

# **MEMS Industry Group Presents**

#### Concurrent Design to Achieve High Performance and Low Cost: Case Study of a MEMS Automotive Pressure Sensor Design

Presented by David DiPaola, Managing Director, DiPaola Consulting

Moderated by Rob O'Reilly, Senior Member Technical Staff, Analog Devices



# MEMS Industry Group (MIG) Introduction



# Over 130 members and partners – from start-ups to Fortune 500 companies MIG members ARE the MEMS supply chain.



# **MIG** Mission



# MEMS Industry Group is the trade association advancing MEMS across global markets



# What We Do



# Educate the Marketplace

- Explain why MEMS is important and how it's being used
- MEMS in the Machine

# Encourage Information-sharing

- Steering Committees, Industry News, PR Opportunities, MEMSblog, Twitter, LinkedIn, YouTube and newsletter
- MEMS Marketplace, one-stop matchmaking portal for MEMS supply chain and their customers
- Collaborative Projects MEMS Foundry Engagement Guide

# Share Resources

- White Papers, Industry Data, Presentations
- Membership Directory

- Introductions
- Webinars, workshops and networking



# Upcoming MIG Events

- MEMS Education Series Webinars
  - January 17 Improving Performance of New MEMS Designs: An Insider's Look at imec's SiGe above-IC MEMS Technology Platform
  - February 16 MEMS Reliability Case Study
  - February 23 MEMS Product Life Cycle

#### MEMS TechZone & Conference Session at CES 2012

• January 10–13, 2012 – Las Vegas

#### MEMS Executive Congress - Europe and US

March 20, 2012 - Zurich, Switzerland November 7-8, 2012 - Scottsdale, AZ

Learn today. Design tomorrow.

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International

- > Sensors in Design ESC Silicon Valley
  - March 28-29, 2012 San Jose, CA



& conference

- M2M Forum MEMS New Product Development
  - May 8-9, 2012 Pittsburgh, PA
- Sensors Expo Chicago
  - June 4–6, 2012 Rosemont Convention Center

# **Today's Speakers**





# Moderator

 Rob O'Reilly, Senior Member Technical Staff, Analog Devices



# Presenter

 David DiPaola, Managing Director, DiPaola Consulting



# **Innovation Has Driven 45+ Years of Real-World Signal Processing Leadership**



ANALOG DEVICES



#### ADI Inertial Technology + ADI Signal Processing Strength = Optimal Solutions to High performance Applications

**THEN** 









Analog Devices Confidential Information



# Concurrent Design to Achieve High Performance and Low Cost: Case Study of a MEMS Automotive Pressure Sensor Design

David DiPaola, Managing Director www.dceams.com







# Who is DiPaola Consulting?

- A company located in in Gaithersburg, MD specializing in electromechanical design and process development
  - Extensive experience in MEMS sensors
  - 3D parametric modeling, multiphysics FEA, electrical simulation, ion implantation, silicon etch, tolerance stack, design of experiments, Matlab
  - Automotive, biomedical, consumer, military and industrial applications
- Expert problem solvers with a proven history of developing and launching new products with next to zero failures
- Product technology and material selections
- Excellent relationship with prototype and production pure play foundries
  - MEMS prototype, foundry selection, production part approval process
- Measurement system analysis, metrology, full product validation capabilities





# Agenda

- Problem Statement
- Sensor Specifications
- Sensor and MEMS Sense Element Designs
- Influence of Concurrent Design in Achieving Lowest Cost
- Finite Element Analysis of Design to Predict Sensor Performance
- Summary of Analysis
- Conclusions







## Sensor Problem Statement

- Develop an array of pressure sensors with limited height to measure input from multiple sources in an harsh automotive environment
- Maintain high accuracy during extreme temperatures, temperature transient events and nonplanar boundary conditions
  Topic for this discussion
- Meet stringent drift requirements throughout life when exposed to vibration, thermal cycle / shock, high / cold temperature endurance, operating and proof pressure cycling
- Prevent sensor mechanical failure during burst pressure loading
- Prevent environmental ingress into the sensor package
- Support compression stack load of other system components
- Achieve low cost for high volume proliferation







# MEMS Pressure Sensor Specifications

- Operating Pressure Range: 100 1500 KPa (220 PSI)
- Sensor Output: 0 5 VDC or digital interface (CAN or SPI typical)
- Operating Temperature Range: -40 to 140°C (short excursions higher)
- Proof and Burst Pressure: 2X and 3X operating respectively
- Full Scale Pressure Cycles: 10 Million
- High Temperature Endurance: 500 hrs at 140°C
- Vibration: 4g RMS for > 250 hrs
- Initial Accuracy (Total Error Band): ≤ 2% Supply Voltage
- Drift Over Life: ≤ 2% Supply Voltage
- Response Time: 1 msec





# MEMS Sense Element Design

- Piezoresistive MEMS technology selected for sense element •
  - Limited height when integrated into sensor package
  - Easier to thermally isolate from package to achieve excellent temperature transient performance
  - Low cost for multiple pressure inputs
  - Piezoresistor full Wheatstone bridge and central signal conditioning ASIC for all sense elements



#### Membrane Wafer





# MEMS Sense Element Design

- SOI wafer approach with reference cap (silicon or glass)
- Scalable to 7000 KPa or 1000 PSI
- Designed concurrently with packaging and foundry manufacturing process
- 3X cost saving from foundry over full service supplier (in high volume)









## **Pressure Sensor Design**

Isometric View of Sensor







# Pressure Sensor Design

Bottom Side



Note: O-ring gland located in customer manifold







#### **Cross-section Views of Sensor Design**









# Design Approach Guided by Finite Element Analysis

- Sensor output sensitivity to mounting boundary conditions was the largest challenge in the design phase
- Boundary conditions are not ground flat to significantly reduce cost of system
- Finite element analysis used to validate design approach prior to prototype
  - COMSOL Multiphysics 4.2 was used for the finite element analysis
  - SolidWorks was used for 3D modeling
  - Sense element cap and sensor cover not included in analysis
- Two approaches considered for mounting MEMS sense element:
  - Directly on metal base plate
  - On isolation pedestal bonded to metal support plate





# FEA Mesh







# FEA Mesh







# FEA Mesh









# **FEA Boundary Conditions**









# FEA Results of MEMS Mounted on Metal Base Plate

- Predicted sensor error due to mounting: 1.8% of Sensor Span ٠
- Correlation between theoretical and actual sensor error > 90%•







# FEA Results of MEMS Mounted on Flat Plate

• Strain in MEMS adhesive up to 0.04 and will not last in thermal shock









# FEA of MEMS Mounted on Isolation Pedestal

- Predicted sensor error due to mounting < 0.05% of Sensor Span
- Correlation between theoretical and actual sensor data > 90%









# FEA of MEMS Mounted on Isolation Pedestal

Strain in MEMS adhesive up to < 0.0002 and will be robust to environmental testing</li>









# Summary from Finite Element Analysis

- Isolation pedestal reduced undesired membrane surface strains to a negligible level when the sensor was mounted in application and no acceptable solution was found when mounting MEMS on metal base plate
- Strain in MEMS attachment adhesive was up to 0.04 and would have resulted in failure during thermal shock without isolation pedestal, with isolation pedestal strain was lowered to 0.0002
- High correlation between theoretical and experimental results
- FEA proved to be an effective means to model the sensor to develop a robust packaging solution prior to prototype
- Upon validation of model, it was used to optimize MEMS design for lowest cost





# Conclusions

- It is important in MEMS sensor integration to always be mindful of output errors due to mounting sensitivity and thermal transients
- In high volume applications, lowest cost is achieved when the sensor package, foundry processes and MEMS sense element are designed concurrently
- Finite element analysis is an effective means to predict mounting sensitivity and find solutions for mitigation prior to prototype
- With proper modeling techniques, first pass functional sensors can accelerate system development for proof of concept to end user







# **Questions?**





# **MEMS in Automotive Sensor Applications**







# **MEMS in Automotive Sensor Applications**

Differential Pressure Sensor Across Diesel Particulate Filter •







# **MEMS in Automotive Sensor Applications**

• Manifold Absolute Pressure (MAP) Sensor

