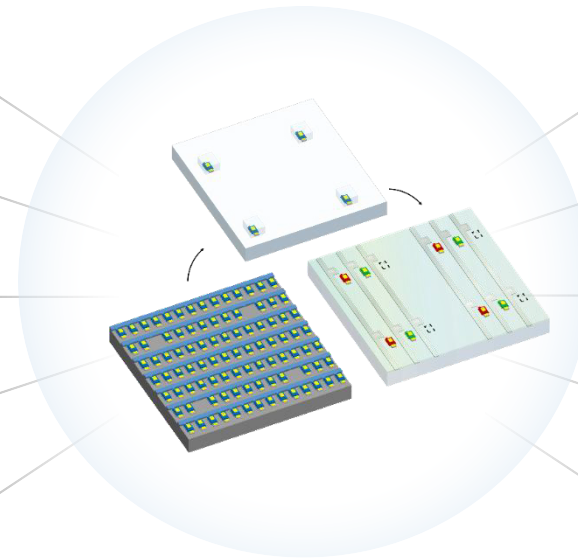
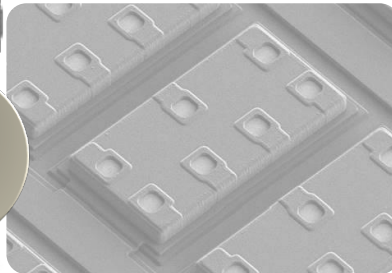
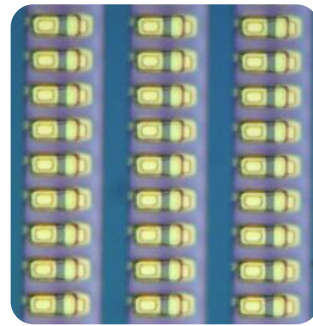
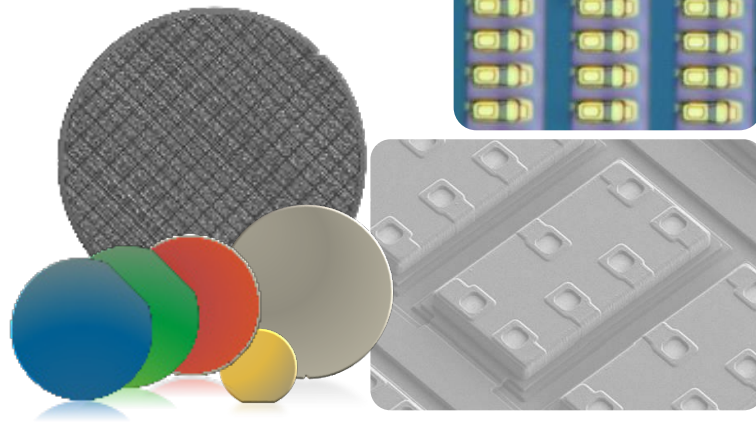


The materials identify the display. The best displays will use the best materials.

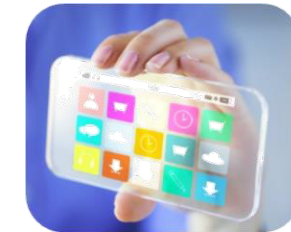
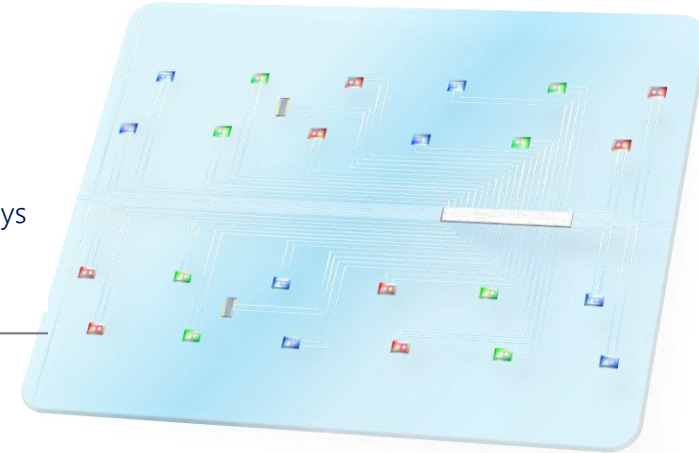
Brightest, fastest, most efficient, extra-functional, multi-sensory, computational "systems on a panel".

Bridging the gap between wafer and panel is the way to get the best displays.

Wafer Fabricated Devices  
Single-crystal Fine lithography  
(ICs, LEDs, Lasers, etc...)



Advanced displays  
of all sizes:





# Making microLED Displays

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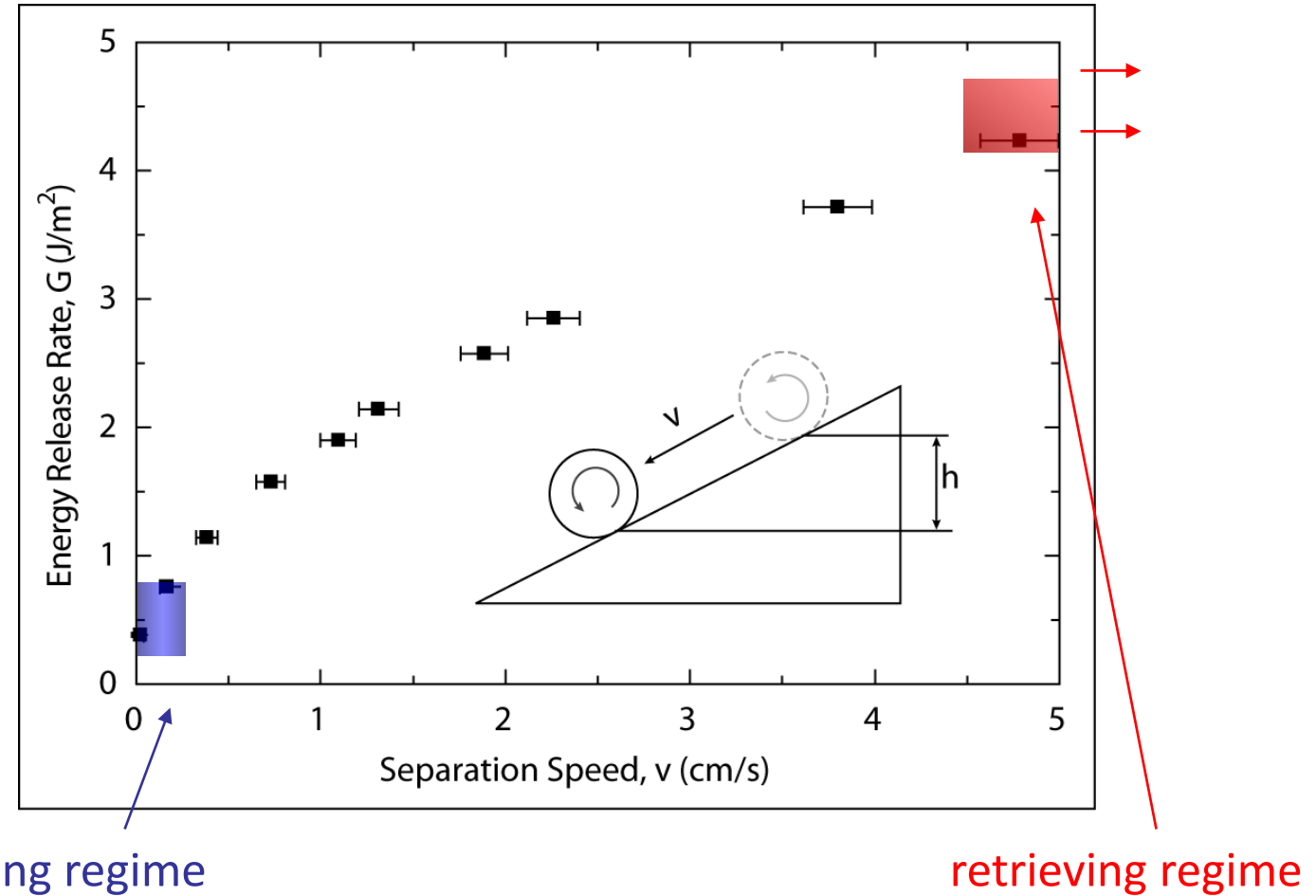
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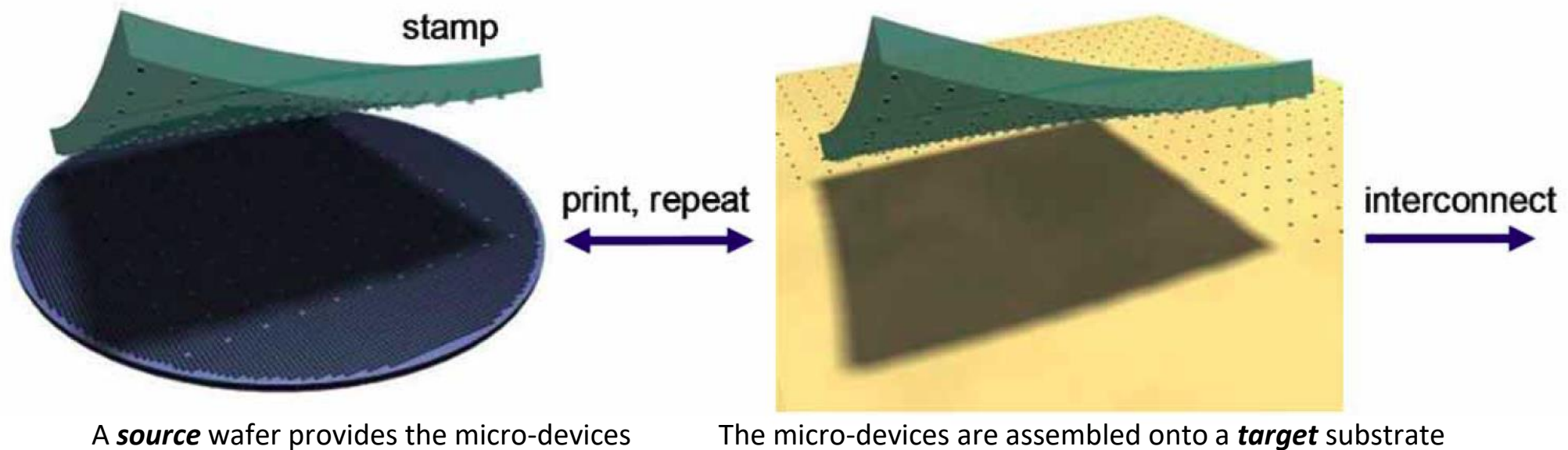
## Terminal Velocity on an Inclined Plane



*Nature Mater* **5**, 33 (2006).

(actual speeds/energies are system-specific)

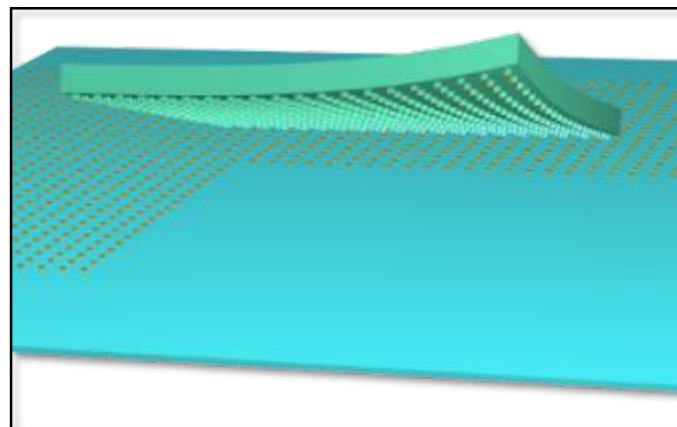
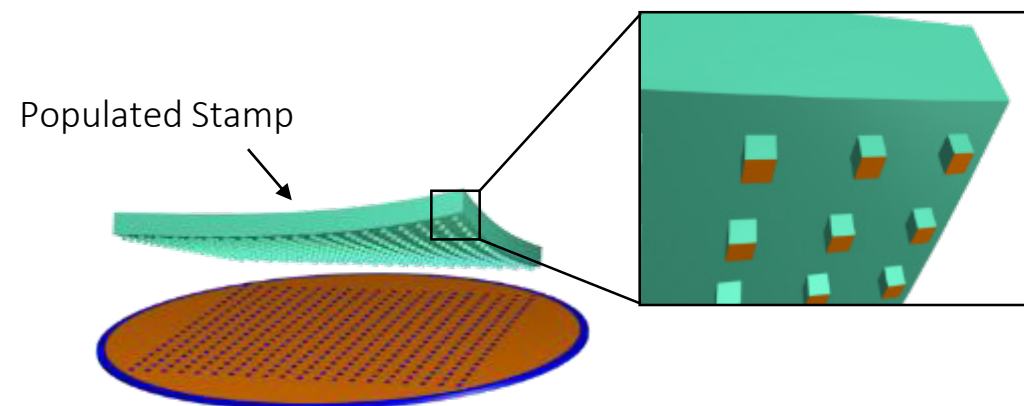
1. Form undercut microdevices, anchored at endpoints
2. Transfer them to a target substrate by elastomer stamp printing
3. Interconnect to form systems



*Nature Mater* **5**, 33 (2006).



Stamps with surface relief allow densely packed devices to be dispersed onto non-native substrates in a precise and deterministic manner.



Source Wafer

Non-native "Target" Substrate



Printing



Densely packed micro components

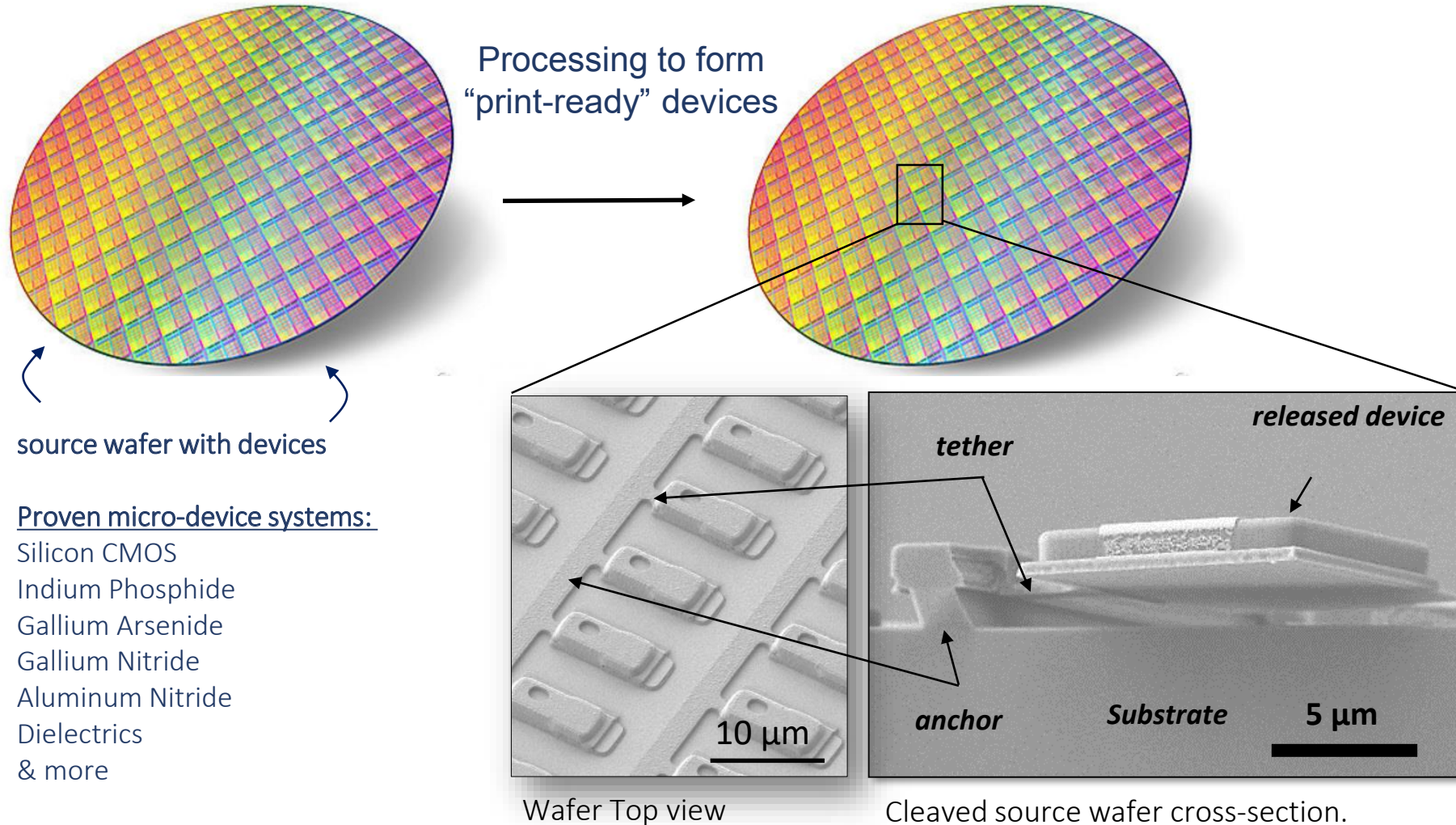
Dispersed micro components

Dispersed micro components

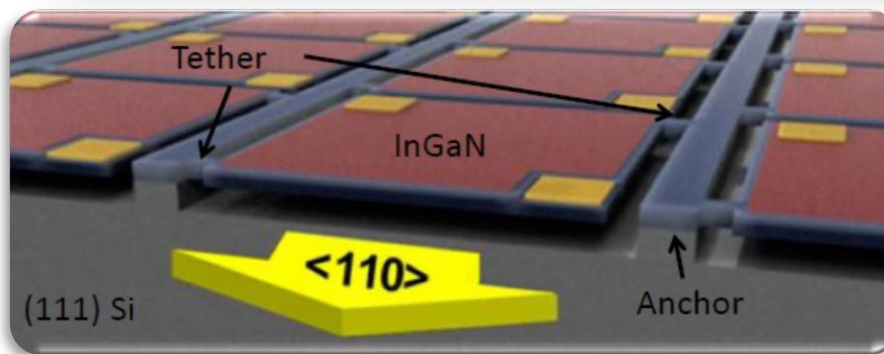
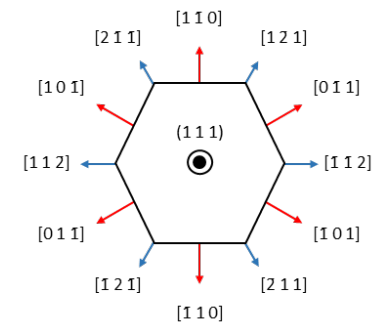
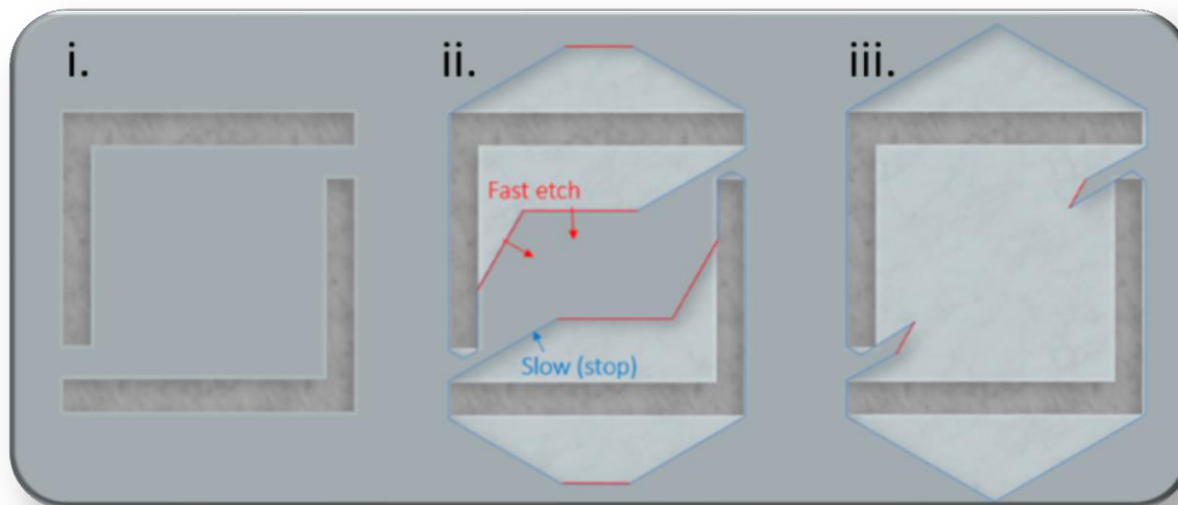




Source wafers have print-compatible micro-devices that are undercut and anchored at endpoints using MEMS-like processing strategies.

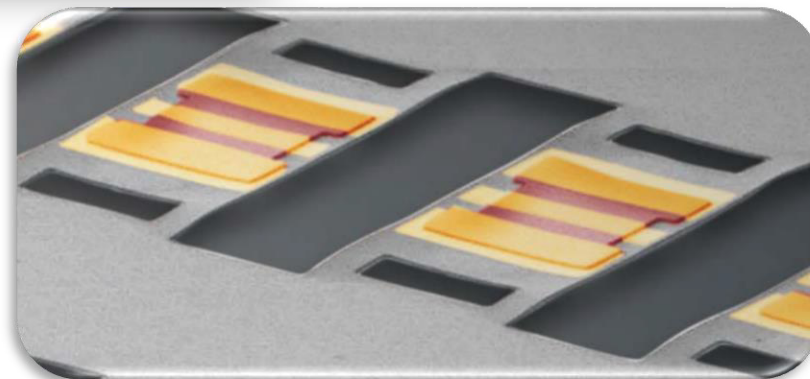


Anisotropic etching of Si (1 1 1) by hot aqueous bases:



*Printable Gallium Nitride LEDs*

*PNAS* **108**, 10072 (2011).

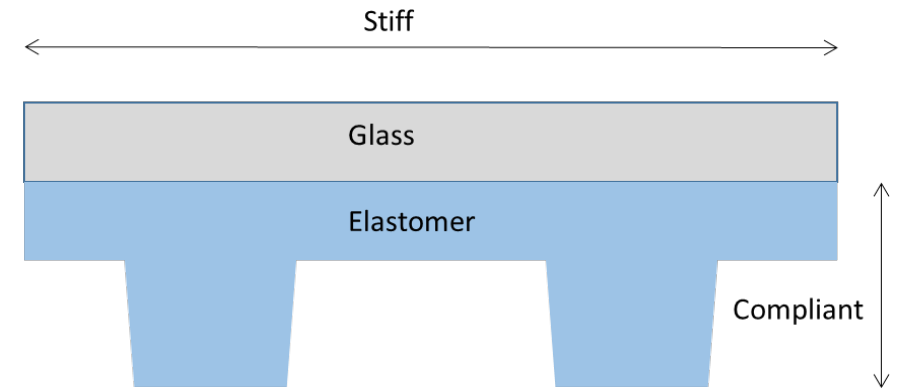


*Printable Single Crystal Silicon FETs*

*Adv. Funct. Mater.* **2011**, 21, 3029–3036

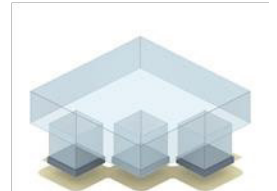
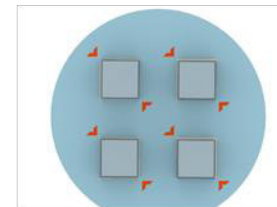
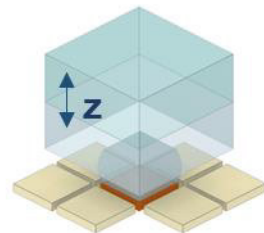
# The Elastomer Stamp

Low-pressure injection molded silicone rubber on glass backing, with lithographically-defined “posts” for selective transfer.

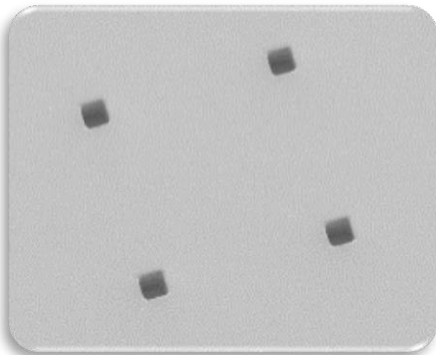
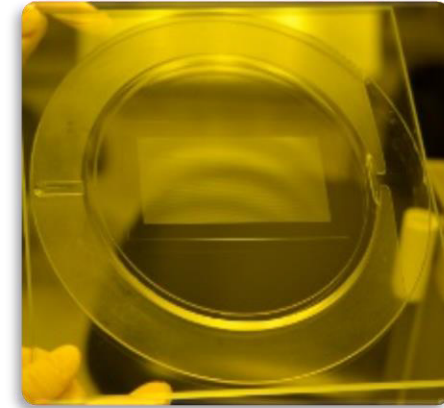
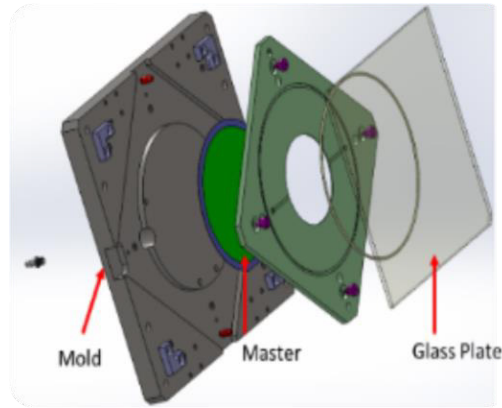


The stamp is...

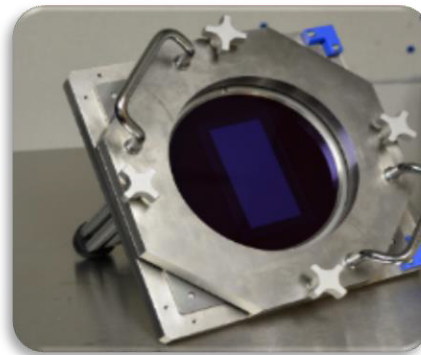
- i. ...compliant in z...  
→ high transfer yield.
- ii. ...transparent...  
→ high-accuracy placement.
- iii. ...simple, inexpensive, high-fidelity construction....  
→ scalable, high-throughput



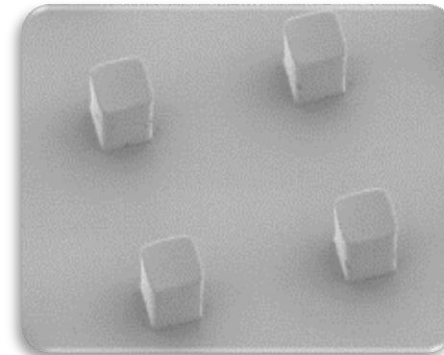




Silicon Master



Low-Pressure Injection Molding



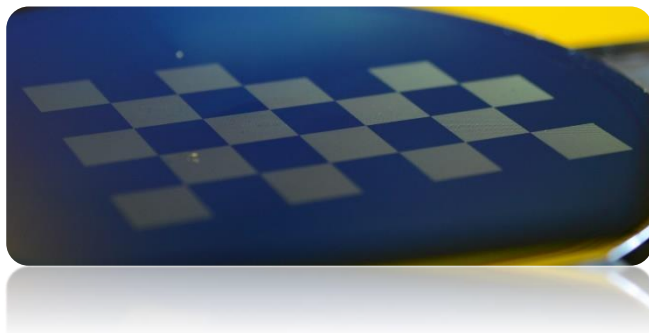
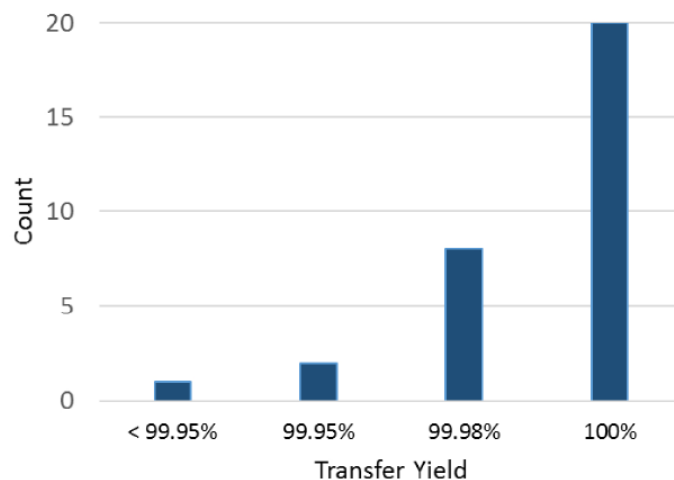
Elastomer Stamp

# Elastomer stamp capability demonstrations



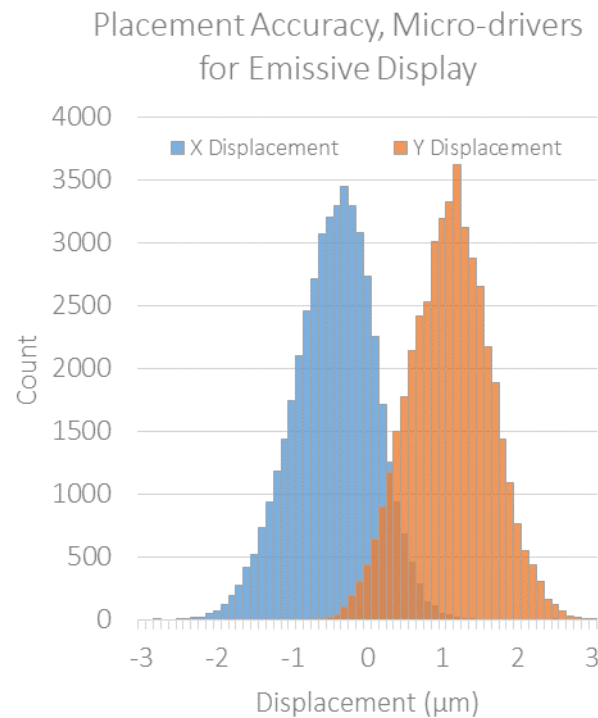
i. ...compliant (forgiving) in z...

→ high transfer yield.



ii. ...transparent

→ high-accuracy placement.

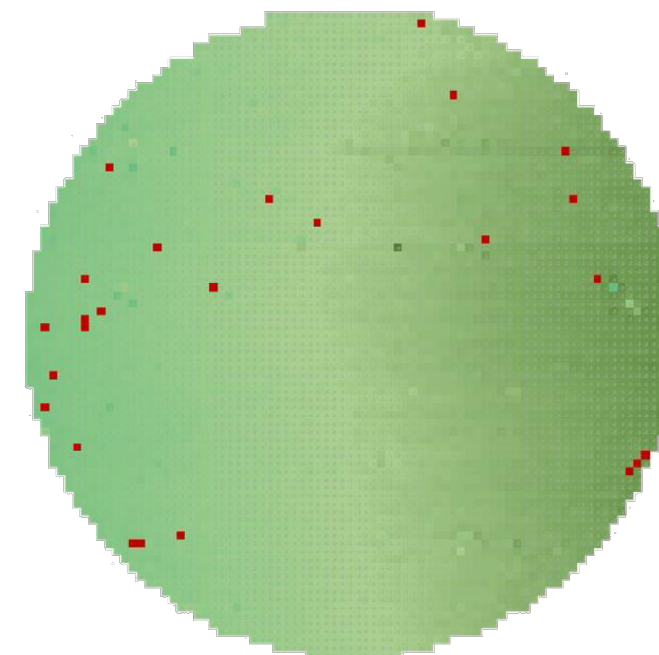


displacement at  $3\sigma$ :  $\pm 1.5 \mu\text{m}$

iii. ...simple, inexpensive, high-fidelity construction....

→ scalable, high-throughput

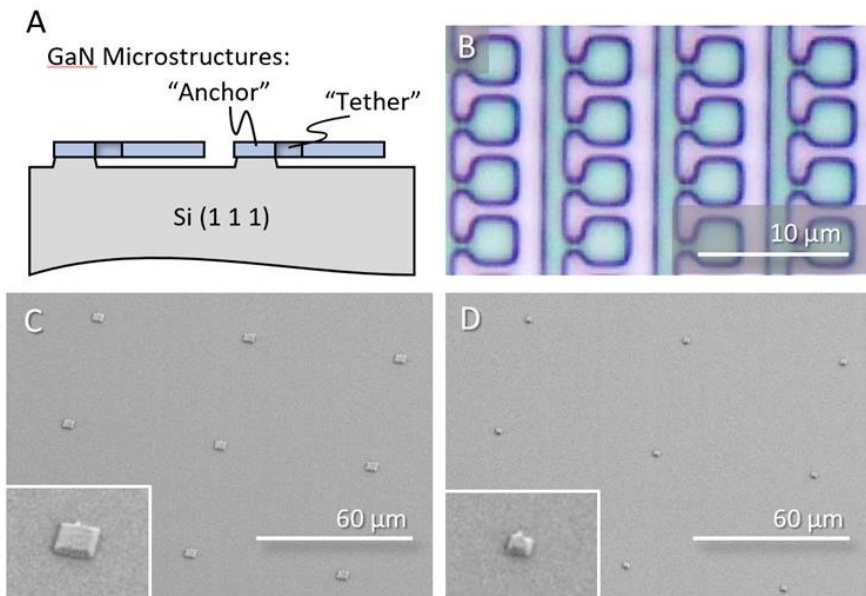
Yield map, 150 mm wafer array transfer:



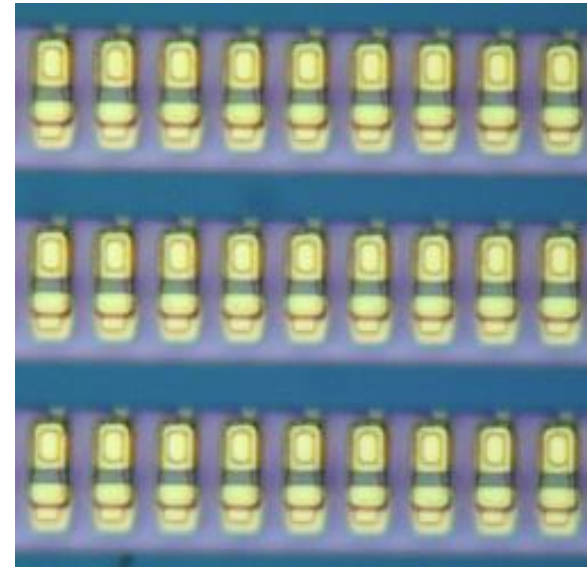
# Transferring micron-scale objects with stamp



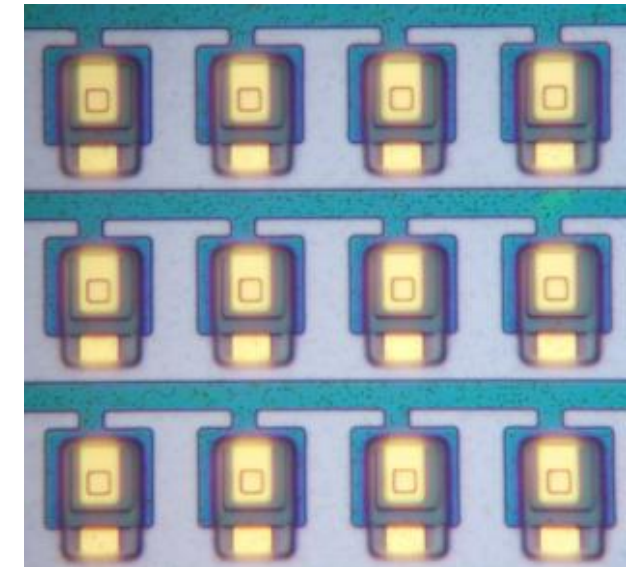
3  $\mu\text{m}$  and 5  $\mu\text{m}$  GaN transferred with stamp:



microLEDs suitable for micro assembly with elastomer stamp:



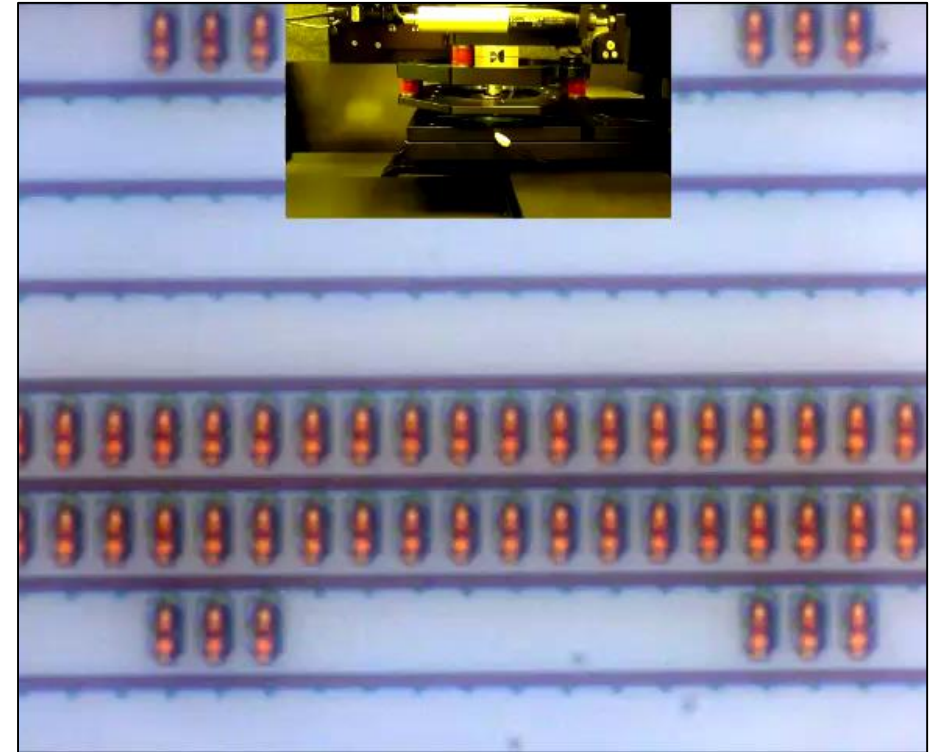
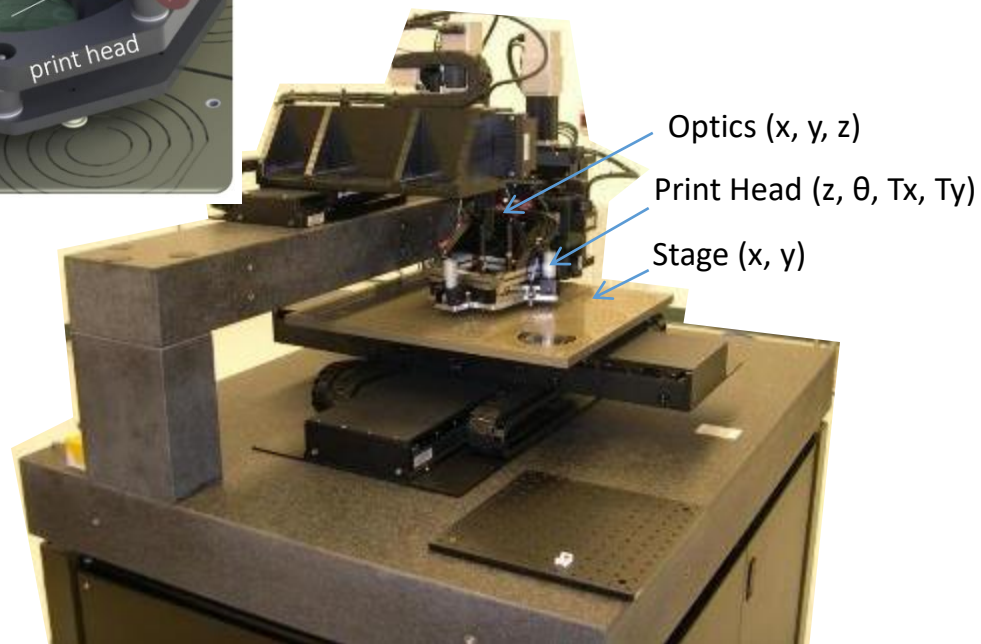
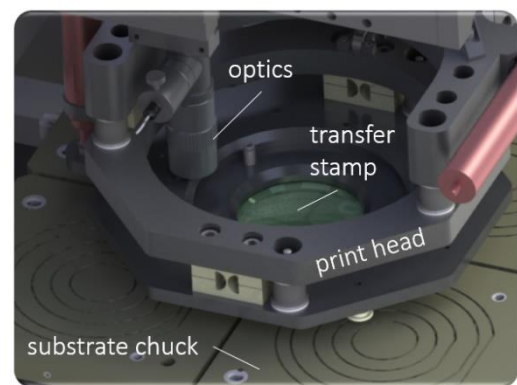
3 x 10  $\mu\text{m}^2$



8 x 15  $\mu\text{m}^2$



# 17 Transfer printing MicroLEDs, 10k at a time



stamp + motion + optics

1. *pick-up,*
  2. *print,*
  3. *clean.*
- [repeat]



# Making microLED Displays

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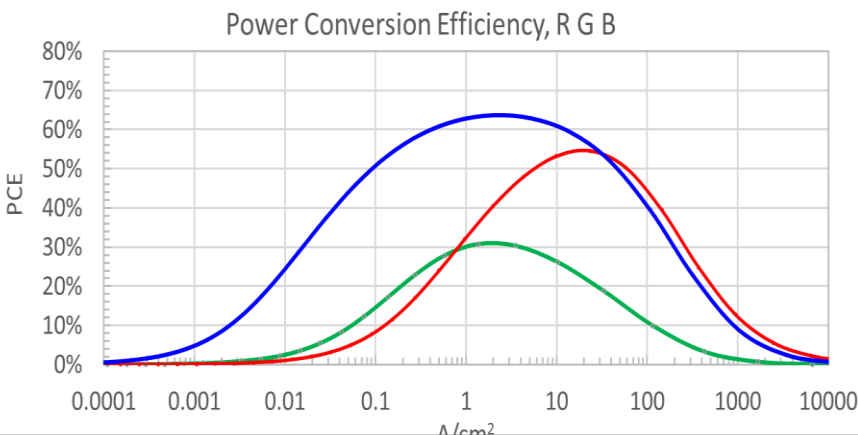
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# MicroLEDs as self-emitting sub-pixels

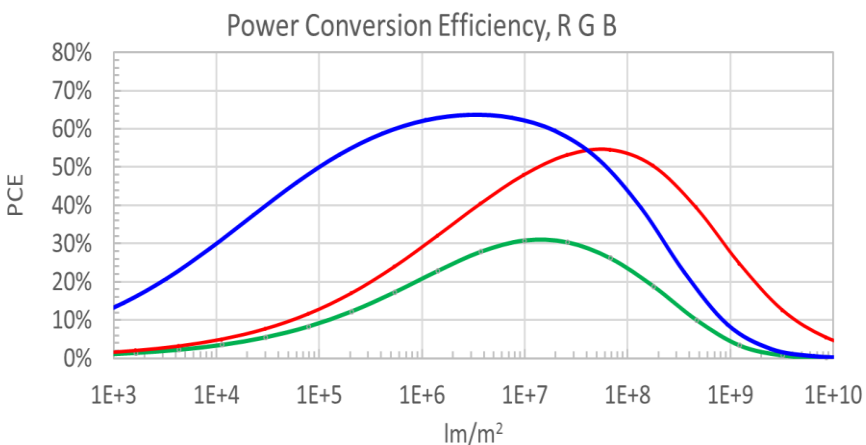


\*Representative behavior of modern LEDs, modeled.\*



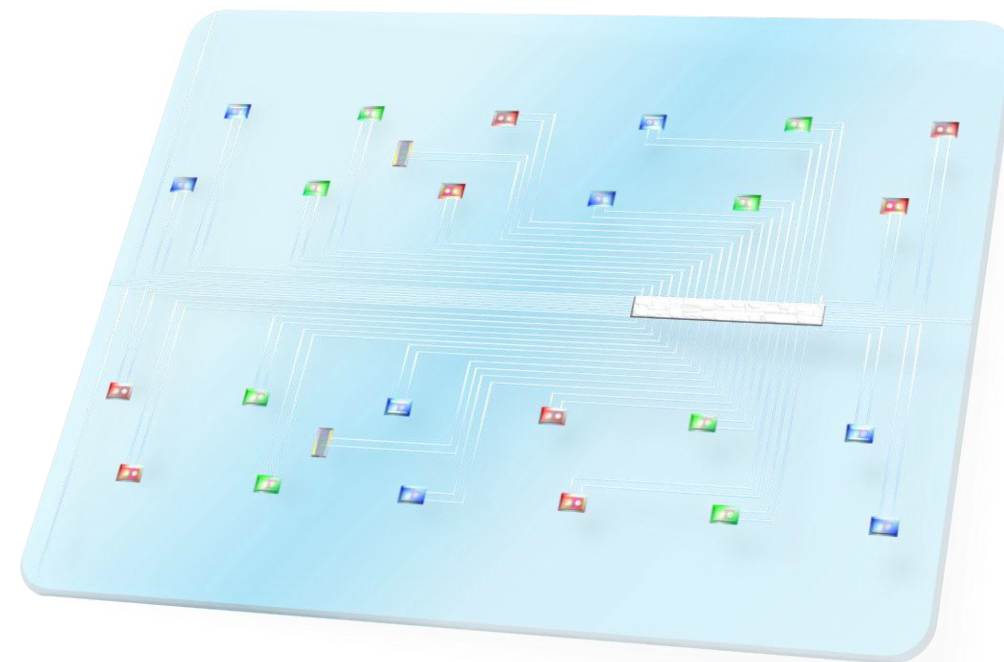
LEDs have highest PCE at current densities  $\sim 1$  to  $10 \text{ A/cm}^2$

- non-radiative recombination at low injection
- current crowding & droop at high injection



Designing for display operation at optimal current density:

- $\sim 0.2\%$  pixel area coverage for 5000 nit  $\mu\text{LED}$  display
- $\sim 0.02\%$  pixel area coverage for 500 nit  $\mu\text{LED}$  display.



bright, efficient, fast, colorful

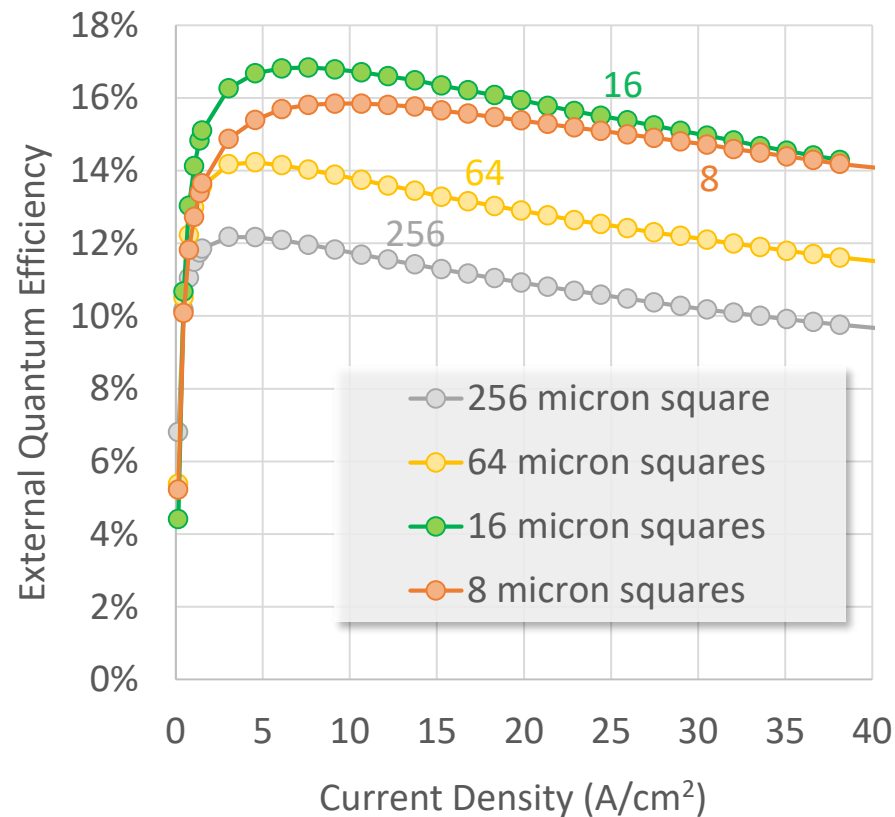
+

room to do more



# Size Dependent Efficiency, Blue LEDs

- Peak EQE rises as devices miniaturize from 256 to 16  $\mu\text{m}$ .
- Performance improvements likely with optimized designs, materials, etches, and passivation.



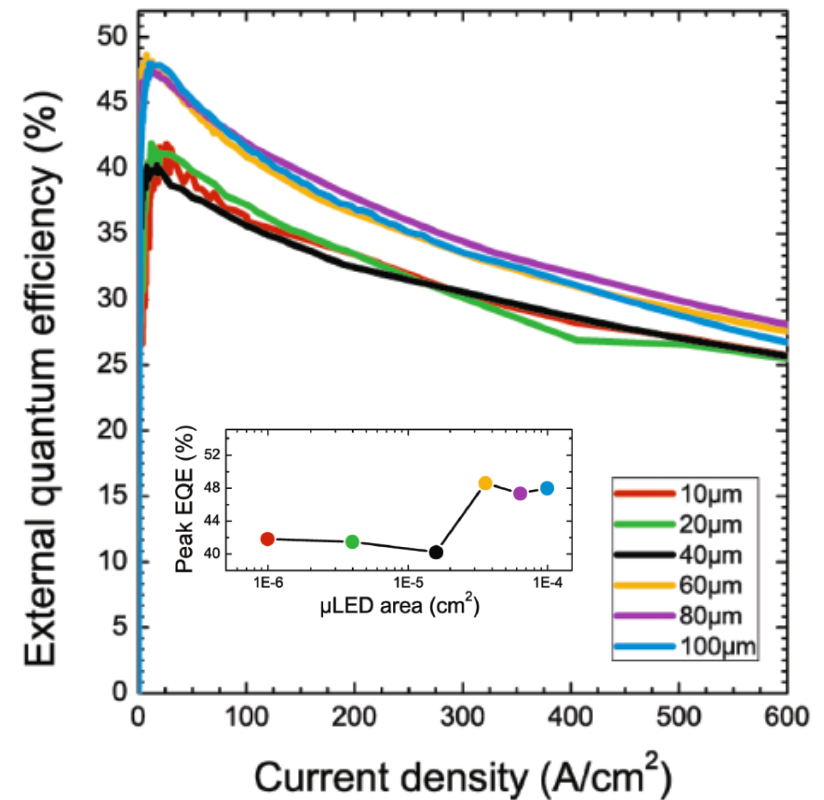
SPIE OPTO 2017

Applied Physics Express 10, 032101 (2017)

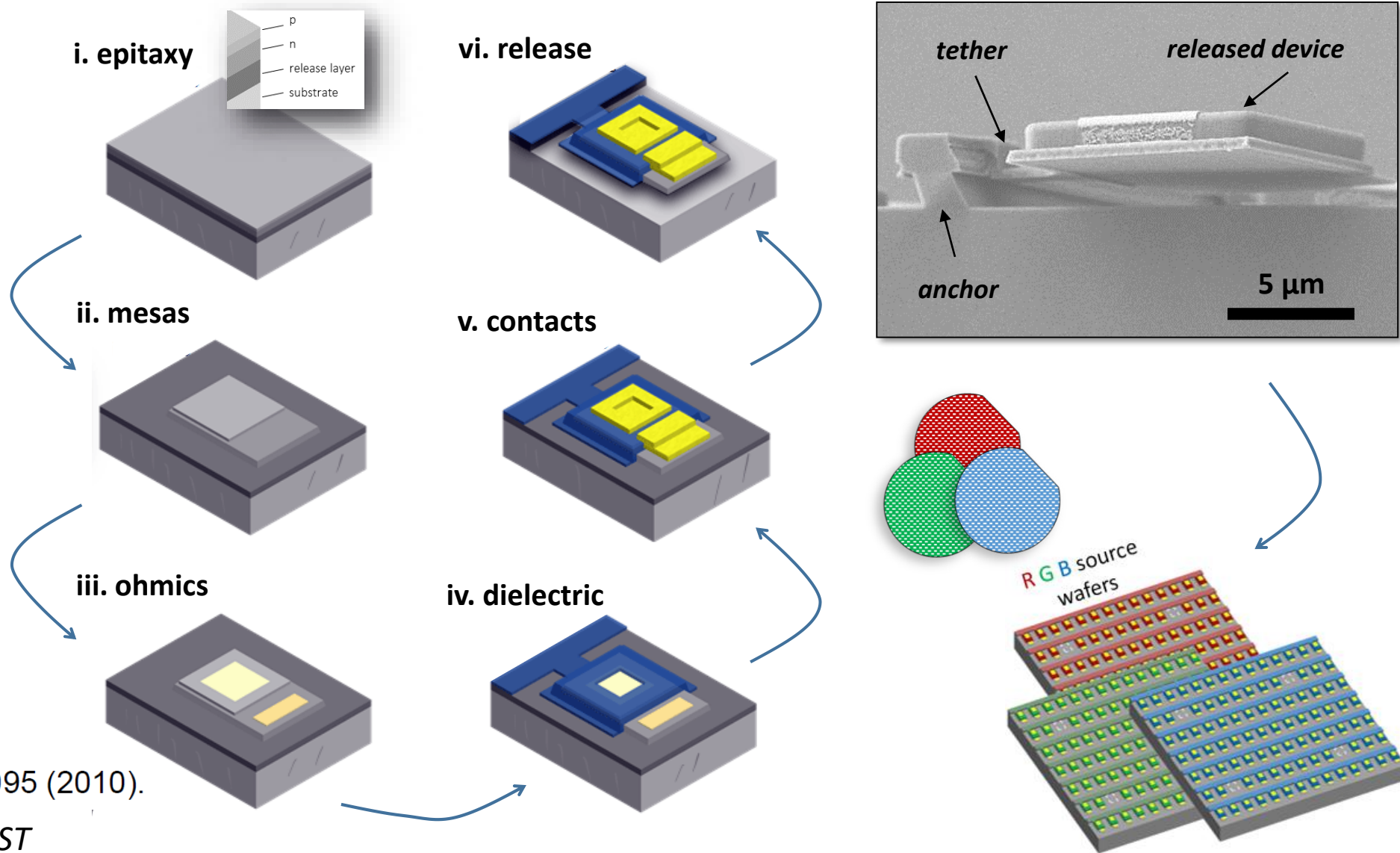
<https://doi.org/10.7567/APEX.10.032101>

## Sustained high external quantum efficiency in ultrasmall blue III-nitride micro-LEDs

David Hwang<sup>1\*</sup>, Asad Mughal<sup>1</sup>, Christopher D. Pynn<sup>1</sup>, Shuji Nakamura<sup>1,2</sup>, and Steven P. DenBaars<sup>1,2</sup>



# MicroLED Fabrication Sequence



PNAS **107**, 17095 (2010).

SID 2016 DIGEST

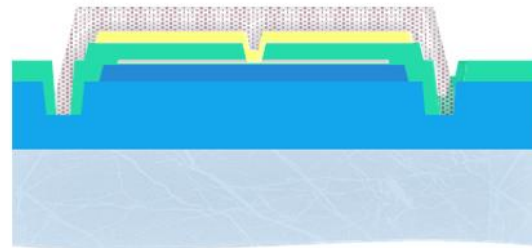
# Printable MicroLEDs from Sapphire



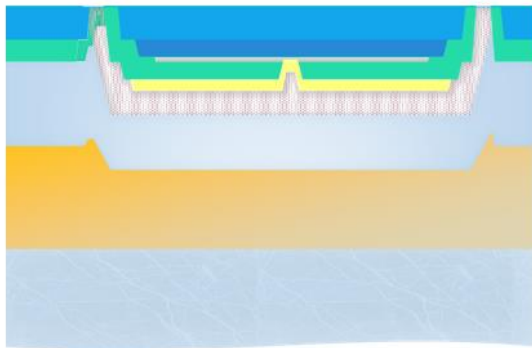
Form LEDs on growth substrate:



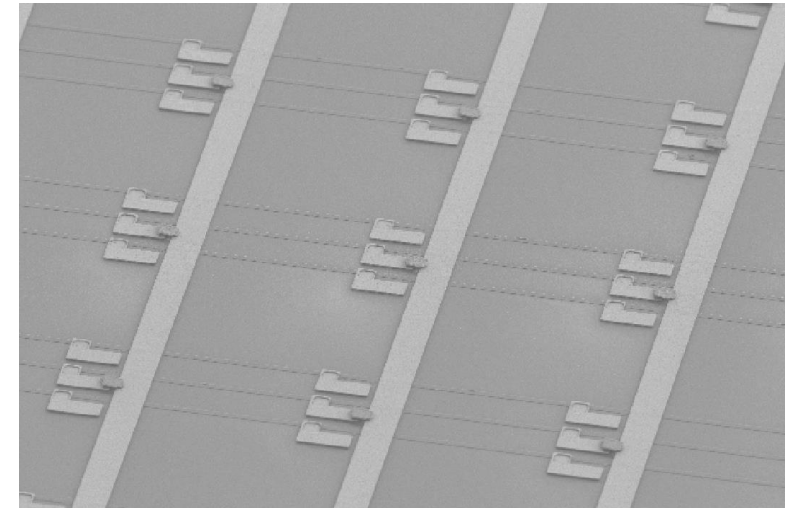
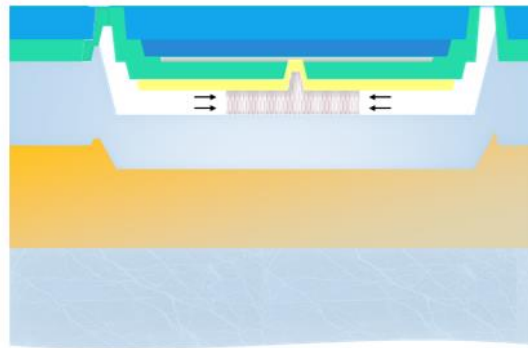
apply release layer:



Bond to carrier wafer; remove growth substrate  
(e.g. by Laser lift-off):



remove release layer;  
ready for retrieval



*SID 2017 DIGEST*



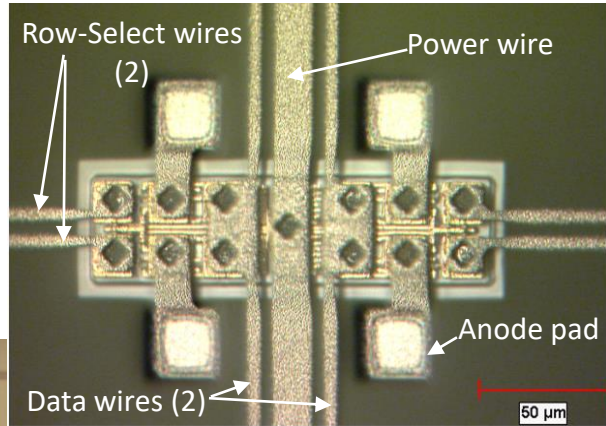


# Making microLED Displays

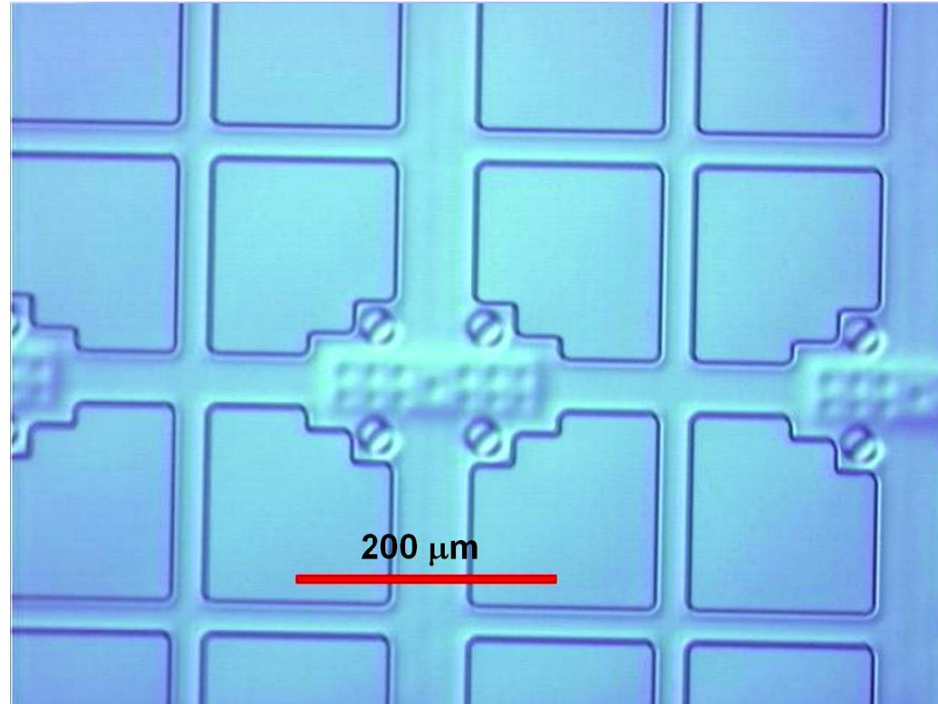
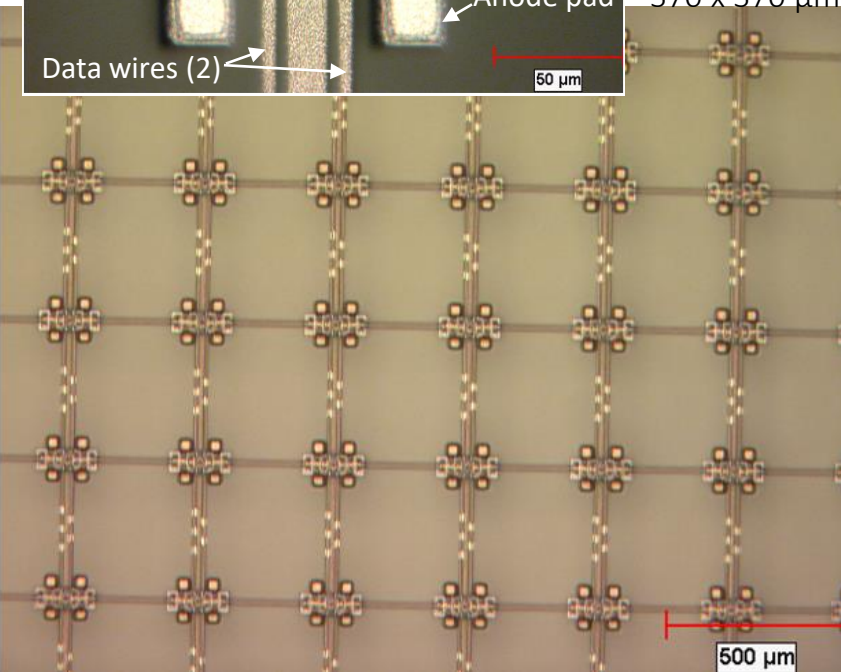
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Pitch:  
370 x 370  $\mu$ m<sup>2</sup>



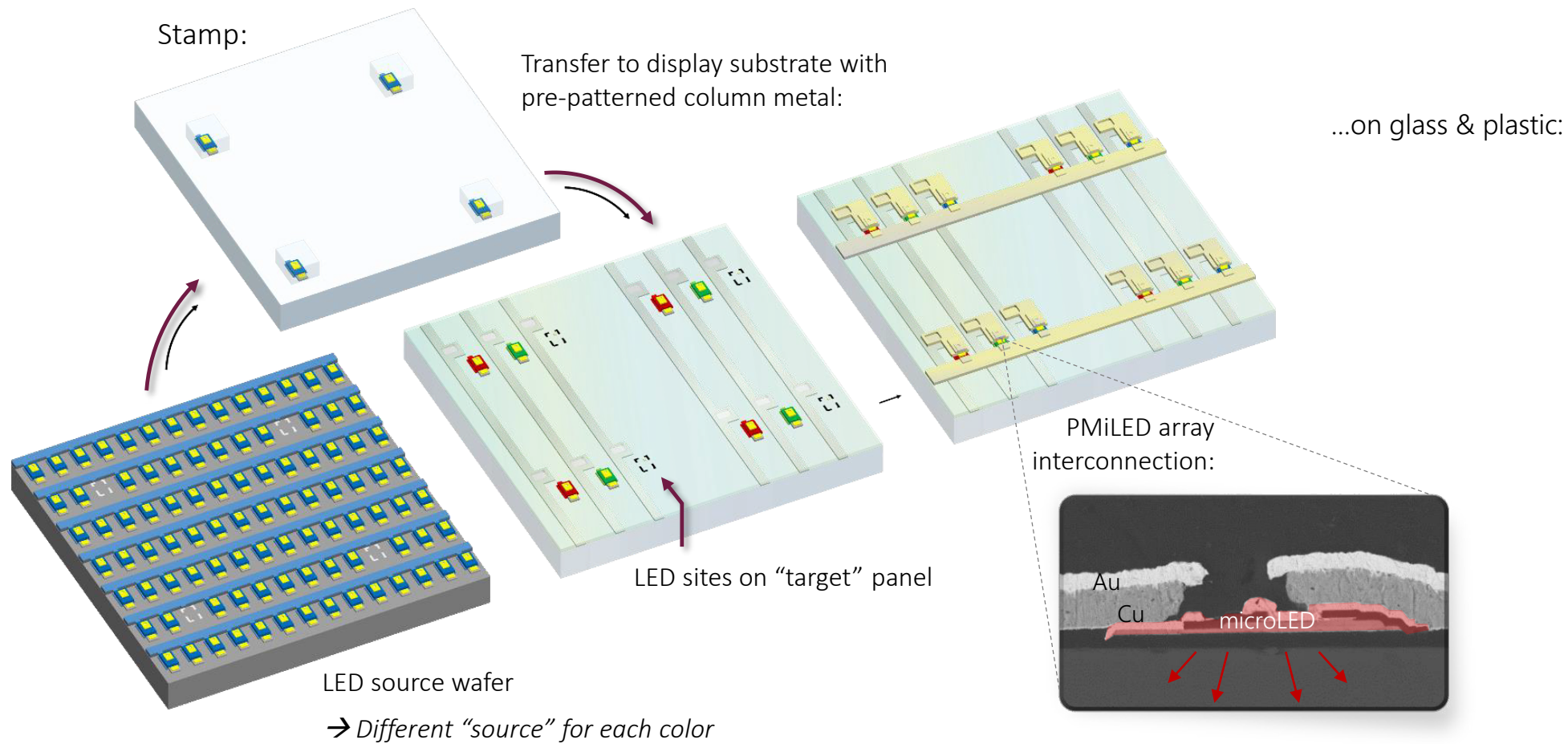
November, 2008



*SID 2009 DIGEST*  
Semprius & Kodak



# Passive matrix microLED by printing



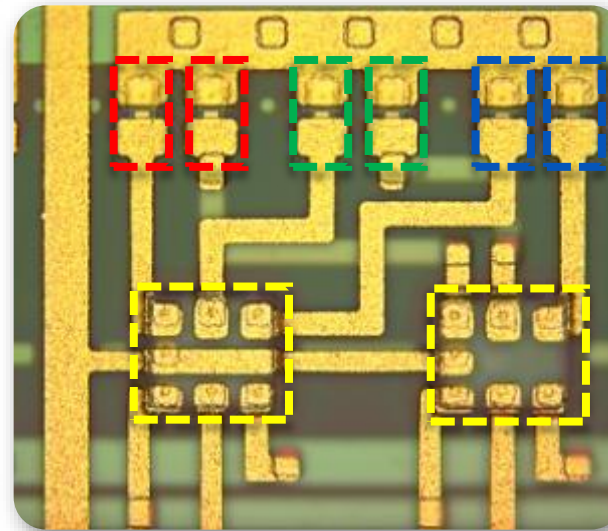
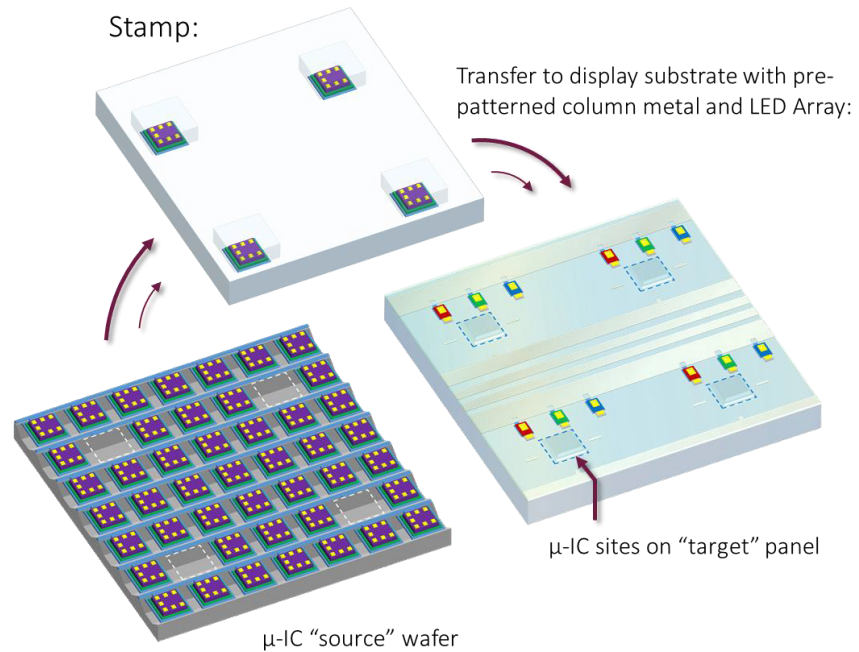
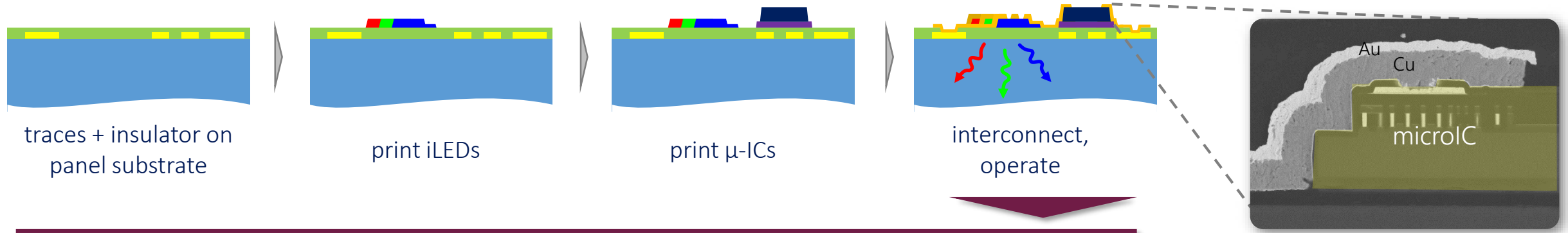
...on glass & plastic:



SID 2016 DIGEST



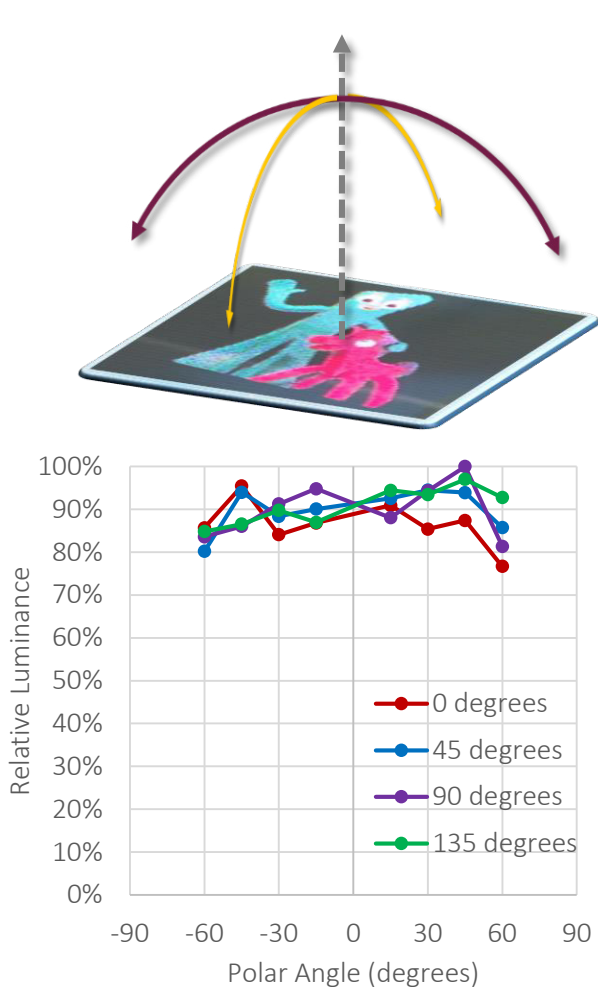
# Active matrix microLED



SID 2017 DIGEST



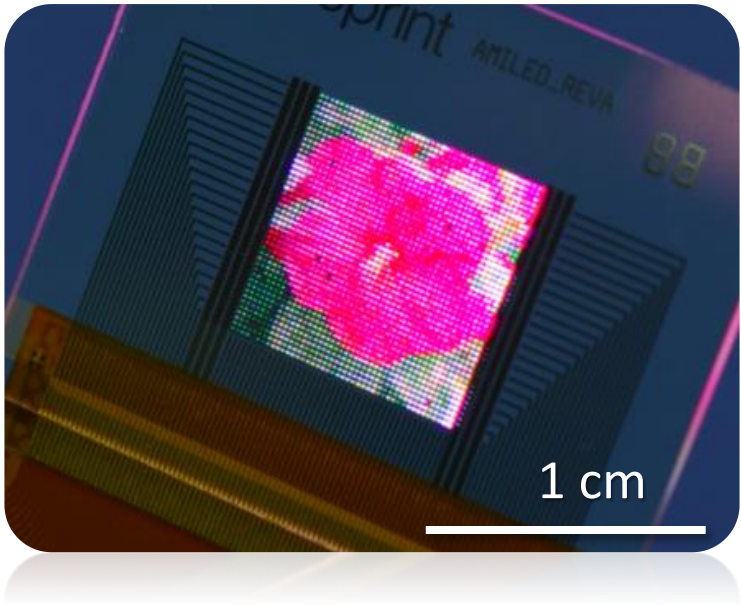
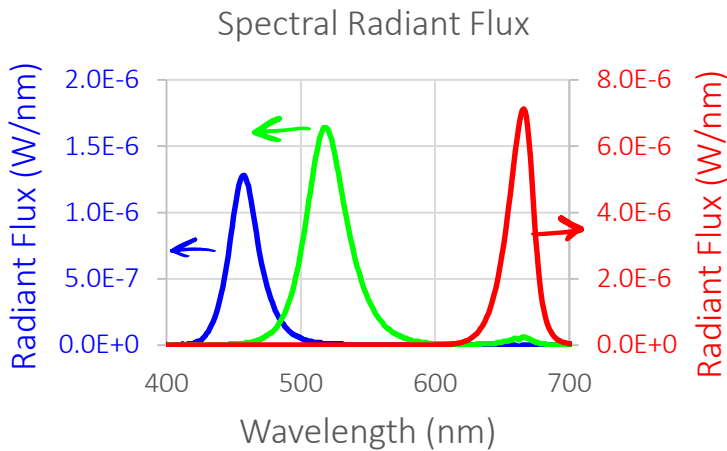
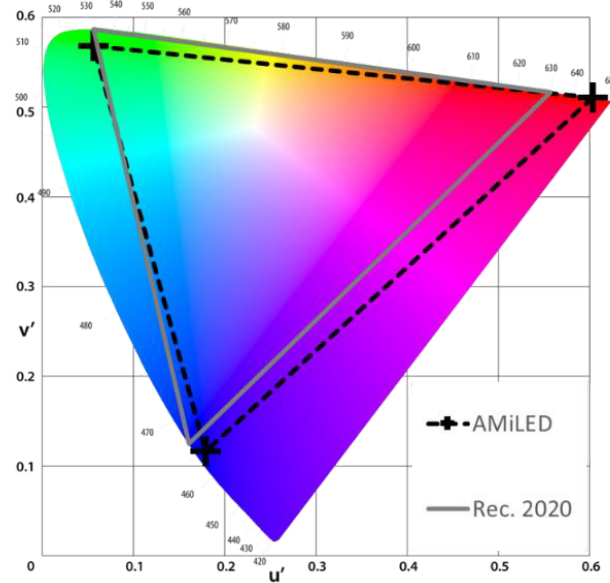
## Wide Viewing Angle:



## Strong Color Gamut:

Relative to Rec. 2020:

	u' v'	x y
Area	107.1%	90.6%
Overlap	93.3%	84.1%

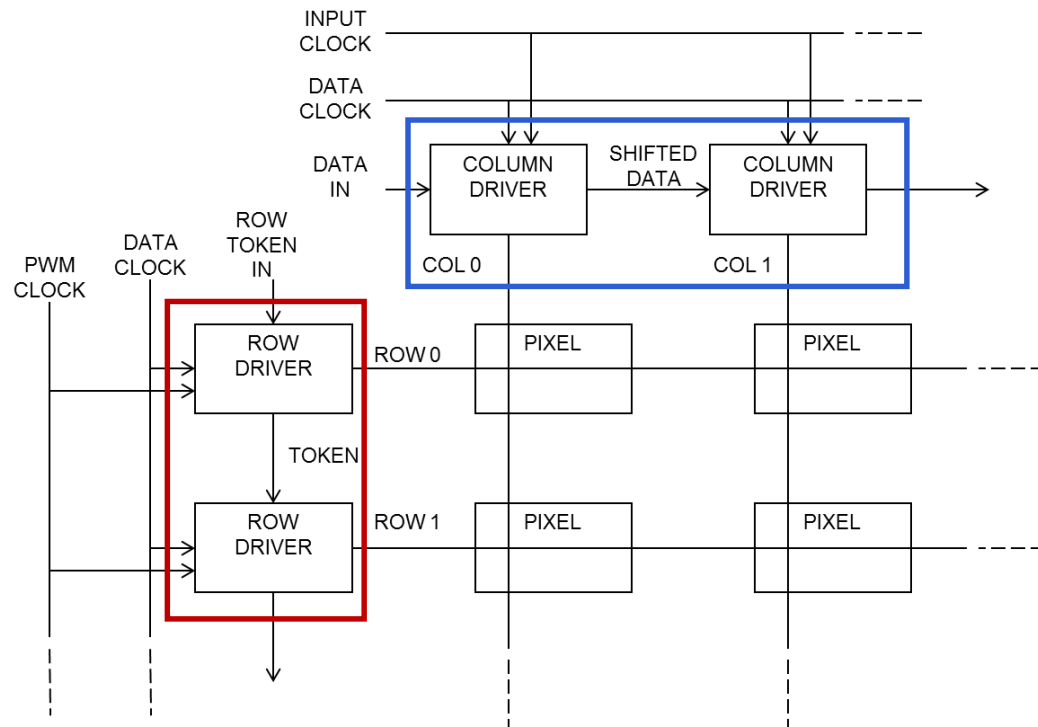


# Larger active matrix displays

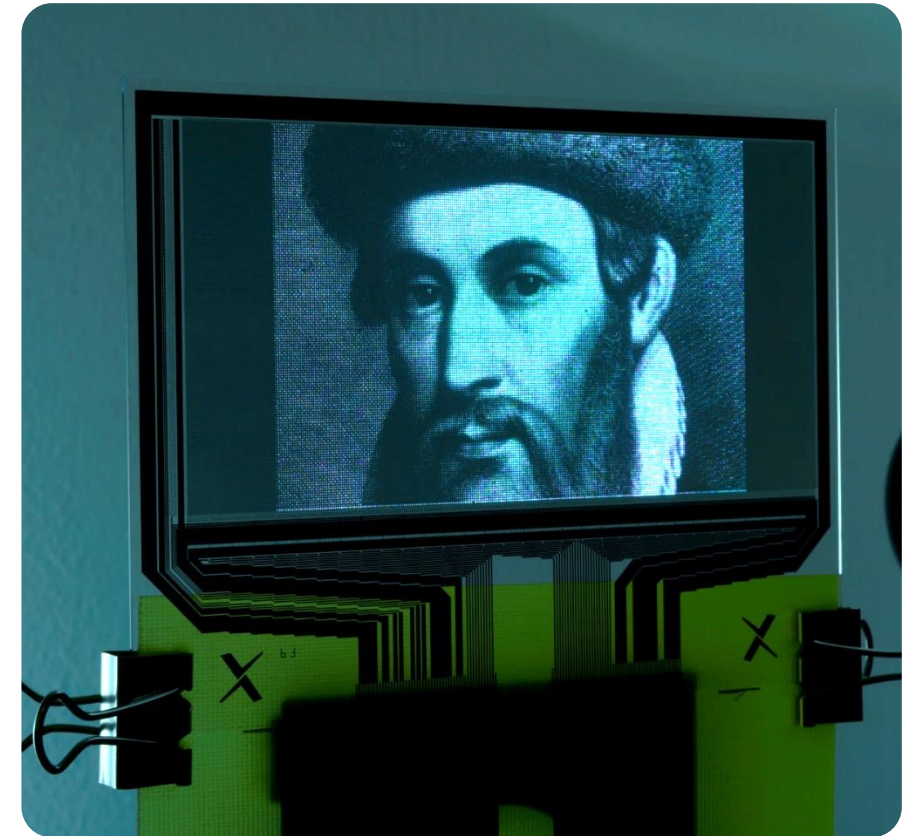


Print row drivers and column drivers to reduce external I/O count:

- Column drivers demultiplex data
- Row drivers run progressive scan of data load and PWM



5.1" Diagonal AMILED display 320 x 160, 70 ppi:

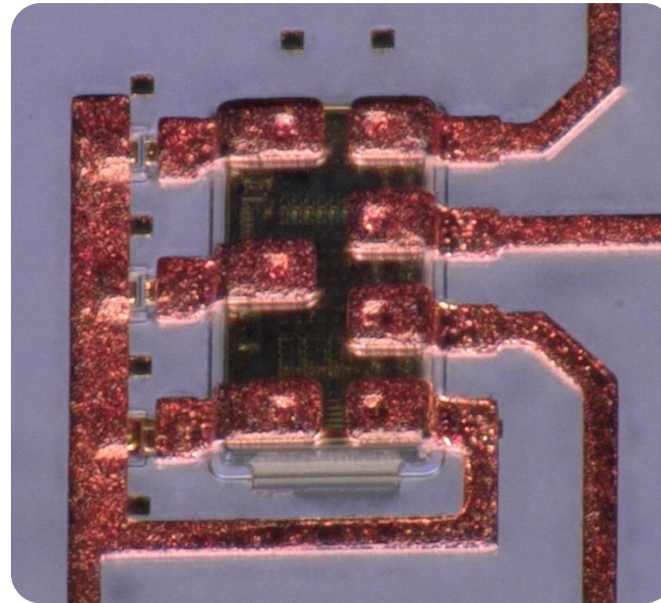
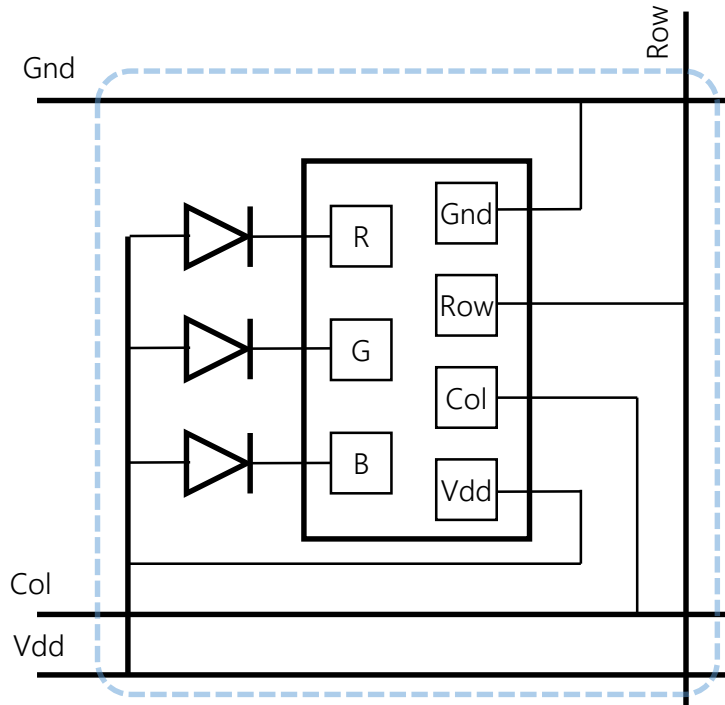




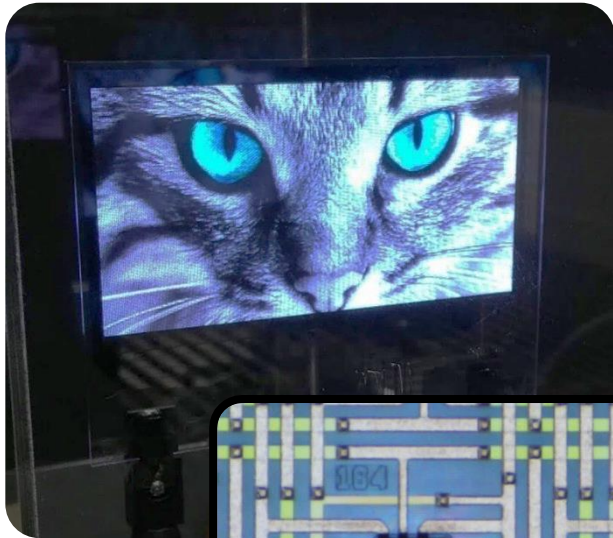


Row, column, power, and ground into each pixel:

Cu redistribution layer interconnects microLEDs, ICs, and row/col drivers (not shown).



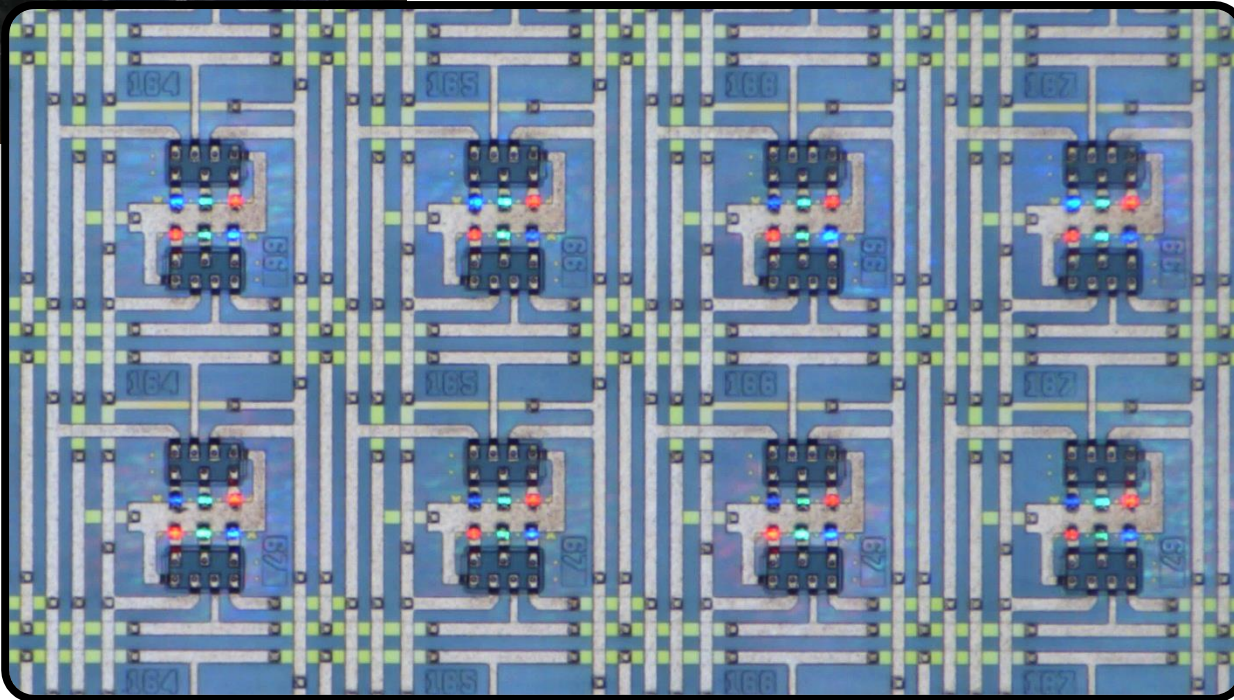
# Functional Yield of Sub-Pixels in 5.1" display



Implementation of redundancy in microICs, microLEDs, row & column lines.

Remaining yield impactors:

- Forward voltage of LEDs
- Metallization defects (laser cut)
- Transfer (typ. < 3 sub-pixels)



Red: 99.98% (9 dark)

Green: 99.95% (28 dark)

Blue: 99.95% (24 dark)

# Making microLED Displays

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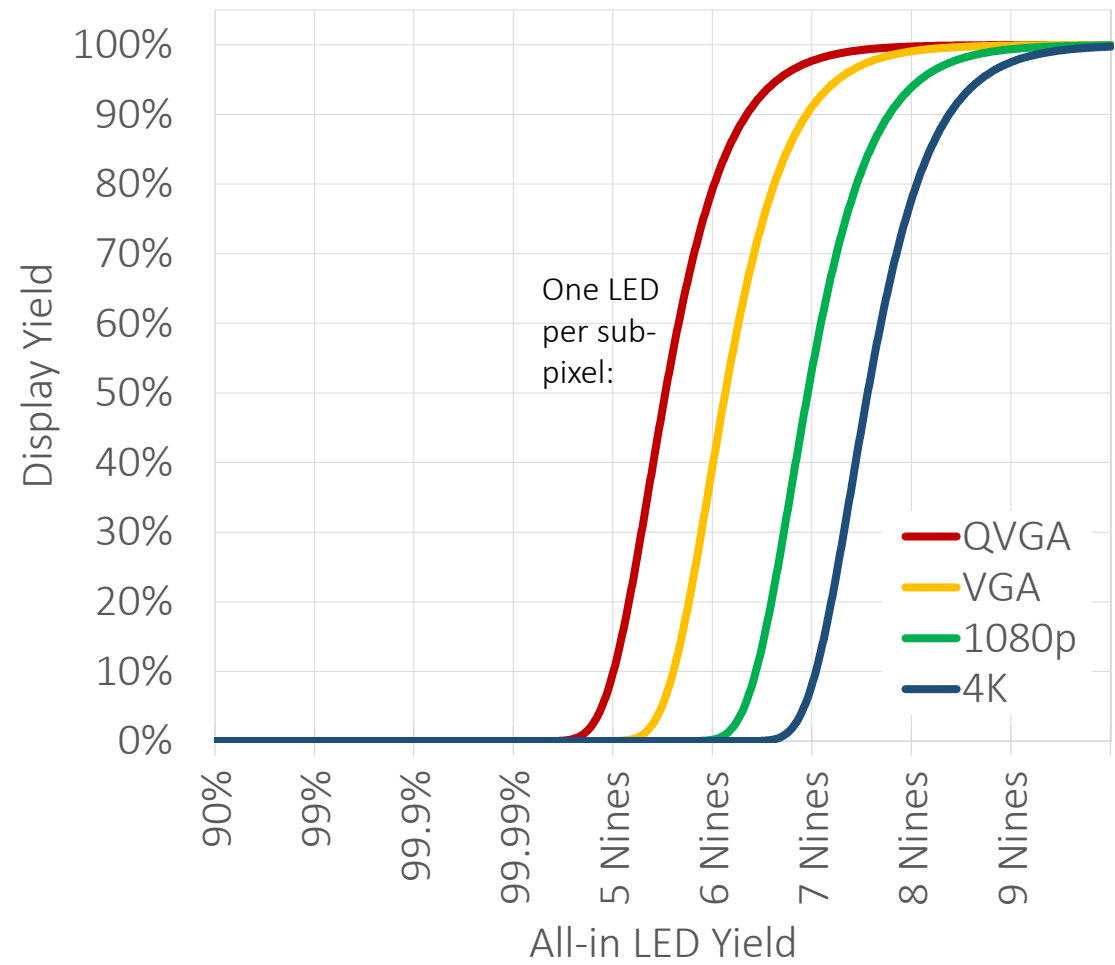
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Perfect Display Yield versus LED Yield

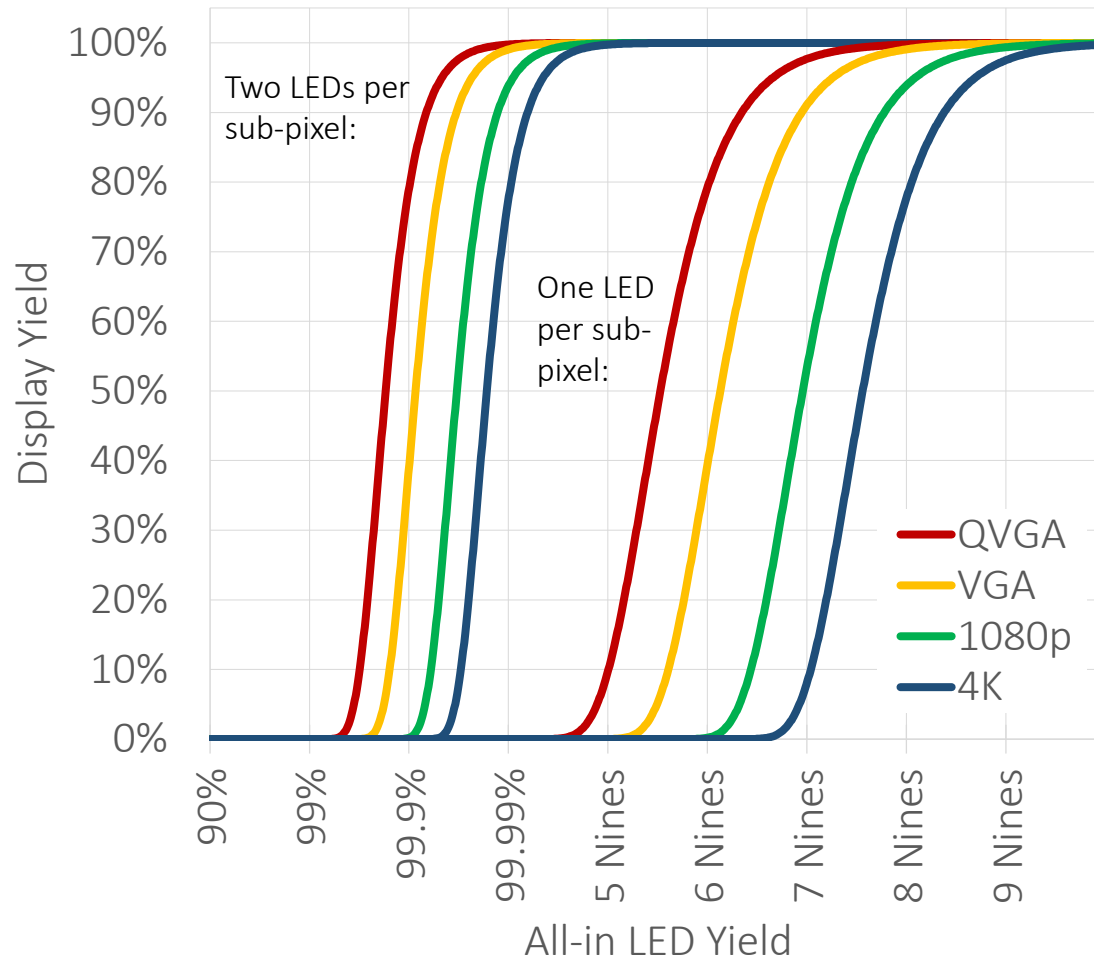


## Avenues:

1. Excellent first-pass yield

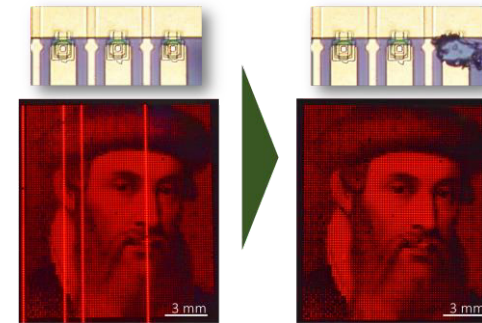


Perfect Display Yield versus LED Yield

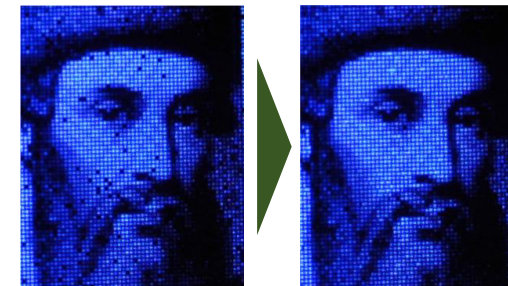


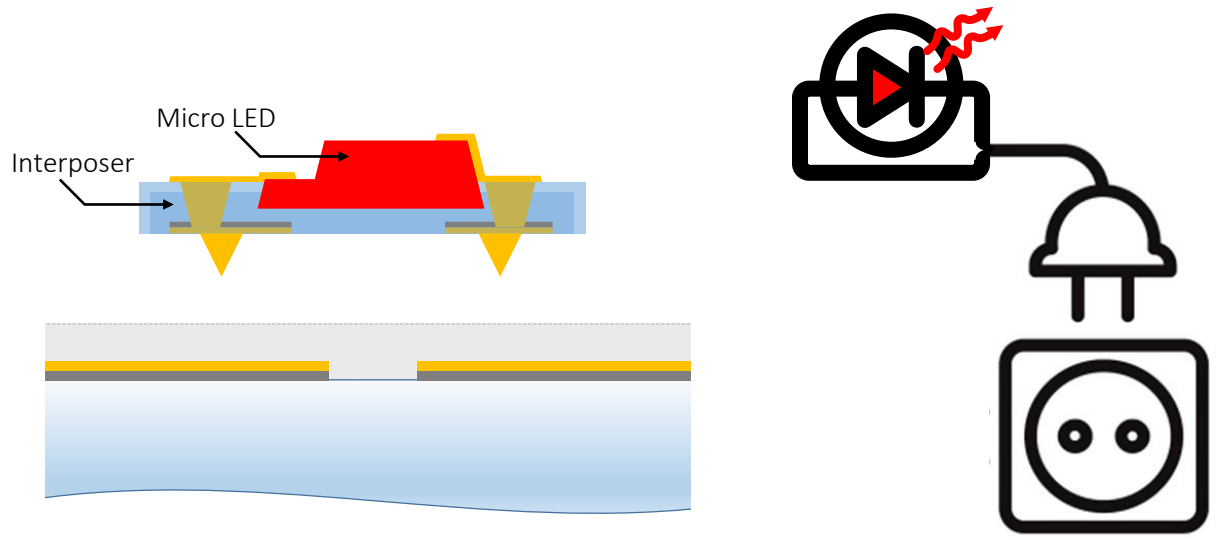
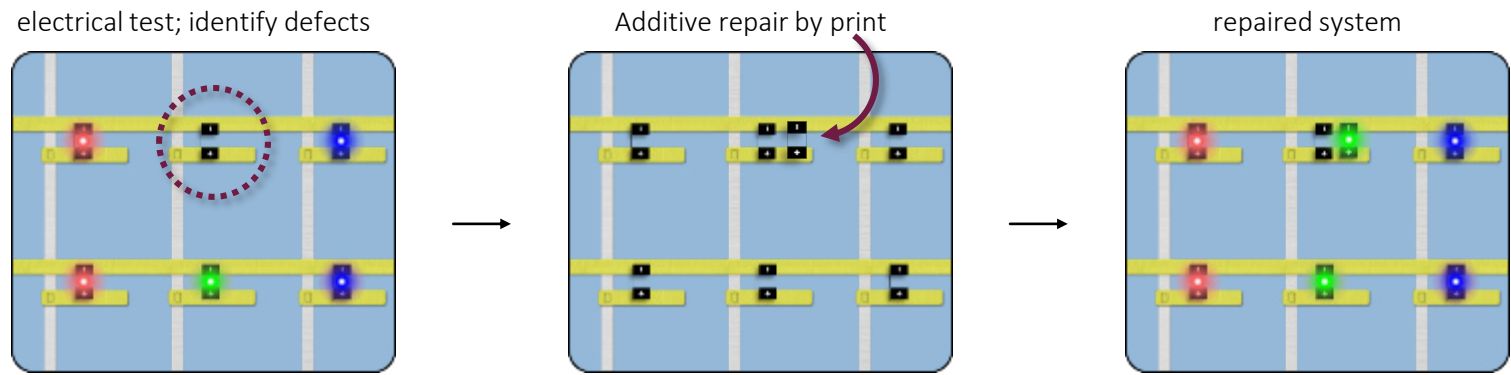
## Avenues:

1. Excellent first-pass yield
2. Physical Repair



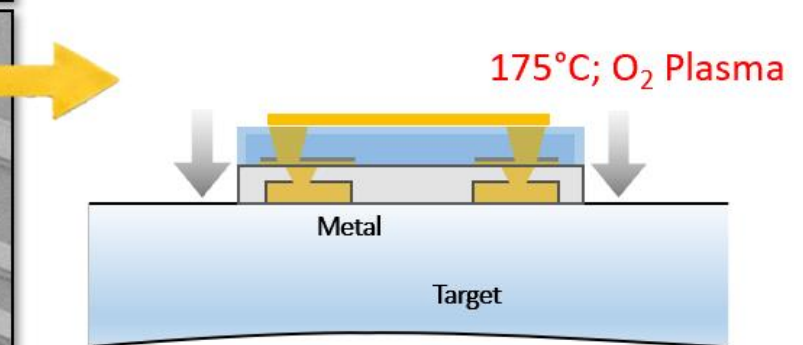
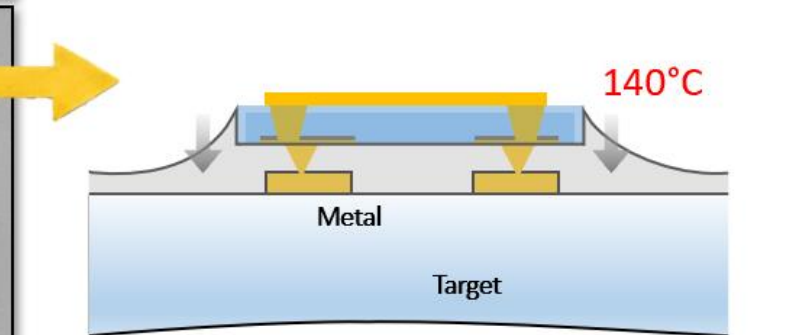
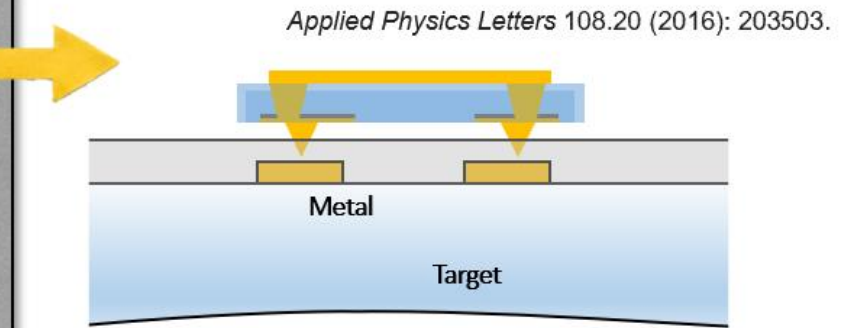
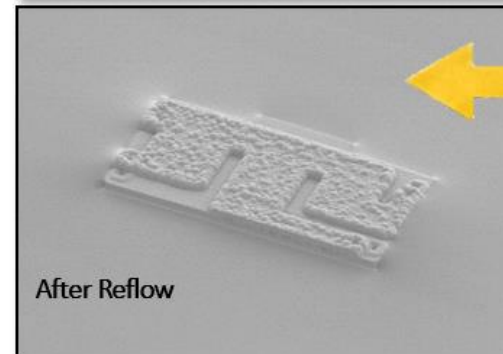
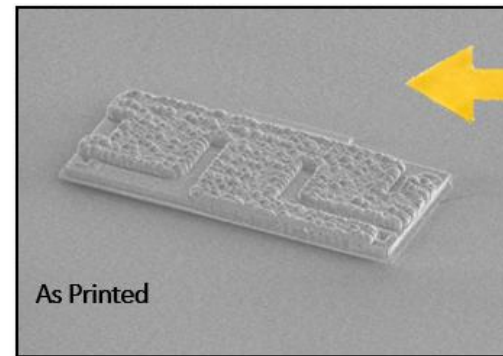
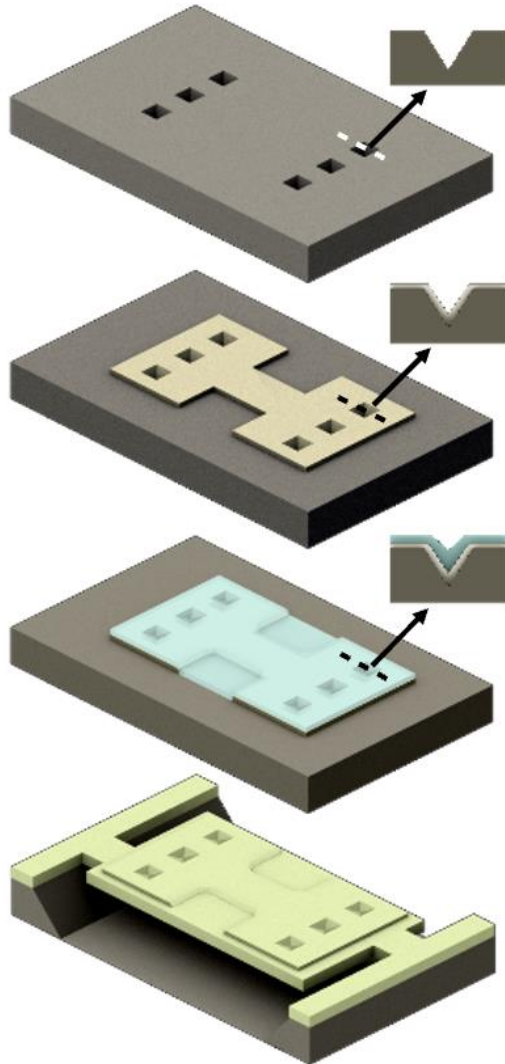
3. Redundancy



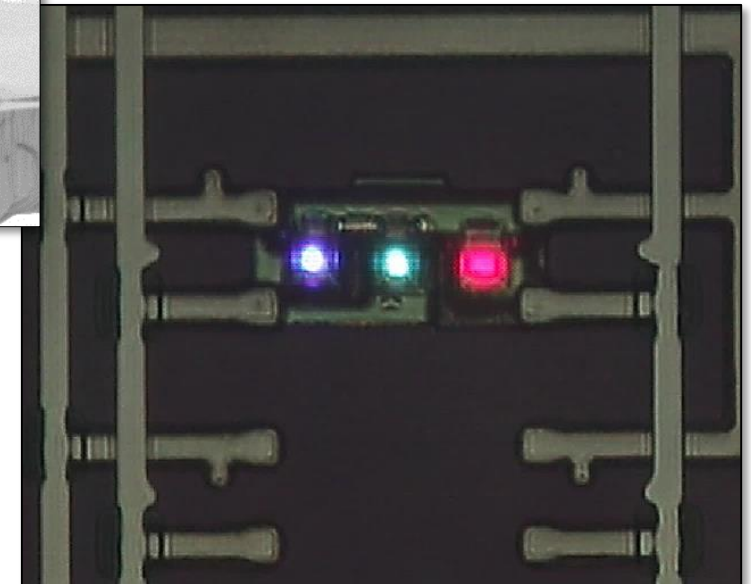
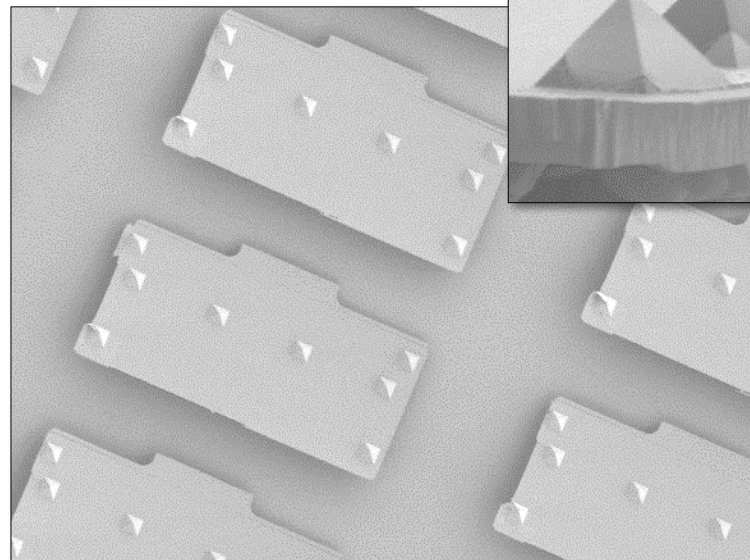
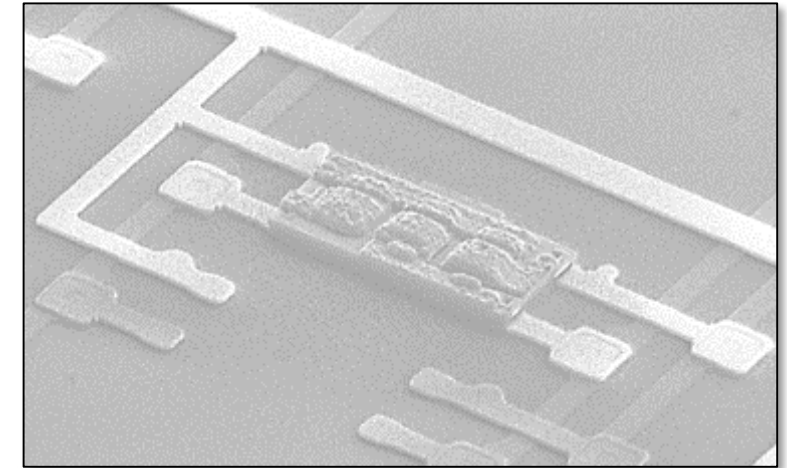
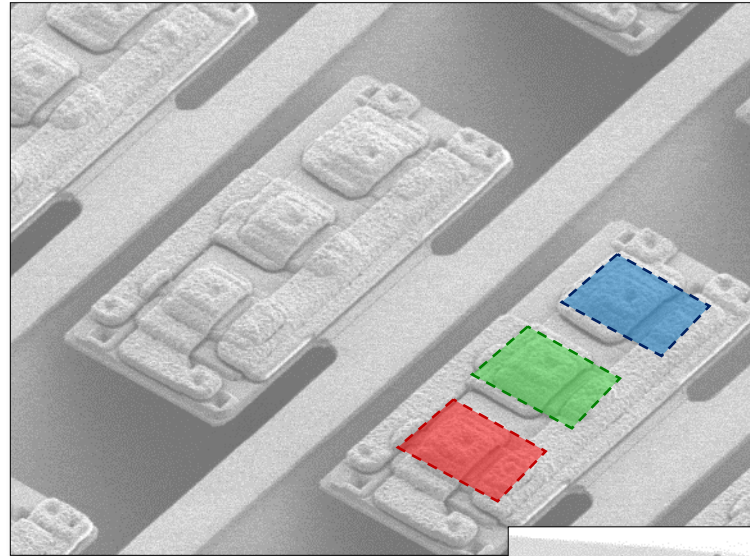
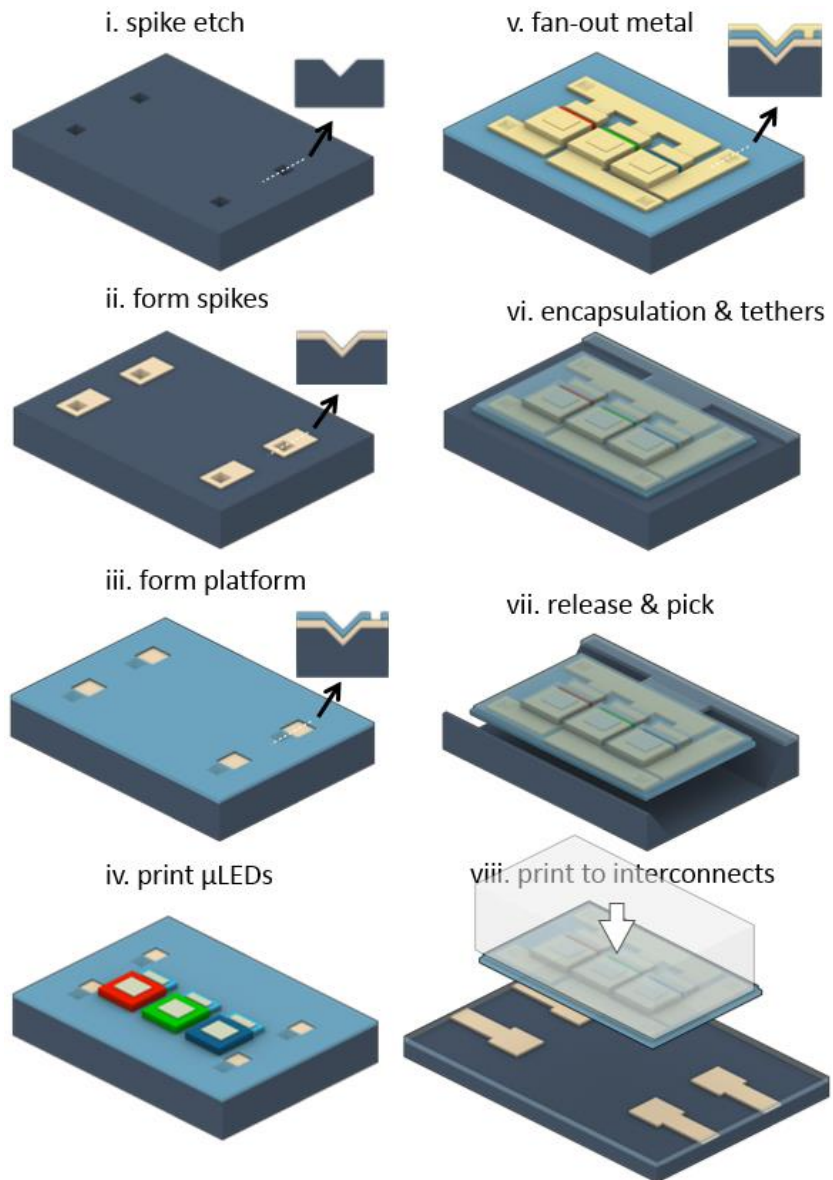




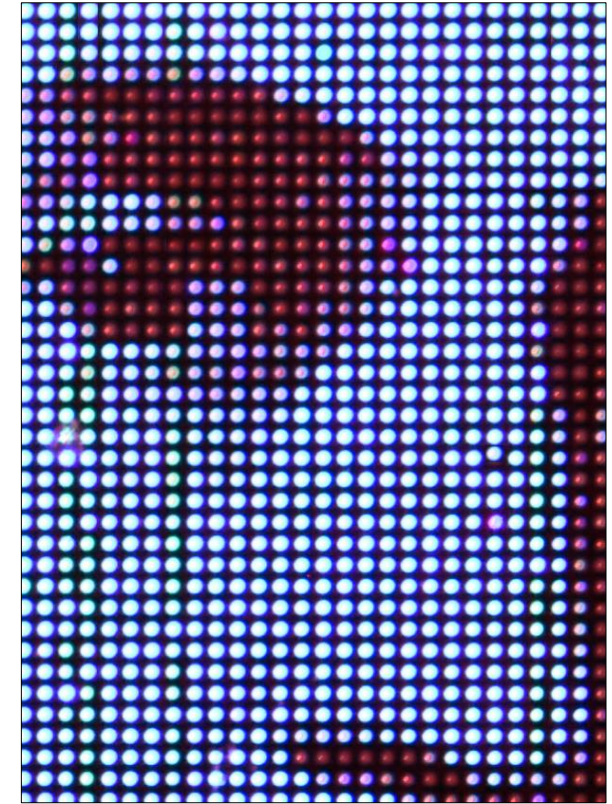
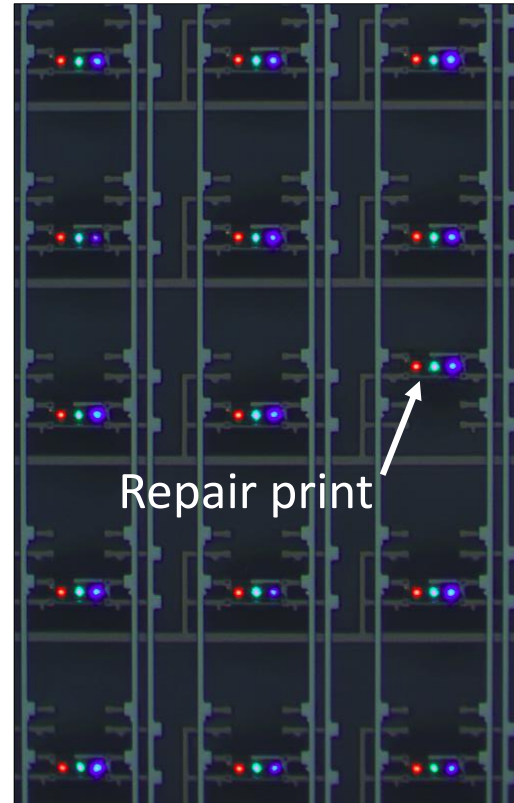
*A silicon template to make conductive “spikes”*



# Transfer-ready pixel engines

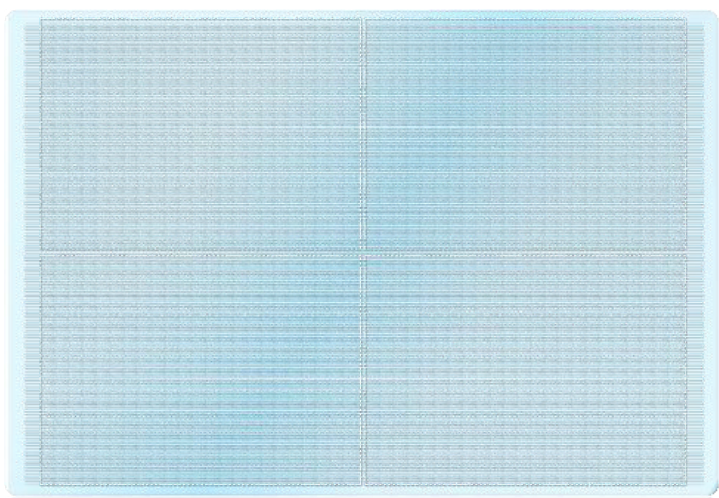
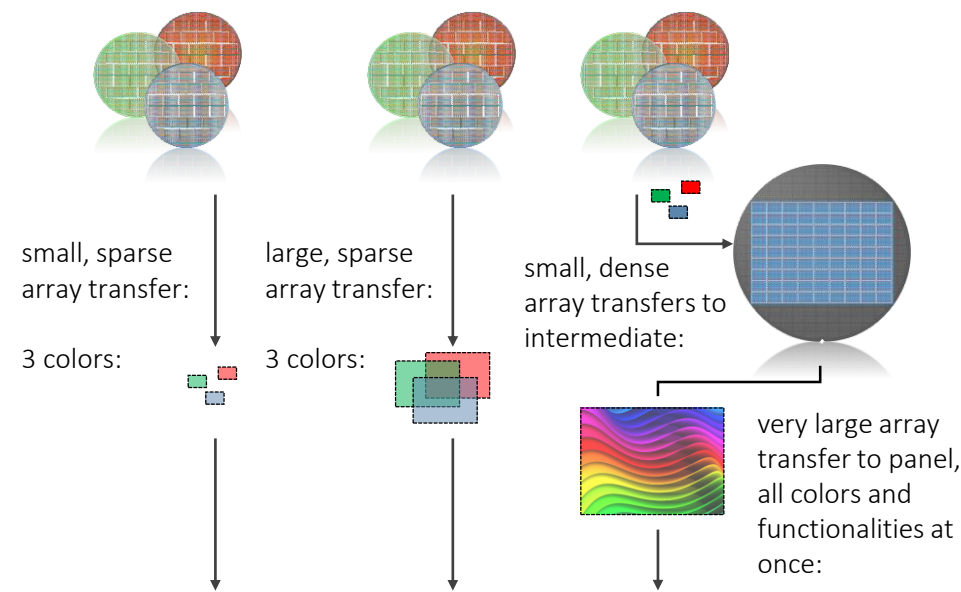








# Intermediate Substrates for Throughput & More



30.4" 1920 x 1080  $\mu$ LED Display

(A) wafer trio (R, G, B)  $\xrightarrow{1,260 \text{ prints}}$  [Grid]

(B) wafer trio (R, G, B)  $\xrightarrow{72 \text{ prints}}$  [Grid]

(C) wafer trio (R, G, B)  $\xrightarrow{210 \text{ prints}}$  [Grid]  $\xrightarrow{6 \text{ prints}}$  [Grid]

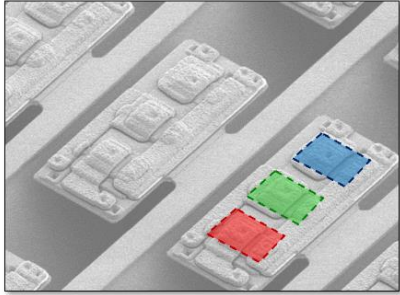
(D) wafer trio (R, G, B)  $\xrightarrow{12 \text{ prints}}$  [Grid]  $\xrightarrow{6 \text{ prints}}$  [Grid]

Requirements for 1M displays per year

Scenario	$\mu$ LED Wafers	Package Wafers	Prints per Display	Transfer Machines
A	15,625	-	1,260	888
B	20,000	-	72	51
C	15,625	122,400	31.7	23
D	20,000	122,400	7.5	6

ECTC 2017

# Assembly-centric display making



transfer-ready components



receive-ready panels

capital efficient  
transfer-factories



displays for all applications





# Thanks from the X-Celeprint team

