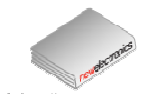

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Plessey Semiconductors announce technology that can 'see' through walls

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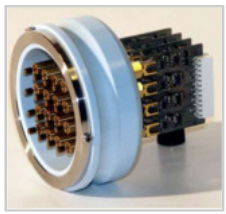
Plessey Semiconductors have announced a collaboration with the University of Sussex on a breakthrough Electric Potential Sensor (EPS). The technology is currently the size of a small coin and claims to detect changes in electric field, in contact, at a distance, through clothing and even through walls.



The sensor has been designed to measure changes in an electric field in a similar way to a magnetometer detecting changes in a magnetic field.

The initial application areas for EPS, which reportedly requires no physical or resistive contact to make measurements, will be in medical and sports. The sensor aims to enable innovative new products such as a contactless ECG, pictured, whereby an array of EPS sensors can be held over the patient's chest to obtain readings. According to the Plessey Semiconductors, these readings will give the equivalent of a 12 lead ECG without wiring or electrodes.

The EPS technology is said to work at normal room temperatures and functions as an ultra high, input impedance sensor that acts as a stable, sensitive and contactless digital voltmeter to measure tiny changes in the electric field down to milliVolts.

Professor Robert Prance of the University of Sussex, explained, "We created this technology initially as a noninvasive, non contact sensor for measurements in fundamental physics research. However, we quickly realised the many important applications for which this technology could be utilised. Our Research Councils UK Basic Technology programme has allowed us to develop a generic EPS and we have been able to demonstrate its application in a number of areas. We are delighted to have found a partner that we can now go forward with to develop this unique technology into innovative product solutions for the marketplace."

Dr Keith Strickland, Technology Director for Plessey Semiconductors, said, "The EPS technology created by Professor Prance's team is a significant innovation that will have a wide ranging disruptive impact in the sensor market. We expect to have our first product prototype available in Q3 of next year for a medical diagnosis product that will significantly advance the ease and quality of cardiac measurements."

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Supporting Information
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