

Interconnections and multi-chip flex developments

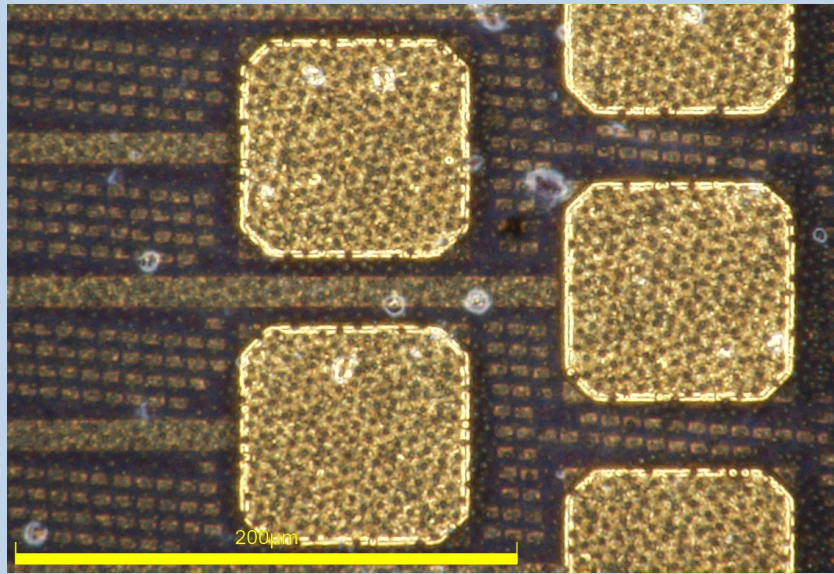
1st DRD3 week – Interconnect technologies: WG7

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19/06/2024

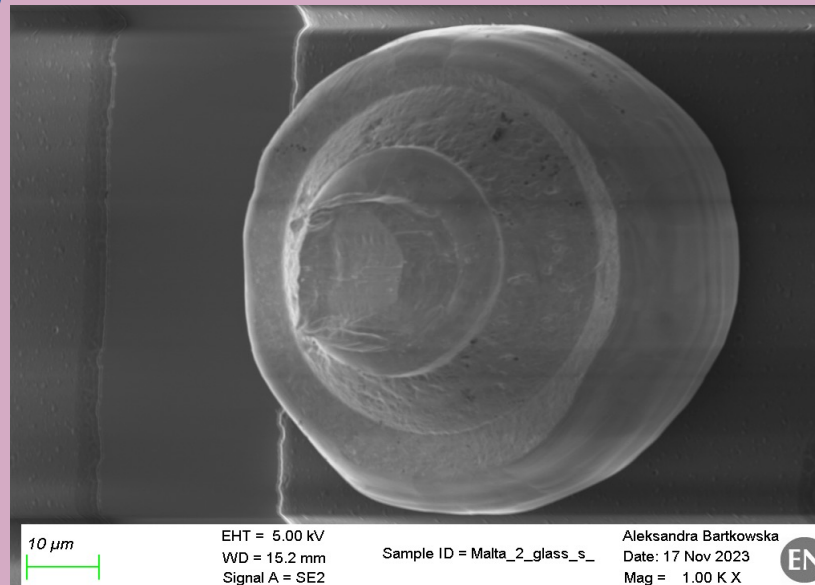
Interconnection technologies for modules

ACF



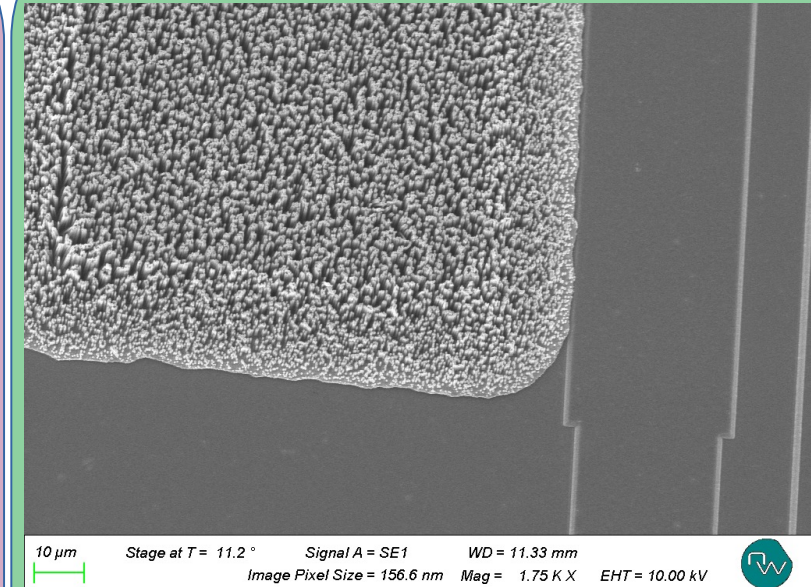
- **Cost effective**
- **In-house** processing
- **No mask** needed

Gold studs



- **Individual** pad selectable
- **Touch before** bond possible
- **No mask** needed

Nanowires (NW)



- **Low** resistance and parasitic
- **Glue-free** process available
- **Chip** and **wafer** level

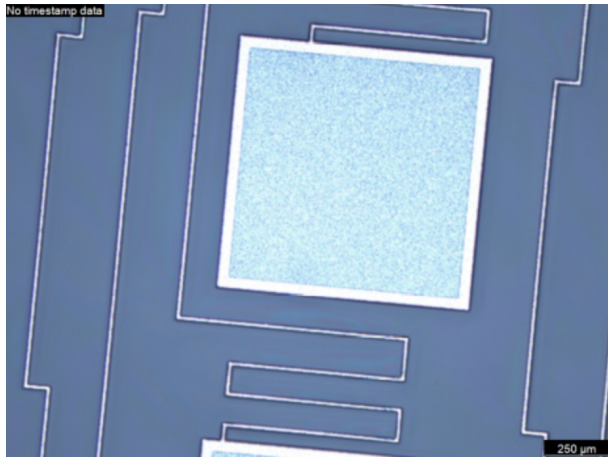


- **Scalable** on chip-chip or flex-chip
- **Glue support** for mechanical stability
- **Fast** interconnection
- Suitable for **large number of pads**

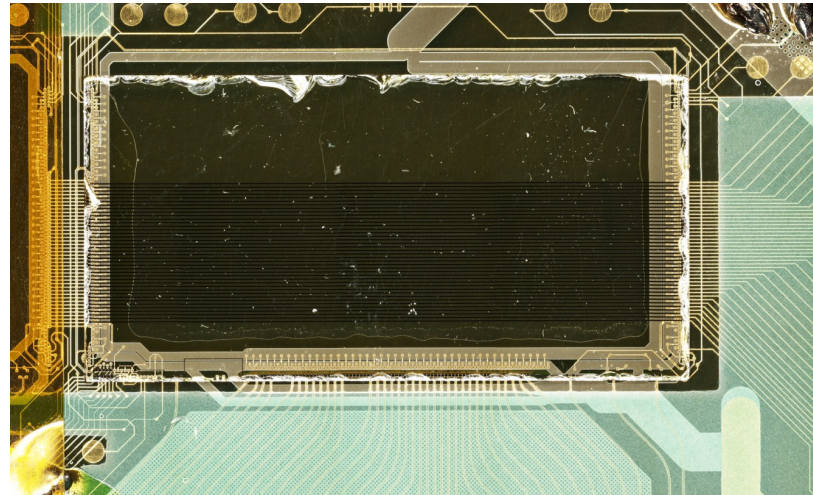


Test structures

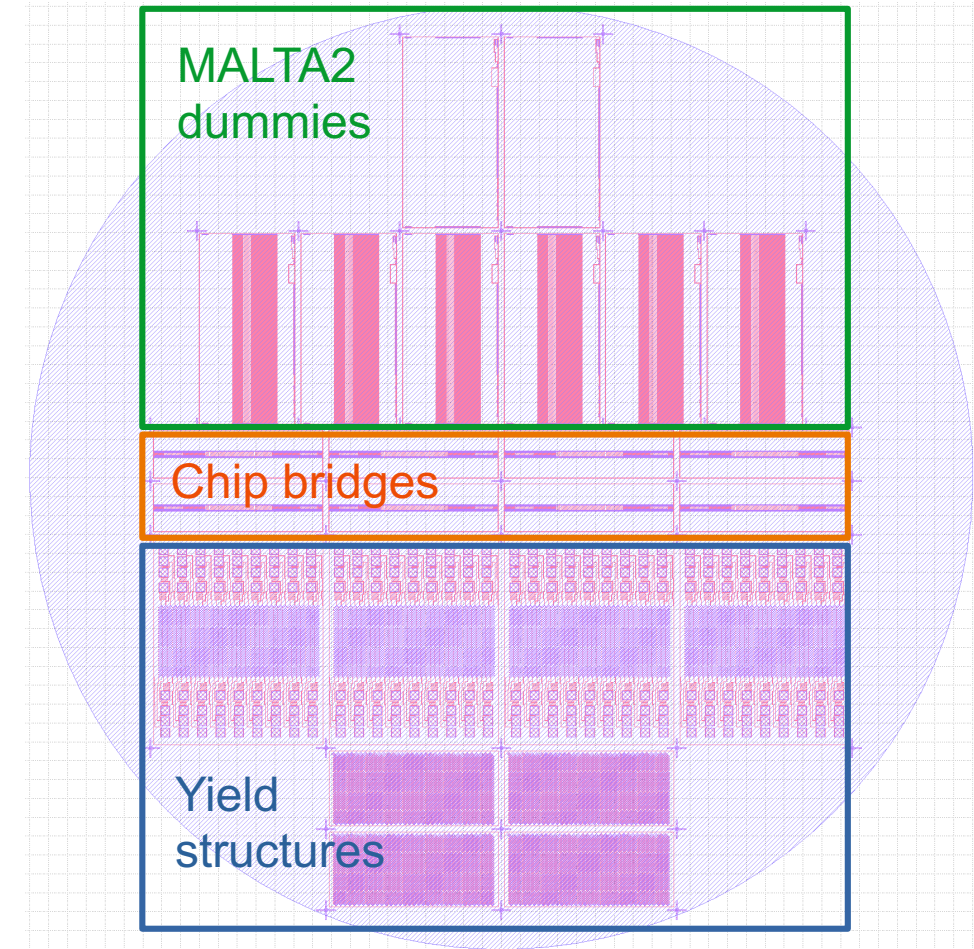
- Test structures have been produced by us at CMI in Lausanne
- 14 process steps
- Single layer Aluminium with SiO₂ passivation
- Evaluating connection yield, mechanical tests and bonding process optimization
- Produced 4 wafers with ~100 test structures



Test pad with SiO₂ opening



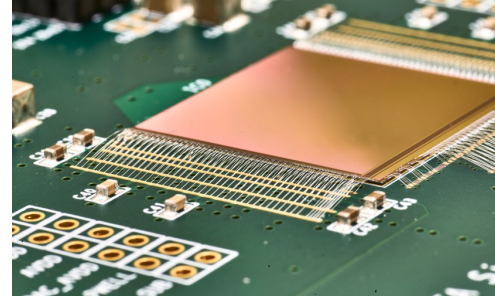
Bonded test structure on flex



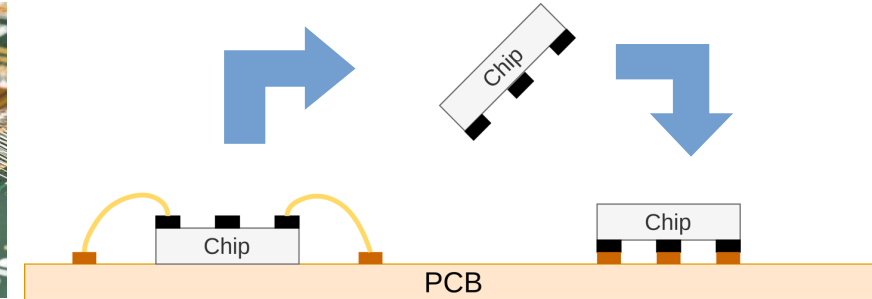
Ultra-thin module flex development

A flip chip mounted module provides:

- **No minimal spacing requirements between the chips**
- **A scalable interconnection**
- Interconnection is **not mechanically exposed**



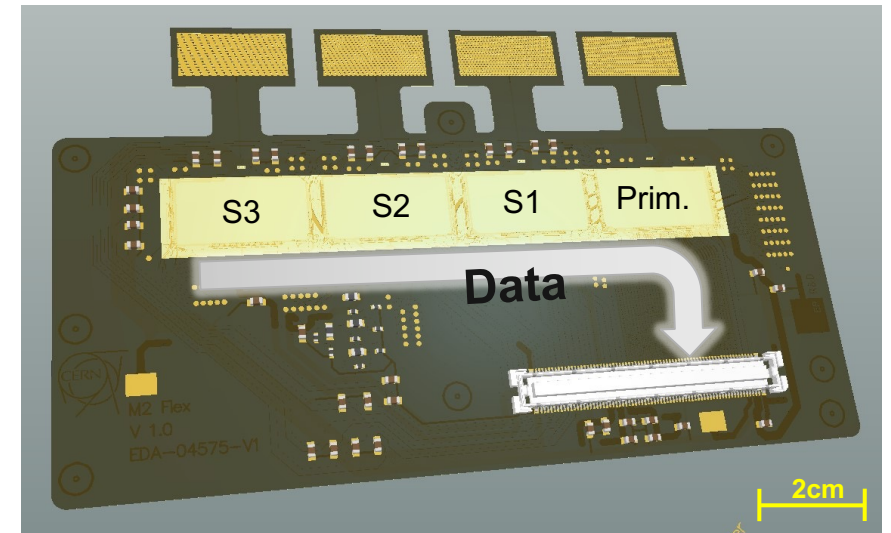
Wire bonding approach



Flip chip approach

Designed dedicated flex PCB for a 4-chip module compatible with flip chip mounting.

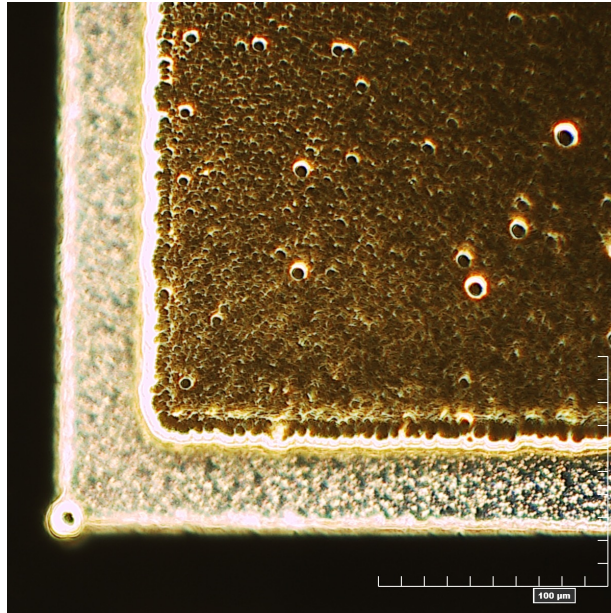
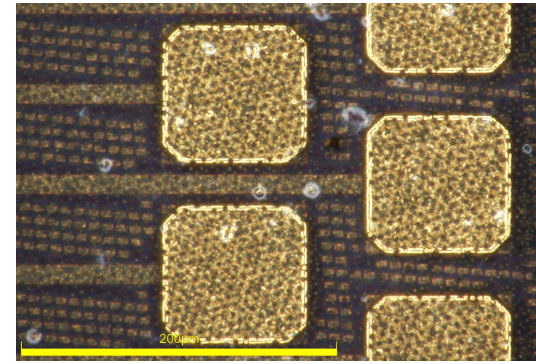
- Design goals are **low-mass, large active area** module integration
- **Two-layer** layout $\sim 30\mu\text{m}$ high with $17\mu\text{m}$ trace width and spacing



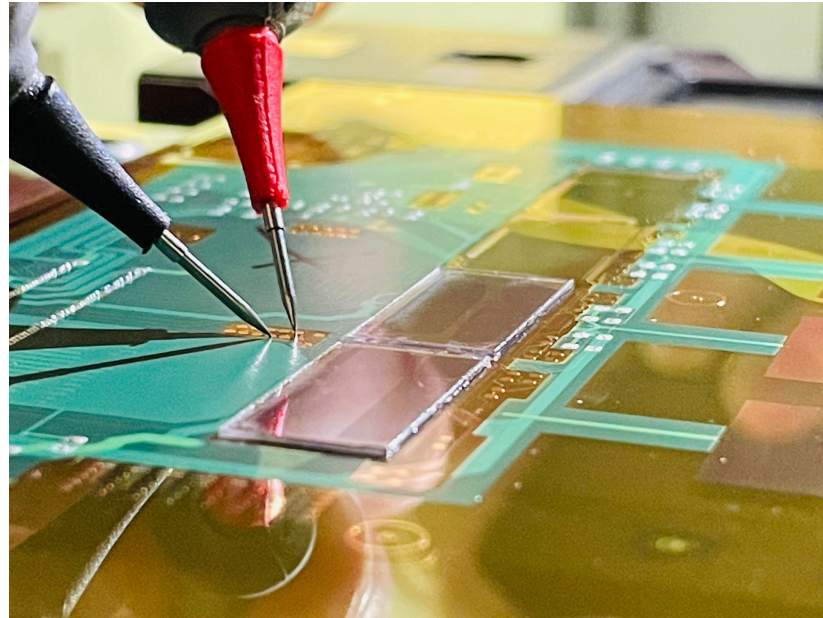
Data transfer from chip to chip

ACF bonding on flex

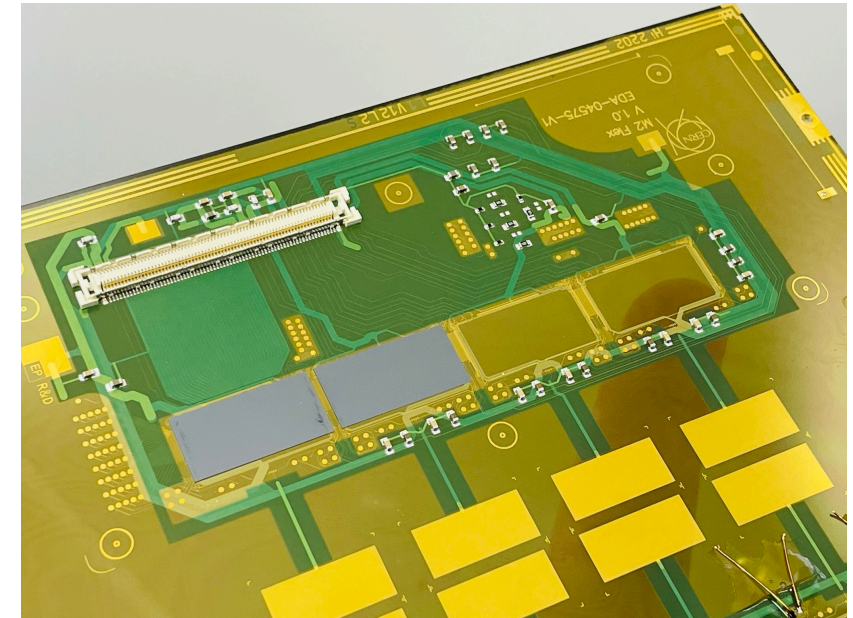
- Successfully bonded test structures and sensors using ACF
- Successful configuration of sensor and reference bit triggering
- In-house ENIG plating used as pad elevation for ACF process



In-house ENIG plating

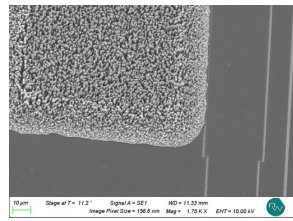


Electrical characterization of interconnection



ACF-bonded chips on flex

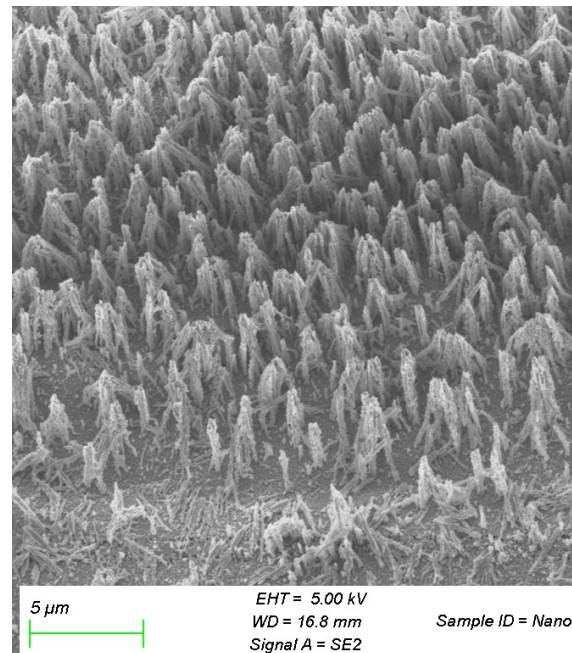
Nano-wires deposited on wafers



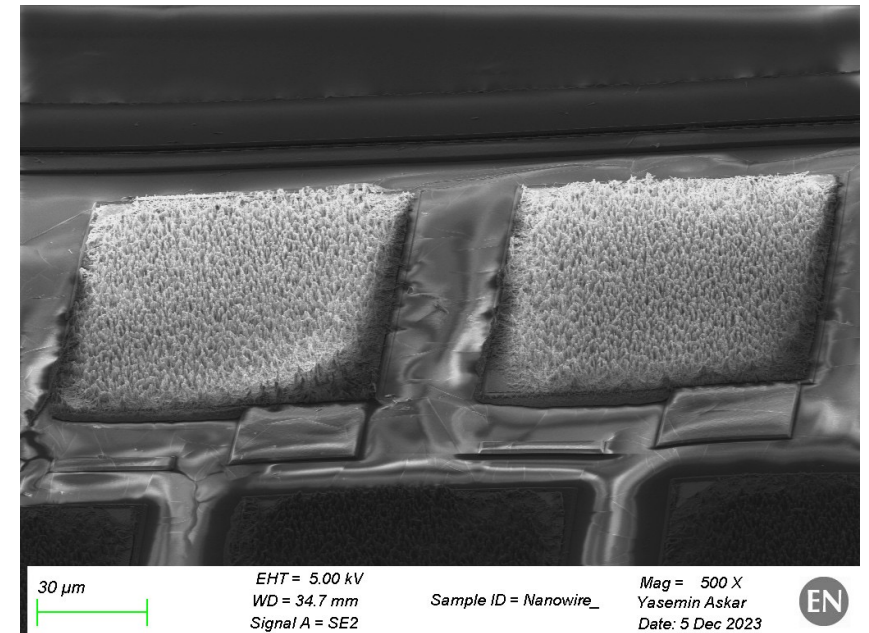
- MALTA2 **wafers** processed (88 μm x 88 μm aluminum pads with 32 μm spacing)
- Currently **>90% pads** with perfect coverage, pads with **partial coverage that are still bond able** – no impact on MALTA2 performance
- Possible to **probe wired pads** with probe-card



Wafer scale wire deposition



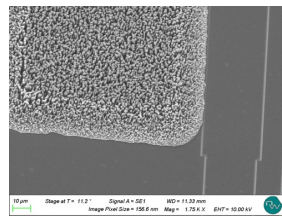
Close view



Nano-wires on chip pads

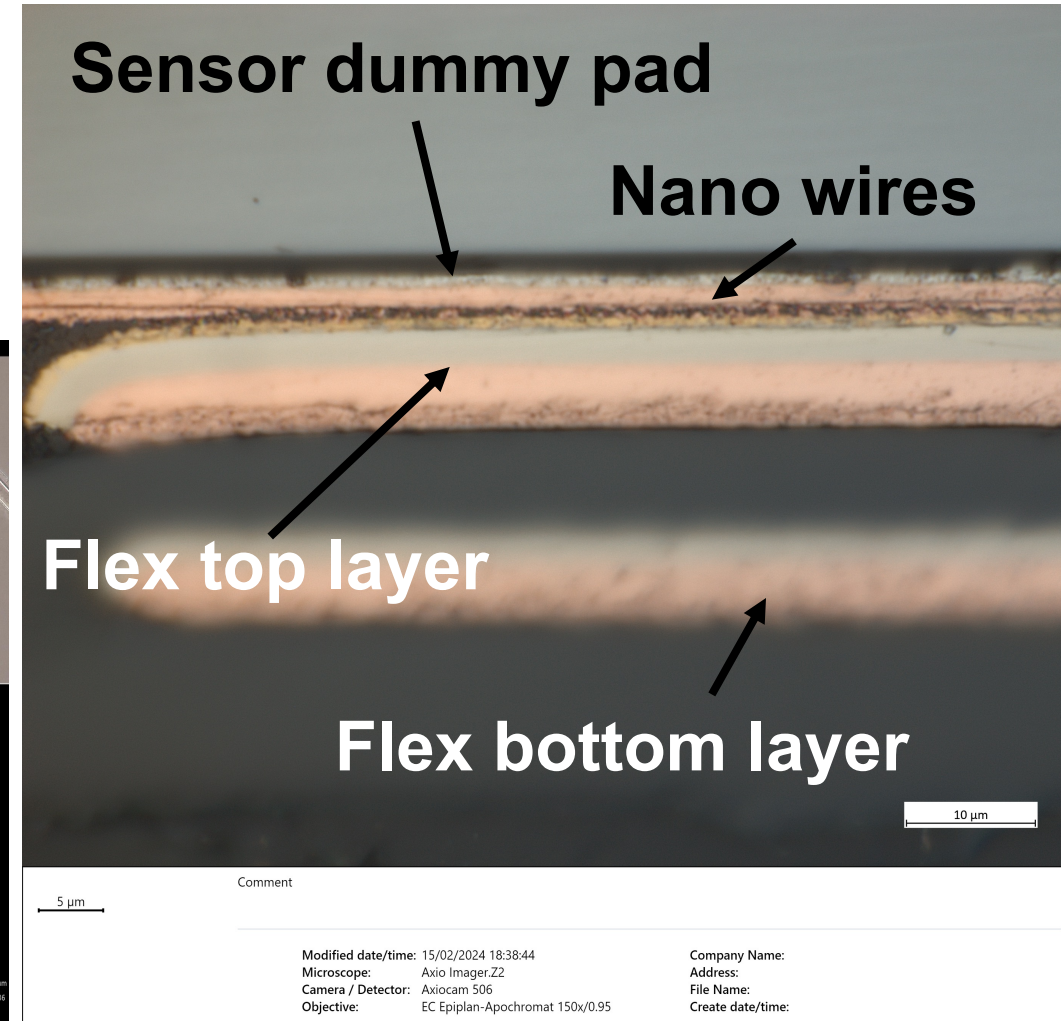
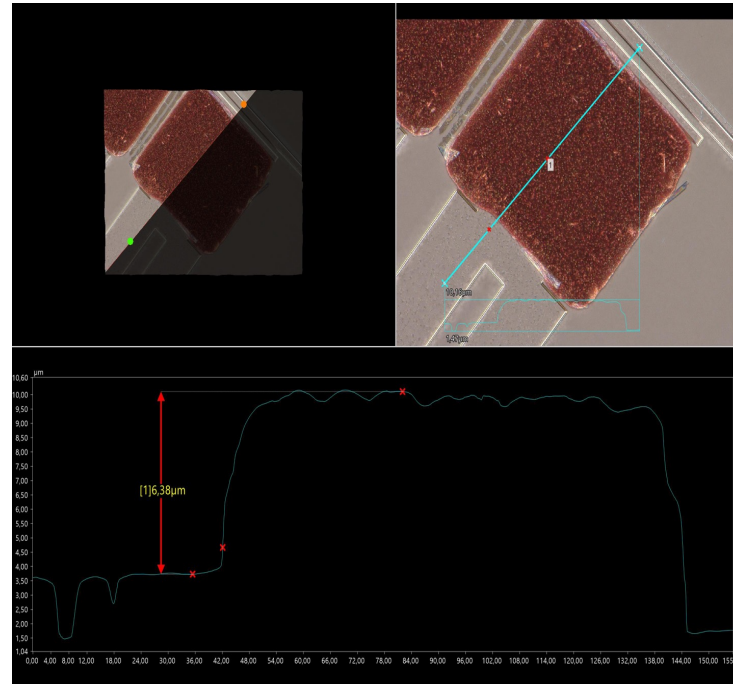
Nano-wire bonding of a chip on flex

- Successful **bonding** of nano-wired MALTA2 pads onto flex PCB pads using the **glue assisted process**
- Practically every **non-conductive glue** can be used for the bonding process



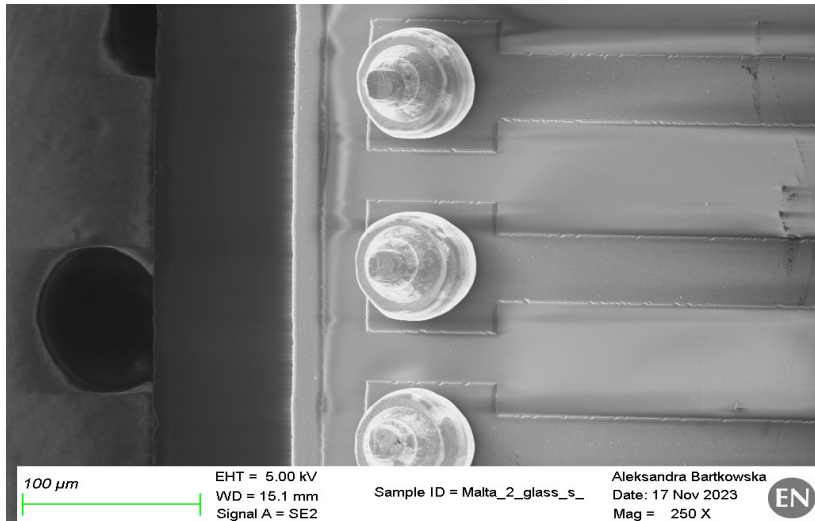
Different bonding options:

- **Sintering** (glue-free)
- **Cold welding** (glue-free)
- **Glue supported**



Gold studs

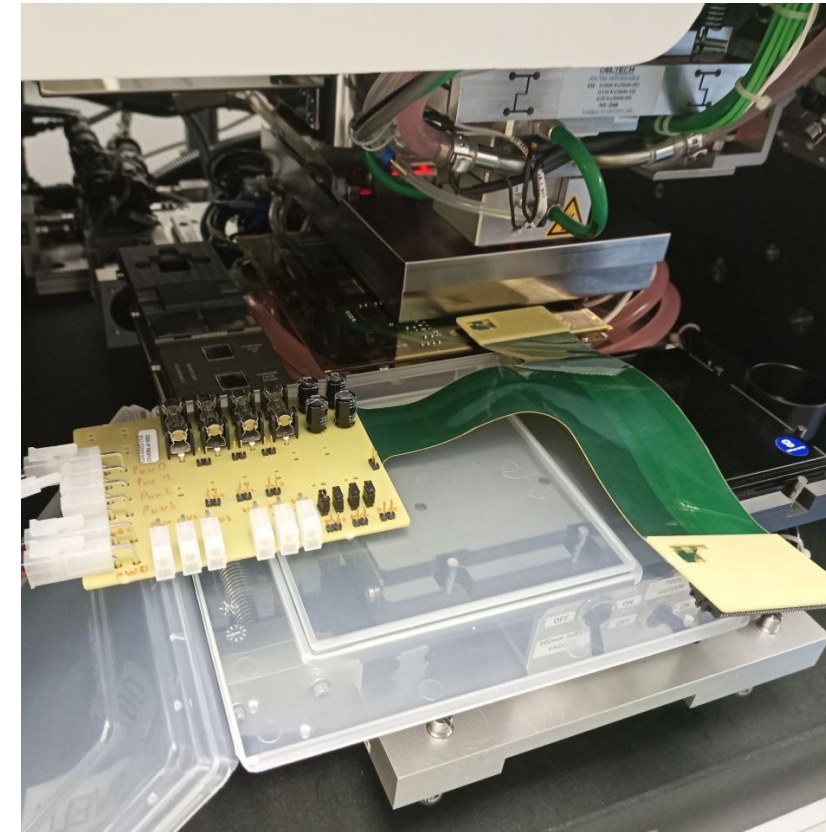
- **Individual pad selection** possible on application phase
- **Successful bonding** of test structures and MALTA2 sensors onto flex
- Verified in **situ pre-bonding verification**
- Bonded using **epoxy under-fill** Araldite 2011



Gold studs with flat head on test structure



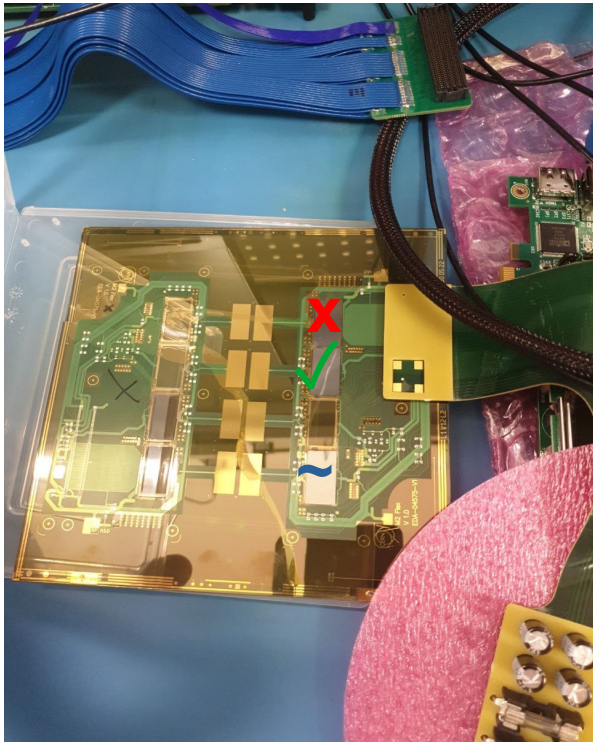
Test structure connected to flex using gold studs



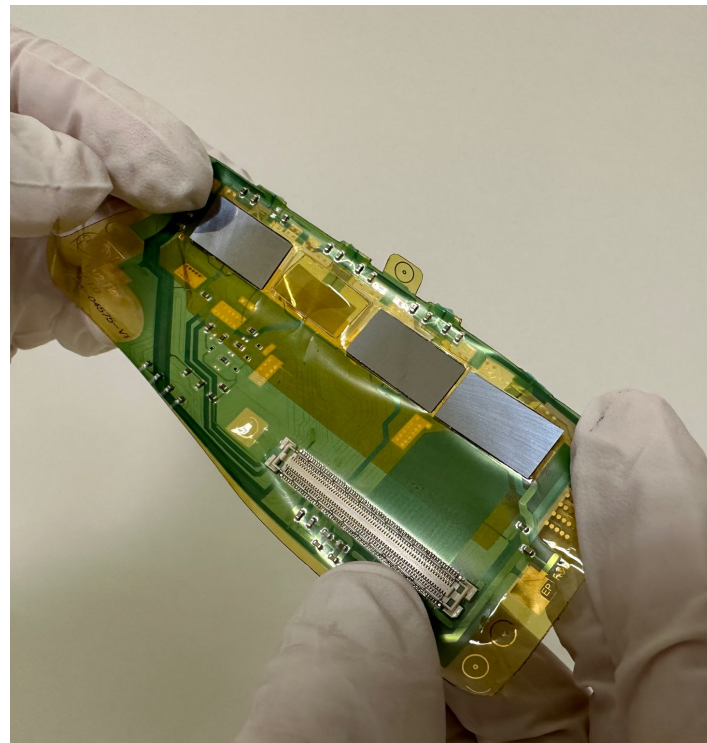
In situ pre-bond verification

Electrical testing and detached flex

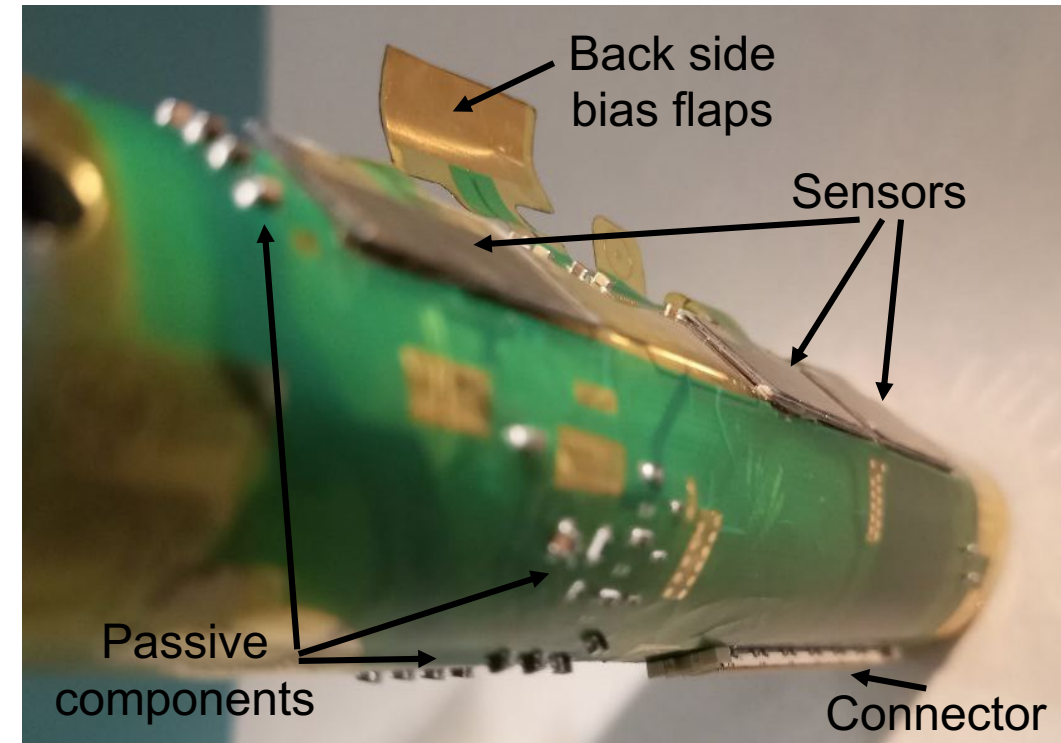
- Electrical tests verified the ability to **communicate** with the sensors
- Partial chip **read-out** conducted
- Peel of conducted **after flex assembly**



Electrical testing



Detached flex



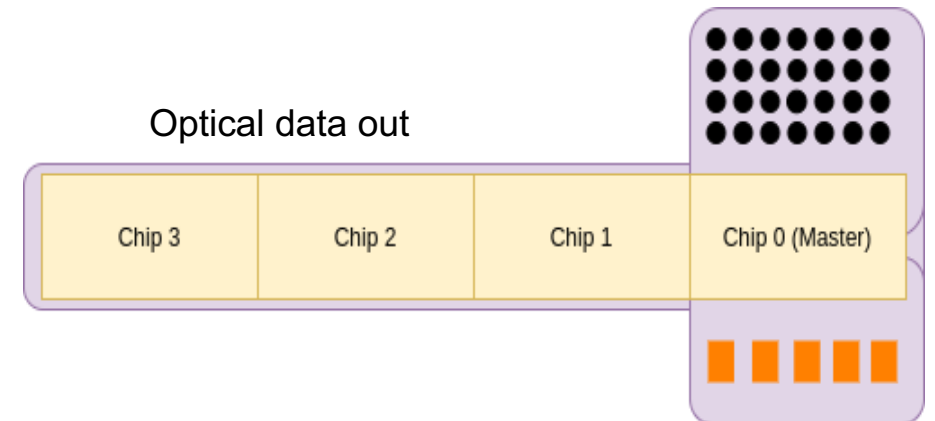
Detached flex

Future work

Next steps

- Build **demonstrator module** equipped for testing in lab and test beam
- **Interconnection toolbox** ready, next step is to develop more **in-house process for manufacturing a flex**
- Enabling fast modularization with different chips, **hybrid and monolithic.**

Optical flex



Flex with integrated optical data link