

Mike Bond

INEX

An Introduction to INEX and in
particular high power RF and
microwave devices in single crystal
diamond



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Established in 2002, INEX is
a commercial, customer
focussed organisation, owned
by



Newcastle
University



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INEX

- Research,
- Development,
- Prototyping,
- Manufacturing,

for your electronic devices and Microsystems
within an ISO9001:2000 certified environment.



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INEX works across all markets and in these
particular business areas

- **Diamond**
- **Compound Semiconductors**
- **Microsystems**
- **Integrated Life Sciences**



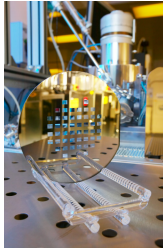
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Facilities

- 400m² class 100 cleanroom
- 150 m² of class 10,000 cleanroom with local class 100 hoods
- Toolset based on 150mm platform (for microsystems development & production)
- Class 2 cell and molecular biology laboratories



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Funded Examples

INEX, owned by Newcastle University, can provide an important role within Regional, National and Internationally Funded projects.



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ReNaChip

Rehabilitation of a discrete sensory motor learning function by a prosthetic chip



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EC Framework 6 Integrated Project: Healthy Aims

€26M project involving partners across 9 European countries

Develop next generation of implantable medical devices



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Commercial Examples



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Dual Polarisation Interferometer

– Development of improved waveguide manufacturing process at INEX

– Now in production at INEX



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Dual Polarisation Interferometer

"INEX provide production planar waveguides for the world's first Dual Polarisation Interferometer analytical instrument."

Press release 2009



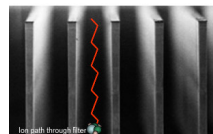
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Ion mobility spectrometer

- Transferred from Cambridge University as research device
- High aspect ratio through-wafer etch
- Development and production performed at INEX



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Medical parameter measurement device

- INEX developed production prototypes for clinical testing
- Now transferring to volume production in 200mm foundry off-shore



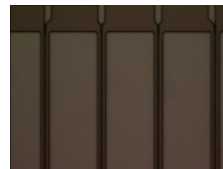
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Compound Semiconductors

- InP pHEMT and associated passives
- GaN device processing
- GaAs device processing
 - Manufactured GaAs Hall Sensors in the region of 80,000 devices per week
 - Very high yields



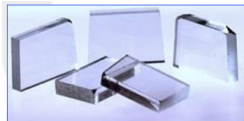
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Diamond

The exploitation of diamond has become possible because of breakthroughs in diamond synthesis technology, specifically chemical vapour deposition, CVD, that has enabled single crystal diamond to be manufactured with the high purity and consistency required.



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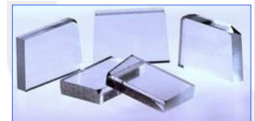
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Diamond

Diamond as an electrochemical and biological material.

Diamond is a bio-inert and biocompatible material and is ideal for the fabrication of in vivo sensors and electrodes. INEX are active in this field



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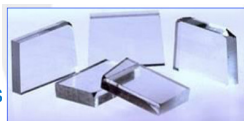
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Diamond

Diamond as an optical material.

Diamond is transparent from the X-ray through the visible and infrared regions of the electromagnetic spectrum. This property combined with high strength and thermal shock make it ideal for X-ray monitors.

INEX is active in this field



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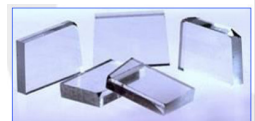
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Diamond

Diamond as an electronic material.

Diamond is a wide bandgap semiconductor and has excellent intrinsic electronic properties especially for high power and frequency applications. For extreme demand applications, single crystal diamond devices are superior to other materials including silicon and gallium arsenide



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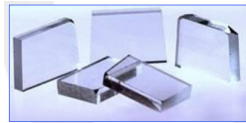
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Very high power RF & microwave devices in single crystal diamond

“Largest diamond electronics development activity in the world”



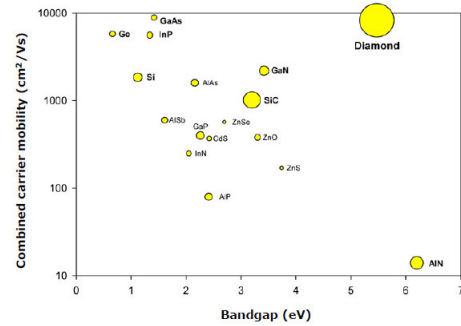
(DMD - backed by de Beers through e6 Ltd)



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Very high power RF & microwave devices in single crystal diamond

12 August 2009 Press Release

“£3M Diamond Electronics Development Project wins Technology Strategy Board Funding”

- Diamond Microwave Devices Ltd (DMD)
- INEX
- Element Six Ltd,
- MBDA UK Ltd
- University of Sheffield.



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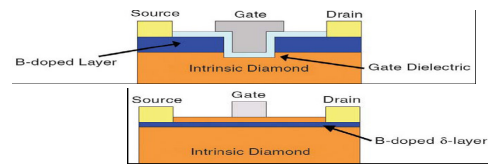
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Metal Semiconductor Field Effect Transistor (MESFET)

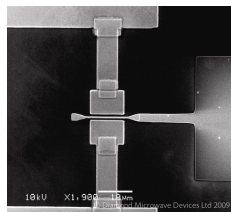


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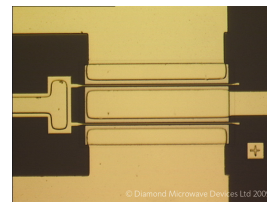
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Diamond

INEX have been working with diamond for many years now and has several development devices in progress.

We cannot due to CONFIDENTIALITY discuss in open forum the full extent of these developments, but we are under NDA prepared to hold one on one discussions for future developments.

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Capabilities to provide solutions

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Capabilities

Substrates:

- 150 mm silicon, SOI, glass and quartz wafers (standard)
- 100/75 mm silicon, SOI, glass and quartz wafers
- Single wafers or bonded pairs
- Irregular/small substrates (e.g. diamond)
- Polyimide film and other flexible substrates

Design and Modelling:

- Mask layout (L-Edit, AutoCAD)
- FEA modelling (Ansys)

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Capabilities

Lithography:

- Single and double-sided contact aligners (1:1)
 - Minimum feature size: 2.5 μm
 - Alignment accuracy $\pm 1 \mu\text{m}$ (front side align), $\pm 2 \mu\text{m}$ (front to back align)
- Stepper (1:1)
 - Minimum feature size: $\sim 1 \mu\text{m}$
 - Overlay accuracy: 0.16 μm
- E-beam writer:
 - Minimum feature size $\sim 100 \text{ nm}$
 - Overlay & stitching accuracy $\sim 60 \text{ nm}$
- HMDS vapour priming
- Spin coating of photoresists and polyamides
- Puddle, spray or tank development
- Hotplate and oven baking
- Deep UV resist treatment
- Lift-off process (image reversal and bi-layer)

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Capabilities

EVG TOOLING

- Resist Coater
- Resist Developer
- Wafer Wash



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Direct-Step-on-Wafer Aligner



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Plasma Etching:

- DRIE of silicon (Bosch process)
- DRIE of silicon dioxide and glass (ICP source)
- RIE of silicon dioxide, nitride, poly-silicon, polyimide and PZT
- Metal etching (ICP source)
- Emission and optical end-point detectors
- Resist stripping and desmear

Metallisation:

- Balzers BAK550 e-beam evaporator
 - Cr, Nickel, NiCr, Au, Ti, Cu, Pt
- Nordiko sputterer
 - Cr, Au, Ti, TiW*, Cu, NiCr (Other Metals, targets required)
- MRC943 (3 Planar DC/RF Magnetron Sputtering Cathodes)
 - Al, Ti, Au*, TiW*, AlN**, TiWN** (Other Metals, targets required)
- DC and pulse plating of metals (Au, Ni, Pt and Cu)

(* - Targets will require purchasing / ** - Process Development required)

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STS Equipment

- Advanced Silicon Etch
- Advanced Oxide Etch
- PECVD



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STS ICP Metal Etcher



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Wafer Bonding:

- Ultrasonic wafer cleaning station
- Silicon fusion bonding
- Anodic bonding
- Adhesive wafer bonding
- Bonding at atmospheric pressure or vacuum (to 10-5 mbar)
- Aligned wafer bonding with < 10 µm accuracy

Wet Processing:

- Dedicated wet process stations for solvent, acid and alkali processing
- Anisotropic silicon etching (TMAH and KOH)
- HF etching of silicon dioxide and glass
- Wet etching of metals (e.g. Ti, Cr, Au, Cu, NiCr and Al)
- Wafer cleaning (RCA, Piranha and solvent)
- Solvent tools for lift-off and resist stripping
- Photo-mask cleaning
- HF release etch
- Supercritical CO2 drying

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Capabilities

Back-End, Assembly and Packaging:

- Wafer dicing (glass, silicon and ceramic substrates)
- Wire bonding – Wedge Al and - Au Ball
- Bond pull/shear testing
- Flip chip bonding (Pb/Sn and Pb-free)
- Die bonding
- CNC Micro Milling of Ceramic, Glass & Polymer materials with minimum feature sizes of 50 µm

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Capabilities CNC Micro-Miller



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Capabilities

Thermal Processing:

- Wet oxidation of silicon
- Dry oxidation of silicon
- High temperature anneal (N₂ or O₂ atmosphere)

CVD Processing:

- LPCVD deposition of poly and amorphous silicon (un-doped)
- High and low frequency PECVD deposition of silicon oxide, nitride, oxynitride and amorphous silicon
- Mixed frequency PECVD deposition of silicon nitride (low stress)

Polymer Processing:

- Hot embossing and nano-imprinting
- PDMS casting
- Polymer micro-milling

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Capabilities

Metrology, Inspection and Characterisation:

- Inspection
 - Optical microscopy
 - Scanning electron microscopy
- Metrology
 - Spectroscopic ellipsometry (film thickness and RI)
 - Reflectance spectrometry (film thickness)
 - Prism coupling (RI measurement)
 - Line width and CD measurement
 - Wafer thickness, bow and stress measurement
 - Bulk and sheet resistivity
 - Stylus profilometry (step height and surface roughness)
- Characterisation
 - FTIR spectrometry
 - Raman spectrometry
 - EDAX
 - Scanning probe microscopy (AFM & STM)
 - Contact angle measurement

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Capabilities

Process Specific Capabilities:

- Multi material dry etching (Diamond, ITO, PZT, in development GaAs, InP, GaN)
- Air Bridge processing
- Schottky and Ohmic contact metallisation schemes (Targeting specific contact resistances)
- DUV resist technologies
- Processing of RF micro-bridge structures
- Multi Metal microstrip fabrication
- Optically deposited SiON layers to high specification tolerances
- Thick film SiO₂ etching
- Smooth faceted end face for the optical waveguide
- Through wafer wet etching of glass/pyrex using a-Si masking layer
- Processing of flexible substrates, with multi lith steps

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Process Specific Capabilities:

- DC Electrical testing a) Two terminal testing measuring channel conduction, and for determining isolation; b) Three-terminal testing to test the voltage applied to the gate to modulate the current–voltage characteristic of the channel.
- Multi wafer processing of anodic bonded silicon wafers creating 2µm membranes, 100µm diameter over a cavity
- Silicon cantilevers 10µm thick and several millimetres in size of various shapes with minimum features down to 2µm.
- Handling and processing of 100µm thick Si substrates, anodic bonding and alignment to within 10µm.
- Anodic release of actuated cantilevers using multi-layer polymer structures
- Release process to fabricate 1mm long, 20µm thick neural electrodes
- Device glass encapsulation using triple stack anodic bonding
- BCB wafer scale bonding

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