

COBO Webinar 'Introduction to Multimode Waveguide  
(MMWG) Interconnect Systems for Photonic Integrated Circuits

# Advanced PCBs with Optical Waveguide Interconnects

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February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2022



- TTM Technologies Introduction
- Electro-Optical PCBs with Waveguides for Next Gen Data Centers
  - Waveguide Dimensions and Structural Definition
  - Optical Passive Components for On-Board Waveguide Routings
  - Channel Termination and Needed Optical Connectors
- Examples of Collaborative Industry Programs
- Summary

## End Market Leadership & Expertise



Aerospace &  
Defense/Specialty  
(A&D) Business Unit



Automotive & Medical,  
Industrial & Instrumentation  
(AMI&I) Business Unit



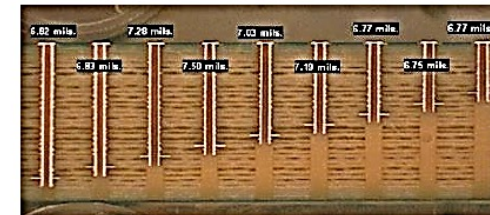
RF &  
Specialty Components  
(RF&S) Business Unit



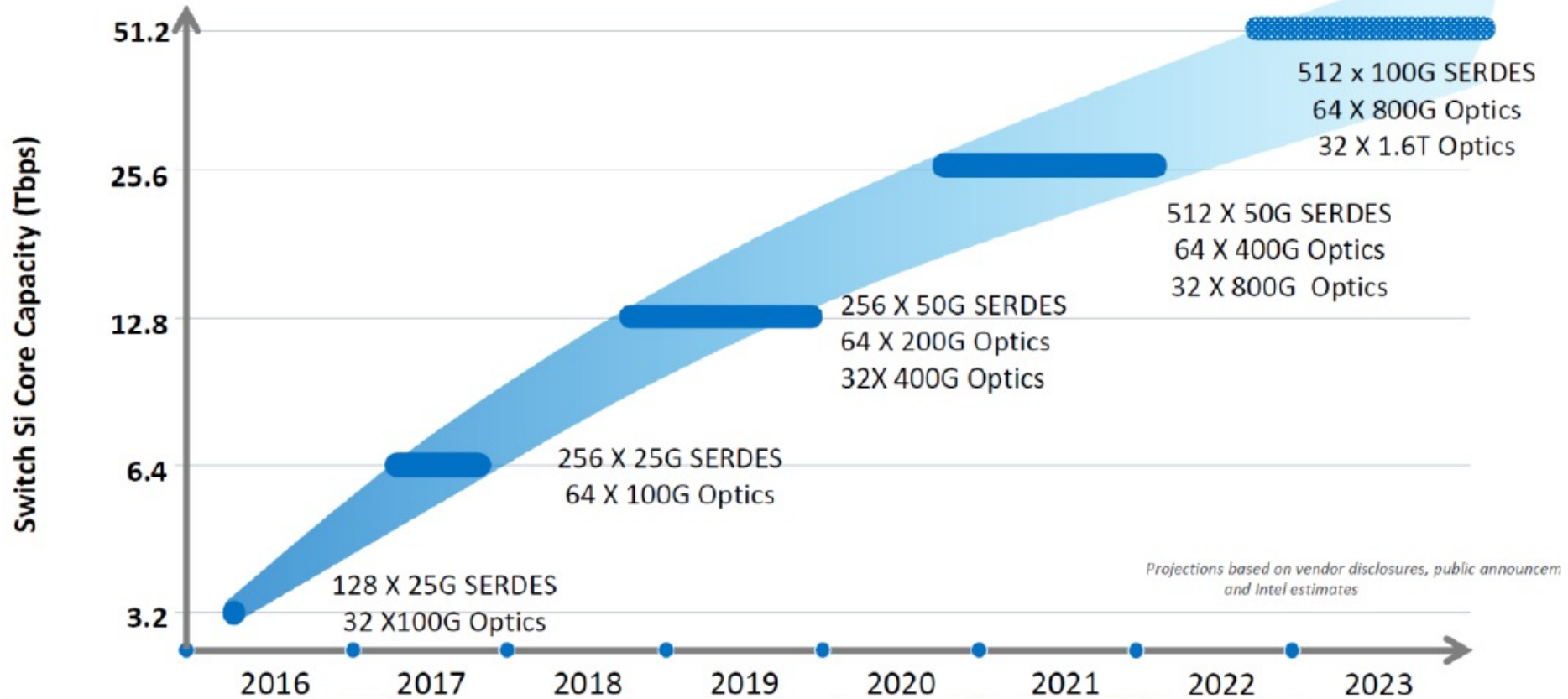
Communications  
& Computing  
(C&C) Business Unit



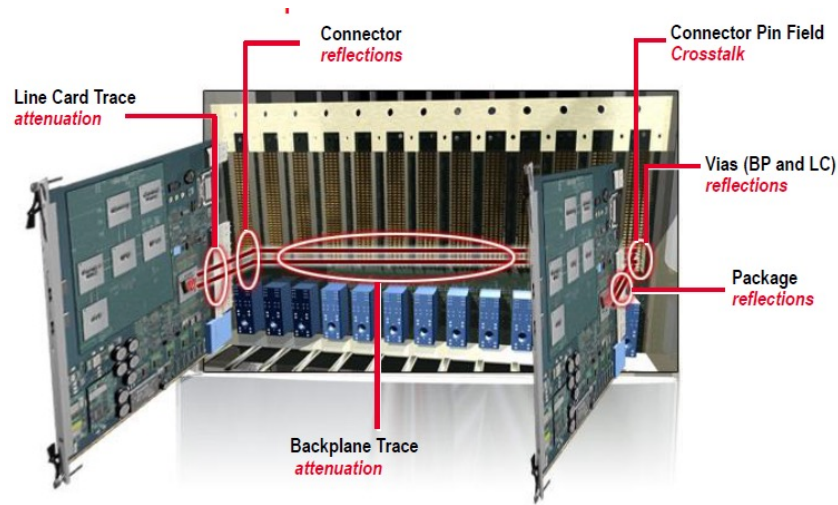
- Up to 64 layers
- Oversized large format PCB
- Flex and Rigid-Flex PCBs
- RF/mmWave PCBs for wide range of frequency bands, 110GHz+
  - Amplifier, Filter, Patch Antenna, Power Dividers, Balun, etc.
- Advanced high density interconnect (HDI) solutions
  - Sequential lamination blind and buried via technology
  - Via in pad technology
  - Copper filled and epoxy filled microvias
  - Advanced pattern plating & etching process
- High aspect ratio plating, >24:1
- Signal Integrity modeling, characterization and testing
  - Impedance, Insertion Loss, Back drilling, Via Structures, 3D EM Modelling
- Back drilling and via structures to minimize signal noise
- Advanced Materials expertise and testing services
- Buried Capacitance and Buried Resistance
- Engineered Thermal Management Solutions
- Heavy copper up to 12 ounces
- Defense/Aerospace certifications; ITAR, CGP, MIL-PRF-31032, MIL-PRF-50884, MIL-PRF 55110 and 55110G, AS9100D, NADCAP
- Commercial certifications: ISO9001, ISO14001, ISO/IEC 17025, ISO27001, ISO45001, IATF16949, TL9000, QC080000



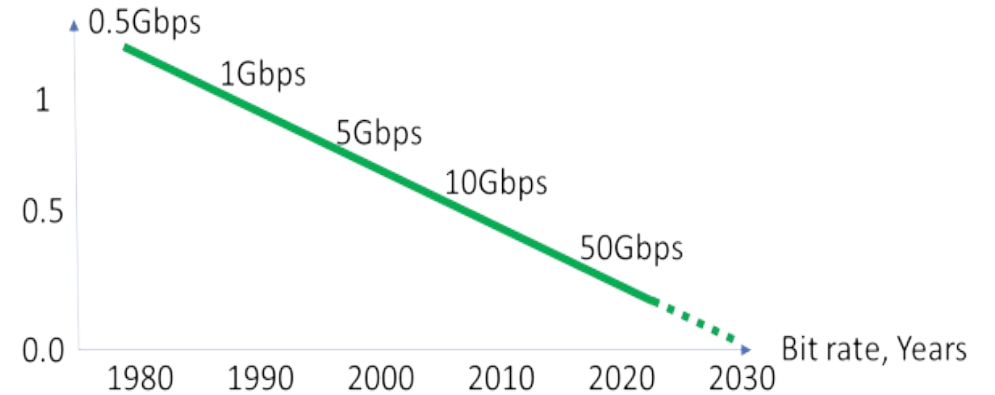
## Ethernet Bandwidth Speed Transitions



# Challenges for Electrical Interconnects on PCBs – Fabricator’s View

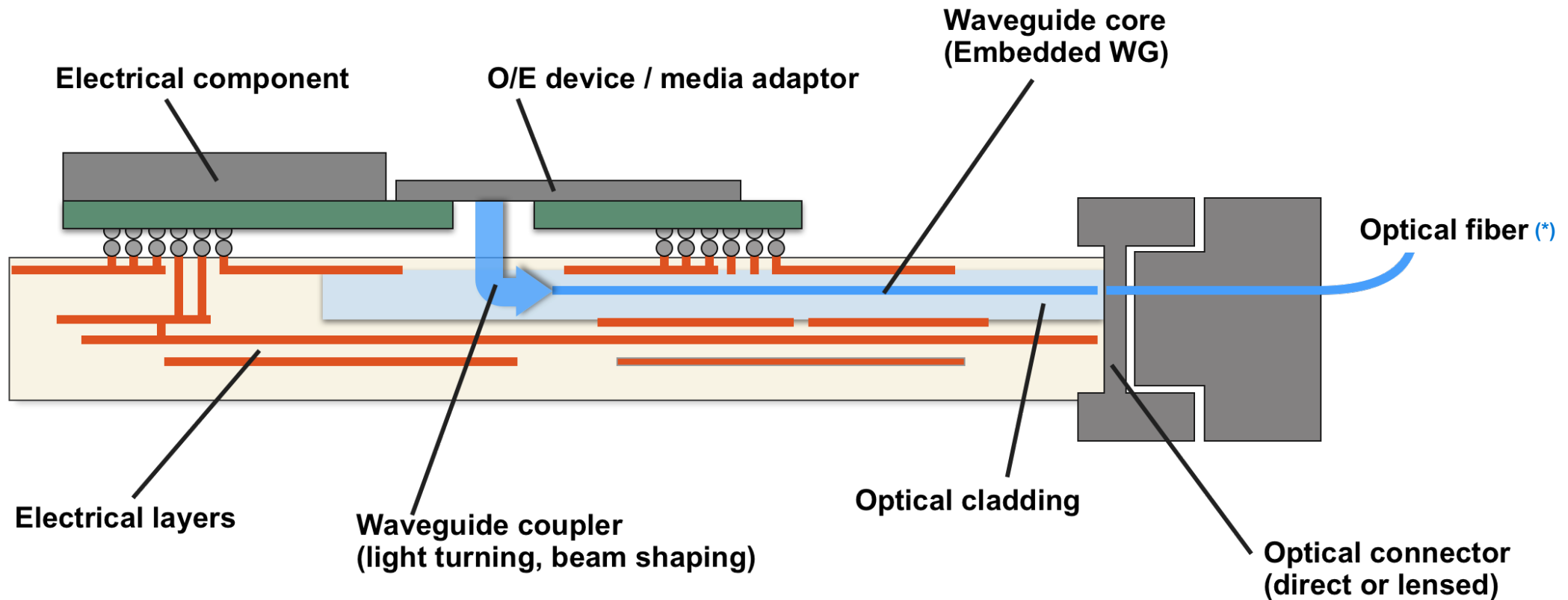


Copper Trace Length(meter)



- RF Dk/Df electrical performance, but closer to FR4 cost
- No skew inducing material and structures
- Better CAF performance for more 0.4/0.65mm and less BGA pitch
- Cost/performance optimized materials are required
  - Not one size fits all materials

Dielectric	Structure	Conductors	Vias
Dk	Registration	Foil Roughness	Stub Length
Df	Size & Thickness	Oxide Roughness	Outer Diameter
Core Thickness	Via Structure	Width Tolerance	Material
Prepreg Thickness	HDI PCB Strength	Registration	Aspect Ratio

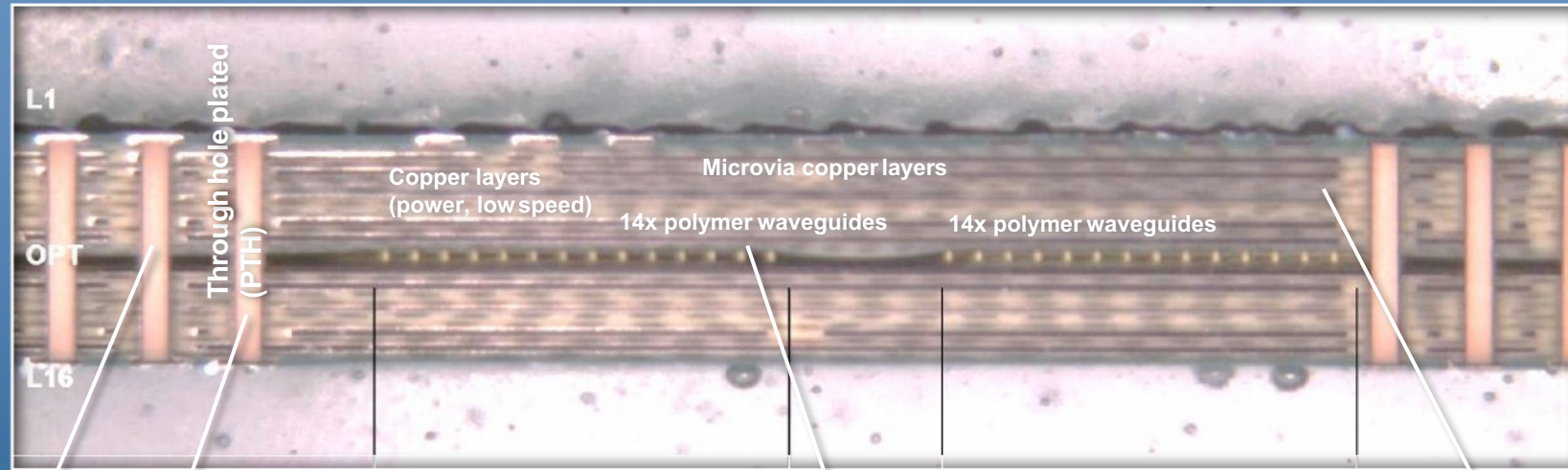


(\*) Optical fiber link within rack



# Example of O/E PCB Product : 16 Copper + 1 Optical Layer

Cross-section across 16L + 1Opt stack showing 14 + 14 optical signal waveguides



PTHs through optical layer  
PTHs AR 1:10

14 X CHANNELS

Waveguides

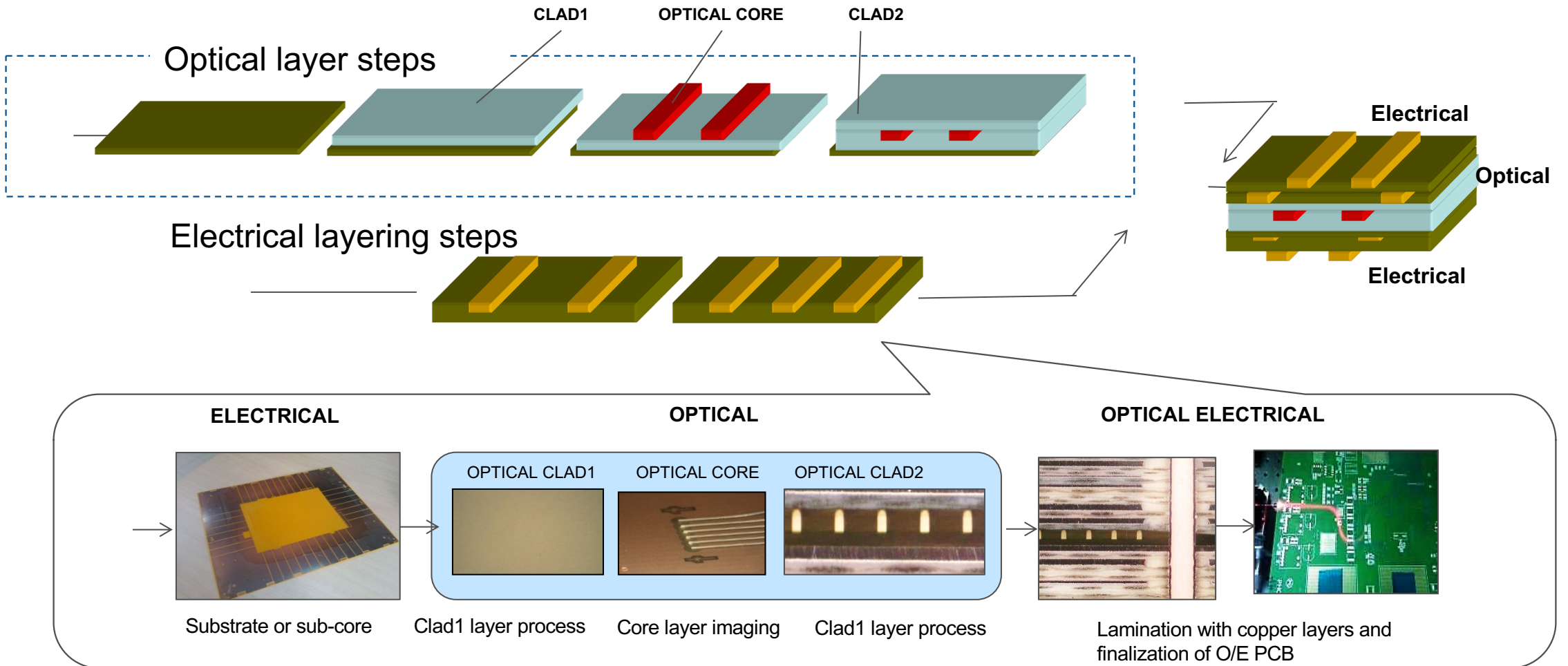
14 X CHANNELS

Balanced stack –  
minimize warpage

P. Maniotis, N. Terzenidis, A. Siokis, K. Christodouloupoulos, E. Varvarigos, M. Immonen, H. J. Yan, L. X. Zhu, K. Hasharoni, R. Pitwon, K. Wang, N. Pleros, "Application-oriented On-board Optical Technologies for HPCs" J.of. Lightwave Technology, Vol. 35, Iss. 15, pp. 3197-3213 (2017) DOI: 10.1109/JLT.2017.2681972

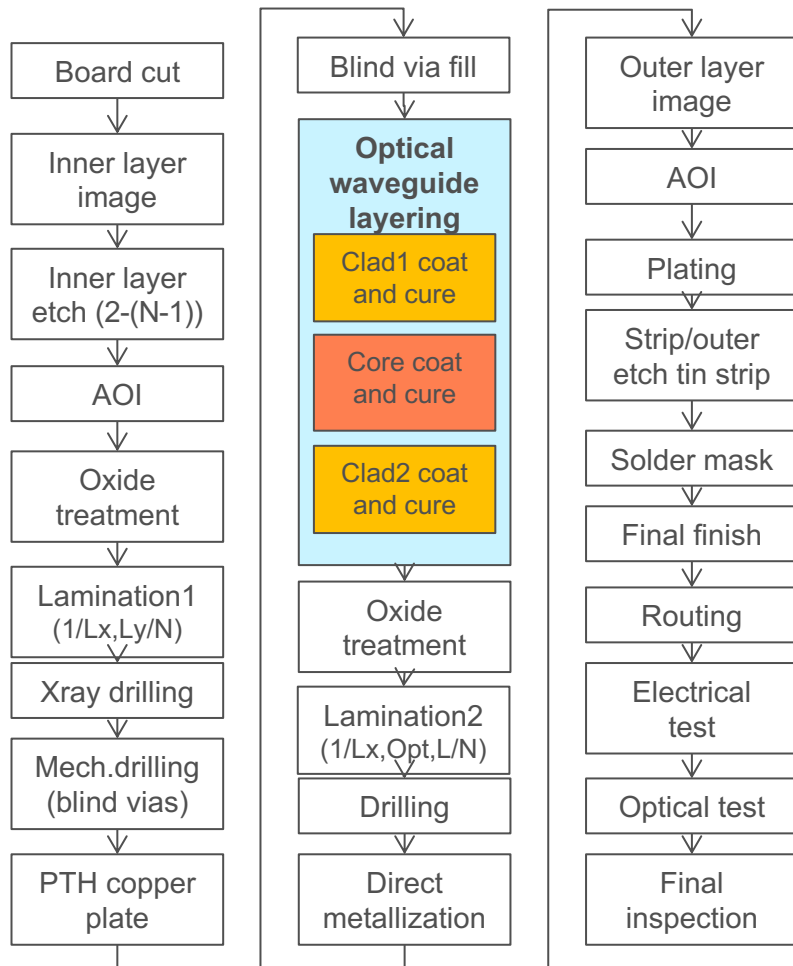


# Polymer Waveguide Fabrication Processes and Integration to OE PCB

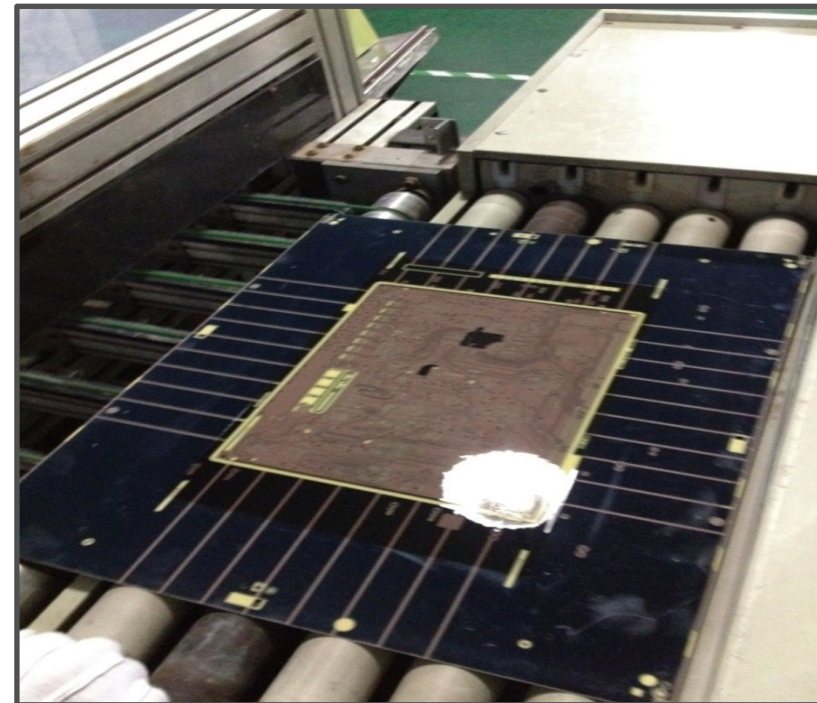


# Optical PCB Fabrication Flow [Example Process]

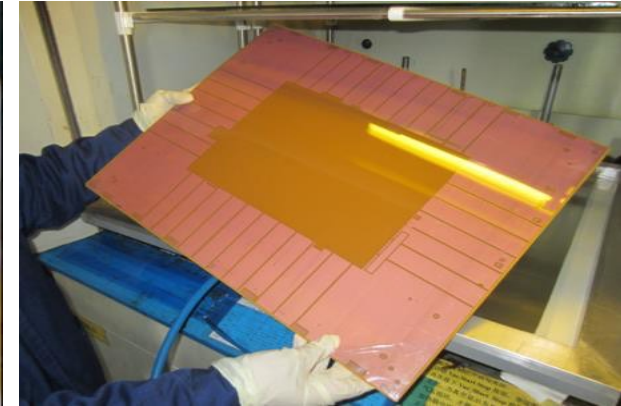
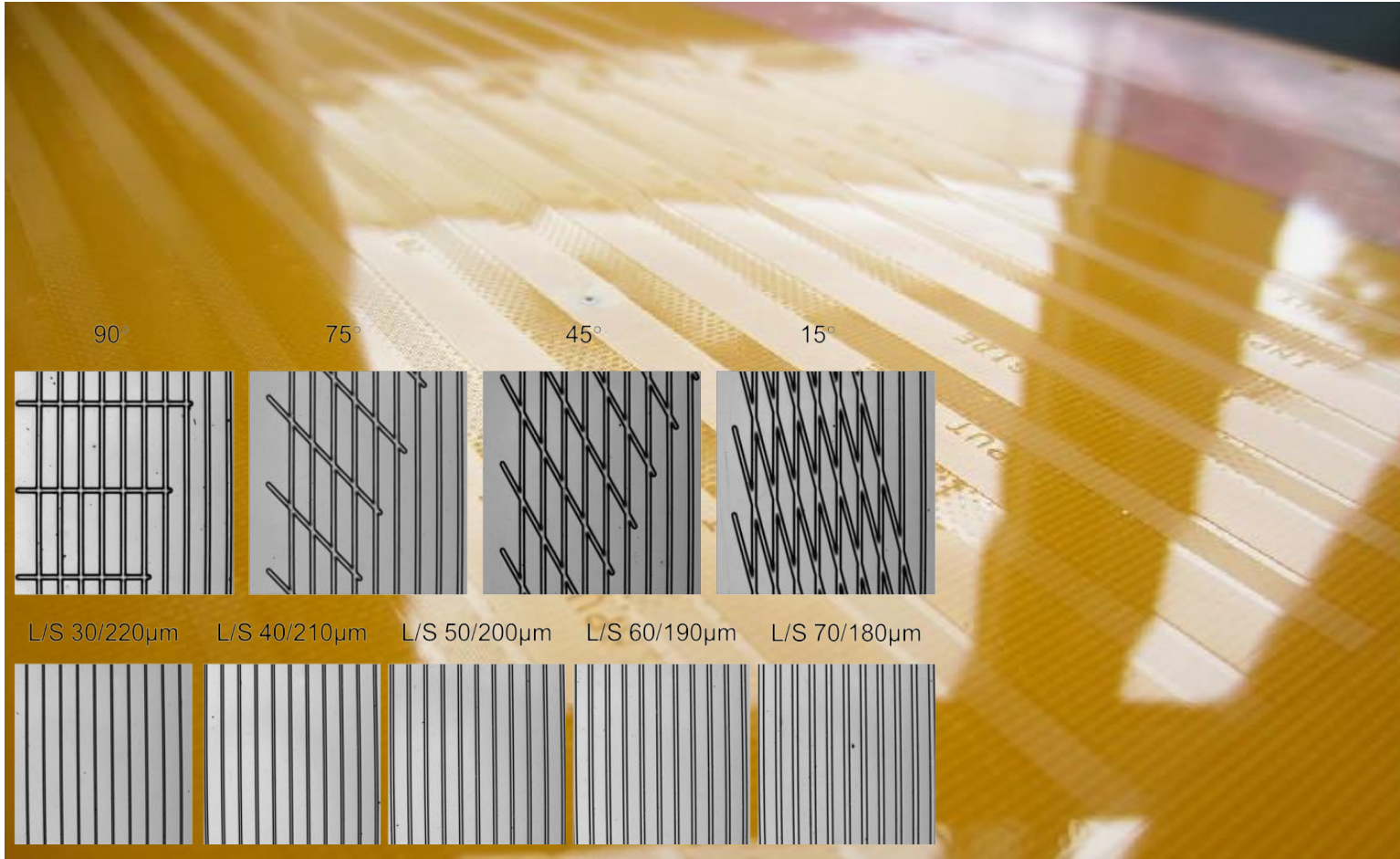
## Example Flow: (N)L+1Opt



Process utilizes standard fabrication procedures in key steps of fabrication of O/E PCBs -> Robust & repeatable production



# Multimode Waveguide Technology – Fabrication in PCB Shop using Hi-Vol Panel Scale Processes and Infrastructure



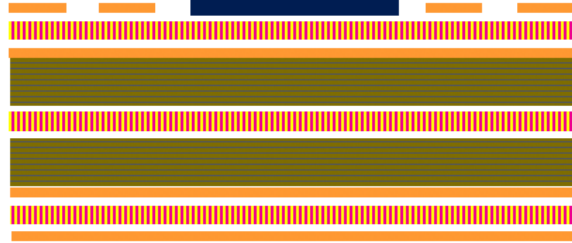


# Optical Waveguides Can be Built in Various Layer/s in PCB Stackup

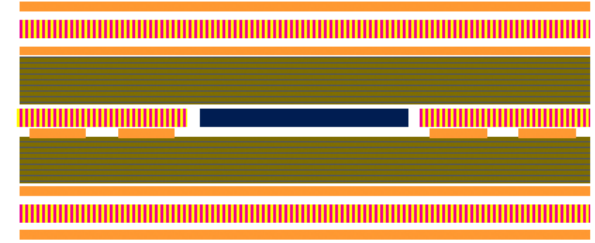
N+1Opt+N



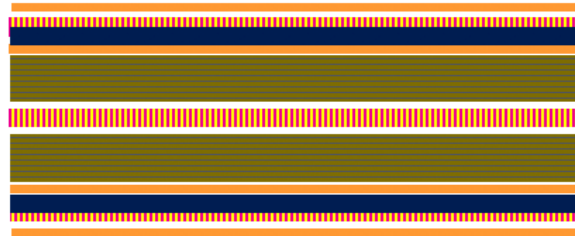
N+1Opt



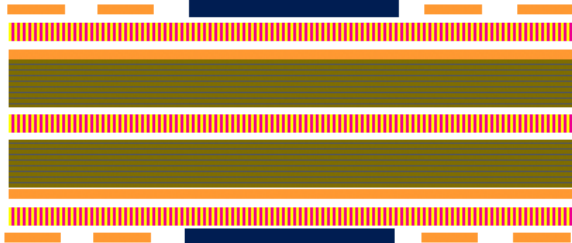
N+1Opt+N



N+2Opt+N



N+2Opt

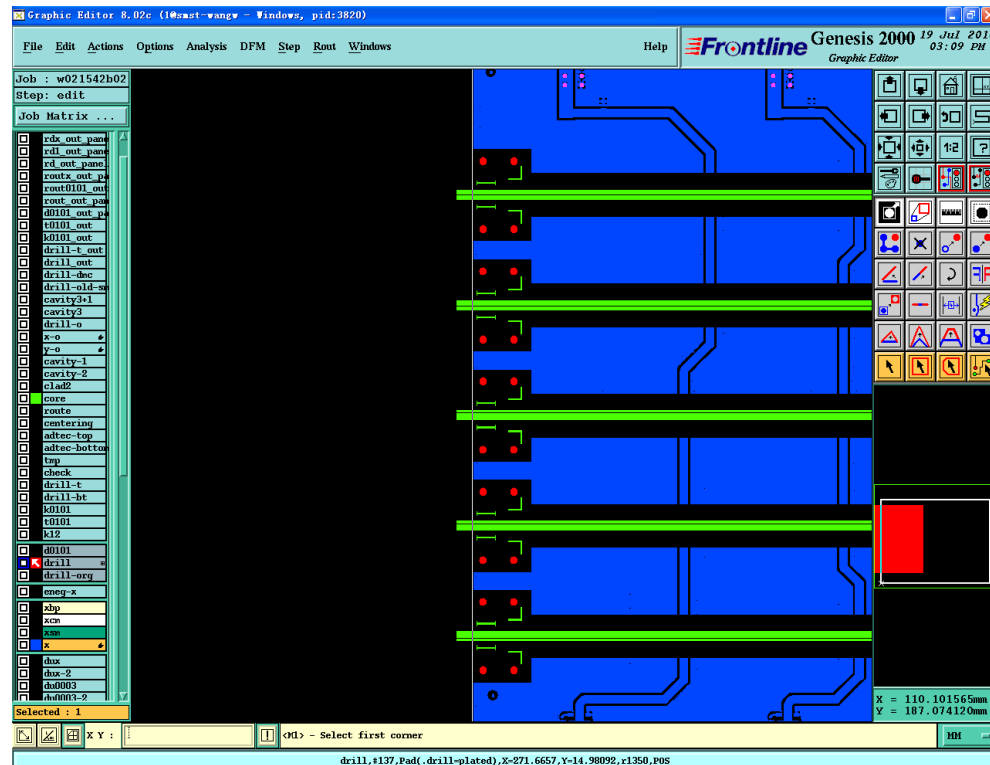


N+2Opt+N



# Optical PCB Design : Electrical and Optical Co-Design within EDA Tool

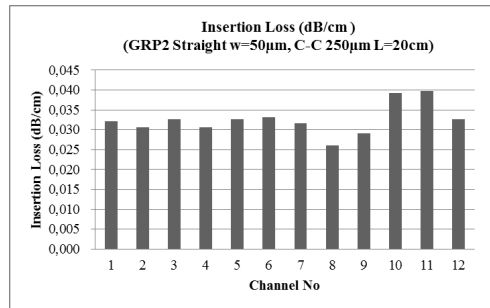
## Optical and electrical design using EDA tools



- Commercial tools available in market
- Electronic & Photonic layout within EDA/ EPDA: Waveguide + electrical routing layout
  - Lumerical-Cadence (Cadence)
  - Lightsuite (MentorGraphics)
- Simulation of photonic components via additional suite (e.g. Lumerical System Suite) or ext. domain (e.g. RSOFT, Comsol, Fimmwave)
- Each vendor has database with experimentally validated design rules for photonic components per material

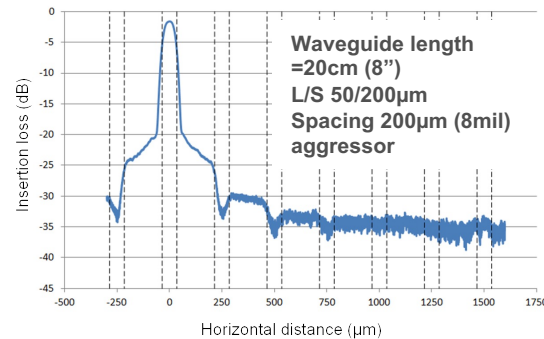
# Functional Test Results - MM PWGs ( $\lambda = 850\text{nm}$ )

## INSERTION LOSS



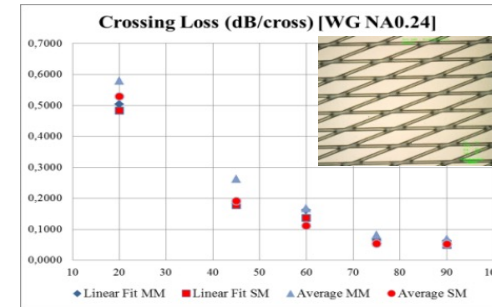
IL:  $< 0.05$  dB/cm at 850nm (MMF)  
 TL: 0.03-0.05 dB/cm at 850nm (MMF)  
 TL: 0.4 dB/cm at 1310nm (MMF)

## CROSSTALK



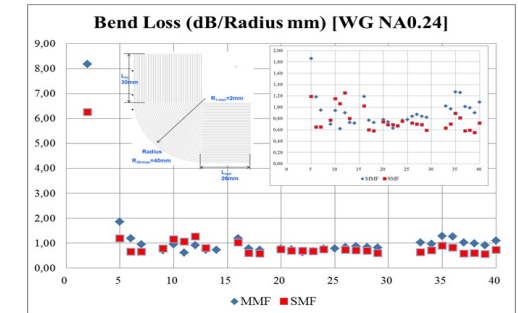
Crosstalk isolation: -32 dB

## CROSSING LOSS

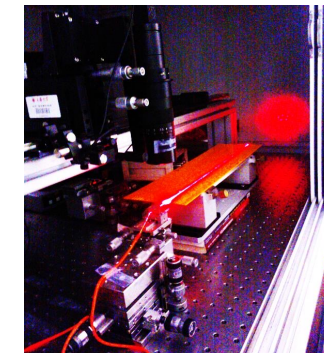
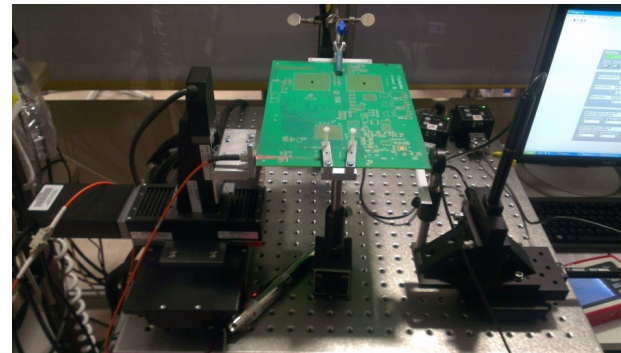
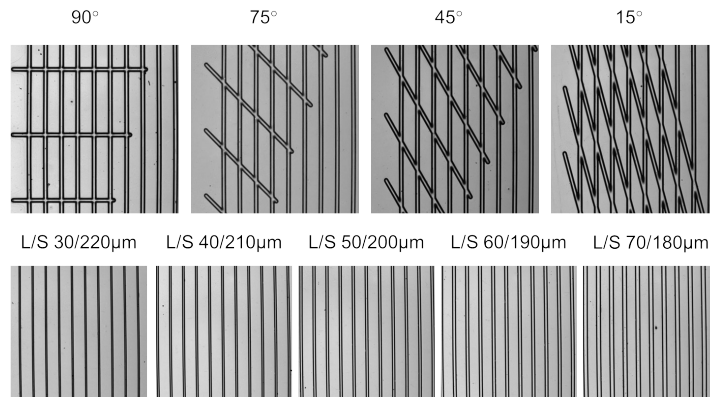


$< 0.057$  dB/X (MMF) 90°       $< 0.17$  dB/X (MMF) 45°  
 $< 0.046$  dB/X (SMF) 90°       $< 0.17$  dB/X (SMF) 45°

## BEND LOSS



RoC 5mm  $< 1.9$  dB (MMF)  $< 1.2$  dB (SMF)  
 RoC 10mm  $< 1$  dB (MMF)  $< 1.2$  dB (SMF)

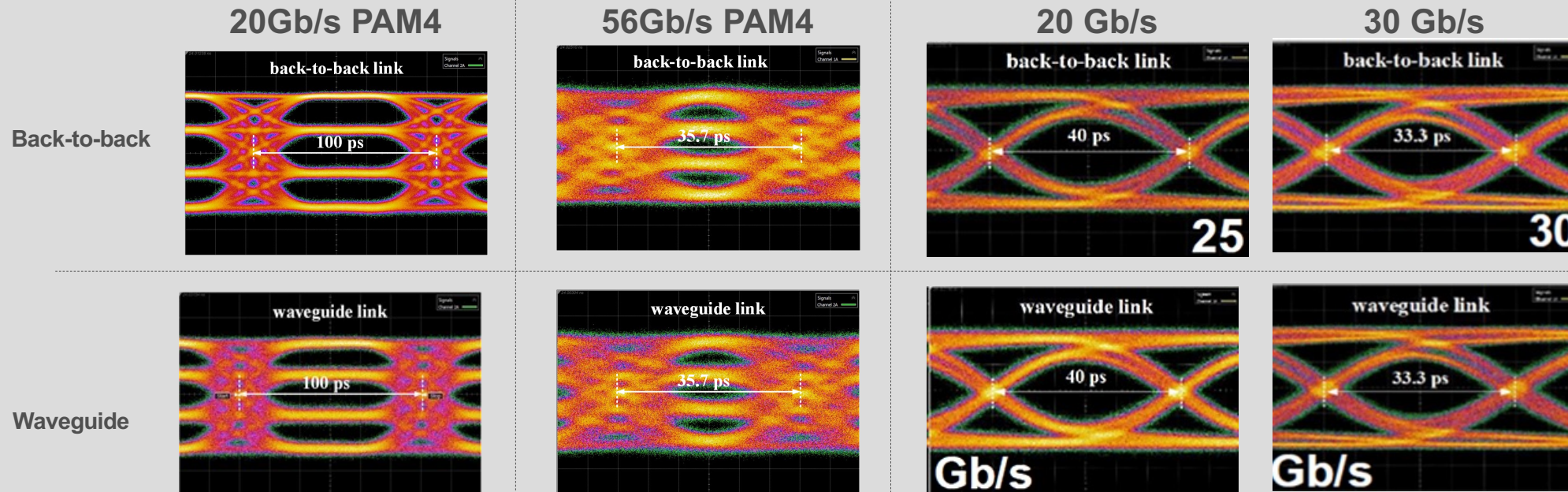


M. Immonen, J.Wu, H. J. Yan, L. X. Zhu, P.Chen, T.Rapala-Virtanen, "Development of electro-optical PCBs with embedded waveguides for data center and high performance computing applications", Proc. of SPIE 8991, Optical Interconnects XIV, 899113. 8 Mar, 2014.



Test channel: 94-cm long WG, bend channel design, no termination

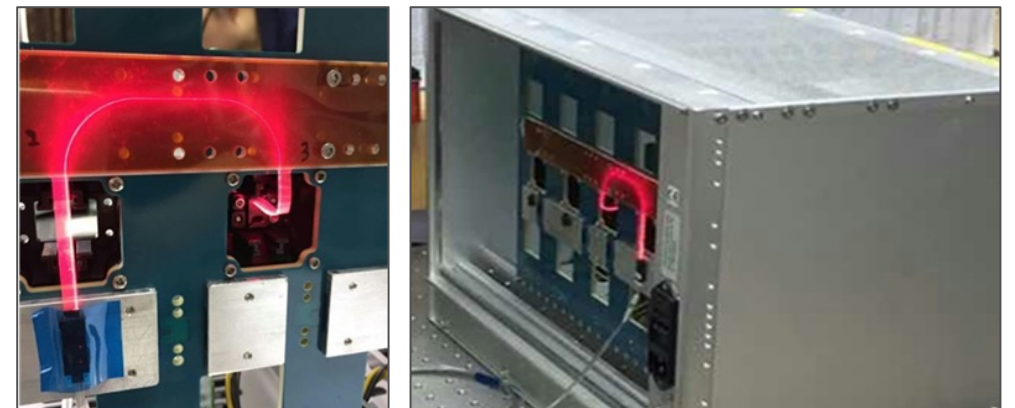
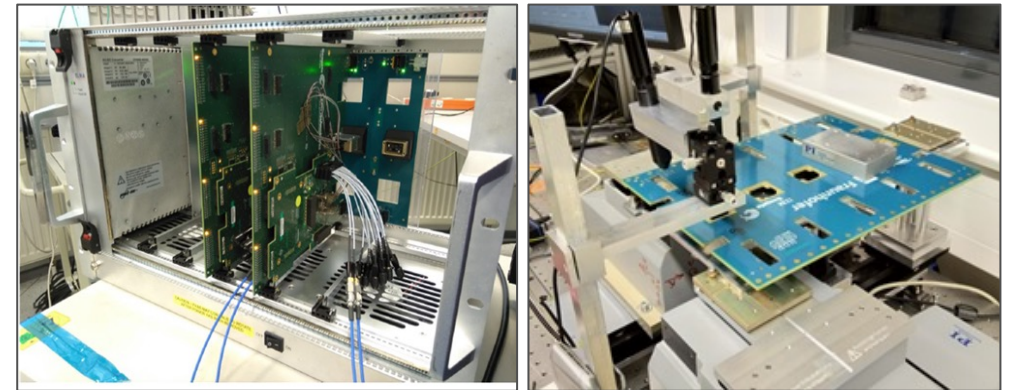
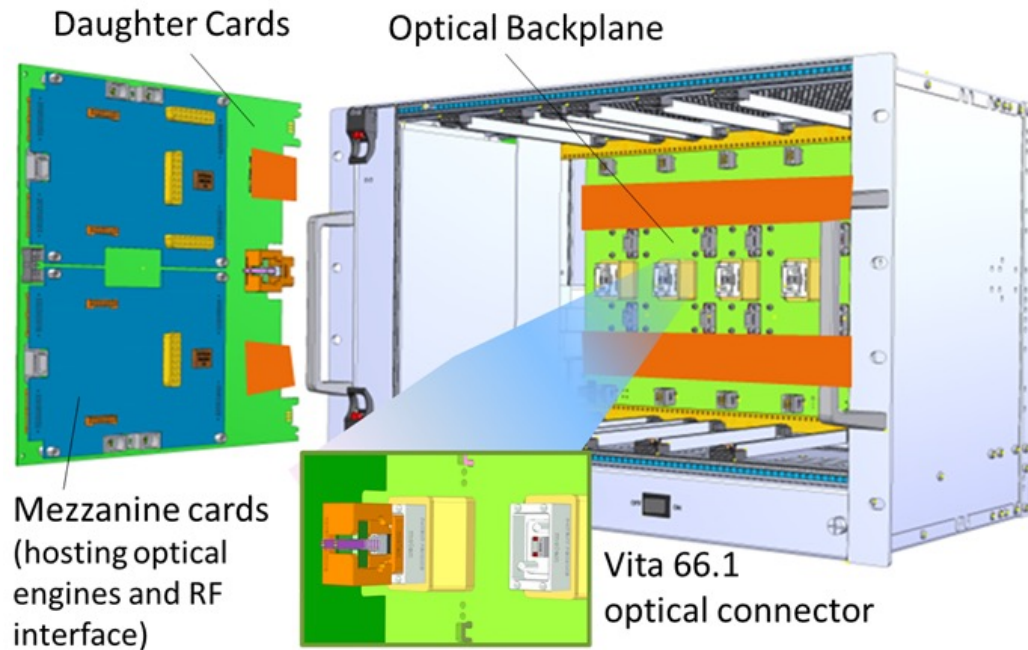
Poly\_WG ( $\Delta=0.24$ , SI/semi-GI), core ( $\square 50\mu\text{m}$ , nom.),  $\lambda_1$  (850nm)



Eye diagrams of waveguide link at (a) 10 Gbaud (20 Gb/s) for average received optical power of -5 dBm and (b) 28 Gbaud (56 Gb/s) for average received optical power of -2 dBm.

X. Xu, L. Ma, M. Immonen, X. Shi, B. Swatowski, J. V. DeGroot, Z. He, "Practical Evaluation of Polymer Waveguides for High-Speed and Meter-Scale On-Board Optical Interconnects", IEEE JLT Vol: 36 Iss. 16, pp. 3486 – 3493 (2018)  
DOI: 10.1109/JLT.2018.2847461

## HDPUG (High Density Packaging User Group) Optoelectronics Phase 2



<https://hdpusergroup.org/project/optoelectronics-ii/>



# Technologies Developed during PhoxTrot for Next Gen. Applications

**Aurora (PhoxDem09.03)**  
Multimode optical interconnect platform

**Aurora2 (PhoxDem10.2)**  
Singlemode glass waveguide optical interconnect platform

**Pegasus (PhoxDem09.04)**  
Optically disaggregated object oriented platform

**ThunderValley2 (PhoxTest03.01)**  
Photonically enabled disaggregated SAS data centre switch and storage platform

**PhoxTrot**



**Photonics for High-Performance, Low-Cost & Low-Energy Data Centers, High Performance Computing Systems: Terabit/s Optical Interconnect Technologies for On-Board, Board-to-Board, Rack-to-Rack data links**

- ★ Fraunhofer IZM (DE)
- ★ CERTH (EL)
- ★ Fraunhofer HHI (DE)
- ★ Compass EOS Ltd (IL)
- ★ Vertilas GmbH (DE)
- ★ Bright Photonics BV (NL)
- ★ Xyratex Technology Ltd (UK)
- ★ CTI (EL)
- ★ ams AG (AT)
- ★ CNRS-UB (FR)
- ★ TTM Technologies (HK)
- ★ CNRS-LPN (FR)
- ★ AMO GmbH (DE)
- ★ KIT (DE)
- ★ ICCS/NTUA (EL)
- ★ SDU (DK)
- ★ DAS Photonics SL (ES)
- ★ UPVLC (ES)
- ★ Phoenix BV (NL)
- ★ IMEC (BE)

**Complete rack-level demonstrator platform including application specific optical demonstrator designs**

<https://phoxtrot.eu/>



# COBO's new Working Group: MWIS (Multimode Waveguide Interconnect System)

Approved a new Working Group: September 8, 2021

- Kick-off meeting : September 27, 2021
- Joshua Kihong Kim, Hirose Electric USA

## Scopes

- Develop technical guidance and specifications
- Demo-system for collaborative implementation

## Technical Areas

- Embedded optical waveguide in PCB
- PIC connector (PICON)
- Media Adaptor (MA)

## Technical Focus

- Electrical/Channel specification
- Mechanical/Optical specification

<https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/consortium-for-on-board-optics-announces-formation-of-multimode-waveguide-interconnect-system-mwis-working-group-301398597.html>

- **Power has become first order issue and drive new solutions for development**
- **Hybrid PCB with copper and optical offer a viable 112/ 224Gbps solution - no re-timers, no cables, exploits best of both worlds**
- **TTM has capability to build optical PCBs using standard high volume scalable processes. Multimode solution is mature, lower cost, robust vs. single mode**
- **Need to start to defining target channel specification and opto/ mechanical specification early on for MMIS vendor compliance**
- **Eco-system partnering with material, connector, EMS/ test developer to align customer roadmaps, readiness and multi-sourcing**



*Inspiring Innovation*

**Thank You!**

