

Press Release

For Immediate Release

MEMtronics receives DARPA contract for RF MEMS switch development

PLANO, Texas (12 September 2003)

MEMtronics Corporation today announced it has received a research contract from the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) entitled “Robust, Reliable RF MEMS Capacitive Switches.” This contract is for the first phase of a \$3.69M, three-year development project focused on improving the reliability and robustness of radio frequency microelectromechanical systems (RF MEMS) operating under extreme environmental conditions.

This contract is part of DARPA’s Harsh Environment, Robust Micromechanical Technology (HERMIT) program. Development will be executed by an interdisciplinary team of MEMS researchers and fabricators that includes MEMtronics, Exponent Inc., Lehigh University, Innovative Micro Technology, and Honeywell MEMS Services. This program investigates the physics of failure for metal micromachine switches and develops integrated circuit materials and fabrication techniques that extend their lifetime. It will also develop an innovative packaging concept to package and protect these ultra-small devices from harsh environmental and temperature extremes.

“The RF MEMS switches being developed during the course of this program will be fundamental building blocks for a variety of next-generation military radar and communications systems,” says Dr. Chuck Goldsmith, President of MEMtronics. “Utilizing this technology enables superior electrical performance in an ultra-small footprint with very low power consumption. While this technology has been around for almost a decade, fundamental technical issues are preventing its widespread acceptance into military systems. Two of these core issues, reliability and packaging, will be addressed by this program.”

About MEMtronics Corporation

MEMtronics is a privately-held, fabless startup company focused on the commercialization and application of RF micromachine technology. Target systems include military and commercial communications, imaging, and radar systems in the microwave and millimeter-wave frequency ranges.

Contact Information

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