

# IMPACT 2023

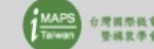
International Microsystems, Packaging,  
Assembly and Circuits Technology conference

[www.impact.org.tw](http://www.impact.org.tw)

Oct. 25-27  
Taipei Nangang Exhibition Center, Hall 1



18<sup>th</sup> International Microsystems, Packaging, Assembly and Circuits Technology Conference



## Modelling-based characterisation of copper foils for mmWave applications

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IMPACT Session [S1] iNEMI  
25 Oct. 2023



# Outline:

1. The iNEMI “Copper Foils” Project\*.
2. Problems of Copper Foil Loss at Higher Frequencies.
3. QWED New Instruments for EM Characterisation of Copper Foils.
4. Recent iNEMI Project Results for Representative Copper Foil Samples.
5. More about QWED’s Modelling-Based Materials’ Characterisation.
6. Summary and Acknowledgements.

\* iNEMI “Copper Foils” Project: *“Reliability & Loss Properties of Copper Foils for 5G Applications”*

[https://www.inemi.org/article\\_content.asp?adminkey=b5202baac78313e4914809b2f481b372&article=209](https://www.inemi.org/article_content.asp?adminkey=b5202baac78313e4914809b2f481b372&article=209)



The iNEMI “Copper Foils” project started in 2021 and was introduced to the IMPACT community at IMPACT 2021:



**TOPIC:** *Reliability & Loss Properties of Copper Foil for 5G Applications*

**REPORTER:** *Ed Kelley*

**AFFILIATION:** *Isola Group & Chair of iNEMI PCB & Laminate TIG*

**Email:** *ed.kelley@isola-group.com*



**Paper Code:** *S1-1*

**Date:** *Tue, Dec 21, 2021*

Project leadership & management as of Oct. 2023:

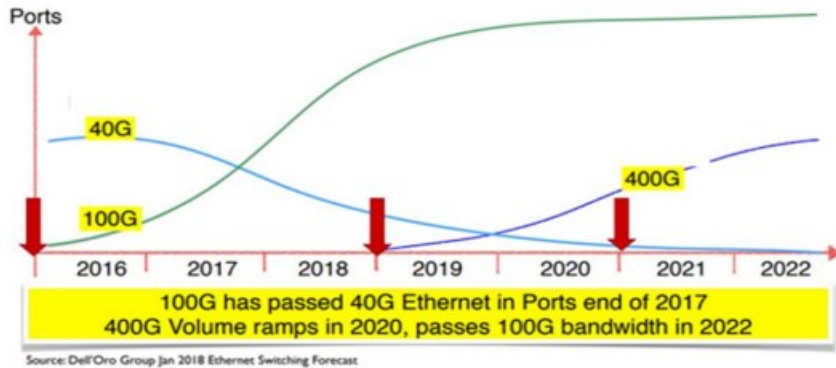
Project Leader: Steven Ethridge (Dell)

3 Project Manager: Steve Payne (iNEMI)

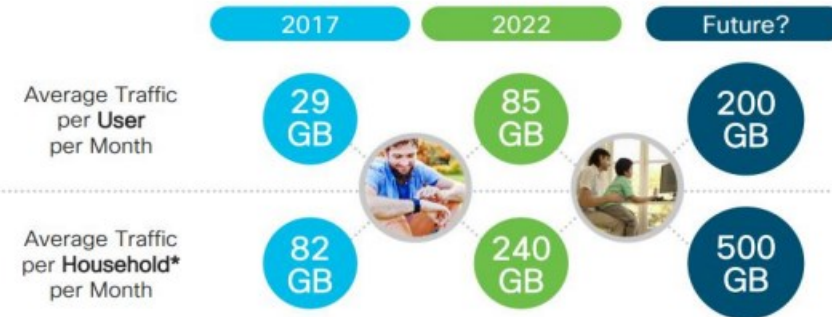
# Drivers – High Speed & High Frequency – 5G

- Growth in the volume & speed of data transmission enabled by 5G telecommunications, driven by applications including:
  - Internet video, IP VOD, Web based data & gaming
  - High-speed computing, including AI and blockchain
  - Automotive ADAS
- 5G frequencies
  - Low band: typically less than 1 GHz
  - Mid-band: typically between 1 and 6 GHz
  - **High-band: 24 to 40 GHz and above**
- Drives need for low Dk/low Df base materials
  - Dielectric losses – historical focus
  - Conductor losses – become critical at high frequencies

## 40G - 100G - 400G Switch Port Transition

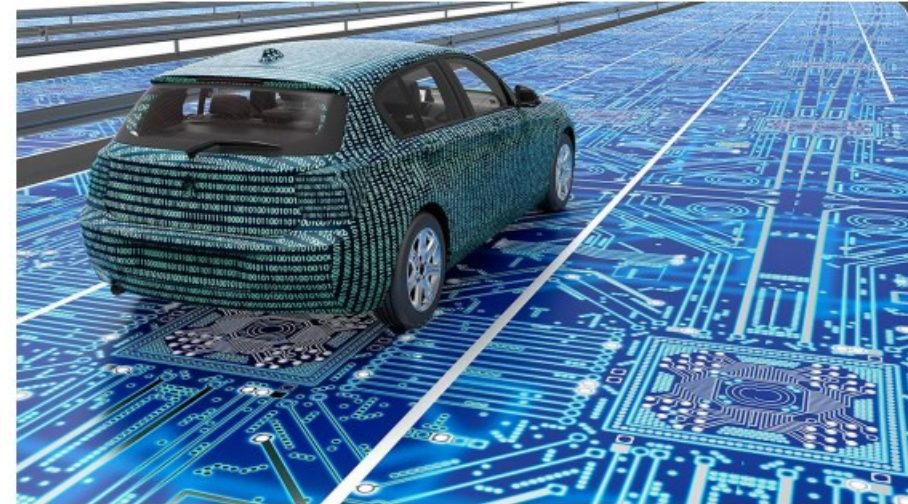


## Average Global Internet Bandwidth Usage



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Source: Cisco VNI Global IP Traffic Forecast, 2017-2022



participates to projects evaluating:

dielectric losses

conductor losses



- fast & precise **measurement** methods,
- physical insight with computer **modelling**,
- **dissemination** (mainly in IEEE and EU communities).

#### 5G/mmWave

completed project

- [5G/mmWave Materials Assessment and Characterization](#)

#### 5G/mmWave

ongoing projects

- [mmWave Permittivity Reference Material Development](#)
- Also see Roadmap: [5G/6G mmWave Materials and Electrical Test Technology Roadmap \(5G/6G MAESTRO\)](#)

#### Board Assembly

- [Bi-Sn Based Low-Temperature Soldering Process and Reliability](#)
- [Characterization of Third Generation High-Reliability Pb-Free Alloys](#)
- [Conformal Coating Evaluation for Environmental Protection against Corrosive Environments, Phase 3](#)
- [Connector Reliability Test Recommendations, Phase 3](#)
- [Electromigration of SiBn Solder for Second-Level Interconnect](#)
- [QFN Package Board Level Reliability](#)

#### Optoelectronics

- [Best Practices for Expanded Beam Connectors in Data Centers](#)

#### Packaging

- [Impact of Low CTE Mold Compound on Second-Level Board Reliability, Phase 2](#)
- [Low Temperature Material Discovery and Characterization for First Level Interconnect](#)
- [Moisture Induced Expansion Metrology for Packaging Polymetric Materials Project, Phase 1](#)
- [PLP Fine Pitch Substrate Inspection/Metrology, Phase 4](#)
- [RDL Adhesion Strength Measurement Project](#)
- [Warpage Characterization and Management Program](#)
  - [High Density Interconnect Socket Warpage Prediction and Characterization](#)

#### PCB & Laminates

- [Reliability & Loss Properties of Copper Foils for 5G Applications](#)
- [PCBA Materials for Harsh Environments, Phase 2](#)
- [Hybrid PCBs for Next Generation Applications](#)
- [PCB Characterization for CAF and ECM Failure Mitigation](#)
- [PCB Connector Footprint Tolerance](#)



# Reliability & Loss Properties of Copper Foils for 5G Applications

## Statement of Work & Project Statement

- [Statement of Work](#) (v 1.3; April 8, 2021)
- [Project Statement](#) (v 1.0; April 8, 2021)

## Project Focus:

The purpose of the project is to correlate:

- ↳ (non-contact) surface **roughness** measurements
- ↳ to surface **conductivity**
- ↳ to **signal loss** (through a microstrip test vehicle)

at increasing frequencies.

QWED resonant methods  
characterising effective conductivity  
of stand-alone copper foil samples

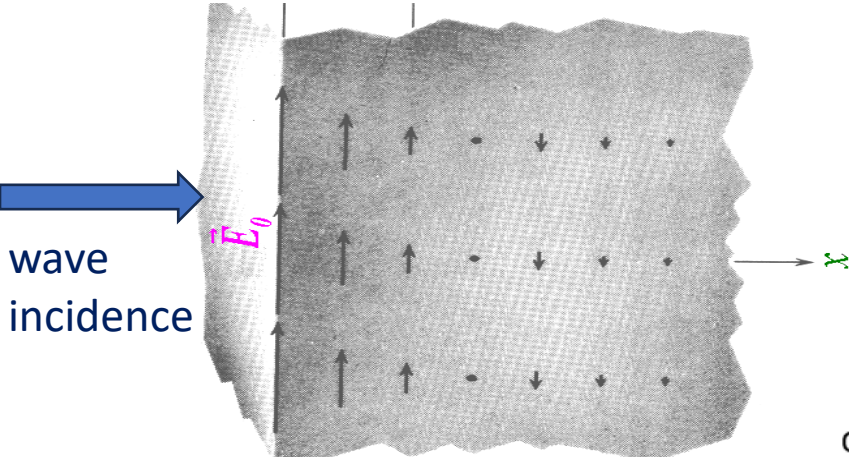
The project will also investigate **durability** (“strength”) of the inner layer bond:

- for various copper roughness’ and surface finishes,
- on ED (electrodeposited) and RA (rolled annealed) copper foil
- and also after various oxide alternative finishes.

# Why Copper Loss Becomes More problematic at Higher Frequencies

current **at the surface**  
related to E-field at the surface:

$$J_0 = E_0 \sigma$$



→ problems common for metallic surfaces (bulk or foil)

penetration depth  
(fields & currents  
attenuated e-times)

$$dp = \sqrt{\frac{2}{\omega \mu_0 \sigma}}$$

$\sigma$  [S/m]

$dp$  [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]

@13.5 GHz

non-magnetic metal

$\sigma$ [S/m]	$dp$ [ $\mu\text{m}$ ]
1.00E+03	135.8309
1.00E+04	42.9026
1.00E+05	13.5588
1.00E+06	4.2871
1.00E+07	1.3556
5.00E+07	0.6063

surface resistance  
(sheet resistance)

$$R_s = \frac{1}{\sigma dp} = \sqrt{\frac{\pi f \mu}{\sigma}}$$

current integrated over depth  
(so called **surface current**):

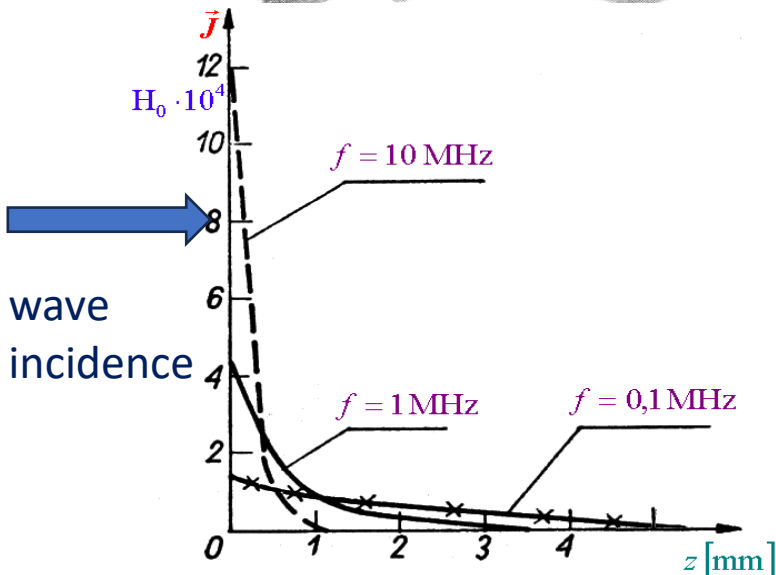
$$J_{sz} = \int_0^{\infty} J_z dx = \frac{J_0 dp}{1+j} = \frac{E_0}{1+j} dp \sigma =$$

$$= \frac{E_0}{1+j} \sqrt{\frac{2}{\omega \mu \sigma}} \sigma = \frac{E_0}{1+j} \sqrt{\frac{2\sigma}{\omega \mu}} =$$

$$= \frac{E_0}{1+j} \sqrt{2j} \sqrt{\frac{\sigma}{j\omega \mu}} = E_0 \sqrt{\frac{\sigma}{j\omega \mu}} = \frac{E_0}{Z} = H_0$$

Total current ("surface current")  
flowing along the metallic surface  
is equal to the incident H-field amplitude  
(does not depend on frequency or metal conductivity).

At higher frequencies, this current flows in a thinner  
layer below metal surface, hence,  
experiences a higher resistance.

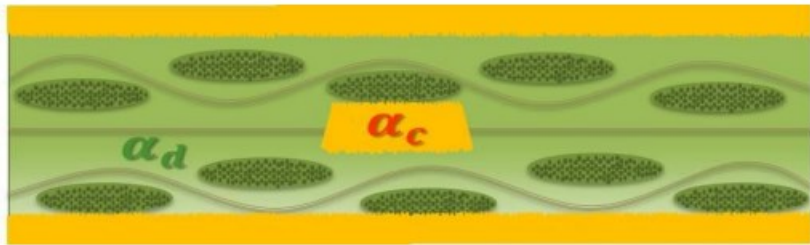


# Why Copper Loss Becomes More problematic at Higher Frequencies

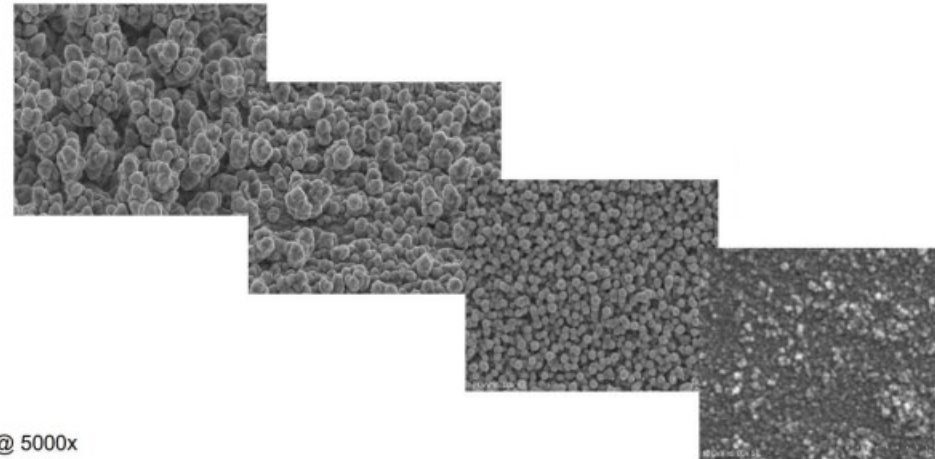
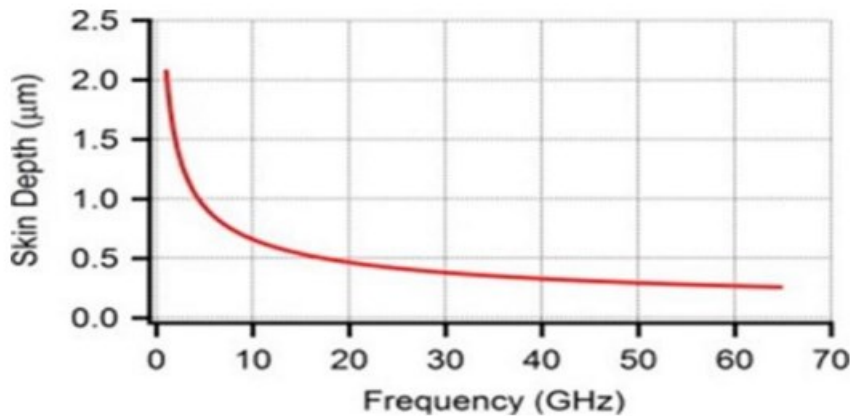
→ problems specific to foils:

from: Ed Kelly, IMPACT 2021

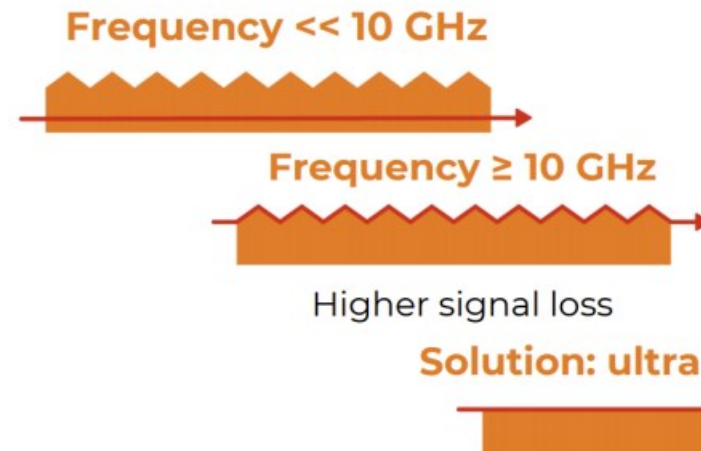
## Conductor Loss Drives Need for Ultra Low-Profile Copper



As frequency increases, skin depth decreases, and a significant amount of the current is carried in the bond treatment portion of the copper – including on the oxide alternative side



All @ 5000x

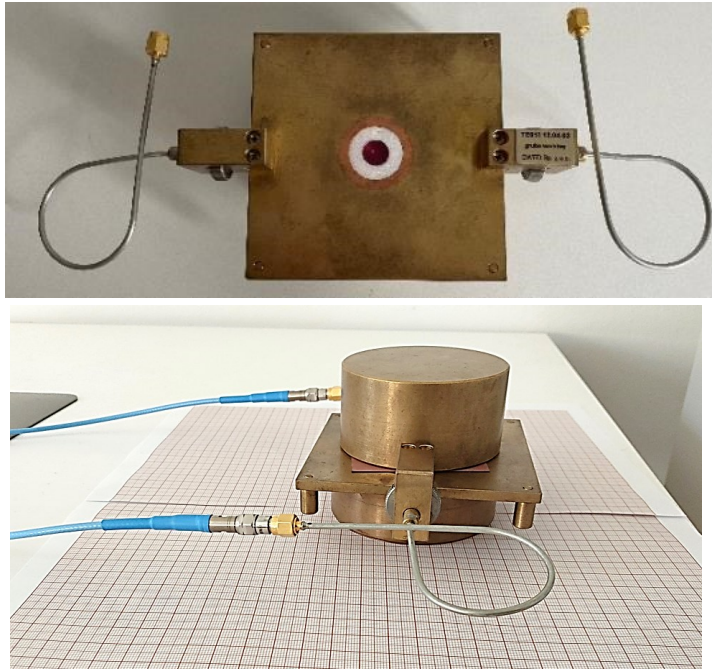


Photos & figures:  
courtesy of copper foil manufacturers  
involved in the project



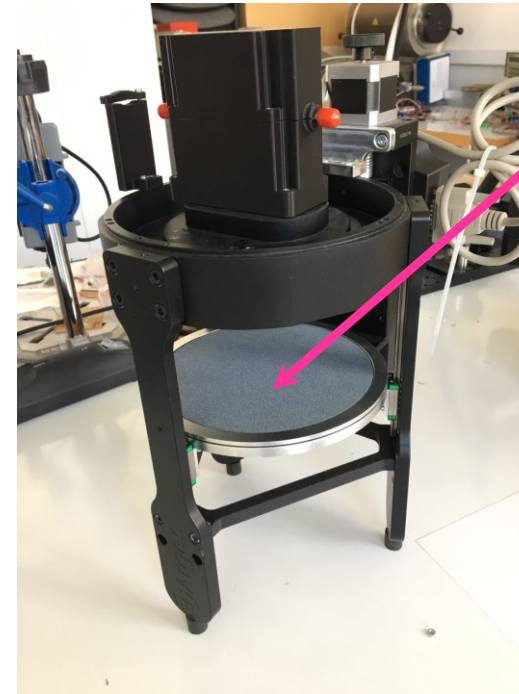
# Methods Proposed by QWED for Measuring Surface Resistance $R_s$ (and *Effective* Conductivity $\sigma_{eff}$ of Copper Foils)

Dielectric Resonator:  
Sapphire (SaDR) or Ruby (RuDD)



$$R_s = \sqrt{\frac{\pi f \mu}{\sigma_{eff}}}$$

effective parameter,  
lower than bulk copper,  
including the effects  
of inhomogeneity  
(roughness, treatment)



Fabry-Perot Open Resonator  
(modified to planar-concave design)

sample holder;  
vacuum pump to be applied from below

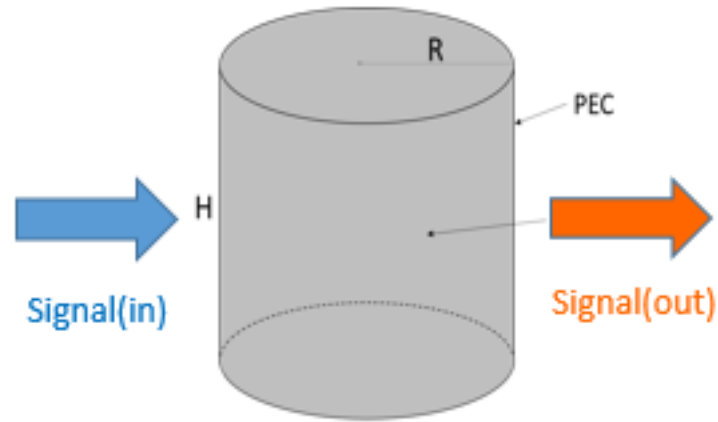


Both RuDD (SaDR) and FPOR resonators allow measuring a copper foil by itself:

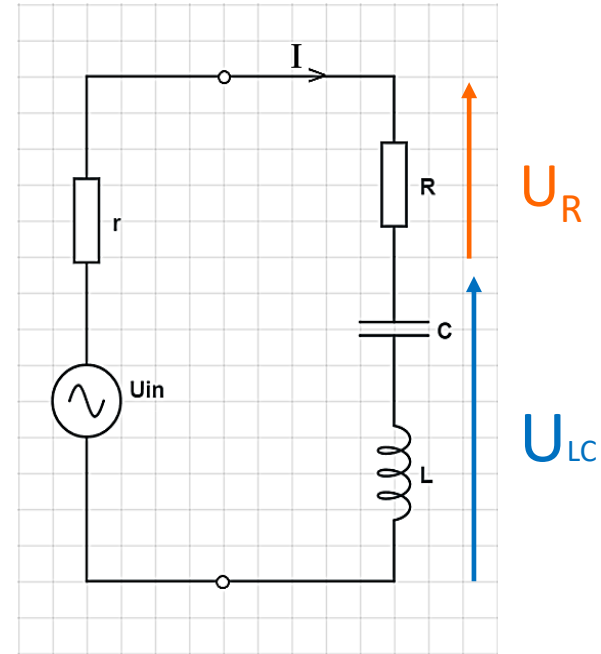
- no need to fabricate a test circuit!
- loss from the foil is separated from any dielectric loss,
- the two sides of foil can be measured separately,
- foils on laminates can also be measured.

# Why Resonators for Material Measurements?

Circuit theory interpretation (for newcomers to the field):



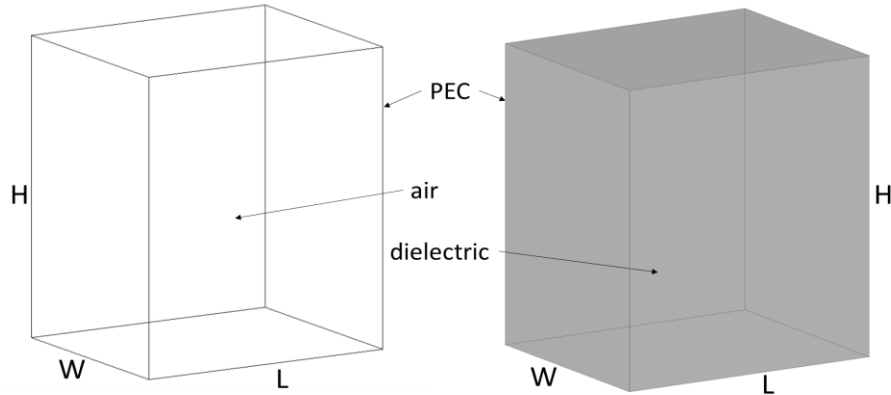
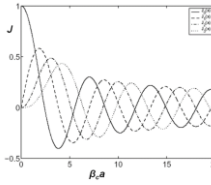
given fixed strength of **Signal(in)**,  
at resonance **Signal (out)** is strongest



given fixed strength of  $U_{in}$ ,  
at resonance  $U_R$  is strongest ( $U_{LC}=zero$ )

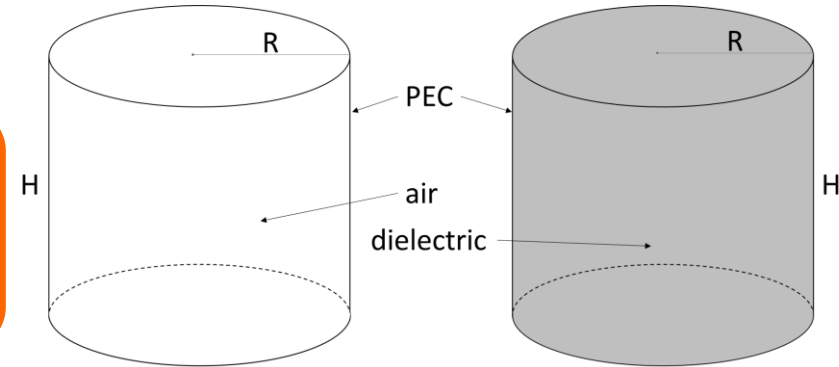
- The resonance is sharpest (narrow-band, high-Q) when the resonator is composed of ultra-low-loss materials.
- Hence, the resonant methods are specifically suitable for characterising 5G/mmWave materials.

# Examples of canonical examples of resonators



$$Q = 2\pi \frac{\overline{W}}{P_q T}$$

$$Q = 2\pi \frac{\iiint_V \epsilon \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E}^* dv}{T \iiint_V \sigma \vec{E} \cdot \vec{E}^* dv} = \frac{\omega \epsilon}{\sigma} = \frac{1}{\tan \delta}$$



$$f_{r,mnp} = \frac{v}{2} \sqrt{\left(\frac{m}{W}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{n}{L}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{p}{H}\right)^2}$$

$$v = \frac{1}{\sqrt{\mu \epsilon}} = \frac{c}{\sqrt{\epsilon_r}} \text{ in non-magnetic low-loss dielectrics}$$

$$f_{r,mnp} = \frac{v}{2} \sqrt{\left(\frac{\kappa_{mn}^{(l)}}{\pi R}\right)^2 + \left(\frac{p}{H}\right)^2}$$

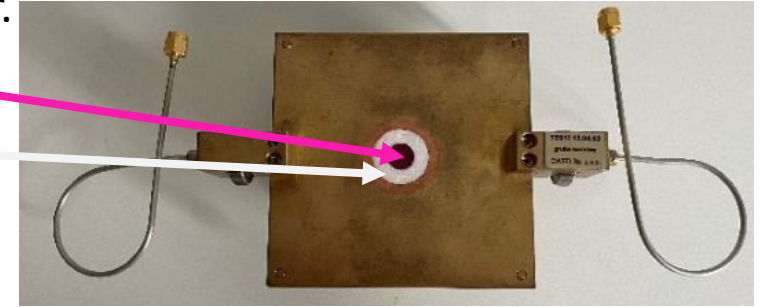
→ In classical applications for measuring dielectric materials, we minimise losses from cavity walls, to accurately capture the loss due to the dielectric filling.

→ To characterise copper foils, we minimise internal dielectric losses and apply a copper foils as a part of the cavity walls, with contribution to the overall loss of the resonator evaluated by rigorous electromagnetic modelling.

# Ruby Dielectric Resonator for Measuring Conductive Layers

A cylinder of high-permittivity dielectric (sapphire or **ruby**) forms the resonator.

It is mounted in a cylindrical cavity via a teflon ring.

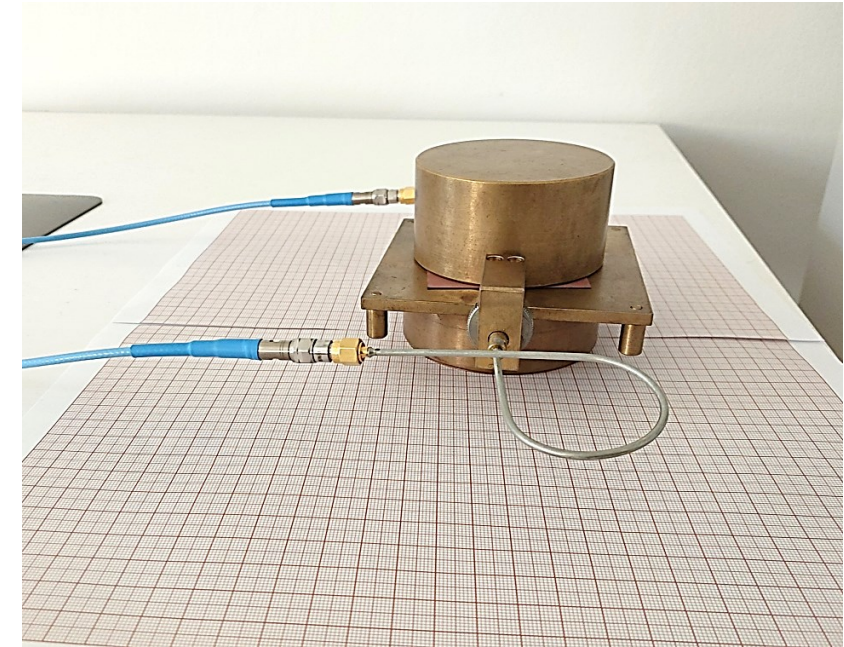


Losses of the resonator come from:

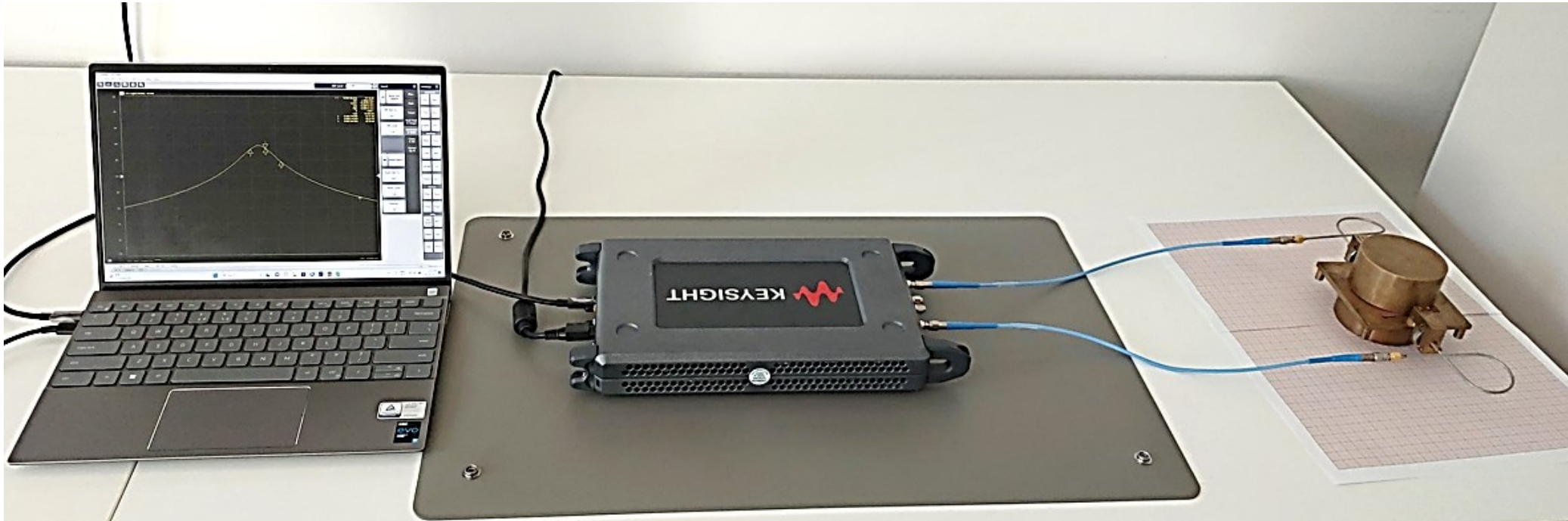
**mainly:** bottom & top plates made by the sample-under-test  
(pressed with metal blocks for electrical contact & mechanical robustness),

**additionally:** cavity side walls & ruby itself  
(minimised & calibrated out via the modelling).

- It operates at nominal frequencies of **13 GHz** and **21 GHz**.
- Two identical metallic samples are required for measurements.
- The samples should have dimensions of at least **23 mm x 23 mm**.
- The dedicated software calculates material parameters based on the measured data: resonance frequency and Q-factor (extracted through VNA).



# Ruby Dielectric Resonator (RuDD) - example measurement system



The picture above shows an example of a measurement kit which consists of a laptop (running a dedicated App), VNA and ruby resonator.

# Sample preparation

Package with copper foils  
received by QWED from iNEMI project partners



Foils cut and sorted into samples for RuDD measurements



iNEMI project partners provided representative sets of copper foils:

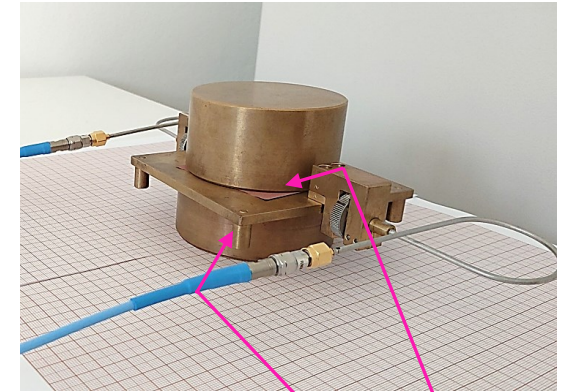
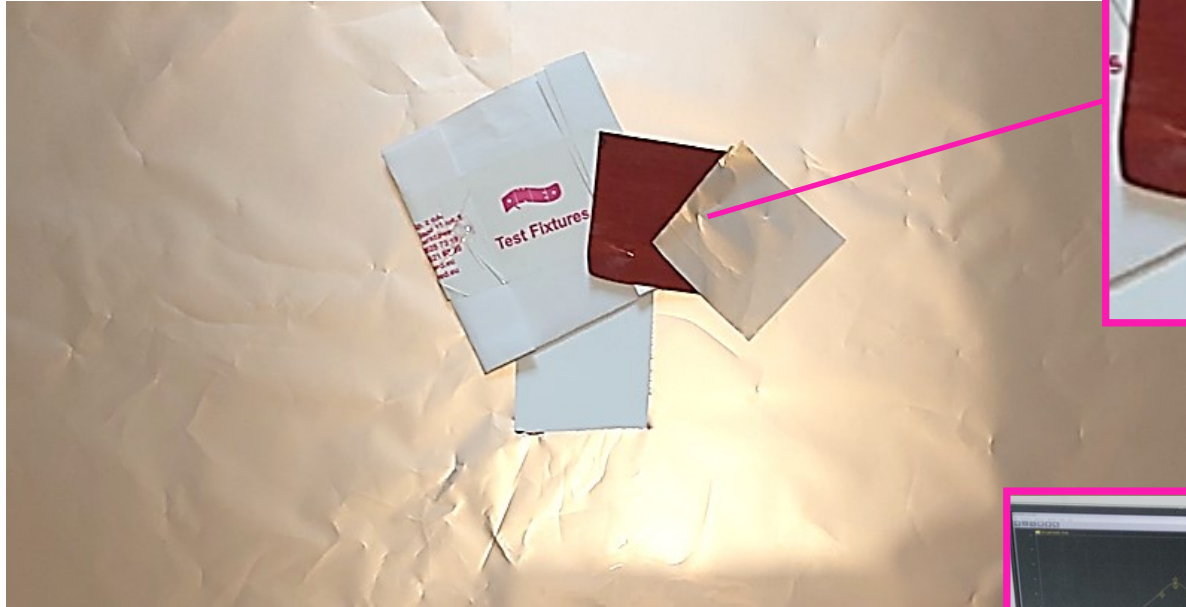
- 3 manufacturers,
- High- and Low-roughness foils,
- 6 sheets of each foil,
- to be measured on both “rough” and shiny” sides.

# Copper foils

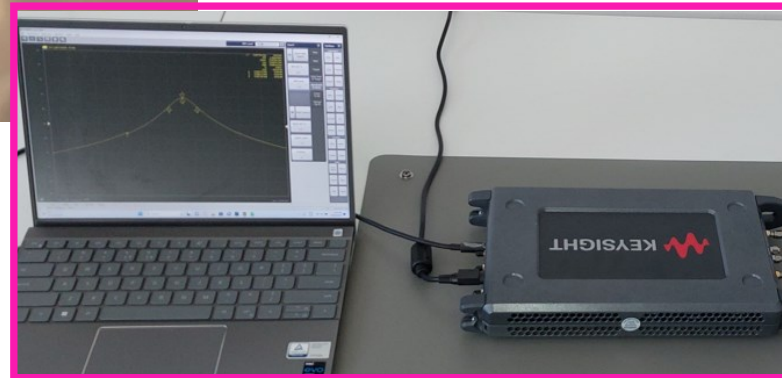
„Rough” side of the sample

„Shiny” side of the sample

Samples measured on the same side



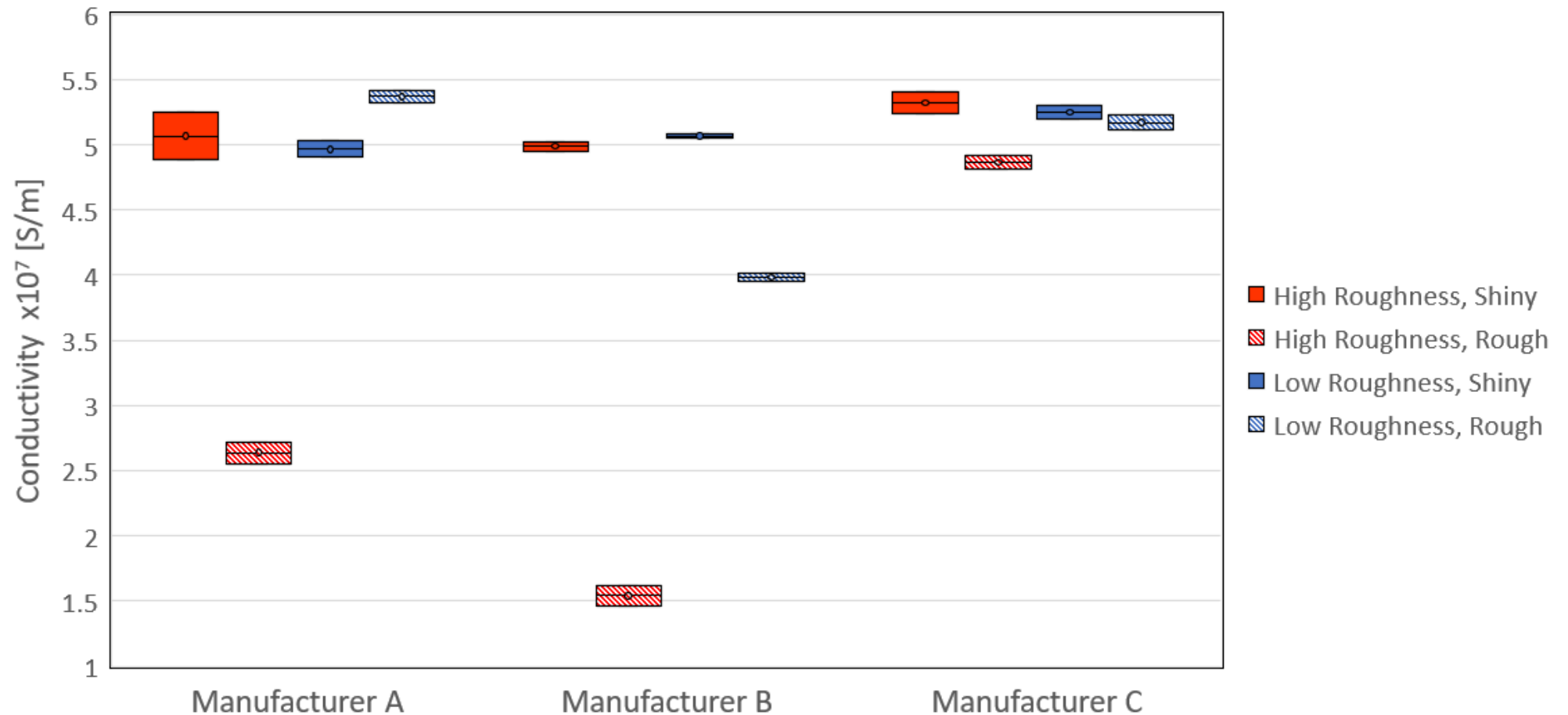
Sample



Reading the resonant frequency and Q-factor from the VNA and entering it into dedicated software to calculate surface resistance and conductivity.

# Results

Conductivity of copper foils obtained by ruby resonator at 13 GHz

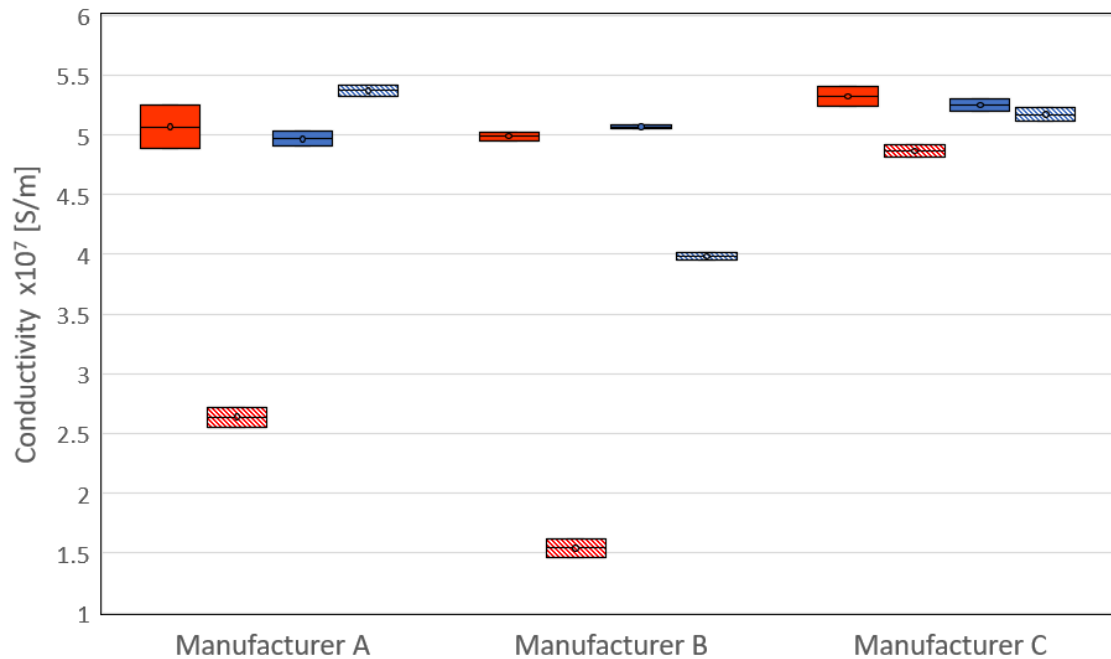


- Copper foils exhibit lower effective conductivity than bulk copper.
- Copper foils from 3 different manufacturers, of both High- and Low-roughness, exhibit similar (within 10%) effective conductivities when measured on the “shiny” side (ca.  $5 \div 5.5 \times 10^7$  S/m).
- “Rough” side of high-roughness foils has lower conductivity (even by a factor of 2-3, depending on the manufacturer).
- For Low-roughness foils, the difference between the “shiny” and “rough” sides is less significant (with even an anomaly for one manufacturer).

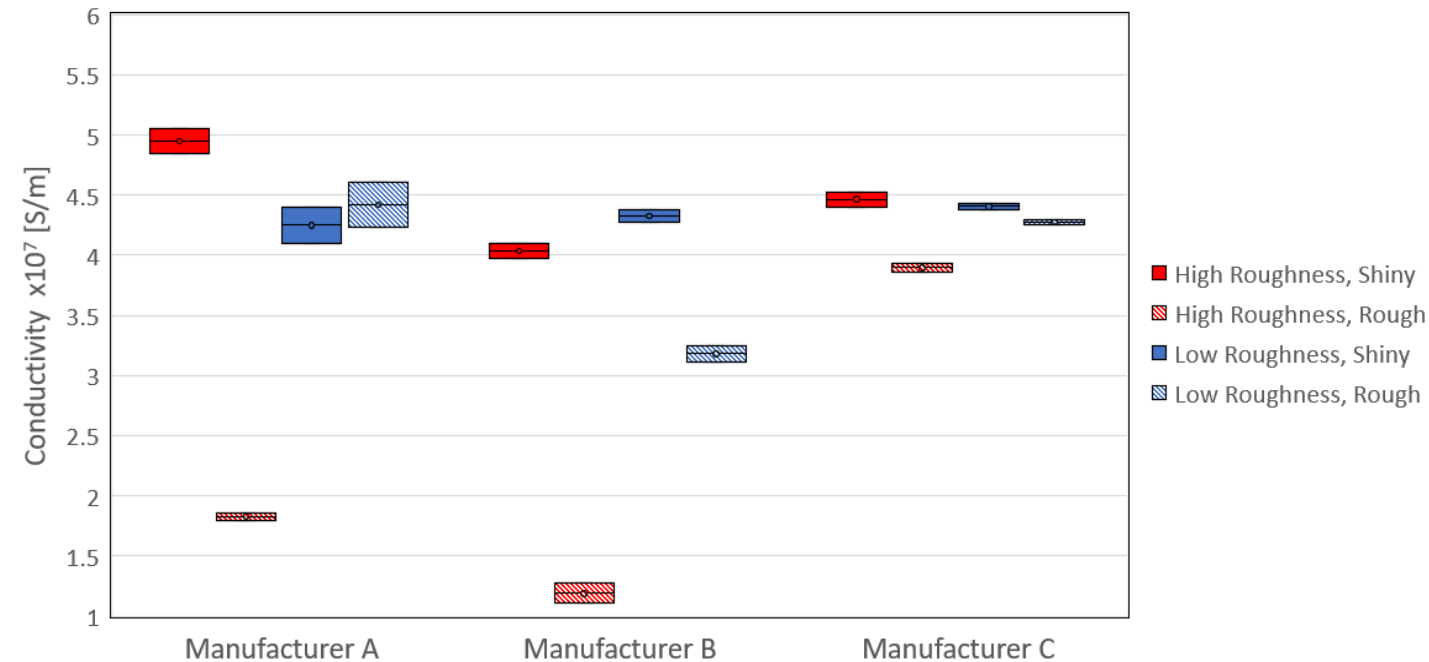


# RuDD Results @ 13GHz and 21 GHz

Conductivity of copper foils obtained by ruby resonator at 13 GHz



Conductivity of copper foils obtained by ruby resonator at 21 GHz

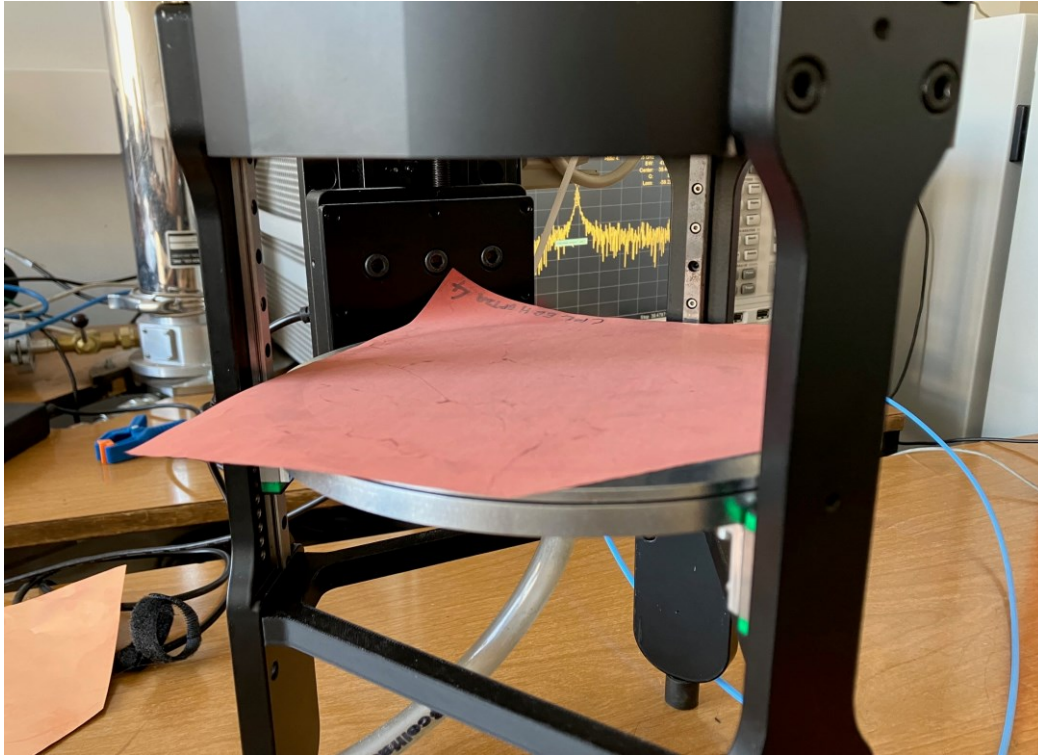


At the higher frequency of 21 GHz:

- All measured effective conductivity values tend to be lower than at 13 GHz.
- Differences between the manufacturers become more significant.
- Copper foils from only one manufacturer, of one type (High-roughness, shiny side) maintain effective conductivity at the level of  $5 \times 10^7$  S/m. Other ones drop below  $4.5 \times 10^7$  S/m.

# Fabry-Perot Open Resonator (FPOR) – adapted for measuring conductive films

Rough side



Smooth side



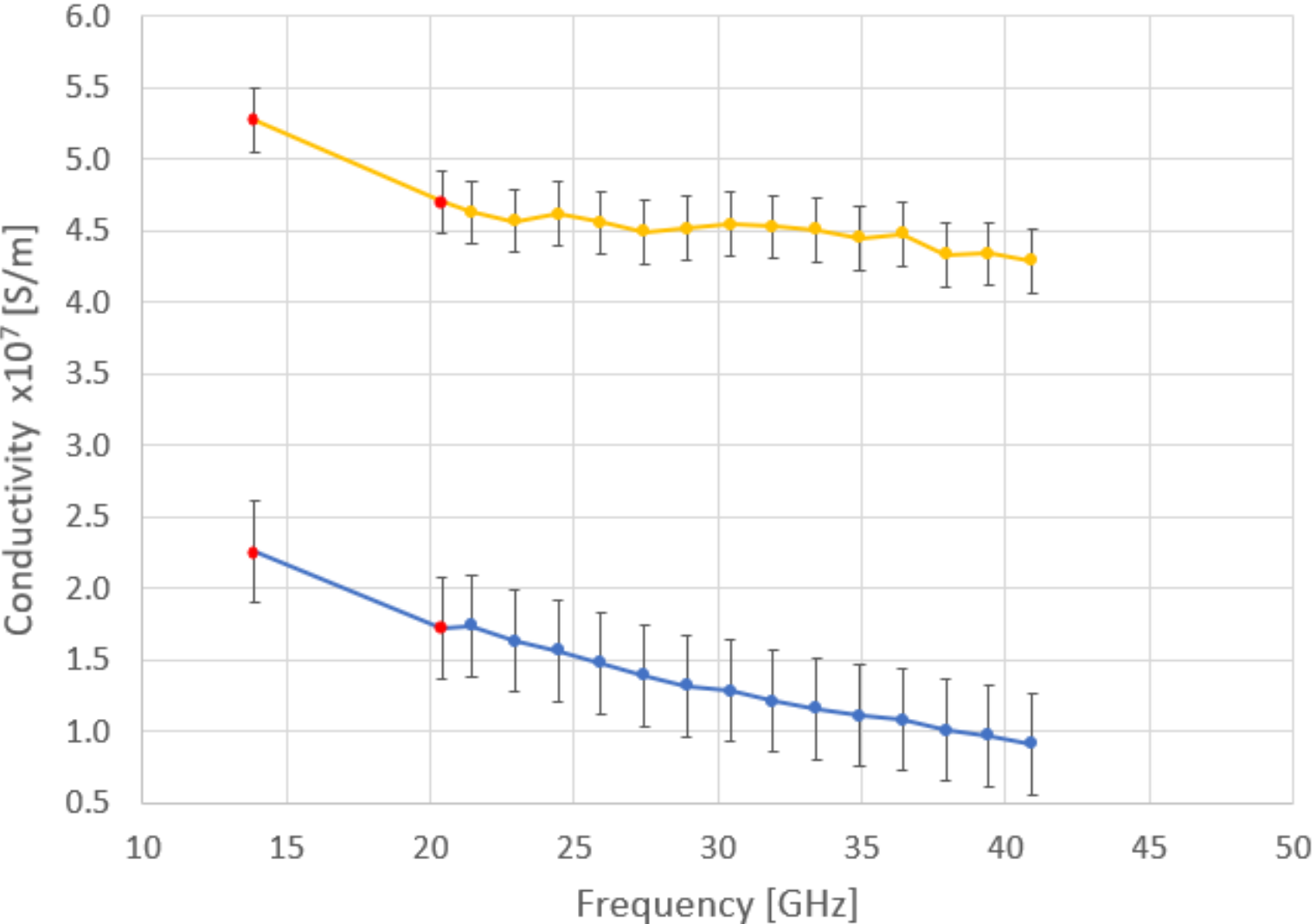
sample size  
90mm x 90mm

**FPOR allows** broadband and precise resonant measurements of electromagnetic properties of materials.

It is adapted to copper foil measurements by:

- replacing the classical double-concave mirrors with planar-concave design (the foil-under-test forms the planar mirror),
- a vacuum pump is applied for fixing the foil,
- dedicated software is developed (for converting measured resonant frequencies & Q-factors to foils' effective conductivity).

# Broadband Copper Foil Measurements– FPOR & RuDD



**Manufacturer A**  
– High Roughness case

• Ruby Resonator

– Smooth  
– Rough } FPOR

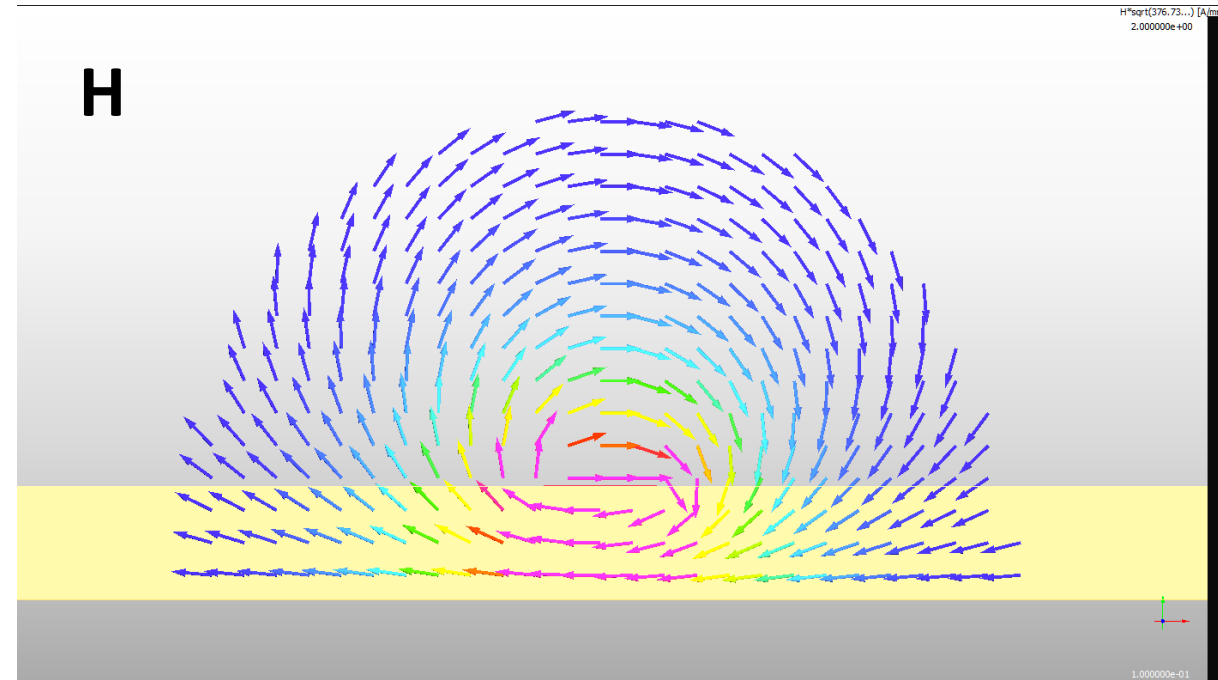
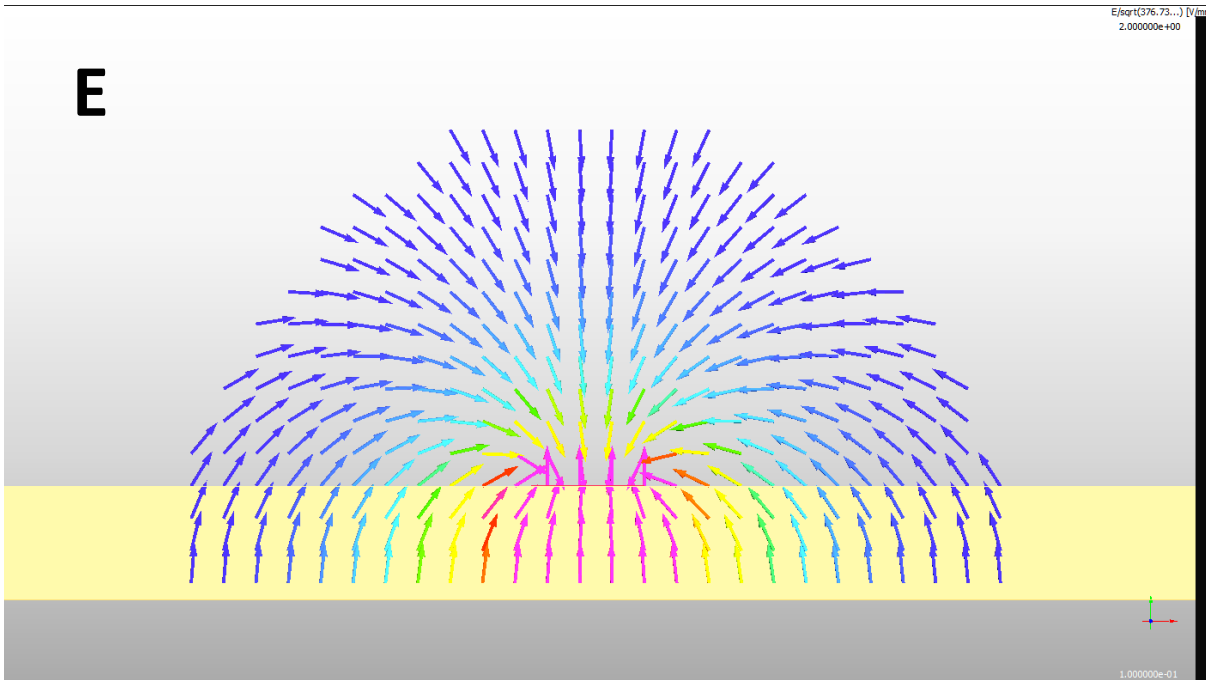
- effective conductivity decreases with frequency  
→ signal loss will increase
- differences between the two sides of copper must be taken into account



# Why Both Sides of a Copper Foil Should Be Measured

We model a 50 Ohm microstrip line.

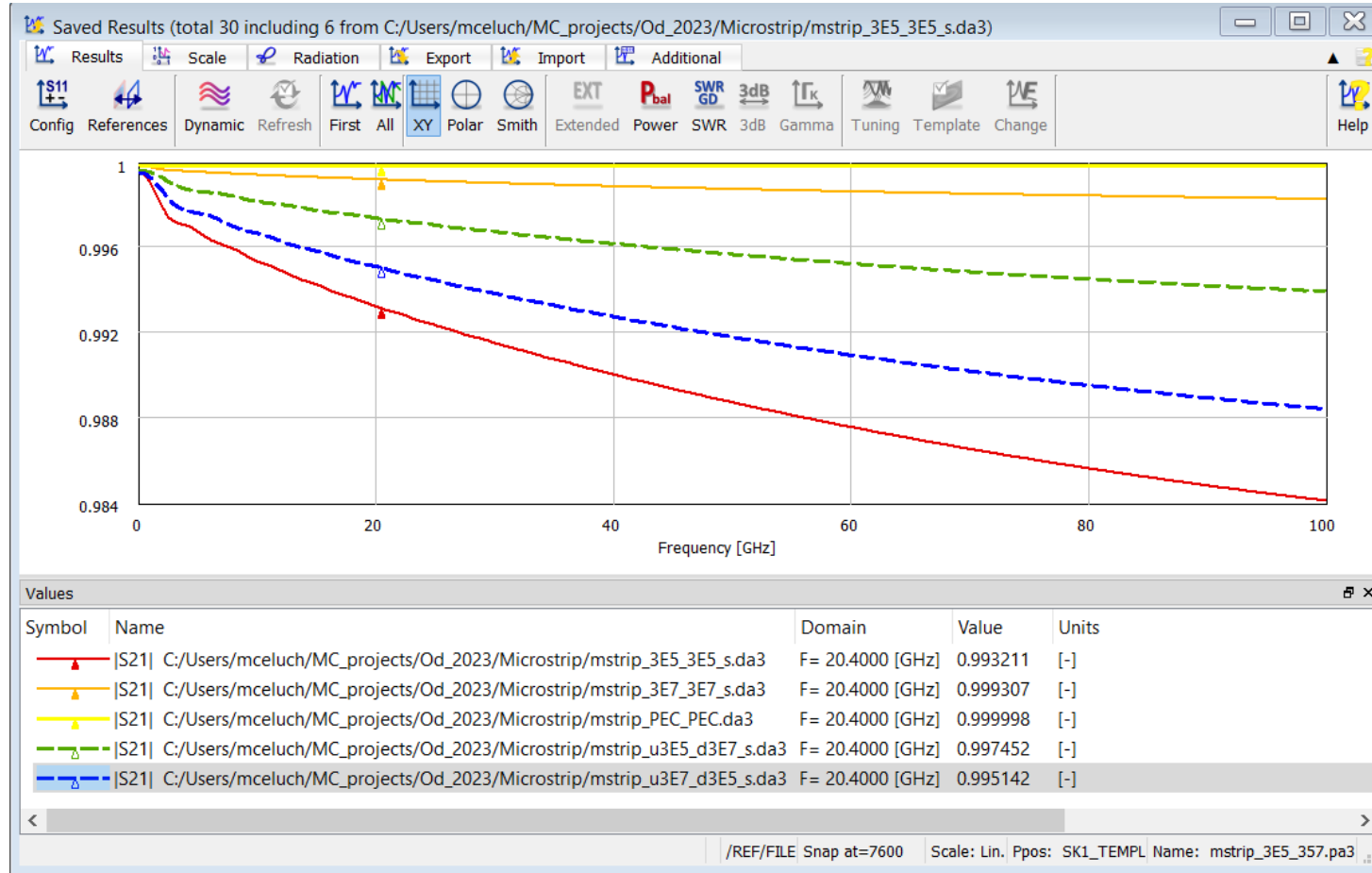
QuickWave™ by QWED is used to simulate field patterns and calculate transmission losses.



Higher field intensity below the strip → higher contribution of the bottom side of the strip to signal losses.

# Why Both Sides of a Copper Foil Should Be Measured

Predictions based on field patterns are confirmed by simulating a segment of the line, with a dual-side microstrip (conductivities to the bottom and upper side assigned independently in the model).



continuous lines:

identical top-bottom sides

dashed lines:

different top-bottom sides

PEC

$$\sigma = 3E7 \text{ S/m}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{top}} = 3E5 \text{ S/m} \quad \sigma_{\text{bottom}} = 3E7 \text{ S/m}$$

$$\sigma_{\text{top}} = 3E7 \text{ S/m} \quad \sigma_{\text{bottom}} = 3E5 \text{ S/m}$$

$$\sigma = 3E5 \text{ S/m}$$

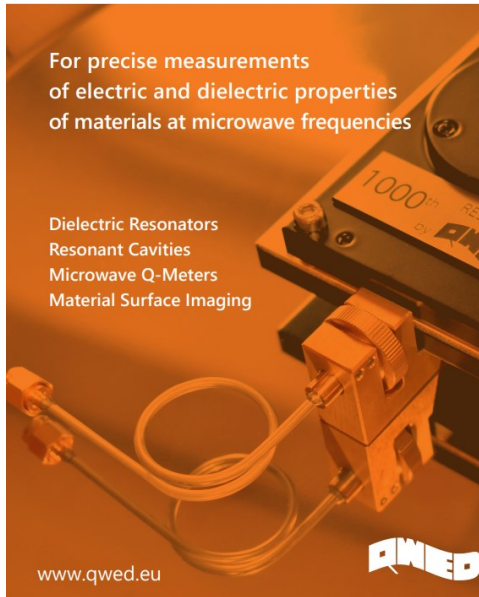
Note:

differences in bottom-top conductivities are exaggerated, to capture differences in transmission loss along a short segment of the line.



# The New Setups Complement QWED Resonator Product Line...

## Test Fixtures and Setups



## QWED Resonators for Measuring Dielectric and Resistive Sheets

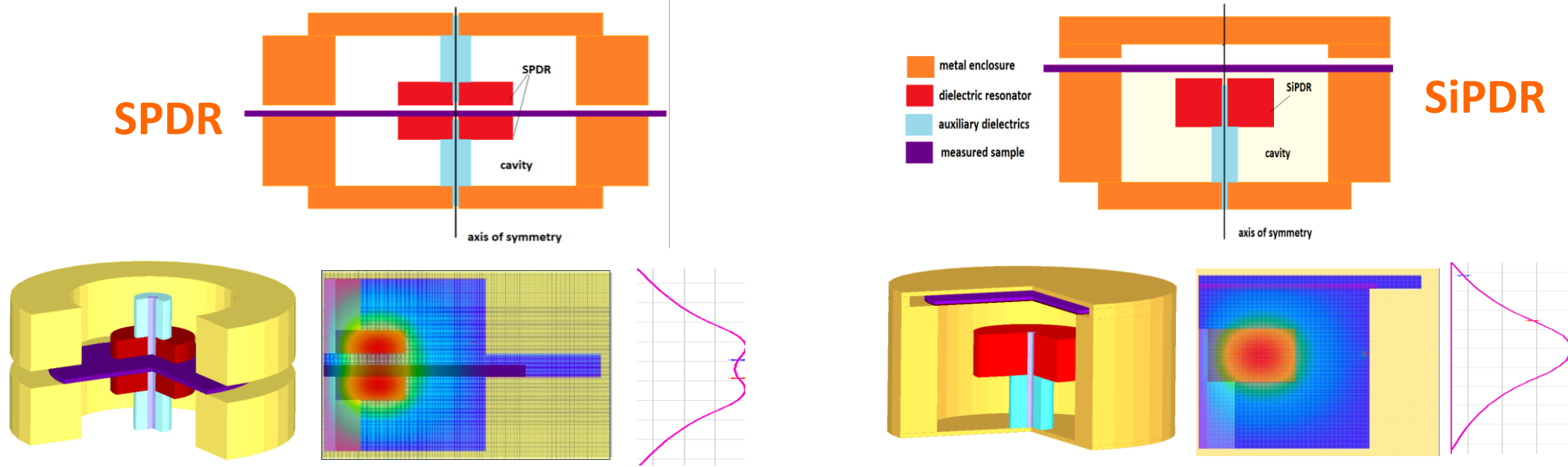


Table 2. Typical ranges of applications of SPDRs and SiPDRs

	Conductivity [1/( $\Omega\text{m}$ )]	Resistivity [ $\Omega\text{ cm}$ ]	Surface resistivity [ $\Omega/\text{sq}$ ]
Range of SPDR applications	$2 \cdot 10^{-3}$ to 0.5	from $2 \cdot 10^2$ to $5 \cdot 10^4$	from $2 \cdot 10^3$ to $10^7$
Range of SiPDR applications	0.1 to $10^6$	from $10^{-4}$ (*) to $10^3$	from $10^{-1}$ to $2 \cdot 10^4$

**RuDR** >  $10^6$

SPDR & SiPDR designs after:

J. Krupka and J. Mazierska, *IEEE Trans. Instr. Meas.*, 2007, doi: 10.1109/TIM.2007.903647

CAD models and EM field distribution:

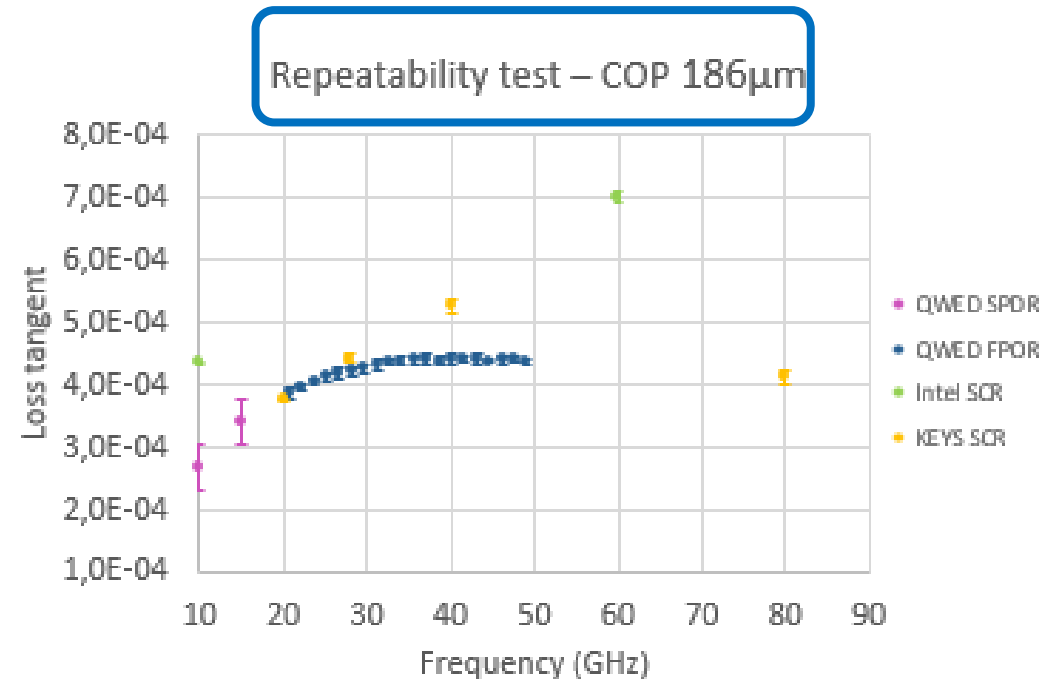
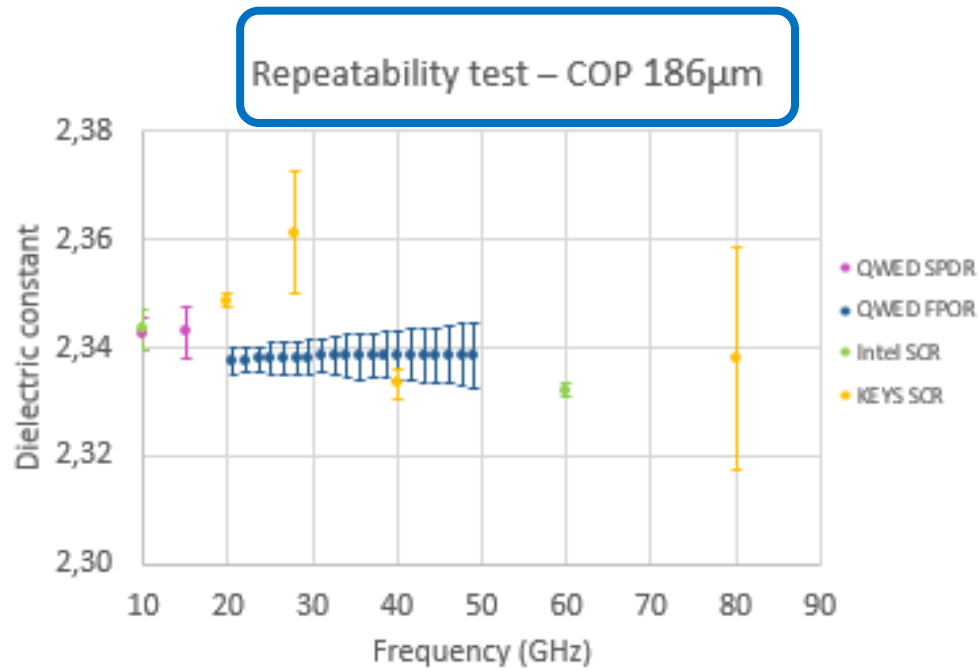
QuickWave™ software by QWED



# QWED Resonators for Dielectric Substrates in a previous iNEMI 5G Project\*

- 3 labs
  - 3 techniques
  - 14 laboratory setups
- Intel - SCR at 10 / 60 GHz and SPDR at 10/ 20 GHz,  
Keysight - SCR at 10 / 20 / 28 / 40 / 80 GHz  
QWED - SPDR at 10/ 15 GHz and FPOR over 10-110GHz

\* "5G/mmWave Materials Assessment and Characterization"  
[https://www.inemi.org/article\\_content.asp?adminkey=5cc4f4100ebf2ba1f3e6fd6294749139&article=161](https://www.inemi.org/article_content.asp?adminkey=5cc4f4100ebf2ba1f3e6fd6294749139&article=161)

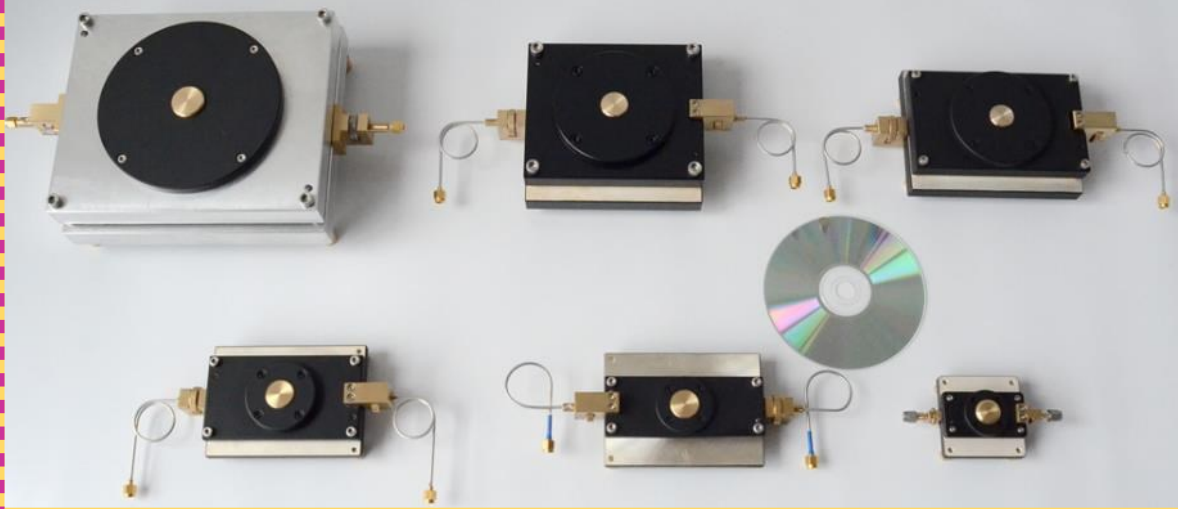


repeatability of SCR  $\pm 1\%$   
repeatability of SPDR, FPOR better than  $\pm 0.3\%$

> 40GHz 2x increase in Df compared to 10GHz

# QWED's Popular Dielectric Resonators

Split-Post Dielectric Resonator, typical units for 1.1 GHz -15 GHz for laminar low-loss dielectric materials



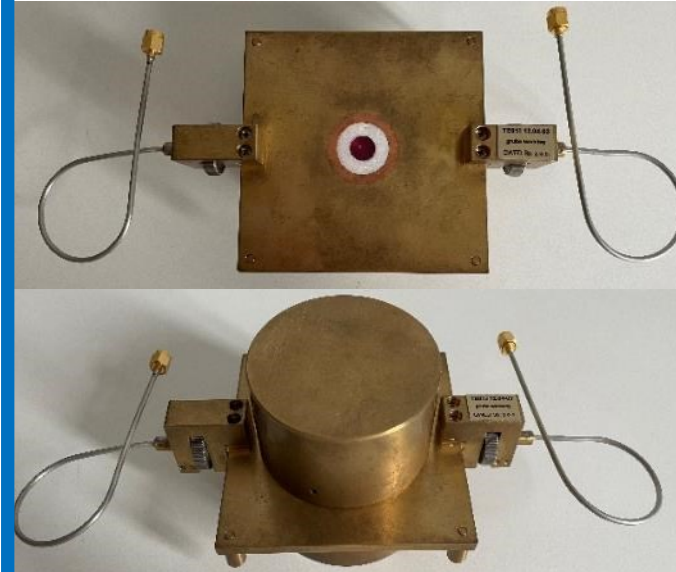
5 GHz SiPDR for resistive sheets



TE01 $\delta$  cavities, typically 1 GHz – 10 GHz for bulk low-loss dielectrics



Sapphire Resonators (SaDR) for metal foils 13.5 / 20 GHz



LAMINAR LOW-LOSS DIELECTRICS

METALLIC OR RESISTIVE SHEETS

APPLIED IN TEMPERATURE-VARYING CONDITIONS

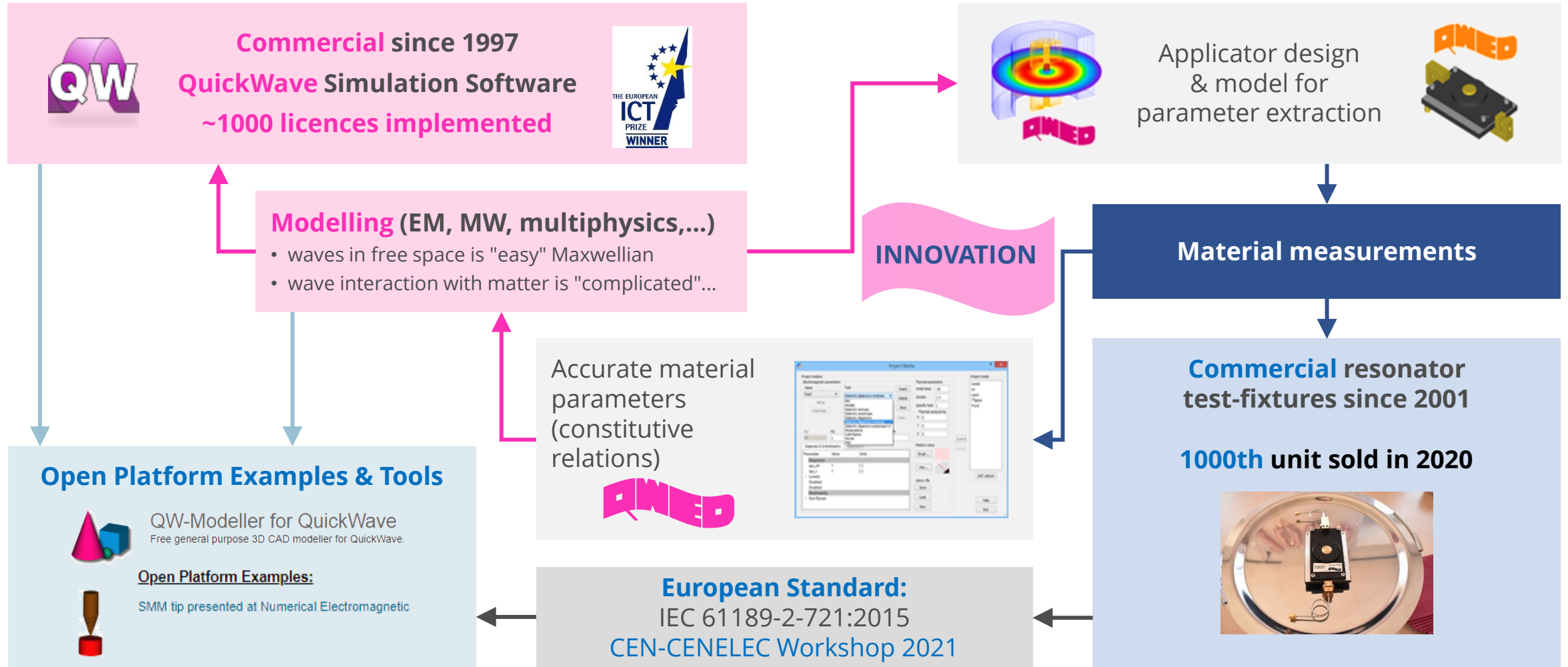
more recent  
Fabry-Perot  
Open Resonator



Fabry-Perot Open Resonator  
automatic span,  
quasi-continuous  
20 .. 120 GHz



# Bridging Computer Modelling with Material Measurements



# Summary

1. The **iNEMI “Copper Foils”** project investigates “Reliability & Loss Properties of Copper Foils for 5G Applications”. This talk has reported on the status of Task 2, where copper foils’ topology is correlated to copper loss, responsible for signal loss in 5G circuits.
2. **QWED** has developed two resonator-based instruments for measuring effective conductivity of copper foils, based on:
  - Dielectric Resonator (here: RuDD, dual-frequency: 13 GHz & 21 GHz)
  - Fabry-Perot Open Resonator (in plano-concave topology, multi-mode, quasi-continuous measurement in 20..40 GHz band).*The measurements are quick & convenient, of the copper foils per se, as delivered by the manufacturer – no need to build a test circuit!*
3. **iNEMI project partners** have provided representative sets of copper foils:
  - 3 manufacturers,
  - High- and Low-roughness foils (to be measured on both “rough” and shiny” sides)
  - 6 sheets of each foil type (to study sample reproducibility: averages and standard deviation calculated).
4. **QWED** measurements show that, for higher frequencies (mmWave):
  - effective conductivity of all copper foils decreases (hence, electric loss increases) with frequency,
  - differences in loss due to different manufacturers and copper types increase,
  - differences of signal loss due to different conductivity of the two sides of copper need to be taken into account in circuit design.
5. The **iNEMI consortium** will now be correlating the measured copper losses to more systematic topology measurements, as well as adding treatment and then evaluating its effects.
6. QWED is happy to design **custom-made instruments** and enter into **joint R&D projects!!!**

# Hello from



Sep. 2022: 75<sup>th</sup> birthday of Prof. W.Gwarek  
(cake featuring pioneering paper of 1985)

May 2022: QWED celebrating 25 years

1998: Prime Minister of Poland Award



QWED' beginning, founders (right to left):  
W.Gwarek, M.Celuch, M.Sypniewski, A.Wieckowski

*Awarded by Prof. Jerzy Buzek  
Prime Minister of Poland 1997-2002  
President of the European Parliament 2009-2012*

M.Celuch @ IMPACT, Taipei, 25 Oct. 2023



March 2020: Sale of 1000<sup>th</sup> resonator  
based on designs of Prof. J.Krupka



*I appreciate specific contributions to this presentation by:*

*Dr. Marzena Olszewska-Placha  
Prof. Wojciech Gwarek  
Janusz Rudnicki  
Lukasz Nowicki*

*and special thanks to:  
Prof. Pawel Kopyt, Warsaw Univ.Tech.*

# Acknowledgements



QWED team wishes to thank all the partners, of all the iNEMI “5G” projects, for their great collaboration in the benchmarking activities.

With this presentation, we specifically acknowledge the collaboration in the iNEMI “Copper Foils” Project:  
“Reliability & Loss Properties of Copper Foils for 5G Applications”

[https://www.inemi.org/article\\_content.asp?adminkey=b5202baac78313e4914809b2f481b372&article=209](https://www.inemi.org/article_content.asp?adminkey=b5202baac78313e4914809b2f481b372&article=209)

QWED R&D work is currently co-funded by the Polish National Centre for Research and Development under contracts M-ERA.NET2/2020/1/2021 (**ULTCC6G\_Epac**) and M-ERA.NET3/2021/83/**I4BAGS**/2022.

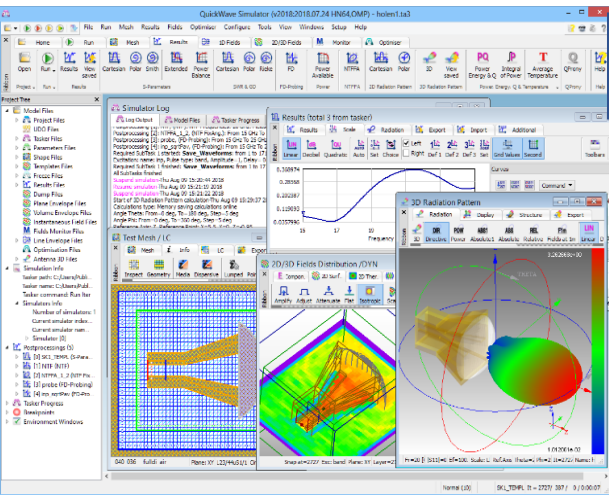




# 26 years in a Nutshell

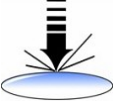
presented annually at IEEE IMS Show

## R&D projects

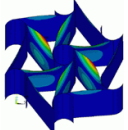


**Electromagnetic simulation & design software, 3D & BOR 2D tools**

**based on 300+ publications by:**  
**prof.W.Gwarek, IEEE Fellow, DML, Pioneer Award**  
**dr.M.Celuch, President of QWED**



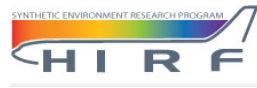
**FP6 SOCOT** – development and validation of an optimal methodology for overlay control in semiconductor industry, for the 32 nm technology node and beyond.



**FP6 CHISMALCOMB** – development, modelling, and applications of chiral materials → EM validation of mixing rules



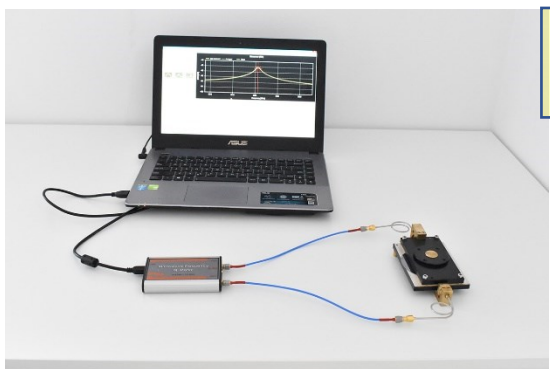
**Eureka E! 2602 MICRODEFROST MODEL** – innovative software-based product development tool for simulating and optimising heating and defrosting processes in microwave ovens



**FP7 HIRF SE** (High Intensity Radiated Field Synthetic Environment) - numerical modelling framework for aeronautic industry



**Eureka FOODWASTE** – developing new microwave treatment system for high water content waste



**Instruments for precise material measurements**

**based on 300+ publications by prof.J.Krupka, IEEE Fellow**



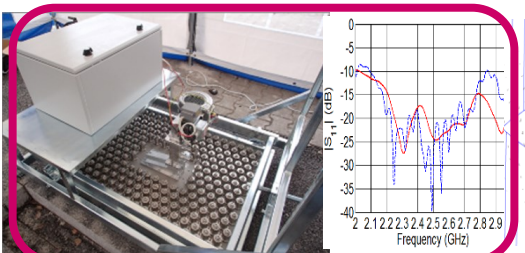
**ERA-NET MNT NACOPAN** – applications and modelling of nano-conductive polymer composites



**NGAM2** – designing an industrial device for thermal bonding of bituminous surfaces with the aid of microwave heating

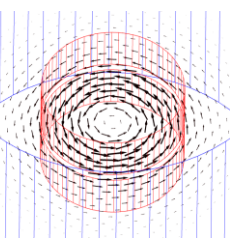


**MMAMA** (Microwave Microscopy for Advanced and Efficient Materials Analysis and Production) – EM modelling & characterisation for the development of high efficiency solar cells



**Consultancy & design services based on EM expertise & tools**

**team of 10+engineers, 4 PhDs, 2 Profs**  
**key areas: MW power appliances, customised resonators, antennas & feeds**



**NanoBat** - developing a novel nanotechnology toolbox for quality testing of Li-ion and beyond Lithium batteries with the potential to redefine battery production in Europe and worldwide.



**ULTCC6G\_EPac** – development & application of novel ceramics for 5G & beyond  
**I4BAGS** – modelling & characterisation of ion-implanted battery & graphene-enabled devices