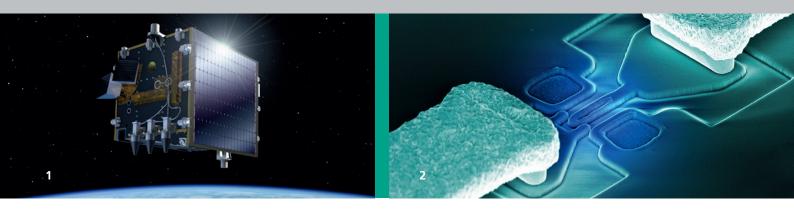


FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED SOLID STATE PHYSICS IAF



1 Terahertz waves can be used for earth observation, e.g. for the development of climate models. © ESA – P. Carril

2 Detail of an integrated circuit with a transistor gate length of only 20 nm. © Fraunhofer IAF

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Part of



INTEGRATED CIRCUITS FOR TERAHERTZ FREQUENCIES

Terahertz waves penetrate smoke, dust, fog and clothing – even from a distance of several hundreds of meters. Therefore, this high frequency spectral range offers a wide variety of application potential. Fraunhofer IAF develops integrated electronic circuits based on III/V semiconductors for high frequencies. With a transistor cut-off frequency of over 1 THz the institute holds the European record.

Features

- Integrated circuits for frequencies up to 670 GHz
- Metamorphic high electron mobility transistors (mHEMTs)
- Material system (InAlAs/InGaAs) on 4" GaAs substrates
- Transistor gate length down to 20 nm

Applications

- Communication: transmission of very high data rates
- Security: detection of concealed weapons
- Air safety: landing aid for helicopters
- Astronautics: climate and earth observation from space
- Sensors: high-precision distance measurements for quality assurance