

# Electrum Laboratory

Complete Solutions in  
Nano and Microtechnology

**Nils Nordell**

(Director)

# Electrum Laboratory

## Mission

- To offer a competitive laboratory environment for micro and nano technology:
  - Processes capabilities – including cleanroom – for device fabrication
  - Facilities for characterization of materials and devices.
- To create an open environment for education, research, development and small scale production.
- To assure a cost efficient usage of expensive laboratory resources.



# A flexible lab resource

- **Research and development**

- Inventing, designing, manufacturing of novel devices
- Establishing novel processes and characterization techniques
- Synthesis and characterization of new materials and structures
- Flexibility, allowing different materials and sizes

- **Small scale production**

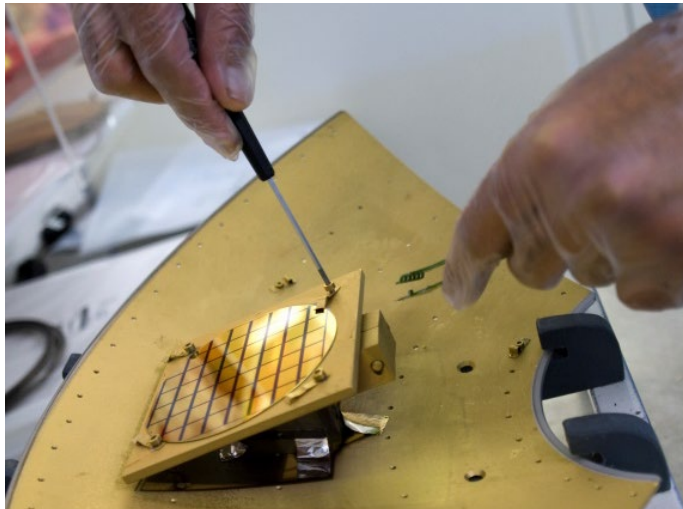
- Incubator for start-up and spin-off companies
- Access to all the lab resources
- Possibility to rent lab space for proprietary equipment
- Stability and repeatability maintained

- **Education**

- Advanced graduate and undergraduate courses.
- Micro- and nano fabrication technologies and characterization.



# Open Access Laboratory Facilities



**Open for academic and commercial users.**

**Easy access to processing and characterization tools.**

**Education for lab access and tool driving licenses.**

**Tool expert assistance or driving license.**

**Rent of lab space**

**Possibilities for research collaborations.**

**Simple business model:**

- Pay per user and use
- Myfab one-stop shop solution

**Common user interface through MyfabLIMS:**

- Databases of tools and users
- Booking, Logging, Invoicing



# Electrum Lab organization

## - Division of tasks



+ Companies

**Main Partners:**  
External sales  
Spin-off incubator  
Research programs

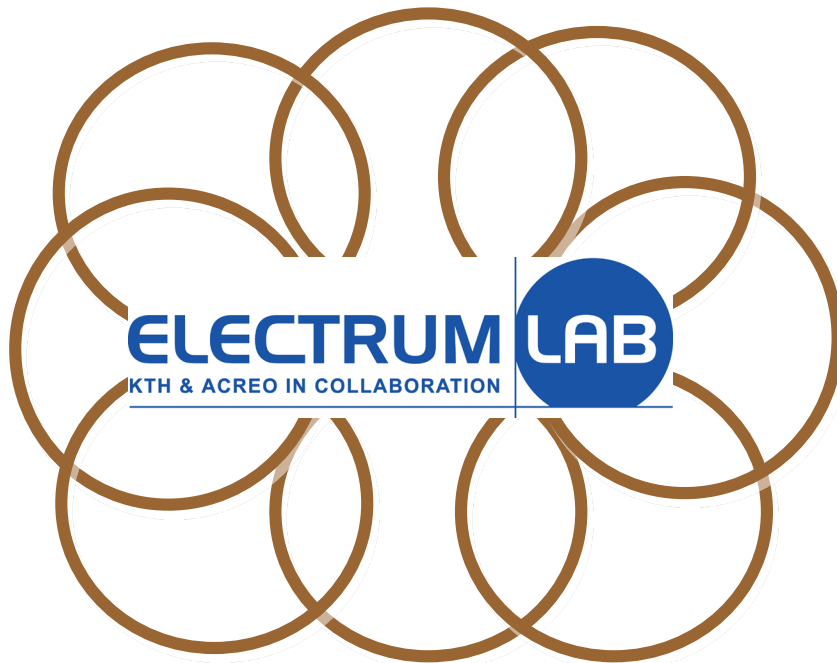
**User Groups:**  
Processes: quality and reproducibility  
Equipment: service and maintenance, education



**Electrum Laboratory:**  
Cleanroom facility, common infrastructure, safety,  
user support, authority contacts, information, marketing

# Electrum Lab organization

## - Involving the user groups



Lab Director has a coordinating role.

Major user groups are represented in the Management team and Task forces handling:

- Lab organization and rules
- Quality management
- Lab safety
- Tool investments
- Facility planning
- Cross contamination and tool rules
- Fee system

# Tool Investments and responsibility



## Tool investments funded by:

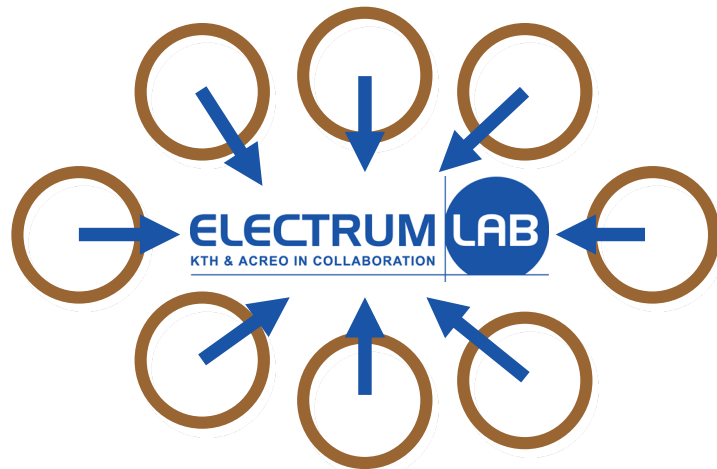
- Research grants - private and governmental
- User groups - some open for general use
- Electrum Lab - user fees or grants

## Tool and process responsibility:

- On the user groups
  - Handle maintenance, service, consumables, process control etc.
  - Not always the owner of the tool
  - Encouraged to sell tool time
  - May be canceled at any time
- ***Certify access to key processes***

# Economic control

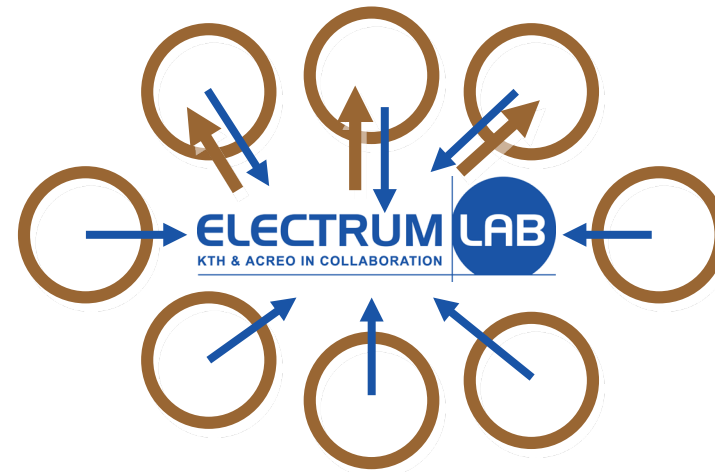
## - Charges and reimbursement



**Lab fees** are paid to Electrum lab for basic infrastructure, premises, coordination etc.

Fees based on:

- Registered users
- Hours in cleanroom
- Lab area (for tool responsible)



**Tool fees** are paid to Electrum lab and reimbursed to tool responsible groups for consumables, maintenance, lab area, etc.

Fees based on:

- Used tool time

Fees are differentiated: Academic / Micro companies & Institutes / Large companies



Total investment value: > 800 MSEK

No. registered tools: 220

Average tool lifetime: 15 years

Re-investment: 15 MSEK/yr

# Process Lines



*ISO 9001 certified management system*

- controlled processes and tool uptime*
- calibrated characterization tools:*

## **Silicon Technology**

Silicon - CMOS

Silicon - Microsystems

## **Compound Semiconductors**

InP - Opto / electronics

GaAs - Opto / electronics

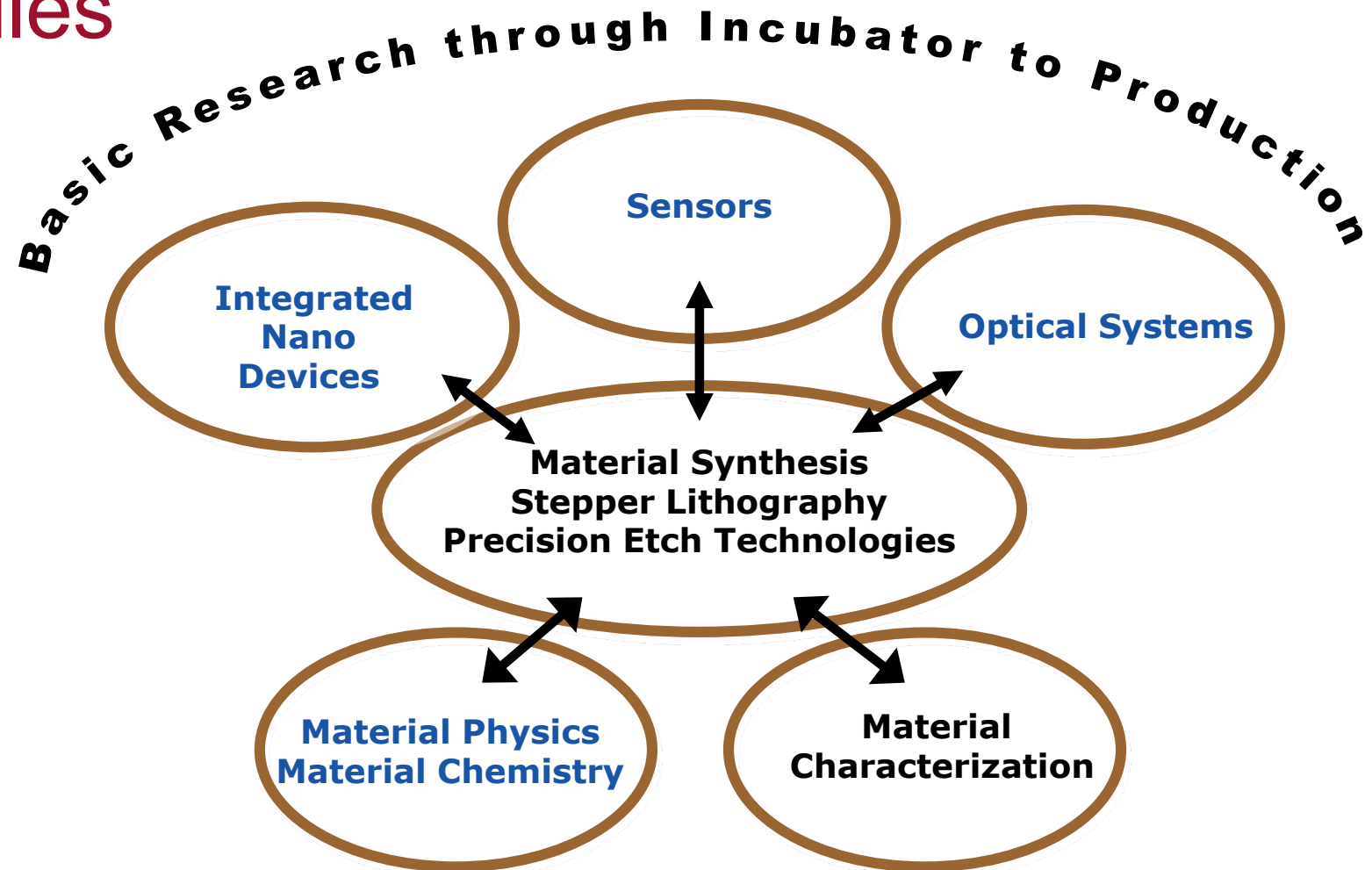
SiC - Electronics

**Post process: dicing and bonding**

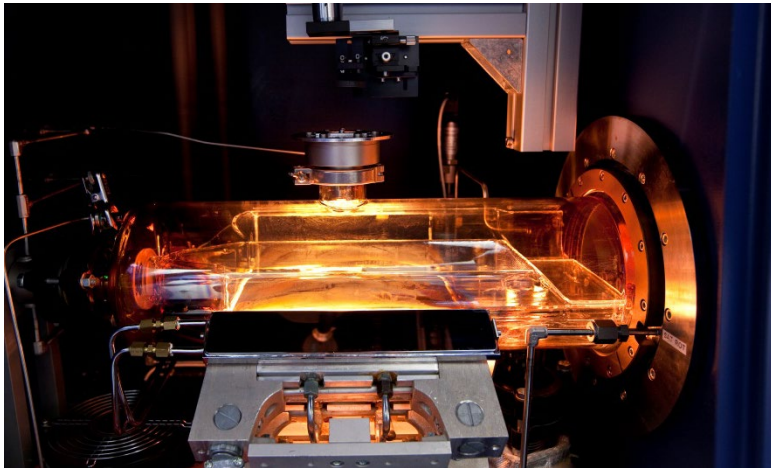
**Characterization of materials and devices**

**Design and simulation**

# Profiles

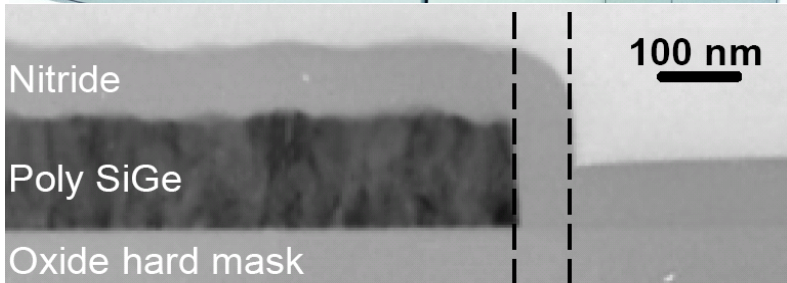


# Material synthesis



- Vapor phase epitaxy of semiconductor materials
- Pulsed laser ablation of advanced oxides
- Atomic Layer Deposition of complex materials
- Magnetron sputtering of spintronic materials
- Wet chemistry for nanoparticles and nanostructured surfaces

# Stepper Lithography



- i-line and g-line steppers
- Wafer sizes up to 200 mm
- Resolution down to 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$  (i-line)
- Alignment accuracy: 60 nm (i-line)
- Throughput: up to 80 wafers/h
- Sidewall Transfer Lithography: Allows line widths down to 10 nm



# Precision etch technologies



- Centura and P5000 etchers (Applied Materials)
- End point detection
- Wafer sizes up to 200 mm
- Chambers for etching of
  - Conventional Si structures
  - Deep Si structures
  - Metals
  - Dielectrics

# Material characterization



High resolution scanning electron microscopy

- environmental microscopy
- focused ion beam
- chemical analysis

High resolution transmission electron microscopy

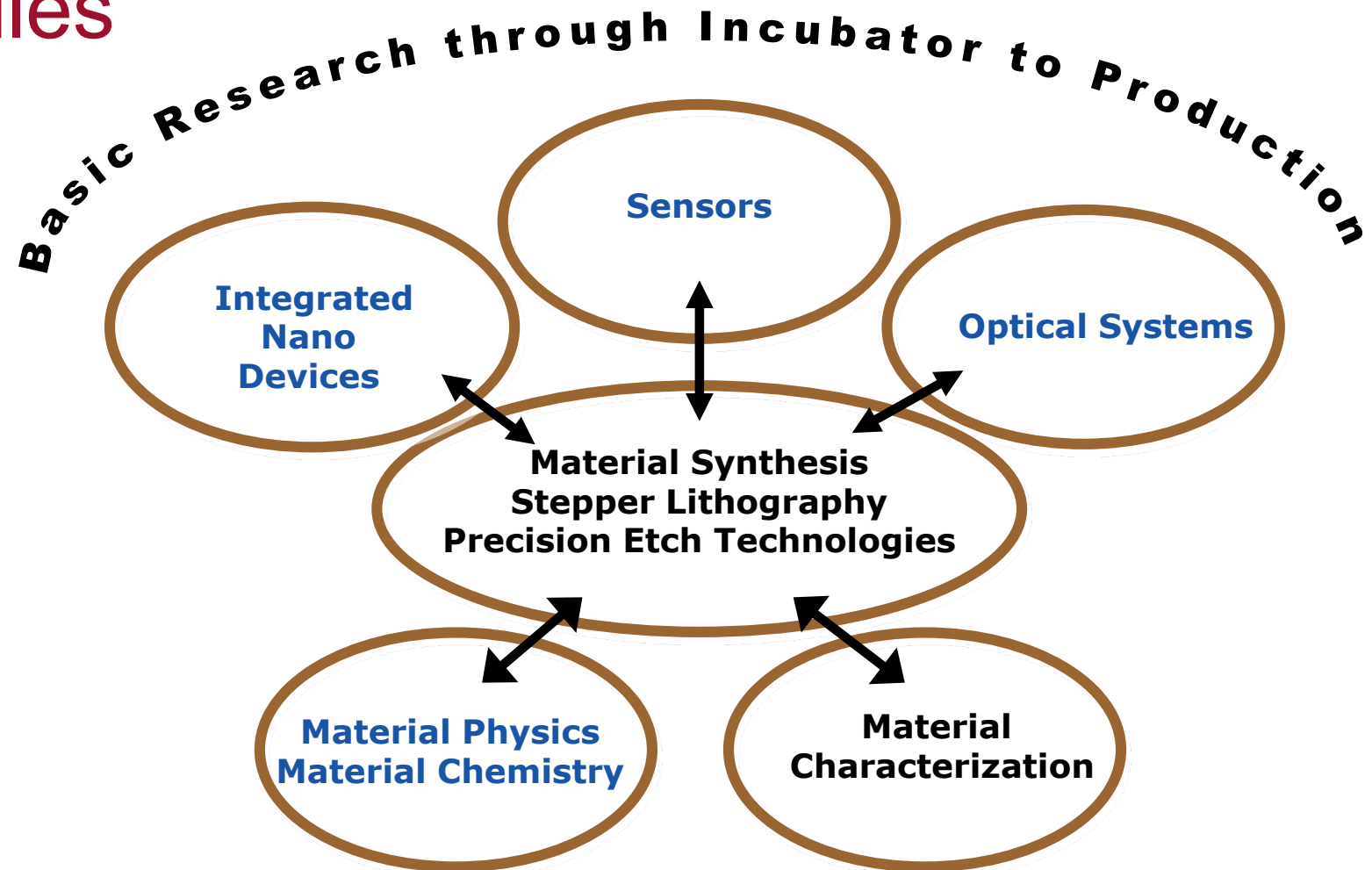
- with chemical analysis

Nano particle characterization

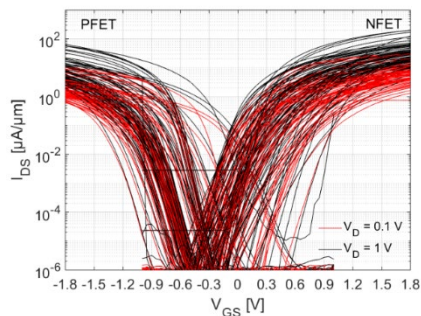
Scanning probe techniques

Electric, optic and magnetic characterization

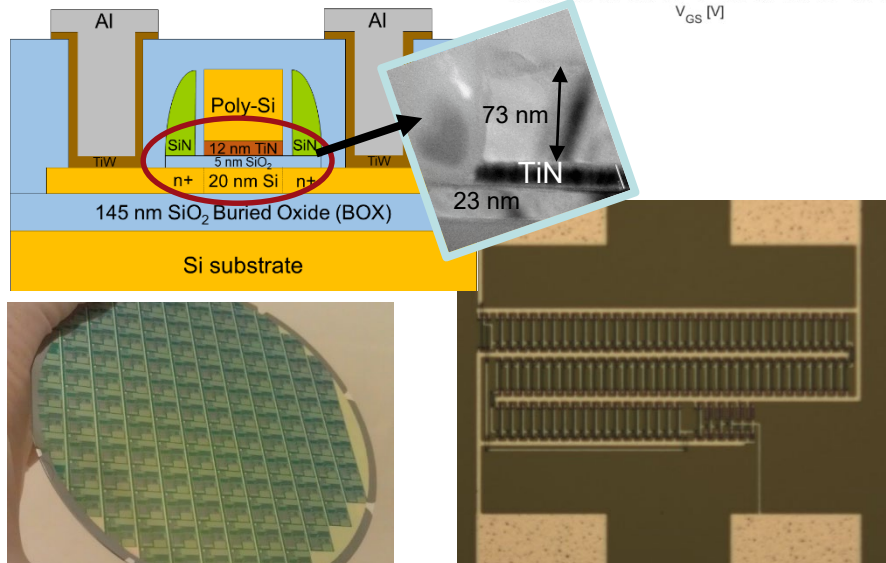
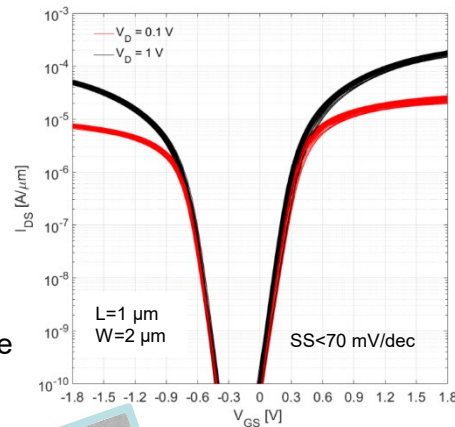
# Profiles



# CMOS line for heterogeneous integration



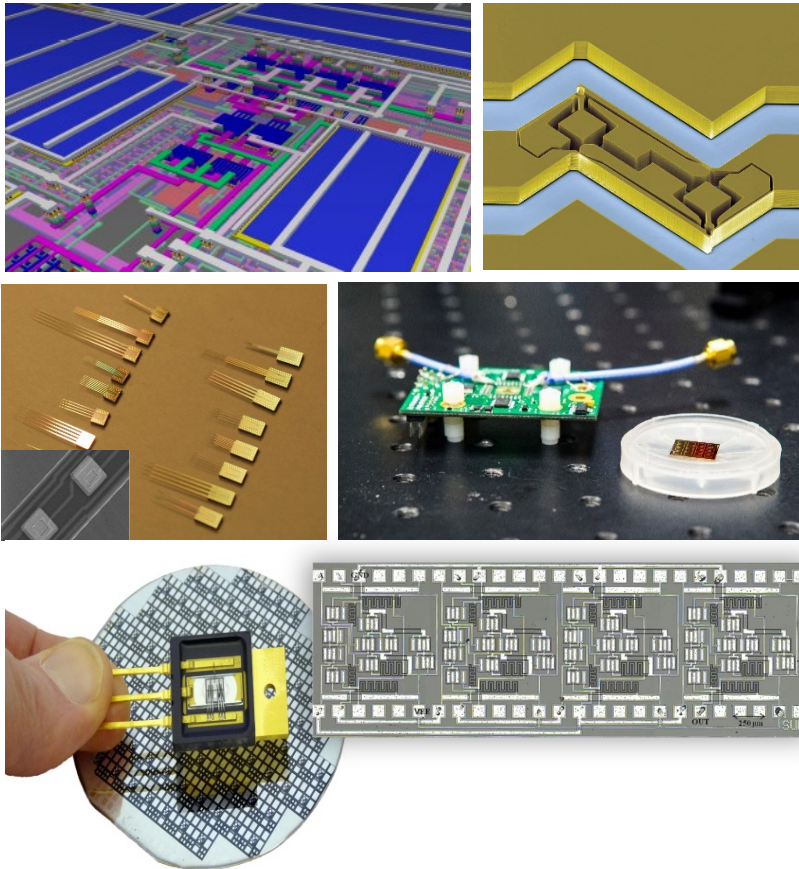
Transistor characteristics before and after process optimization



- CMOS circuits for integration:
  - Non-conventional devices: chemical sensors, biosensors, energy harvester, optical components...
  - Evaluation of new materials and designs
- A reproducible and predictable CMOS line
  - 100 mm wafers, 5 nm SiO<sub>2</sub> gate, 3 GHz operation
- Conservative design rules
  - i-line stepper: 0,5 μm resolution, 50 nm alignment
  - Active/metal: 2 μm, contact holes: 1x1 μm<sup>2</sup>
- Simple circuits designs achieved:
  - Ring oscillator, inverter, frequency divider...
- Cadence Virtuoso design environment
- Available for collaboration projects



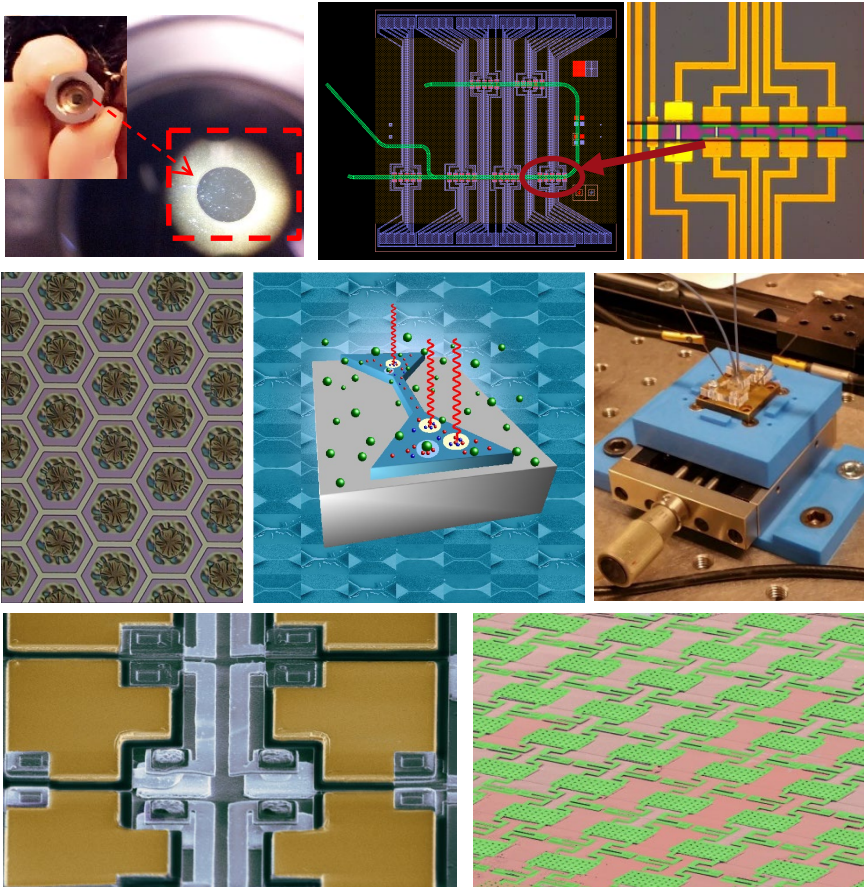
# Integrated micro and nano devices



- Monolithic 3D Integration for silicon / silicon-germanium radio frequency integrated circuits
- High frequency micro mechanical switch for telecom
- Micro needles with multiple contacts for brain studies
- Quantum well electro-absorption modulators for Free-space optical communication
- Silicon carbide discrete power devices and integrated circuits for high power and high temperature applications
- Device design and characterization

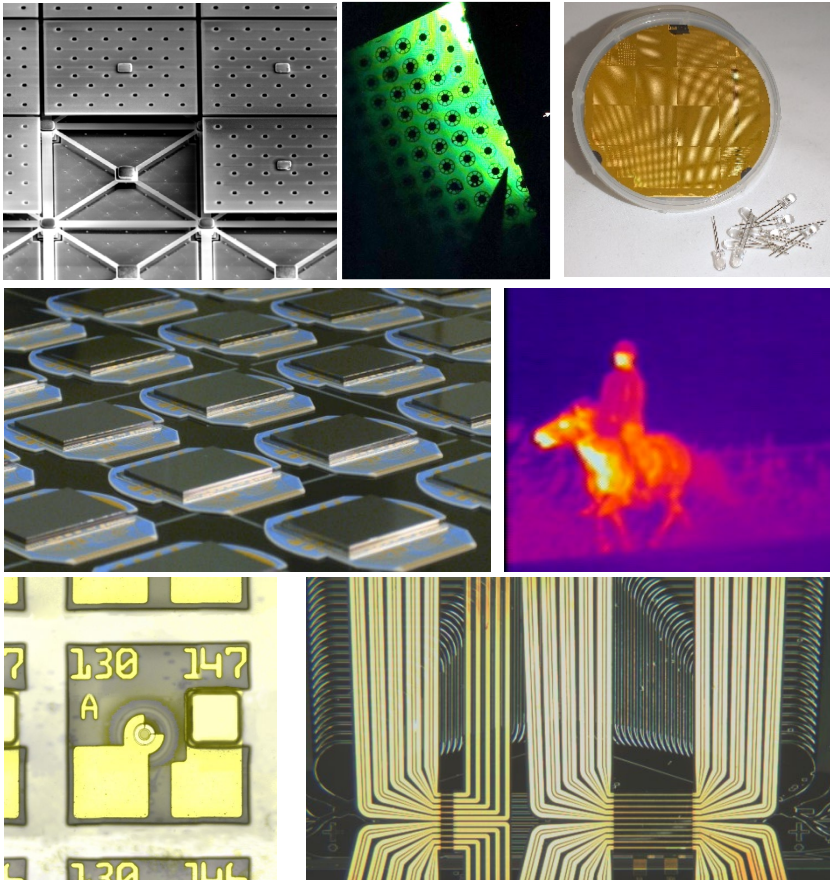


# Sensors



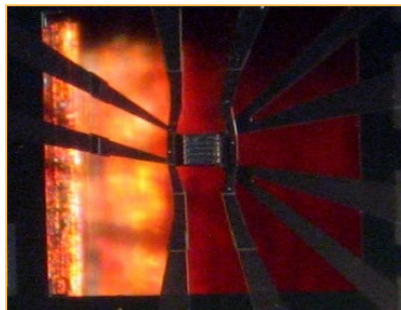
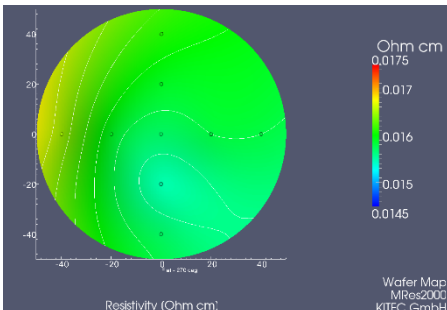
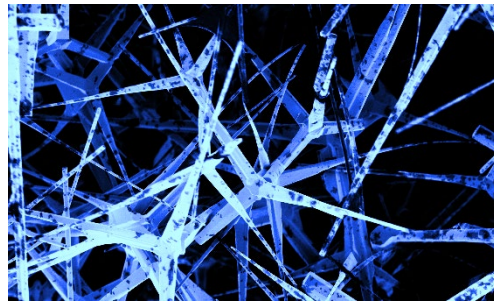
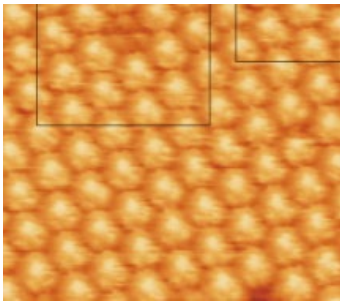
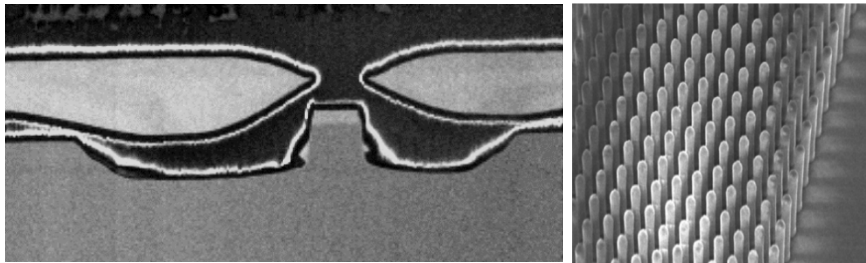
- Silicon carbide high pressure & high temp. sensors for automotive industry
- Micro fluidic chip for protein bio sensing
- Ferromagnetic filter for detection of electron spin polarization
- Silicon nano wires for protein detection
- Infrared detector – uncooled bolometer array for night vision systems in cars
- High impedance surface array for automotive radar

# Optical systems



- Micro mirrors for light beam control
- Green LED with transparent graphene electrode
- Volume production of sensor arrays for IR cameras
- Vertical cavity surface emitting lasers for optical communication.
- Photonic integrated circuits for telecom

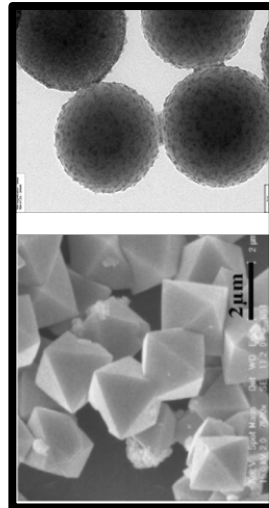
# Material physics



- Advanced crystal growth studies
- Photonic crystals
- Electronic and atomic structure of surfaces and interfaces
- Graphene and zinc oxide for sensing in forensic and med tech applications
- Highly uniform and defect free SiC substrates
- Spintronic materials and devices
- Novel characterization techniques

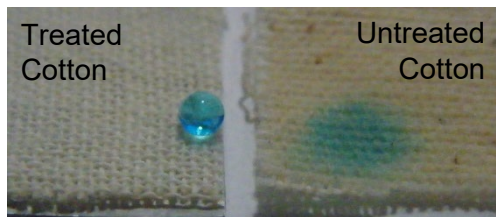


# Functional Materials



## Nanoparticles and nanostructured surfaces

- Nano-coatings for environmental friendly anti-fouling treatment
- Investigations of micro plastics degradation
- Zink oxide nanorods for water purification
- Sea water low power desalination pilot plant (Värmdö)
- Zink oxide as photo catalyst forming antibacterial active surfaces
- Self cleaning surfaces



## The Electrum Innovation System: Fosters Companies:



*Kiselkarbid i Stockholm*



# Incubator

Access to the whole lab:

- Processes
- Characterization
- Network of researchers and entrepreneurs

Proprietary lab area for rent:

- For own tools

Access to Myfab and ISSP partners:

- Backup processes
- Profile processes

Acreo production incubator:

- Technology transfer
- Technology and product development projects
- Foundry services

STING business incubator:

- Startup
- Business lab
- Business accelerator



# Success Factors

## - Research into innovation



### Ideas from research and development:

- In house (KTH or RISE Acreo) or external
- Making researchers to entrepreneurs: STING & RISE Acreo

### Lab access:

- Flexibility - new ideas explored and developed
- Processing and characterization in existing tools
- Transparent price model

### Facility support:

- Full support from the facility
- Authority Permits, chemical handling, etc.

### Personnel resources:

- Training
- Processing & Characterization
- Network of people



# Success Factors

## - Developing in incubator



### Maturing technology:

- Manufacturability: RISE Acreo production incubator
- Market penetration: STING

### Lab access:

- Refining processes
- Process stability for yield
- Access to partners: Backup & Profile processes
- Lab area for rent - proprietary & shared tools
- **Organize lab to always have empty space**

### Facility support:

- Company may contribute to Electrum environment

### Personnel resources:

- "Foundry services" in processing & characterization
- Network of people



# Success Factors

## - Ready to fly



### Full production:

- Mature technology and sales organization
- Need full control of processes and costs

### Lab access:

- Stable processes
- ISO 9001 certified management system
- Lab area for rent - proprietary & shared tools

### Facility support:

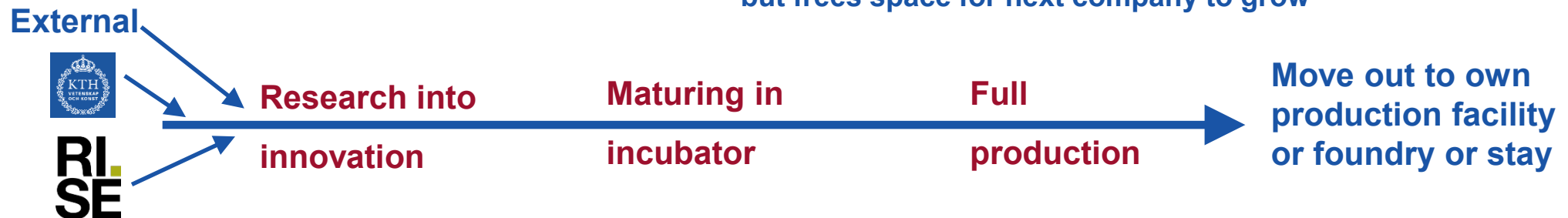
- Company contributes, e.g., to safety arrangements

### Personnel resources:

- Recruiting people in the lab environment

### Moving out or stay?:

- Expensive to stay for high volumes
- Cost efficient to stay for low volumes in shared tools
- **Moving out creates a financial setback for the lab but frees space for next company to grow**

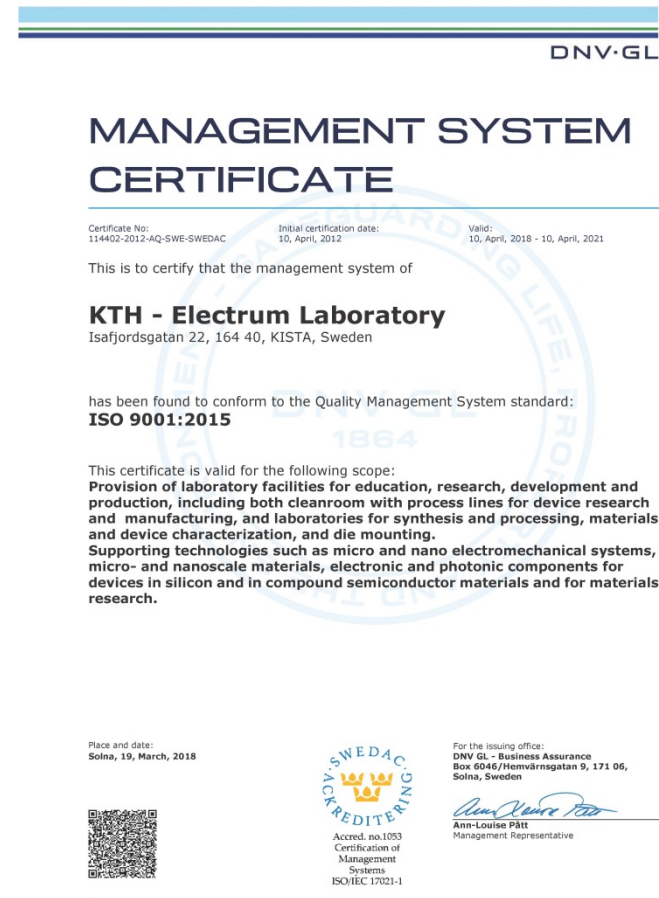


# ISO 9001:2015 certified management system

## Defines:

- Overall organization and roles
- Work routines and safety
- Information flow and meetings
- Tool maintenance and uptime
- Process, monitoring and reproducibility
- Characterization tool calibration
- Education of personnel and lab users
- Customer handling
- Yearly user poll
- Yearly audits and continuous follow-up

As part of KTH, also certified according to the environmental management standard ISO14001:2015

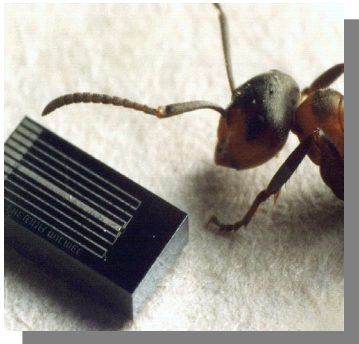




# From research to company I

Originated as a MEMS  
PhD project at KTH...

1994  
KTH, RISE



Microphone  
for turbulence  
research

1996  
KTH, RISE, RADI



Miniaturised  
sensor for  
blood pressure  
measurements

1997  
RADI, RISE



Clinical blood  
pressure  
measurements

2000  
RADI, Silex, RISE



Production

2004  
Silex



MEMS fab

... Silex has developed to the  
world's leading "pure-play"  
MEMS foundry. In 2018:

- turn-over 52 MEUR
- 180 employees

# From research to company II

Advanced telecom laser research...

1987  
RISE



1997  
RISE, KTH, Altitun



2000  
Sold to ADC 872 MUSD



Production established in own fab, closed 2003.

2003  
Syntune AB formed



Knowledge transfer and a foundry bought from Svedice in 2008.

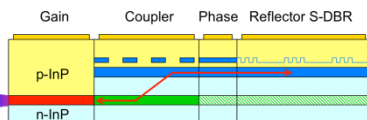
2008  
Ignis



Acquisitions by international companies

**FINISAR**

2011  
Finisar



Laser research for Swedish Telcecom and Ericsson

Tunable telecom laser modules

**ALTITUN**

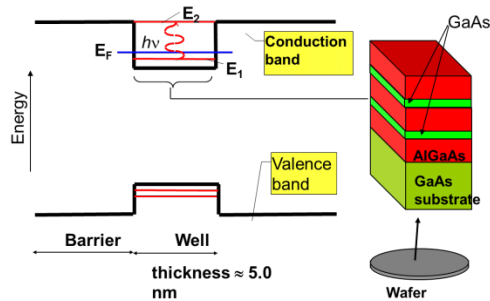
... has generated

- a great fortune for the owners
- revenue for the tax-payers
- employment for 150 persons
- turnover 26 MEUR (2019)

# From research to company III

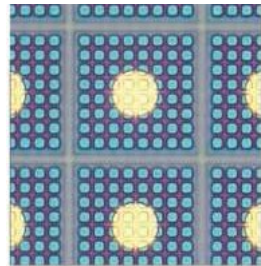
Quantum Well Infrared Photodetector (QWIP) structures developed...

1986  
RISE



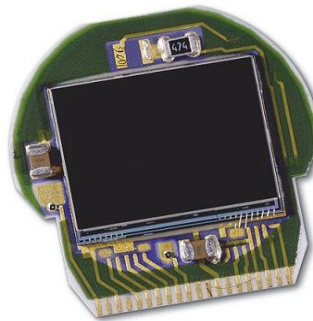
Quantum well structures formed by novel crystal growth technique

1991  
RISE



Patent - grating for increased IR efficiency.

1997  
RISE



Product launched - QWIP detector with read out circuit

2007  
IRnova



Integrated modules with Stirling cooler

2012  
IRnova



$\text{SF}_6$  gas detector

... into imaging IR detectors and modules at IRnova.

In 2018:

- turn-over 5 MEUR
- 28 employees

# Incubator companies



**IR-Nova** (2003)  
Imaging IR detectors with high detectivity and resolution



**TranSiC** (2005) - **Fairchild** (2011) - **On Semiconductor** (2016)  
High power transistors in silicon carbide



**Ascatron AB** (2011)  
Pure play foundry for silicon carbide epitaxy and processing

**Spinn-Y AB** (2011)  
Spin filter for electron spin polarization detection

**Kiselkarbid i Stockholm AB** (2017)  
Defect free silicon carbide substrates



**Bright Day Prototypes** (2017)  
Development of sustainable energy solution

**Nanosized AB** (2018)  
Nanoparticle size determination for semiconductor industry



**Nano Pro AB** (2018)  
Consultancy and fabrication of semiconductor devices

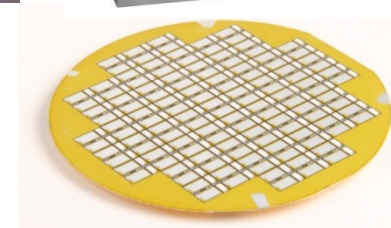
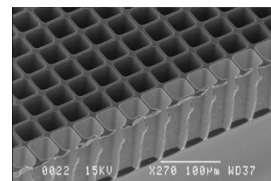
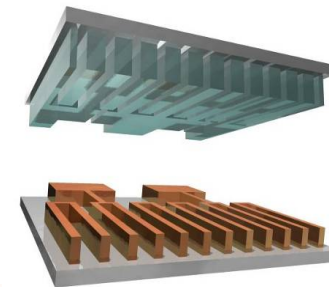
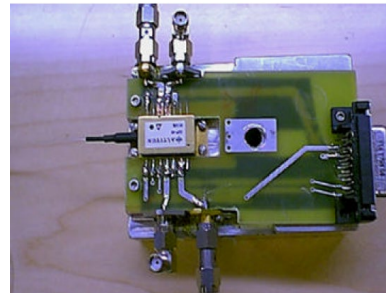
**Gatty Instruments AB** (2018)  
MEMS based gas sensors





# More start-ups

- **Altitud AB (1997)**
  - *Optoelectronics for telecommunication*
- **Optillion AB (1999)**
  - *Optoelectronics for telecommunication*
- **Silex Microsystems AB (2000)**
  - *Micromechanic devices for opto and bio applications*
- **Comlase NT AB (2001/2003)**
  - *Pump lasers and coating technologies*
- **Advanced Microwave Device Solutions AB (2001)**
  - *High power/high frequency transistors in silicon carbide*
- **PhoXtal Communications AB (2002)**
  - *Optoelectronics for telecommunication*
- **Replisaurus Technologies AB (2002)**
  - *Electrochemical Pattern replication*
- **Scint-X AB (2006)**
  - *Imaging x-ray detector with high sensitivity and resolution*
- **Micro Delta T (2007)**
  - *Nanostructured surfaces for enhanced heat transfer*
- **NanOsc AB (2007)**
  - *Oscillators for telecommunication and other applications*
- **Nocilis Materials AB (2011)**
  - *Epitaxy of advanced Si-Ge-Sn-C alloys and energy harvesting*
- **Epiclarus AB (2012)**
  - *Epitaxial growth of III-V materials*
- **Ascillion AB (2012)**
  - *Pain-free glucose measurements*
- **Neosense AB (2014)**
  - *Sensor for real-time measurement of blood oxygenation*
- **Aninkco AB (2015)**
  - *Graphene based inks for printed electronics*



# Success factors for innovation and growth

## Technical: Handling the technical challenges

- Nanotechnology is demanding and every detail must work
- Management must understand the R&D realities
- Time could be more important than money

## Financial: Financing of the project.

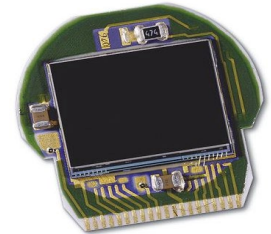
- The idea needs to mature - "there is always money for good ideas"
- Working for free for some time - your own investment may attract others
- Financing is highly cyclical and may disappear quickly in a recession.

## Market: For a nice idea to reach the market

- Early contacts with the market - help to develop the right thing
- Be open to adopt the technical solution to another application

## Team: A well formulated common goal

- Sort out the personal driving forces early



IR nova



Ascatron



TranSiC/ON Semi



Ascilion

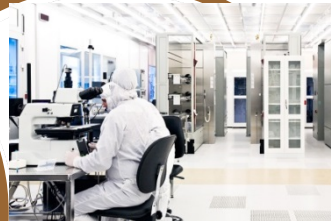


Spinn-Y

# **myfab** Swedish Nano and Microfabrication Infrastructure



**Electrum Lab**



**MC2 NFL**



**Ångström MSL**



**Lund Nano Lab**

## Realize your nano visions

- A distributed cleanroom facility
- Access to all processes and equipment in the network
- Backup for standard processes
- Supporting academia and industry
- Common marketing activities

## Supported by

- Swedish Research Council (Vetenskapsrådet)
- The participating universities:
  - KTH
  - Uppsala University
  - Chalmers
  - Lund University

Realize your nano visions with



Contact for more information:

ulf.sodervall@chalmers.se

+46(0)31 772 34 31

Learn more at:

[www.myfab.se](http://www.myfab.se)

Myfab National Access offers **free** access to Myfab:

- Usage of equipment for fabrication and analysis
- Training services from on-site staff
- Scientific support in realizing “nano visions”
- Standard material (to some extent)

Myfab National Access is open for

- Swedish academic users with no previous cleanroom experience.

Myfab National Access will

- Promote the Myfab laboratories
- Lower the barrier to realize novel ideas in micro and nanofabrication
- Stimulate the creation of new activities and relations.



# CAMART<sup>2</sup> - Excellence Centre of Advanced MAterial Research and Technology Transfer

- A Horizon 2020 Widespread project

## Partners

- Institute of Solid State Physics, University of Latvia
- KTH Royal Institute of Technology
- RISE Acreo

## Goal

- To enhance the innovation capabilities of ISSP UL
- Commercialization of research results at ISSP UL
- Synergy with industrial partners
- Strengthen nanotechnology and materials physics in the Baltic Sea region.

## Implementation

- Business Plan: Science, Innovation, Education, Infrastructure, Outreach, Organization.
- Funding: 15 MEUR + 16 MEUR infrastructure (2017-2023)



# Electrum Laboratory invites you!



## KTH and RISE Acreo in collaboration offer:

**Processes** – from separate process steps to full device process sequences.

**Characterization** – from single measurements to integrated analysis for deep understanding of complex structures

- Process and characterization services are provided by our skilled experts
- Commissioned research and development projects
- Prototyping and small scale production
- Access to our tools for your own personnel
- Cleanroom area and labs to rent
- Education in process technology, characterization and cleanroom infrastructure.
- Access to the lab resources at our collaboration partners within the Myfab network.

