

High-performance AlGaAs/InGaAs/GaAs PHEMTs for K and Ka-band applications

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We report AlGaAs/InGaAs/GaAs PHEMTs with high efficiency and power output, suitable for use in K and Ka-band applications. On-wafer active load-pull measurements were performed at 20 GHz on double-recessed devices with a gatelength ($L_{\text{sub g}}$) of 0.14 μm . $P_{\text{sub out}}=26.7$ dBm was obtained from a 640 μm part with power added efficiency (PAE) of 52% and associated power gain ($G_{\text{sub A}}$) of 9.7 dB. This implies a power density of 727 mW/mm for this technology. When tuned for a maximum PAE of 54.9%, another 640 μm device yielded $P_{\text{sub out}}=25.2$ dBm and $G_{\text{sub A}}=10.4$ dB. A maximum $P_{\text{sub out}}$ of 27.4 dBm was also obtained from an 800 μm part. This same transistor consistently yielded a PAE greater than 50% for an entire drain-source bias ($V_{\text{sub DS}}$) range of 2-8 V. We believe these devices present the best combination of $P_{\text{sub out}}$, PAE and $G_{\text{sub A}}$ reported thus far in the literature for PHEMTs at 20 GHz.

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