

## Quasi-optical transmit/receive front ends

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Quasi-optical (QO) active circuits have originally received interest for power generation by large-scale power combining of solid-state devices at microwave and millimeter-wave frequencies. Here, we present an overview of QO components developed with functionality in mind, with an emphasis on bidirectional amplifier arrays for transmit/receive (T/R) front ends. We discuss possible advantages of the QO architecture for communications and radar. The following three QO bidirectional arrays are presented: 1) a nine-element X-band patch antenna array with different polarizations in T/R modes; 2) a 24-element X-band slot lens array with switches for the T/R paths; and 3) a 22-element K/spl alpha/-band patch lens array using monolithic microwave integrated circuits (MMICs).

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