

## INNOVATION STORIES

Leti technology in your products

## LETI INNOVATION STORIES

#### **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

NEW ARNANO	Nanoforme	5
APIX	Multigas analysis system	<b>7</b>
AVALUN	LabPad®	<b>9</b>
BEESPOON	Tracking chips	11
BUBENDORFF	ID2 autonome roller shutters	13
CAPSUM	Modernist serum No. 4	15
CITYZEN SCIENCES	The D-shirt, a smart T-shirt	17
CNES	Oersted's NMR magnetometer	19
CNES	The Swarm absolute magnetometer	21
CORIMA	Compact, invisible power meter	23
DEBIOTECH	Debioject micro-needle	25
DOCEA POWER	Ace Thermal Modeler	27
ESA	The PACS camera	29
FLUOPTICS	Fluobeam®	31
ILLUMINA	Digital microfluidics	33
IPDIA	Miniature condenser	35

NEW IPRASENSE	Cytonote	37
NEW ISKN	Slate	. 39
NEW LUCIOM	Li-fi	. 41
MAGILLEM	Magillem sequence editor	. 43
MICHELIN	Michelin truck tires	. 45
MICROOLED	Maryland	. 47
MORPHO	X-ray diffraction scanner	. 49
MOVEA	Nabaiji MP3	. 51
MULTIX	ME100 spectrometric detector	. 53
ORIDAO	Miniature RFID antenna	. 55
NEW RADIALL	V-band backhaul/fronthaul	. 57
RYB	Eliot	. 59
SERCEL	Vibration sensors	. 61
SOFRADIR	MCT detectors	. 63
STMICROELECTRONICS	A high-end phone camera	. 65
STMICROELECTRONICS	Sthorm P2012	. 67
NEW TECHNIP	Morphopipe	. 69
NEW TERRADONA	Cliiink®	. 71
THALES	Absolute pressure sensors	. 73
THALES	MEMS RF switches	. 75
NEW TPL	Printed & integrated antennas	. 77
TRONICS	All-silicon motion-sensing chip	. 79
ULIS	Pico1024 <sup>TM</sup>	. 81

## LETI INNOVATION STORIES

#### LETI TECHNOLOGY IN YOUR PRODUCTS

Leti is a technology research institute at CEA Tech and a recognized pioneer in creating high-performance, secure and energy-efficient miniaturization technologies for a large range of applications and markets. Committed to innovation, its teams create differentiating solutions for Leti's partners—global industrial companies, SMEs and startups.

Inside this document, you will find a selection of successful commercial products our partners have developed leveraging Leti's groundbreaking technologies.

To learn more about how you can innovate with Leti's experts and technologies, please contact: leti.contact@cea.fr

With Leti inside your products, anything is possible!



## NEW NANOFORME



KEEP YOUR DATA SAFE FOREVER

Archiving is a key process in any successful organization for administrative, legal or historical requirements, and until recently, organizations depended on material and technology that could not outlast the passage of time. What has changed is that Arnano and Leti developed an analog-based solution, replicating at a microscopic scale thousands of digital documents converted into images on a time-proof disk!





### ONANRA

#### THE TECHNOLOGY

Digital archiving being unsustainable in the long run, Leti developed an analogbased solution able to withstand the test of time. This breakthrough technology has since been transferred to Arnano, a start-up launched by Leti.

Researchers identified synthetic sapphire as a basic storage medium, the secondhardest in the world after diamond. Named "Fahrenheit 2451" because of its ability to resist fire, this Nanoform project of embedded sapphire substrates resulted in the production of new discs (5, 10 or 20 cm) that can store up to 10,000 pages (A4) or photos beyond the millennium. The non-encoded data is written with microscopic images within a thin film of titanium nitride on the first substrate. A second sapphire substrate protects the information. To assemble these layers, Leti researchers have developed a molecular adhesion bonding technique that rebuilds atomic bonds.

Nanoform withstands multiple attacks, including scratches, floods and fires and is unaffected by the introduction of new technologies. A 20-cm disc can store up to 10,000 pages (A4) or photos beyond the millennium. In another application of the technology, Arnano offers stunning sapphire medallions and components for elegant watches.



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## MULTIGAS ANALYSIS SYSTEM

TAKING GAS ANALYSIS OUT OF THE LAB AND ON THE ROAD

Gas analysis just got a lot less complicated. Apix Analytics' multigas analysis system can determine the composition of a gas sample at the sample collection point and without the need for cumbersome lab equipment. The analysis is just as accurate as traditional lab testing, but at a dramatically lower cost.

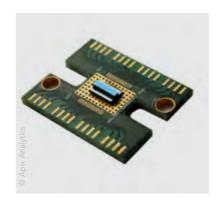




Apix Analytics' silicon-based labs-on-chip are much more compact than traditional lab testing equipment. The technology was invented by Leti and Caltech and is undergoing further development work at a joint Leti-Apix Analytics lab.

The labs feature a miniature chromatography column machined on silicon to separate the gases in the sample. The gases are then detected by nanoresonators that vibrate at a given frequency. The surface of each nanoresonator is covered with a chemical layer that promotes the adsorption of molecules. When the gas molecules are deposited onto the surface, the resonator's mass increases, and its vibration frequency changes. This information is used to determine the concentration of each component in a gas sample.

Apix Analytics is the first manufacturer to offer nanoresonator-based gas detection capabilities—crucial to ensuring sensitivity (down to parts per million or billion) and competitive cost.



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### **LABPAD®**

MY HANDY I AB

Performing routine blood tests right from the comfort of your own home could soon be a reality, thanks to Avalun's LabPad® mobile point-of-care device. All it takes is a drop of blood to get results like blood coagulation speed, blood sugar, or cholesterol in just minutes. The different types of tests can all be performed on the same reader; users just need to insert the appropriate disposable cartridge for the type of test prescribed by their healthcare provider.





The device is based on an advanced microscopy technology that leverages a CMOS sensor to pick up light diffraction patterns. Leti helped develop algorithms to reconstitute an "image" from the patterns. The image is then used to perform measurements like cell dynamics, colorimetry, and microscopy, all on the same reader.

The disposable cartridges (microcuvettes containing custom-developed reagents) round out this innovative system. Leti also helped develop the microfluidics technology used to carry the very tiny volumes of blood required for each test (less than 5 microliters) to the microscope's sensor.



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### TRACKING CHIPS

NEVER LOSE YOUR KEYS AGAIN

Are you tired of losing your keys, phone charger, or wallet? BeSpoon tracking chips can tell you where these and other everyday items are located, both indoors and out, to within several centimeters of accuracy and over distances of hundreds of meters. Simply equip frequently-misplaced objects with a tiny BeSpoon chip and install the app on your smartphone.





The chip on the object communicates with the user's smartphone via IR-UWB (impulse radio ultra wide band) communication. In other words, the chip uses extremely short radio signals to send information about the object's location.

The smartphone app uses the time between impulses to calculate how far away the object is—much like counting the seconds between lighting and thunder to determine how far away a storm is. And, because radio signals travel at the speed of light, the system (developed by researchers at Leti) is ultrasophisticated, with timing capabilities down to a few tenths of a billionth of a second.

The technology offers precision and reliability that far exceed what Wi-Fi can do over comparable distances, opening the door to new solutions to today's challenges.

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# ID2 AUTONOME ROLLER SHUTTERS

ROLLER SHUTTERS GO OFF THE GRID THANKS TO SOLAR ENERGY

Bubendorff, based in France's Alsace region, launched a revolutionary new roller shutter, the ID2 Autonome, in 2012.

The 100%-solar-powered shutter runs off a small PV solar panel and requires no backup power source.





All of the shutter's components were designed for optimal energy consumption and lifespan—backed by the manufacturer's seven-year guarantee.

Leti worked with CEA renewable energy lab Liten on the following product development issues:

- Selecting a high-performance battery
- Managing battery charging and discharging
- Improving the energy efficiency of shutter opening/closing
- Reducing standby energy consumption
- Improving the energy efficiency of the radio control system

Energy consumption for the radio control system was slashed by a factor of 100 as compared to previous-generation radio communication systems. The overall product is so energy-efficient that it can operate with no backup power even when installed on the north side of a building.

#### CONTACTS

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## MODERNIST SERUM NO. 4

#### **GENTLE AND BIOEFFECTIVE**

For a cosmetic to be effective, its active ingredient must be sufficiently well-protected to penetrate the skin and interact with cells.

Modernist Serum no. 4 is setting a new standard with nanovector encapsulation to protect active ingredients and deliver them to specific cells.





The active ingredient is encapsulated in NeoGouttes Target™, a biodegradable lipid-based nanovector with a hydrophilic membrane that can target specific cells. The product can encapsulate up to 70% of its weight in active ingredients. And, with a diameter of around 100 nm, NeoGouttes Target™ penetrates the skin easily to reach the desired cells.

Leti transferred its nanovector technology to cosmetics science company Capsum in 2010. Capsum encapsulates active ingredients for its customers and manufactures its own line of products. The same nanovector technology is also used to carry drugs to specific organs.

Leti's nanovectors do more than just protect active ingredients. They can be used to target delivery to specific cells by grafting a biomolecule onto their surface.



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# THE D-SHIRT, A SMART T-SHIRT

#### SUPER-INSTRUMENTED ATHLETIC GARMENT

The D-Shirt provides athletes all the crucial data they need—heart rate, body temperature, speed, acceleration, geolocation, altitude, and more—in real time during a training session. And, once the training session is over, the data can be downloaded to a smartphone or computer to be analyzed or shared... and the D-Shirt goes right in the washing machine like any other piece of clothing.

The D-Shirt even earned its manufacturer, Cityzen Sciences, an award at CES 2014 in Las Vegas.





Leti leveraged its existing expertise in the field of sensors and conducted a thorough review of the global state of the art to help Cityzen Sciences make the right choices for applying Body Area Network (BAN) technology to its future product—because the human body is mainly water, it can disrupt and otherwise complicate wireless communications, something the R&D work had to take into account

Leti's recommendations included technical standards, transmission frequencies, and antenna shapes, as well as the use of energy-efficient wired and wireless communication standards suitable for use with Body Area Networks.

Leti also determined how communications between the different sensors could be distributed (wired and wireless) across the D-Shirt .



#### **CONTACTS**

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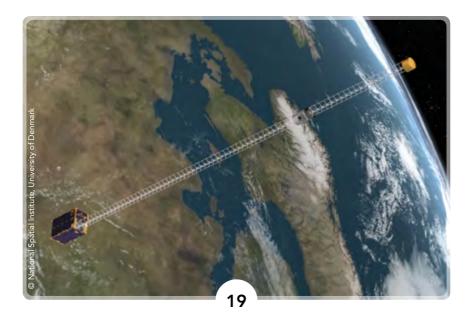
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## OERSTED'S NMR MAGNETOMETER

FROM THE TITANIC TO SPACE FLIGHT

A nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) magnetometer was used in 1987 to search the North Atlantic for the sunken Titanic. Twelve years later, the same high-precision device was launched into space on board the Danish Space Institute's Oersted satellite, where it is being used to measure the intensity of Earth's magnetic field and track any fluctuations. The purpose of the mission is to map the magnetic field for use in scientific and industrial research.





Oersted's NMR magnetometer was developed in conjunction with CNES, the French National Space Agency. Based on a terrestrial version of the device, the "space" version is smaller and lighter in weight: new materials were used to bring it from 2 kg to 800 g.

A full two years of research and development went into issues like vibration—and shock-resistance—radiation hardening, operation at temperatures ranging from -20°C to 50°C, and metrological testing. The scalar magnetometer was combined with fluxgate sensors to determine the direction of the magnetic field.

Oersted was launched in 1999 for a fourteen-month mission, and has been providing data to scientists worldwide since 2006. Today it continues to send data occasionally, depending on its electricity reserves. The NMR magnetometer is the only instrument on board that is still functioning.



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## THE SWARM ABSOLUTE MAGNETOMETER

EXAMINING FARTH'S MAGNETIC FIFLD FROM ALL ANGLES

Earth's magnetic field—an invisible shield that deflects ozone-damaging solar wind, protecting our planet from radiation—is now under the watchful eyes of optically pumped helium magnetometers launched on board the three Swarm mission satellites. The magnetometers' extreme precision will help create a new model of Earth's magnetic field that will be of great use to both scientific and industrial researchers.





The ESA's Swarm mission positions Europe at the leading edge of global research on Earth's magnetic field. CNES, the French National Space Agency, supported the mission by providing absolute magnetometers developed by Leti. The devices offer neverbefore-seen precision of 65 picoteslas, making it possible to take scalar measurements—to assess the magnetic field's intensity—as well as experimental vector measurements to determine the field's direction. This is the first time ever that two such measurements have been combined in the same instrument.

Designed by Leti with technical support and financial backing from CNES and the participation of scientists from IPGP (the Paris Institute of Earth Physics), the magnetometers leverage technologies—like a fiber laser with no thermal control system—never before used for space applications. All of the device's materials and subassemblies are, of course, nonmagnetic.

Swarm was launched in November 2013; the magnetometers were delivered in flight in early 2014 and will continue to orbit at between 510 km and 300 km above Earth's surface for at least four years.



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# COMPACT, INVISIBLE POWER METER

MINIATURE SENSORS INSIDE BICYCLE WHEELS

Cyclists who want to know how much power they are generating with each push of the pedal can find out by mounting several sensors on their bicycles, either on the rear-wheel axis or on the pedals themselves. France-based carbon-composite bicycle component manufacturer Corima is taking this concept even further. The manufacturer's new power sensor—developed in conjunction with Leti—is integrated into its carbon bicycle wheels, where it can measure power sight unseen.





Integrating the sensor into a carbon wheel weighing in at just 500 grams created some major challenges. The new sensor had to be both small and extremely lightweight.

Power output is calculated via indirect measurements and takes into account other factors affecting the wheel, such as the cyclist's weight and fluctuating wheel angles due to curves or a standing pedaling posture, for instance. The measurement remains robust at temperatures ranging from -15°C to 50°C.

Leti contributed its expertise in the field of sensors, while Corima brought proven experience modelling the distribution of power through bicycle wheels. The development work also required solid know-how in electronics, signal processing, and wireless communication (to transmit data to the meter in real time).

#### CONTACTS

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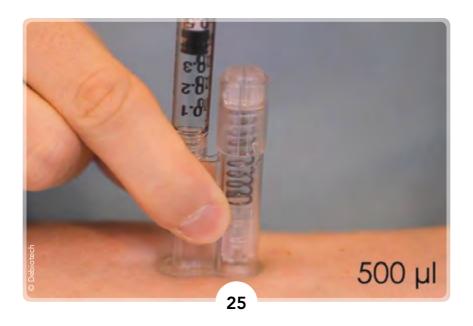
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## DEBIOJECT MICRO-NEEDLE

DON'T LIKE SHOTS? FEAR NO MORE!

With the Debioject micro-needle by Debiotech, injections are no longer something to fear. Measuring less than a millimeter, the needle penetrates the top layers of the epidermis where it does not significantly affect nerve endings. This makes administering vaccines and other drugs pain-free, more effective, and—because the new injection system reduces the amount of drug required by a factor of ten—more economical.





The 700-micron-long micro-needle is made from silicon, chosen for its mechanical properties. The needle was invented and co-patented by KTH (Royal Institute of Technology, Sweden), and later prototyped at the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne. Leti launched larger-scale production of the needle for the first clinical trials, improving production yields by using more stable processes on 200 mm wafers.

The needle is formed by a series of deep engravings on the silicon. The injection canal is engraved on the back side, and then the body of the needle is formed on the front side. The two axes are offset slightly to create a hole located on the side of the needle, through which the drug is ultimately injected.

Each wafer yields around 1,400 needles; the needles are then cut out and mounted on a plastic injector by a plastics subcontractor.



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# ACE THERMAL MODELER

TURNING DOWN THE HEAT

The multicore circuits used to power latest-generation computers and tablets are so powerful that they generate dozens of watts of thermal energy. In other words, they get pretty hot!

Docea Power has developed a unique software application capable of evaluating—very early on in the design phase—the thermal behavior of a future circuit. The goal is to help circuit designers turn down the heat while keeping circuit performance high.





The new software will round out Docea Power's existing Aceplorer energy-consumption-modelling and AceThermalModeler heat-flow-modelling software packages.

Leti and List interfaced these software applications with a virtual multicore circuit platform to create a unique simulation environment that creates a detailed picture of the entire circuit's thermal behavior. Designers can leverage these valuable insights to compare different use strategies and to develop and test thermal compensation algorithms, for instance.

Perhaps the most crucial point in the development process was to be able to guarantee the validity of the new models and tools. To do this, Leti came up with a thermal model of a 3D processormemory circuit. When compared to silicon-based measurements, the margin of error for the model was less than 5%. This early-design-stage approach offers performance far surpassing that of the after-the-fact design adjustments that are currently the norm.

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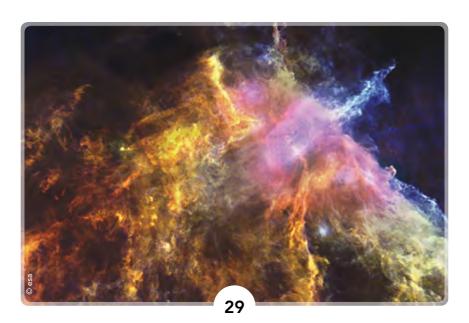
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### THE PACS CAMERA

**OBSERVING STARS AND GALAXIES FROM SPACE** 

Among the three state-of-the-art instruments on board the ESA's 2009 Herschel satellite mission was an extraordinarily precise infrared camera which, if used on Earth, would be capable of picking up a 100-watt light bulb 300,000 kilometers away. In space, the camera is being used to observe the early stages in the formation of stars and galaxies to deepen our understanding of the origin of the universe. In the four years since it was launched, Herschel has provided 25,000 hours of data to some 600 observation programs.





Leti developed a new kind of bolometer for the Pacs camera (one of the three instruments on board Herschel) that offers a much greater number of pixels than existing cameras: 2,048 for the blue array (made up of eight perfectly-joined matrices), and 512 for the red array (with two matrices).

The matrices operate at wavelengths of between 55 and 210 microns and offer record-breaking sensitivity of  $10^{-16}$  W/ $\sqrt{\text{Hz}}$ . A cooling system keeps them at 0.3 Kelvin.

Leti worked with IRFU, the Institute for Research on the Fundamental Laws of the Universe, to develop a new silicon technology to meet the unique specifications of infrared/submillimeter astronomy. The most critical points in the development work included the pixels' vibration-resistance, the connection to the thermal sensor, and calibration of this new type of instrument.

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### **FLUOBEAM®**

#### SHEDS LIGHT ON TUMORS

Fluoptics, a Leti start-up, has developed a fluorescence imaging probe that lets surgeons see the edges of a tumor in real time to within a half-a-millimeter accuracy. The probe helps surgeons make sure they remove all tumor cells and avoid damaging healthy tissue. They can also see tissue vascularization and vein obstructions—useful during stenosis or bypass surgery, for instance.





To develop the technology, Leti had to overcome a significant hurdle: the light signal emitted by the fluorescent tracer injected into the patient is around a million times weaker than the light used to activate it

The solution took the form of a light filtering system designed and built by Leti. The filter is integrated into the overall acquisition system (made up of a CCD camera and a laser with the right wavelength for viewing the fluorophores).

Early models of the system required darkness for image acquisition. Leti improved the filtering system and adjusted the lighting configuration to allow surgeons to get a sharp view of tissue and the circulatory system in normal operating-room conditions.



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## DIGITAL **MICROFLUIDICS**

A 100-CM<sup>2</sup>, 50-GRAM FULLY INTEGRATED LAB

Illumina's table-top lab on chip may be small, but it packs in an impressive range of functions. The lab does all the things a "real" lab can do, from dispensing, mixing, and rinsing substances to adding reagents. Testing samples requires only tiny 300-nanoliter droplets of various reagents. That's barely a hundredth of a drop of liquid. The lab is currently used to prepare samples for DNA Next Generation Sequencing on Illumina's platforms.





The lab-on-chip technology developed by Leti and Illumina, which acquired Leti R&D partner Advanced Liquid Logic, is based on an innovative sampling method that differentiates it from other LOCs. By using electrowetting on dielectric to move and mix liquids and reagents, it eliminates the need for pumps and valves.

An electric field-applied by activating an electrode under the droplet-moves the liquid to the desired location at the desired speed. This opens the door to automation, while taking system miniaturization to new dimensions

Illumina and Leti have each filed many patents for electrowetting technologies. So, it was only natural for them to continue collaborating to improve labon-chip performance, reliability and cost.



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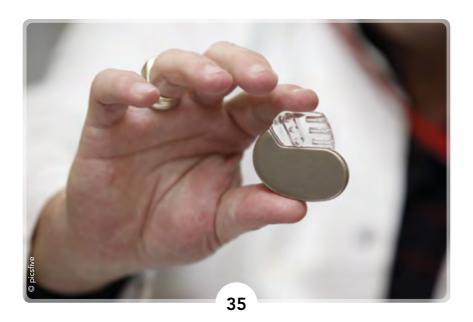
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## MINIATURE CONDENSER

KEEPING A CLOSE EYE ON CARDIAC FUNCTION

Measuring just a few square millimeters, IPDiA's latest condensers are setting new records for miniaturization—not to mention stability and reliability—for a particularly demanding application, cardiac pacemakers. For a pacemaker to effectively regulate a patient's heartbeat, the heart must receive an electrical signal at perfectly regular intervals. The condensers could also be used in the deep brain stimulation (DBS) therapy used to treat Parkinson's.





Leti helped IPDiA's engineers miniaturize the condenser by replacing the dielectric materials originally used with a new material offering a constant k three times higher. However, because the new material could not withstand temperatures higher than 400°C (vs. 800°C for the original material), several steps in the process had to be overhauled.

The project milestones included ALD and engraving of the dielectric material and improvements to the barrier layers. The new material had to be deposited on 3D structures with a truly atypical form factor—a problem that Germany's Fraunhofer Institute, a Leti partner, helped resolve. The resulting condenser obtained a record-breaking capacity of 500 nF/mm<sup>2</sup>



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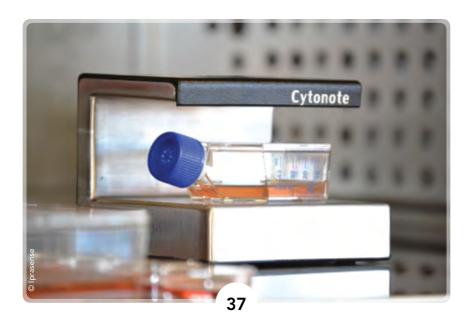


# NEW CYTONOTE



MORE THAN 20,000 CELLS AT A TIME

Flexible, small and powerful, this mini microscope works with standard lab dishes and performs directly in an incubator to record cell-culture images and changes over long periods. In the process, it characterizes cultures in real time, including rate of cell division, cell viability values, migration and total count. Lab techs can track up to 20,000 cells at a time with Cytonote's 29.4 mm² sensor. Highly compact and robust, this low-cost device allows considerable space savings.







Developed in partnership with Iprasense, Cytonote offers an ultra-wide field-ofview with 20,000 cells at a time, per image. Each mini-reader is equipped with LEDs and CMOS sensors that provide timelapse images of cell-culture activity and changes without imprint. No particular settings, such as focus or brightness, are required because several algorithms developed by Leti researchers take care of everything.

Leti wanted to design a lensless imaging technology to increase the field-of-view by 10 compared to standard microscope offerings. Images available on screen are released thanks to holographic reconstruction. Diffracted by cells, light from the LED draws a hologram pattern that is recorded by CMOS sensors. Leti researchers developed several holographic algorithms to rebuild the captured images.

Economic and ergonomic, its 132-cm<sup>2</sup> foot print fits in any work place. Cytonote is packed with handy features, works with any media culture and offers crisp, high-contrast images.

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# NEW SLATE



### DIGITIZE YOUR ARTWORK AND NOTES

Put away your pens and pads? No way! It wouldn't feel natural! Still, digital media does tempt you with all those applications.

Then, this Slate is made for you. Tactile and digital, it lets you work on real paper, in your favorite notebook. You simply slip a magnetic ring on your drawing tool and Slate digitizes all your sketching in real-time. Then simply send your artwork to your computer, and improve it with those great digital editing tools!



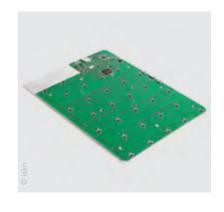




To convert handwritten marks into I's & O's, ISKN—a successful French start-up—adapted Leti's 70 years of expertise in magnetism for pen and paper. The concept is simplicity itself—a magnetic ring added on any pen generates a magnetic field that tracks the pen's movement over a matrix of 32 magnetometers.

To make this breakthrough technology marketable, ISKN and Leti modeled the magnetic ring and set up the signal processing though several algorithms that track the ring's 3D position and orientation with excellent accuracy in real time. This high level of accuracy was made possible thanks to a powerful calibration technique of these magnetometers.

Slate works autonomously, whether online or offline. It provides a long battery life (up to 10 hours) and lots of storage space (400,000 pages). A USB or wireless (BLE) connection transfers scanned artwork or notes to a computer or tablet. ISKN's Imagink software includes a wide range of editing tools—colors, pencil leads, cropping, among many others. So far, ISKN and Leti have filed 20 patents together for this technology.



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### ULTRA HIGH-SPEED INTERNET RUNNING ON VISIBLE LIGHT

Wi-Fi sees the light! This technology transfers data via light—a perfectly free frequency band. Offering a safe alternative to radio frequency waves, Li-Fi meets radio frequency sensitive-area requirements, a concern for hospitals and schools. It also addresses security concerns because transmissions, reaching speeds up to 100 Mbit/s as far as three meters from any LED-based lamp, do not pass through walls.







Leti built its high-speed and low-cost Li-Fi solution based on deep expertise in digital communication and LED lighting. Researchers' efforts focused on modem development, including the channel-access protocol and multi-carrier system modulation aspects. Since then, this breakthrough technology has been successfully transferred to Luciom.

To transmit info using regular direct or indirect LED lighting, digital data is converted into light signals, then sent to a 5 × 7 cm portable receiver equipped with a USB port. This receiver can connect a wide range of devices. An infrared light beam triggers a return signal, offering an upstream speed of 5Mbit/s, while LED lighting reaches a downstream transmission of 20 Mbit/s within 3 meters. Leti researchers are hoping to achieve 100 Mbit/s by 2017.

Li-Fi converts lights and lamps into a new communication-and-service tool. Each LED lamp can connect users to any network, including the Internet, enable geolocation and connect up to 15 objects without affecting the quality of light. Li-Fi offers a great alternative to the RF spectrum, which is increasingly congested due to the explosion in the amount of data exchanges and the emerging Internet of Things.



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# MAGILLEM SEQUENCE EDITOR

SMART DOCUMENTATION NOW EVEN SMARTER

Smart documentation specialist Magillem is already known for its hardware description environment for chip designers and integrators. Today, Magillem has joined forces with Leti to develop an additional module, intended for software-on-chip developers, that can generate a description of the hardware's operation, effectively placing a complete hardware user guide in developers' hands. Now developers no longer have to figure it out as they go along, and can optimize their software to get the most out of the hardware, especially with regard to factors like energy consumption.





Leti and List leveraged their know-how in low-power circuits and, especially, fine-tuning software power consumption to help create the new module, which gives developers a logical, high-level overview of the various states—low power, transmission, reception—the hardware goes through during operation.

The description generated is coherent with the hardware's structure and is automatically corrected if the hardware is modified in any way.

Software developers can now write code and launch executables, assessing their impact on heat dissipation. The module was tested on several Leti chips and circuits and a functional prototype was transferred to Magillem.

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## MICHELIN TRUCK TIRES

NOW FOUIPPED WITH MEMORY

Tires may seem simple enough, but they pack in some pretty advanced technology. Truck tires in particular must be able to withstand moving several tons over hundreds of thousands of kilometers. Tire maker Michelin hopes to make its truck tires even better by embedding memory right into the rubber. The memory would store the tire's entire history, from manufacturing date and plant through to maintenance and retreading.





The memory is an RFID tag much like those used on parcels stored in a warehouse or on certain products found on supermarket shelves. The challenge is to make sure the tags work once embedded inside the tire's structure, where they must overcome hurdles like the tire's metal plies, which interfere with radio transmission; the distortion that occurs with each rotation of the wheel; and harsh road conditions like temperature variations and impacts.

It took Leti and Michelin six years to get the RFID tags to perform up to their standards. To do so, they tested a total of 50,000 tires over 6 billion kilometers. Michelin is the world's first tire manufacturer to introduce tires with built-in memory.



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### **MARYLAND**

HD MICRO OLED DISPLAYS

The Panasonic Lumix GH3's electronic viewfinder packs in a technological advance that doubles resolution while consuming half the energy of other viewfinders—a micro OLED (organic light-emitting diode) display of less than a half-inch on the diagonal. The innovation should eventually find its way into all digital SLR cameras, where it will gradually replace today's optical viewfinders. The micro displays are also used in video glasses and in healthcare and security applications.





MicroOLED is working with Leti on the micro displays. Fabrication is a particularly tricky step, and must be completed in a clean room using microelectronics equipment. And the clean room is where the company's Maryland micro OLED display was hatched.

The display features an active layer made from organic semiconductor material. Less than 100 nm thick, the layer is protected by another layer that is hermetically sealed and transparent. Colored and pixelated filters transform the light emitted, which is white, to create HD color images. The entire system is protected mechanically by a permanent glass cover.

The fabrication process was fine-tuned to obtain around 100 screens per 200 mm silicon wafer. Reliability was also improved, and the process is now robust and cost-effective enough for consumer applications.



### CONTACTS

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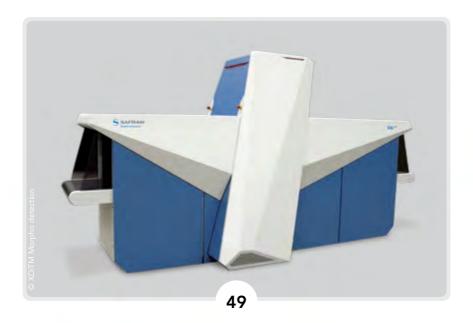
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# X-RAY DIFFRACTION SCANNER

MAKING AIRPORT SECURITY CHECKS FASTER AND MORE RELIABLE

Boarding your flight with a bottle of water could once again become a reality. Morpho (a Safran company) has developed a new airport baggage scanner that can identify dangerous liquids inside baggage. The new scanner is more accurate than what is currently available on the market, and, with four times fewer false alarms—and the resulting manual searches—it should help get travelers with permissible liquids in their baggage to their gates faster.

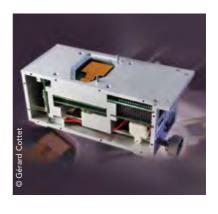




Morpho's checkpoint imaging system, which uses X-ray diffraction, is made up of multiple semiconductor-based detectors developed by Leti. The device, for which Leti holds around ten patents, operates at ambient temperature and combines a Cd(Zn)Te detector and CMOS read circuit providing photon counting and energy measurement capabilities.

Morpho combined Leti's innovation with a multi-energy signal processing method that analyzes the diffracted photons to determine a substance's molecular structure—which is then used to identify the substance.

This unique detection and identification system brings false alarms down drastically, from 20% with current systems to just 5%.



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### NABAIJI MP3

SWIMMERS CAN NOW COUNT SONGS, NOT LAPS

Swimming laps just got a little less tedious, thanks to the Nabaiji MP3 player, sold under the Passion Nabaiji brand at Décathlon sporting goods stores (an Oxylane company). The MP3 player counts the number of turns a swimmer makes to calculate the total distance covered—freeing swimmers from tedious lap counting so they can simply swim and enjoy their favorite music. Another great feature: when time is up or the desired number of lengths has been completed, the music stops, alerting the swimmer.





Leti and List worked with Movea, a start-up specializing in motion-sensing technology, to develop a system to detect a swimmer's turns. Several different sensors—accelerometers, magnetometers, and gyrometers—can be used.

The algorithms developed had to be energy efficient to maximize battery life and powerful enough to interpret the signals from the sensors. The algorithms had to be able to distinguish between turns at the end of the swimming lane and other movements, regardless of factors like the pool's direction with regard to north, the direction in which the sensor is worn on the swimmer's head, the swim stroke used, and the swimmer's ability level.

Movea, Leti, and List worked with Nabaiji product designers to come up with an innovative product that stands out for its reliability. The MP3 player accurately displays the actual distance covered in the pool. The product—currently the only one of its kind on the market—lets swimmers keep an eye on performance even while listening to music.



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# ME100 SPECTROMETRIC DETECTOR

FASTER, MORE RELIABLE BAGGAGE SCREENING

Over the next few years, waiting times at the airport security check could get much shorter. MultiX has developed a detection system capable of identifying suspicious materials and objects with a high degree of reliability. Airport security staff will no longer need to open as many bags as a precautionary measure, because MultiX's system sees inside as if the bags were already open!





Today's baggage screening systems use X-rays and two detectors that "read" the X-rays; one for high-energy photons and the other for low-energy photons.

The new screening system uses a spectrometric detector that counts all of the photons and measures their energy. The information is more complete, the analysis more thorough, and the capacity to differentiate different types of objects and materials more accurate.

Leti leveraged its medical radiography know-how (which includes spectrometric X- and gamma-ray measurement and the associated data processing) to improve the baggage screening system's performance.

MultiX's system uses a detector and data-processing method developed specifically for baggage screening.



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## MINIATURE RFID ANTENNA

NEARBY METAL PARTS NO LONGER A PROBLEM

Metal is a RFID antenna's worst nightmare, disrupting bandwidth and causing overall efficiency to plummet. Secure RFID solutions provider Oridao turned to Leti to develop a miniature antenna capable of working in close quarters with metal parts. The antenna operates to specifications, even when mounted on metal—from the smallest metal part to an airplane wing!





The antenna was developed on a low-cost multilayer printed circuit board. The researchers fine-tuned the different metallization levels and the layer composition to correct for any disturbances caused by nearby metal parts. In particular, a unique design was developed for the bottom layer—that closest to the metal surface.

The component delivered to Oridao measures 54 mm × 38 mm × 8 mm —half the size of a standard RFID antenna—making it suitable for mounting even on small parts.

Two versions of the antenna were developed, 866 MHz for the European frequency bands and 915 MHz for the US frequency bands. However, the technology used allows the antenna to be modified for other frequencies if necessary. The antenna's read range, around a meter, is compatible with the applications being targeted.



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## V-BAND BACKHAUL/ FRONTHAUL

5G HIGH-SPEED POINT-TO-POINT COMMUNICATION

Want to help world meet the need for speed? Tailored for fifth-generation (5G) wireless communication networks, these low-cost and adaptable antennas easily integrate into backhaul systems. Unobtrusive, they can be deployed in a wide range of infrastructure—buildings, street lights etc.—to implement point-to-point communication at data-transfer rates of up to 20 Gb/s! Enough to satisfy an ever-increasing craving for speed.







Leveraging its expertise in radiofrequency technology and antenna design, Leti has partnered with Radiall on technology development for Wireless Backhaul and Fronthaul systems since 2014. These networks require the implementation of high-speed pointto-point communication—or backhaul systems (1-20 Gb/s)—at millimeter wave frequency bands. High-gain antennas are great tools to offset propagation losses. Made on printed circuit boards, these array antennas offer a low cost, efficient, robust and reliable solution to the rapid growth of mobile data traffic and future IoT needs

A metallized plastic focal source lights up a steel dielectric planar circular-shape array (100 mm diameter) comprised of 1,264 unit cells, just like a lens, focusing the light, which in turn falls within a given solid angle. The antenna's fixed-andnarrow beam transmits information from one point to another with a gain greater than 31 dBi within the 57-66 GHz band. With its low depth format (85 mm) and adaptable focal system, this V-band antenna can be easily integrated into any backhaul system. Today, Leti's team of researchers continues their work to improve efficiency, reduce thickness and build a controlled-radiation-pattern antenna.



### CONTACTS

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## **ELIOT**

### THE SMART PIPE THAT COMMUNICATES ITS LOCATION

Every year in France thousands of underground assets—like water and gas lines—are damaged during digging work, simply because their exact location cannot be determined accurately. Today there is a solution. Ryb has developed Eliot, a smart piping system equipped with RFID chips capable of sending accurate location information down to the centimeter at depths of up to 1.5 meters. The chips also store information like the type of piping (water or gas), manufacturing date, serial number, and diameter.





Eliot, which was developed in conjunction with Leti, features RFID tags embedded in the piping material at regular intervals and a reading and detection device used above ground.

RFID technology was originally developed for traceability applications. The technology had to be modified to detect and locate chips underground in a variety of conditions.

Thanks to a patented antenna design, transmission (at 13.56 MHz) remains robust despite use in a wide range of conditions. The antenna design is patented. The RFID tags are also robust, and can withstand the high temperatures of the extrusion process.

Eliot is the world's first communicating piping system.



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### VIBRATION SENSORS

### FOR OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION

Sercel's seismic acquisition systems help oil and gas companies pinpoint the best locations for exploratory drilling.

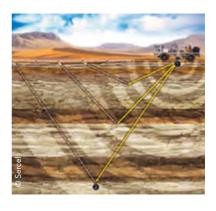
During seismic exploration, thousands of vibration sensors—10,000 times more sensitive than those inside your average smartphone—are positioned across the area being explored. Acoustic waves created by vibrating trucks are then propagated underground, where they are reflected back to the surface from depths of several kilometers and measured at locations up to ten kilometers away. The waves' "travel times" are calculated, providing valuable insights into the geological formations underground.





Seismic acquisition systems generally use analog (a coil and magnet) components. In 1996 Leti and Sercel developed a radically different miniature sensor on silicon. Since then, the system has undergone constant improvements, resulting in performance that remains the best available worldwide.

A suspended mobile structure measuring several square millimeters and integrating a network of intercalated fingers between fixed fingers is subjected to acceleration. The resulting movement—just a few millionths of a millimeter—is measured by capacitive sensing and offset by a feedback mechanism. This structure, so sensitive that the impact of air molecules would be visible, is sealed in a high-vacuum enclosure. The resulting device offers a resolution of 15 nano g/\/Hz and dynamics of 130 dB.



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## **MCT DETECTORS**

INFRARED VISION FOR SPACE, DEFENSE, HEALTHCARE, AND MORE

Sofradir's infrared imager matrices are the best when it comes to detecting the infrared radiation emitted by the human body and hot objects. The matrices operate at very low temperatures (-192°C) and only require a few photons to detect the presence of a body or object. They are used in military night-vision systems, on weather satellites and space probes, and in industrial and commercial applications.





Sofradir has been working with Leti on the matrices for 25 years. To develop their innovative semiconductor alloy (mercury cadmium telluride, or MCT), they had to first understand its fundamental properties, perfect fabrication and doping, and improve the material from one generation to the next to make the detectors increasingly powerful.

Today Sofradir is the global market leader for MCT detectors, and the world's second-leading manufacturer of "cooled" infrared detectors.

And additional improvements are under development, including further reducing pixel size without compromising detection capacity, detecting signals from as little as a single photon per pixel, reducing energy consumption to just a few watts to increase battery life, and designing matrices that can operate at higher temperatures.



### CONTACTS

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# A HIGH-END PHONE CAMERA

IT GIVES "REAL" CAMERAS A RUN FOR THEIR MONEY

With features like video and photo modes, HD, autofocus, image stabilizers, a choice of portrait or landscape format, and QR code readers, the phone cameras developed by STMicroelectronics do everything "real" cameras do. And the company has overcome some impressive technological hurdles to pack a dazzling array of new capabilities into an increasingly small package.





STMicroelectronics and Leti have been working together for a number of years on technologies to enable the explosion of imaging applications for mobile telephony. Leti provided STMicroelectronics with a through silicon via (TSV) technology brick and processes to make thinner imager retinas and boost photon collection efficiency.

STMicroelectronics is able to incorporate ultra-compact imagers into cameras of various formats (such as VGA) thanks to the TSV technology, which allows imager chip connections to pass through the silicon rather than around it, saving space. In the future, the TSVs' form factor could be reduced to 20, making the imagers' integration into new devices possible.

Furthermore, the process used to thin the imager retinas is making very-high-performance 13-megapixel imagers a reality for mobile telephony applications. And, with better sensitivity and new imager processes over the horizon, pixels under 1 micrometer could soon become a strong possibility.



### CONTACTS

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### STHORM P2012

AUGMENTED REALITY, LOW ENERGY CONSUMPTION

STHORM P2012 is a massively parallel multiprocessor capable of detecting people, buildings, road signs, and other objects directly from an image produced by an embedded camera, adding new information, and making fast decisions. This multicore SoC developed by STMicroelectronics with Leti's and List's support can perform these and other complex operations faster than ever with unrivalled energy consumption.

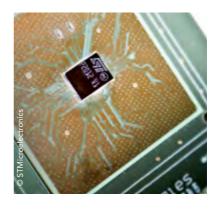




The 100-gigaFLOPS-processor packs in no fewer than 69 cores in under 20 sq. mm with power consumption coming in at just under one watt.

Leti's "ANoC" asynchronous network ensures independent, optimized operation of each SoC processor. This truly unique technology comes with its own embedded software to constantly adjust each processor's voltage and frequency depending on demand from applications—drastically reducing energy consumption.

Sthorm P2012 leverages STM icroelectronics' 28 nm low-power technology and is 3D-ready: its architecture is compatible with the 3D integration systems used in Wioming.



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## NEW MORPHOPIPE



FLEXIBLE, UNDERWATER PIPE-MONITORING SYSTEM

This technology unlocks the secrets of underwater flexible pipelines! Embedded sensors in the critical first 30 meters continuously monitor any deformations. Costeffective and safe, this system is designed to improve pipe quality and sustainability, and, at the same time, prevent oil spill emergencies.



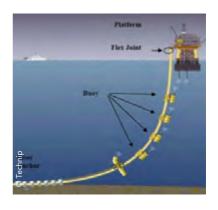




To maximize sustainability, reduce manufacturing costs and tackle a serious environmental problem, Technip tracks conditions of flexible-pipes installed underwater for offshore oil and gas production. As a world leader in engineering and technology for the oil industry, Technip chose Leti for its expertise in mathematical modeling and MEMS technology.

Leti researchers have developed a measuring instrument. Named Morphopipe, it is comprised of MEMS sensors, including accelerometers embedded in the flexible pipe surface. Leti identified and selected several sensors and worked on the implementation of network and system architecture. Additionally, Leti established a specific mathematical algorithm able to determine the pipe's curvature, tracking any deformations caused by sea conditions.

At the same time, a more thorough study was conducted to address integration and sensor-calibration challenges. Reliability, integration and functionality tests were jointly conducted. The Morphopipe project won Technip's Franquelin award for innovation.



### **CONTACTS**

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# NEW CLIIINK®



### SMART CONTAINER REWARDS GREEN PRACTICES

Smart, autonomous, incentive-based and cheap... Equipped with the Cliiink® box, this container has it all! Ultra-resistant sensors verify the nature and amount of the waste deposited and, what's more, the Cliiink® app or contactless card rewards users with customized shopping coupons! Ideal for ongoing maintenance, the fill rate is sent every night to optimize collection service. Everyone wins with Cliiink®, even the Earth!



### NEW

### THE TECHNOLOGY

To reward eco-friendly practices, Leti and Terradona identified and fabricated several low-cost sensors that are strong enough to operate in a harsh and sometimes isolated environment, in both outdoor and buried containers. This unique combination of MEMS sensors identifies glass and other items and calculates both the size and amount of waste deposited, while ensuring minimal energy consumption. Advanced algorithms in each sensor provide highreliability characterization. To generate appropriate signals, the mechanical part of the system also has been thoroughly studied.

Leti also worked on the communication function, incorporating Bluetooth Low Energy functionality. To implement a fair reward system based on the use of the container, data collected from the sensors is sent to a centralized server that converts this information into gift vouchers with Cliiink's app or a secure web interface.

The container fill level is sent every day to a professional web-based interface via an onboard cellular radio network on Cliiink's card.





### CONTACTS

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# ABSOLUTE PRESSURE SENSORS

ALTITUDE 2,000 FEET, FLIGHT SPEED 207 KPH

Absolute pressure sensors are crucial to measuring a helicopter's altitude and flight speed. And Thales has developed a new sensor that offers revolutionary precision of 0.05% no matter what you throw at it. The sensor's performance even stands up to the vibrations, landing impacts, intense accelerations, and extreme temperature fluctuations (from -40°C to 200°C) found on board your average helicopter.



#### THE TECHNOLOGY

Leti's all-silicon pressure sensors replaced the bulkier, less-reliable metal-membrane sensors traditionally used. The Leti sensors are made from crystalline silicon, offering excellent mechanical performance and enhanced temperature stability.

The detection principle used was improved to meet the performance and temperature-resistance requirements of the target application. Piezoresistive strain gauges on an insulator were used to measure the deformation of a membrane, one side of which was exposed to a reference pressure level. The gauges are engraved on SOI (silicon-on-insulator). The silicon oxide layer located under the gauges prevents leakage current, which enhances the device's temperature stability.

This absolute pressure sensor was successfully tested for use in aerospace applications. First developed in 1998, the sensor today continues to offer the best performance on the market.



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### MEMS RF SWITCHES

MICRO SWITCHES IN SPACE

Switches are important components on board a satellite, performing a range of crucial functions. For example, if there is an incident on a circuit, a switch is used to transfer the load to a working circuit. Thales Alenia Space is planning to integrate a new generation of switches—ten times smaller than those currently in use—into its products. The switches under development were tested on the ground for more than a year. Several test switches were then sent into space in early 2014 to embark upon an impressive fifteen years of reliability testing. The results will determine whether the switches will ultimately make their way into tomorrow's satellites.



#### THE TECHNOLOGY

The silicon-based MEMS RF switches feature a transmission line whose signal can be interrupted by an electrical contact that moves when subjected to electrostatic voltage. The switches are made using techniques—like photolithography and thin-layer deposition—fully mastered by Leti.

Leti's engineers looked to the electrical contact materials and the charge accumulation mechanisms at work to improve the component's reliability during cycling and confirm its resistance to radiation. Around ten micro switches with varying switching frequencies were sent into space for further testing.

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# PRINTED & INTEGRATED ANTENNAS

**POWERFUL & COMPACT PAGER** 

This pager combines more comfort with better efficiency! To make its pager more compact and ergonomic, TPL Systèmes worked on integrating an external antenna in its TETRA terminal... Leti researchers quickly sized up the situation. Today, the challenge has been met with an optimized housing and 2x performance.







#### THE TECHNOLOGY

TPL Systèmes relied on Leti telecommunications expertise to integrate an external antenna into an existing pager. Size being directly linked to performance, a disruptive technology was required to add superior space savings in this already quite-compact pager.

Leti has developed a novel RF/optical test bench for miniaturized antennas and used its not-so-common anechoic chamber to characterize low-frequency antennas. Researchers conducted a comprehensive study to develop a brand-new miniaturized antenna for the TETRA standard (around 400 MHz) that could be both flexible and reconfigurable at the same time. Through their hard work, Leti researchers were able to double performance, while combining the pager with an active electronic circuit covering all international bands. A compact and low-cost antenna has also been integrated into this optimized receiver for GSM and DCS standards (900/1800 MHz).

Leti researcher Jean-François Pintos received the second-place award in 2014 for FIEEC for overcoming the challenge.



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### ALL-SILICON MOTION-SENSING CHIP

MOTION SENSORS MAKE SMARTPHONE GAMING MORE FUN

Have you ever wondered what's behind your smartphone's gaming capabilities? Gaming features like the automatic image rotation you get when you turn your phone in space are made possible by tiny sensors that pick up your movements.

Tronics' latest all-silicon motion-sensing chip is a world-first. Although it may be tiny at just 1 mm thick and 4 mm², it packs in an impressive six motion sensors—three accelerometers and three gyrometers.



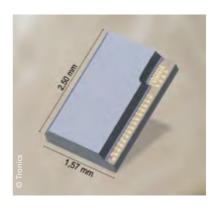


#### THE TECHNOLOGY

To make the chip, Leti developed a revolutionary MEMS motion sensing concept for which more than fifteen patents have been filed.

The concept is based on a suspended piezoresistive-silicon nanowire measuring several microns in length and 250 nanometers in diameter. This innovative motion sensing method enables substantial signal amplification while keeping electrical consumption very low. It also offers the added benefit of being applicable to all kinds of sensors. from accelerometers and gyrometers, of course. pressure to sensors. magnetometers, and microphones.

Several sensors can be integrated on the same chip via a silicon process routinely used by MEMS manufacturers without the need to include a hybrid assembly step in the process, which is currently the case.



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### **PICO1024™**

#### INSIDE INFRARED CAMERAS

Infrared cameras—whether they are used to keep an eye on city streets or factories, help drivers see better at night, or check a building's insulation for heat loss—use bolometric imagers. The imagers feature a temperature-detecting layer that reacts to infrared radiation by heating up and a read circuit that detects the heat and generates video images.



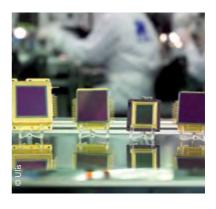


#### THE TECHNOLOGY

Leti has been developing bolometric imagers since 1992, and transferred the technology to start-up Ulis in 2002. Ulis is today the world's second leading bolometer manufacturer, with a 21% market share.

Unlike competitors' vanadium oxidebased solutions, Ulis' bolometers leverage amorphous silicon for the temperaturedetecting layer. The material offers better fabrication uniformity, homogeneous thermal behavior, and higher production yields.

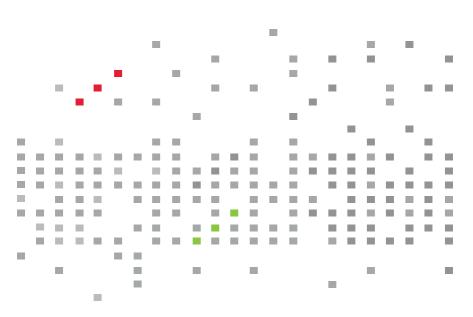
A series of R&D projects have slashed the devices' pixel sizes threefold (from 45 micrometers to 17 micrometers), improved the read circuits, and reduced costs. These advances have improved infrared camera performance and brought prices down, opening the door to new applications.



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