# A Low Cost OTFT Platform for Truly Flexible Electronics

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## A Unique Technology...

- The most significant new transistor and flexible electronics platform in decadesbased on **high performance** Organic Thin Film Transistor (OTFT)
- Enables true flexibility, bendability and unbreakability by combining FlexEnable backplane and with partners' frontplanes for LCD, OLED, EP Displays, Sensors & entire electronics systems on plastic
- Fully industrialised and suitable for manufacturing production





#### **Real Flexible Displays now ready**



In partnership with MCRCK



## Take another look at OTFT

Truly flexible electronics

- Unlike silicon, **OTFT is not one material**, but a family of materials that are always getting better
- Recently there has been a **breakthrough in chemistry** leading to a new class of polymer materials with high performance
- These polymers use coplanar backbone conformation with leads to molecular order through **aggregation rather than crystallisation**
- Creating greater charge transport and consistent processing conditions



# The OTFT performance revolution – now means that:



#### Stability to enable long lasting products



Current stability  $\Delta V_{th} < 0.3V$ 

# Flexibility to enable exciting new form factors



Bend radius < 0.25mm

Capabilities that unlock opportunities for ultra high growth markets...

# **Wearable Technology** \$23Bn market (2020)





http://www.analysysmason.com/About-Us/News/Insight/smartwearables-forecast-Sep2014/



http://www.marketsandmarkets.com/PressReleases/smart-sensor.asp



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#### **Favorable Trends**



**Curved displays** 



#### Wearable devices





'Shatterproof' products



Larger Auto displays

## **Display Technologies on Plastic**

EPD	LCD	OLED
<ul> <li>Benefits:</li> <li>Bistable (low power)</li> <li>Paperlike apperance</li> <li>Daylight readable</li> <li>Voltage drive</li> <li>Very flexible</li> </ul> Drawbacks: <ul> <li>Limited colour gamut</li> <li>No video rate</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Benefits:</li> <li>Video/good colour</li> <li>Reflective and transmissive available</li> <li>Manufactured at high yield using existing infrastructure</li> <li>Voltage drive</li> <li>Highly scalable</li> </ul> Drawbacks: <ul> <li>Can it be made?</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Benefits:</li> <li>Video/good colour</li> <li>Excellent optical performance</li> <li>Potential to be very flexible</li> </ul> Drawbacks: <ul> <li>Current driven</li> <li>Cost!!</li> <li>Questionable scalability</li> <li>Very good encapsulation required</li> </ul>

Only feasible with low temperature oTFT process



#### **Breakthrough OLCD on ultra low cost substrates**



Conforming an OLCD to a curved surface



FlexEnable's first colour OLCD display demonstrator

- Displays fabricated on TAC film @\$1/sqm (vs \$100/sqm for FRP)
- FlexEnable's low temp process and compatibility with existing LCD manufacturing processes is *enabling a cost breakthrough* for ultra-thin, light, robust and conformable displays
- 130 micron thin glass-free stack, can be laser cut to non-square shapes



#### **Advantages of plastic LCD vs glass**

Property	a-Si Glass	oTFT Plastic	Benefit	Comment
Weight (g/sqcm)	0.25	0.025	10x	Mobile phone = 17g lighter 55" TV = 2.5 kg lighter
Thickness (mm)	~1.2	~0.3	4x	Potential to go thinner with integrated polarizers
Radius of Curvature (mm)	4200	35	100x	Much greater potential for plastic
Freeform	Hard	Easy	-	Plastic display can be easily profiled with laser
Cost	Low	Low	Push	Plastic display is cost competitive in volume with performance benefits
Mobility performance	0.5	2.0	4x	Higher mobility can be used for more efficient or higher density
Electrical Leakage	1e-13	<1e-16	1000x	Lower leakage allows low power driving modes and flexibility in design



# **Extremely low leakage currents**



- Measurements of off current found to be limited by measurement system
- New test structure designed with W of  ${\bf 50,000} \mu m$
- Off current still limited by measurement system
- True on/off ratio in excess of 10<sup>8</sup>



#### **Extremely low frame rates**



- The probe consisted of an operational amplifier in buffer configuration
- The pixel capacitors are charged to 2.5V and then left to discharge through TFT OFF current to the data lines kept at 0V
- Noise in the measurement is primarily due to the probe



# **Extremely low power**



Calculation assumes reflective LC mode is used



# What is foldable

OTFT is **only** technology for foldable displays with bend radius ~ 0.5mm





# **Bending Colour OLED**





## Route to 'Foldable' AMOLED display



# EPT 華 F

#### In partnership with



### **Biometric Imaging Technology**

- Better imaging achieved through larger area and better rigid discrimination
- Cost per area similar to flat panel display (FPD) as opposed to crystalline silicon
- Opportunity to combine fingerprint and vein imaging on single sensor
- Thin and light making it easy to integrate into consumer devices
- Power consumption of sensor film is few hundred  $\mu W$



Parameter	Array Specifications
Sensor size	2" (4.8" also available)
Resolution	540 x 256 (1024 x 1024)
Pixel Density	300 dpi
Thickness	0.35mm
Weight	2.94g
Pixel Size	78µmx78µm
Pixel pitch	84µmx84µm
Active Area	21,5x45,35mm (86x86mm)



Plastic image sensor

# Fingerprint





## Transforming cost through under-utilised FPD capacity



- Today there are 37 million  $m^2$  of unutilised capacity in the global FPD industry across all Gen  $\rm sizes^1$
- Overcapacity higher at older, earlier generation lines (Gen 6 and below)
- FlexEnable process brings improved economics through product differentiation and diversity (sensors) using today's Sheet-2-Sheet equipment
- (1) DisplaySearch



# Activating surfaces with flexible displays and sensors

- FlexEnable has developed a revolutionary and low cost way of making flexible electronics
- Unbreakable, ultra-thin, light and flexible displays and sensors will enable gamechanging products which have been impossible until today.
- We are excited to work with like-minded companies to bring these exciting concepts to market.







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