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Plessey samples electric potential sensor

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LEUVEN, Belgium – Plessey Semiconductors Ltd. (Plymouth, England) is now able to sample an electric potential sensor that detects changes in electric field, in contact, at a distance, through clothing and even through walls

The sensor, in development at the University of Southampton, has numerous applications from consumer electronics to medical applications. It could be highly disruptive in the mobile phone market rebuilding strategy.

The first Electric Potential Integrated Circuit (EPIC) sensor and provide a resolution as good as or better than contact measurements at a lower cost of replacement or contact gels.

The technology functions as an ultra-high input impedance voltmeter to measure tiny changes in the electric field. Plessey company said. The EPIC technology is so sensitive that it can measure even through a solid wall.

This ease of detection even through clothes or at a distance measurements are being investigated by customers. The technology is being built into stretchers for immediate monitoring of patients and built into clothing to monitor stress levels in emergency situations.

"The first EPIC products are designed for ECG applications as well as fitness and wellness applications," said De Plessey in a statement. "The next release products available later this year will include movement sensing where applications range from gesture recognition applications. The gesture recognition applications include controller-less gaming and the remote control of electronic devices like monitors and computers. We are working on end products that will be available in millions per month. This is all very exciting for the company."

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