

Abstracts

The Challenge--Applying High Performance Military MMIC Fabrication Processes to Price Driven Commercial Products

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Monolithic microwave integrated circuit (MMIC) technology has been perfected for applications in high-performance military systems. Even though the Cold War is over, regional conflict scenarios are easily visualized as highly probable and require that a strong free world defense force must be maintained to minimize the likelihood of major armed engagement. History teaches this same lesson as well. The need to maintain and expand the MMIC technology base for advanced defense systems is readily acknowledged; however, defense budget reductions are having the reverse effect. Commercial applications for MMIC technology are expanding and can help support the base. The challenge is to transfer a predominantly military driven technology into competitive commercial products in such a way that this technology pull will be synergistic with future defense system needs. This paper addresses the issue from a MMIC fabrication perspective.

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