

Press Release

For Immediate Release

MEMtronics receives U.S. Army contract for phase shifter development

PLANO, Texas (10 December 2004)

MEMtronics Corporation today announced it has received a research contract from the U.S. Army entitled “Low-Cost MEMS Phase Shifters for Phased Array Antennas.” This contract is for the second phase of a Small Business Innovation Research project sponsored by the Department of Defense. This program’s focus is on developing low-cost phase shifters for military antenna systems.

This eighteen-month, \$729,499 contract will provide advances in design, manufacturing techniques, and packaging concepts necessary for the production and manufacture of low-cost phase shifter circuits that operate in the millimeter-wave frequency range. These circuits take advantage of MEMtronics’ development in radio frequency microelectromechanical systems (RF MEMS) to operate with lower loss, less power consumption, and improved linearity compared to conventional electronics technology. Specific developments on this program will look at reducing cost, improving reliability, and implementing innovative fabrication and packaging techniques. This contract is an extension of an SBIR award with the U.S. Missile Defense Agency MEMtronics completed last year.

“The phase shifters being developed during the course of this program will be fundamental building blocks for next-generation military phased array antennas, having broad applicability to both radar and communications systems,” says Dr. Chuck Goldsmith, President of MEMtronics. “The technology developed will make significant advances in reducing the fabrication and packaging costs of phase shifter circuits, enabling the development of ‘passive’ electronically scanned antennas with the potential for an order-of-magnitude lower cost than conventional technology. This research will help speed the deployment of these systems in a variety of critical DOD applications.”

About MEMtronics Corporation

MEMtronics is a privately-held 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.

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