

Delta Evaluation of Advanced MMIC Process OMMIC D01PH and characterization under H₂ and ambient atmosphere

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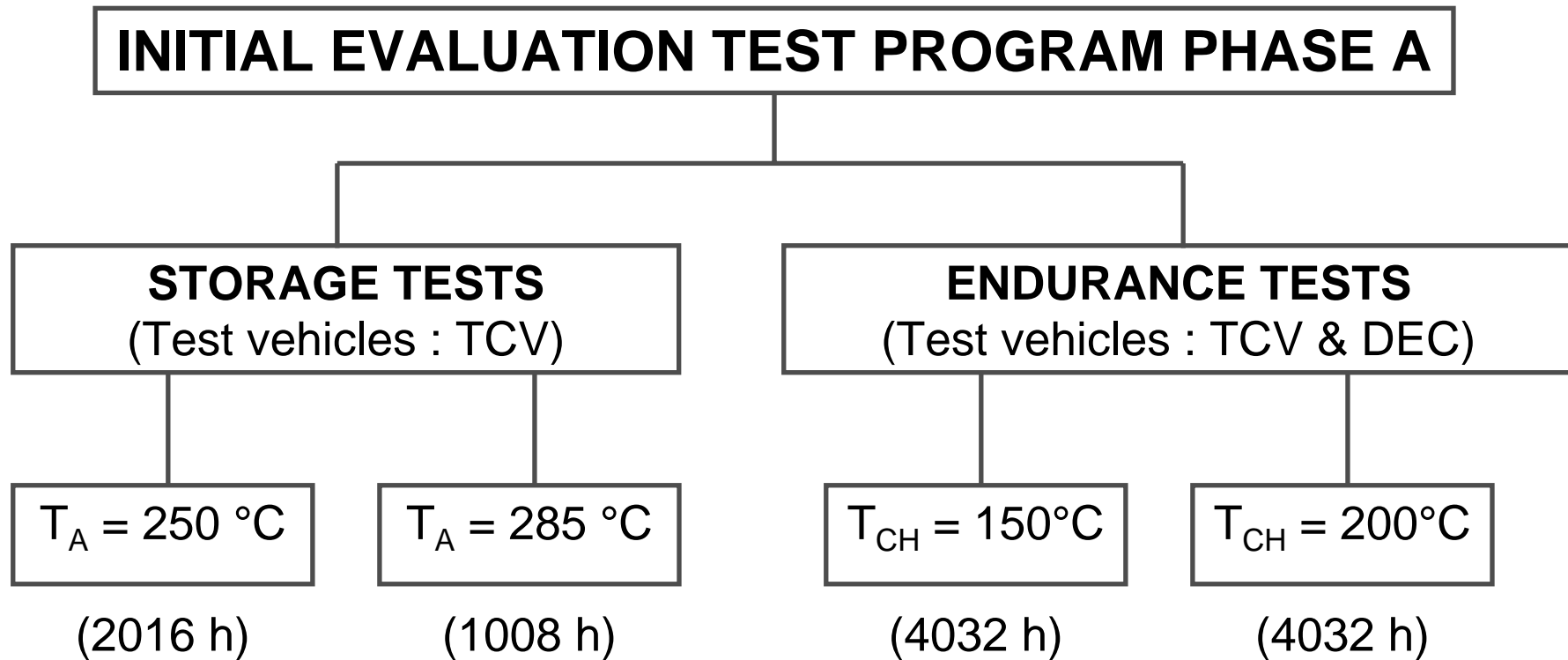
Initial test program of the Delta Evaluation OMMIC D01PH process

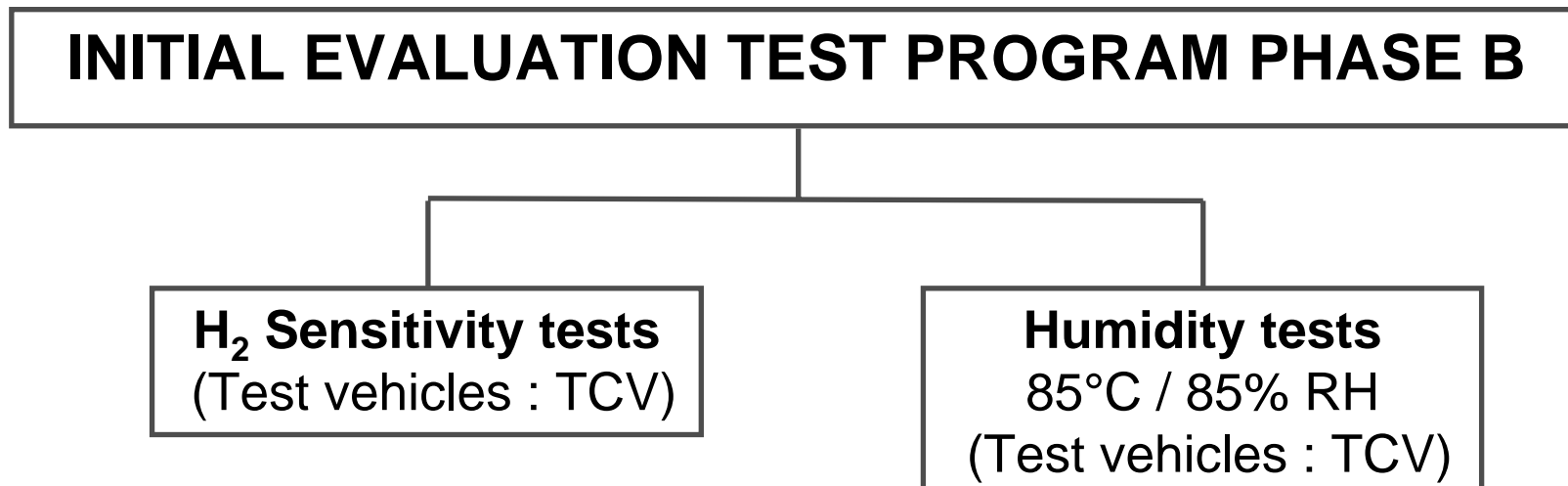
Phase A : Reliability evaluation of the D01PH process

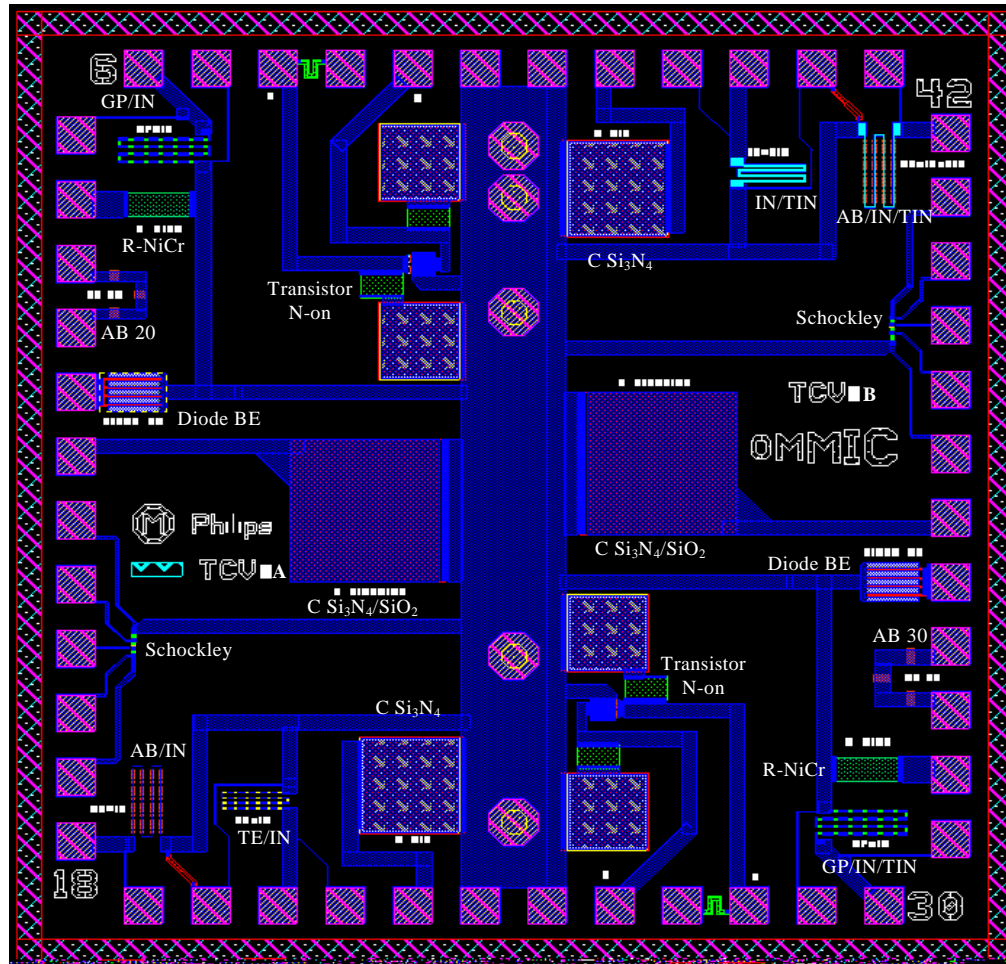
- Storage tests : 250°C, 285°C
- Endurance tests (biasing + high temperature) : 150°C, 200°C

Phase B : D01PH process evaluation under specific atmosphere

- Test under Hydrogen atmosphere
- Test under Humid atmosphere : 85°C/85%RH







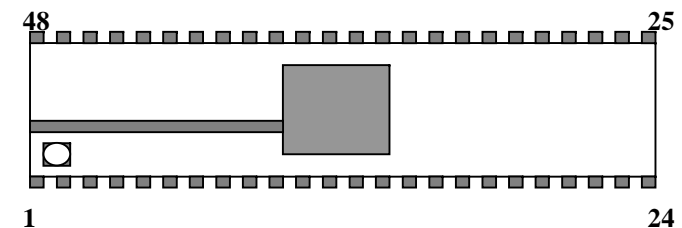
Die size : 2mm x 2mm

2 wafers coming from 2 different batches

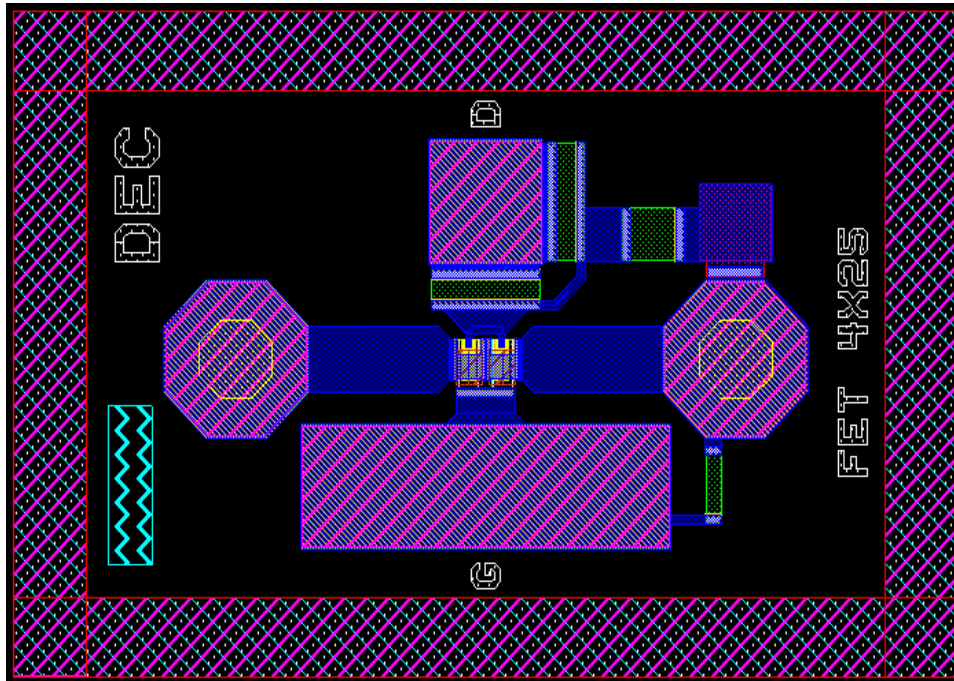
TCV die :

- 4x50μm on-transistors
- metal interconnections
- air bridges
- capacitors
- diodes

Package : Dual In Line (DIL48)



DIL48 Package	Size (cm ³)
Cavity	0.78 x 0.78 x 0.1
Package	6.1 x 1.55 x 0.21

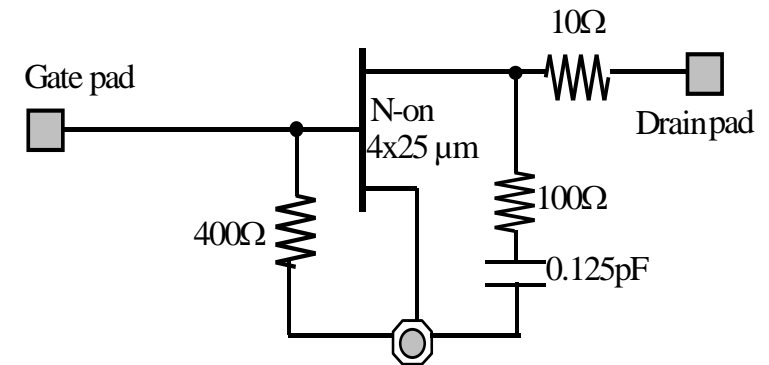


N-on PHEMT (4X25 μ m)

Die size : 420 x 650 μ m²

2 wafers coming from 2 different batches

Schematic of the DEC

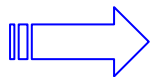


Package : FO92

Package size : 0.18 x 0.18 x 0.04 cm³

Objective :

To check that TCV dice mounted in hermetically sealed packages and dedicated to the storage & endurance tests programmed in the phase A will not present Hydrogen signature during the tests



To obtain reliability data of D01PH processed dice

Tests performed :

285°C high temperature storage tests, 100h

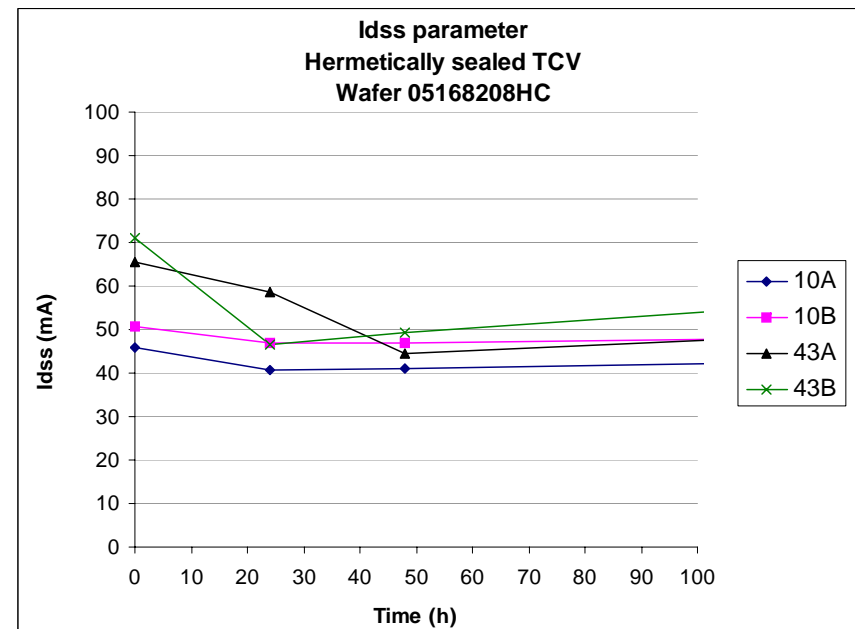
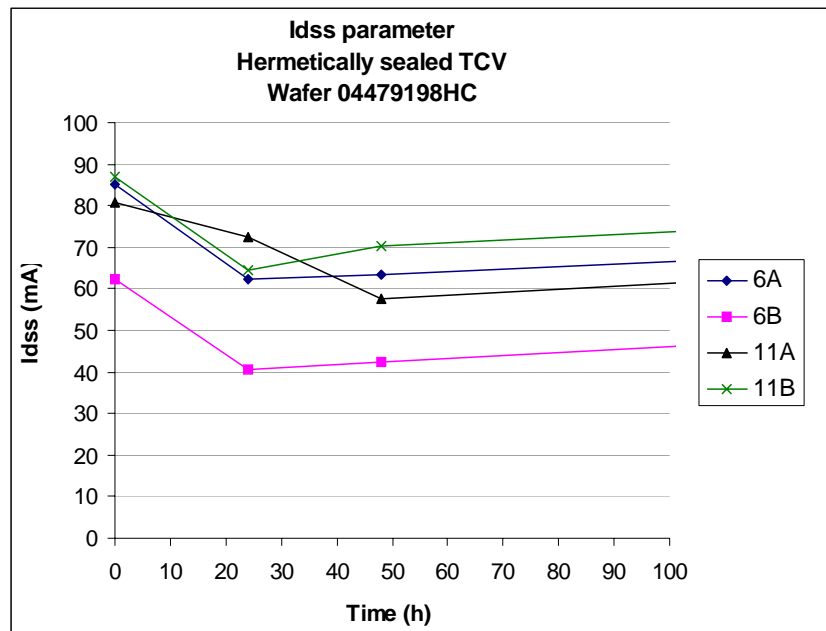
Tests structures used :

TCV dice mounted in hermetically sealed DIL48 packages

TCV pattern controlled :

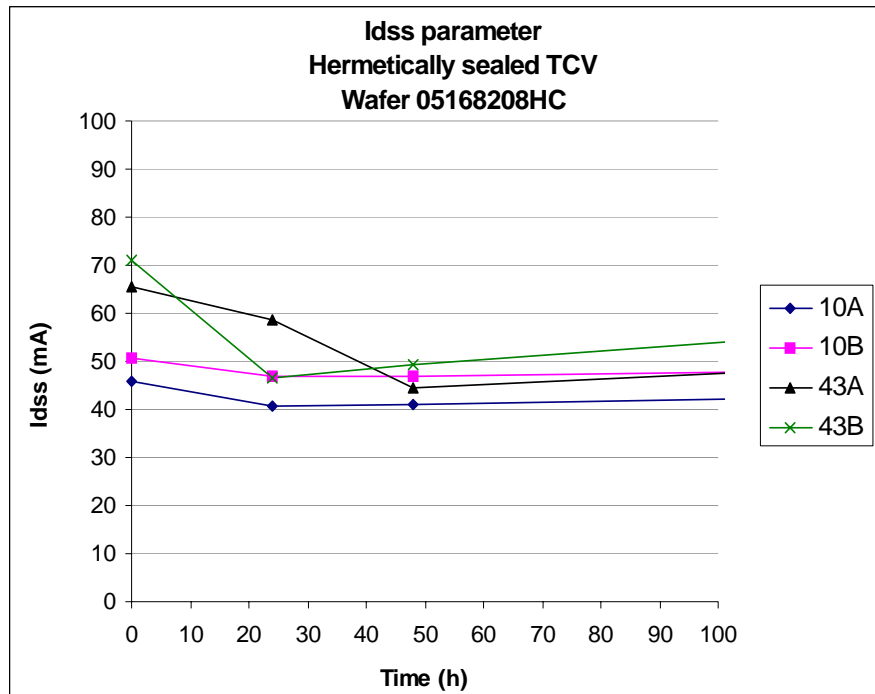
4x50µm FET parameters

Hermetically sealed TCV results : Evolution of FET I_{DSS} parameter under 285°C high temperature storage



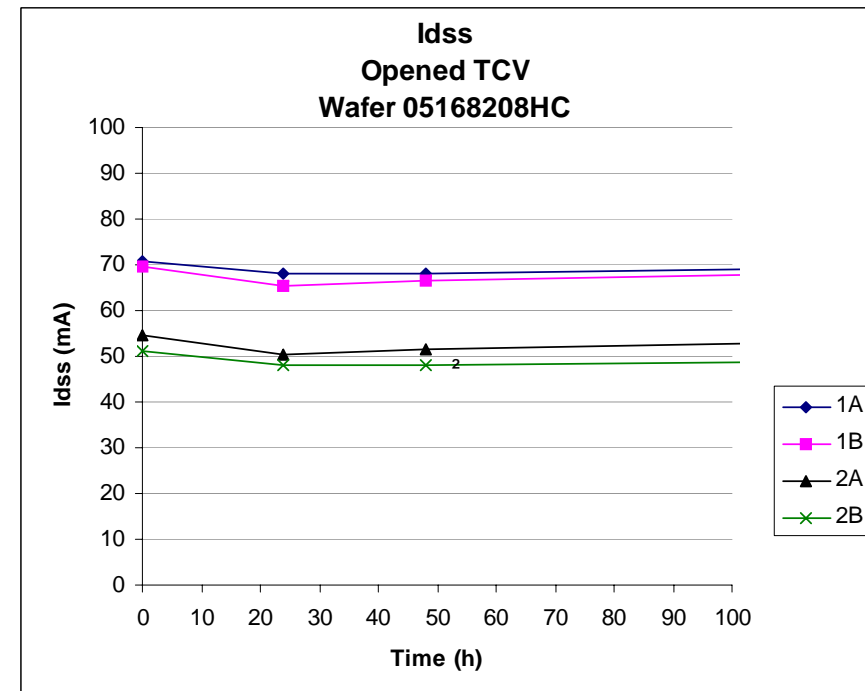
I_{DSS} maximum variation (in absolute value) : 30%
Hydrogen poisoning signature in all the tested TCVs

Comparison between Hermetically sealed TCV results and opened TCV results



Hermetically sealed TCV

I_{DSS} maximum variation : 30%



Opened TCV

I_{DSS} maximum variation : 5%

Modified test program Phase A

Objectives :

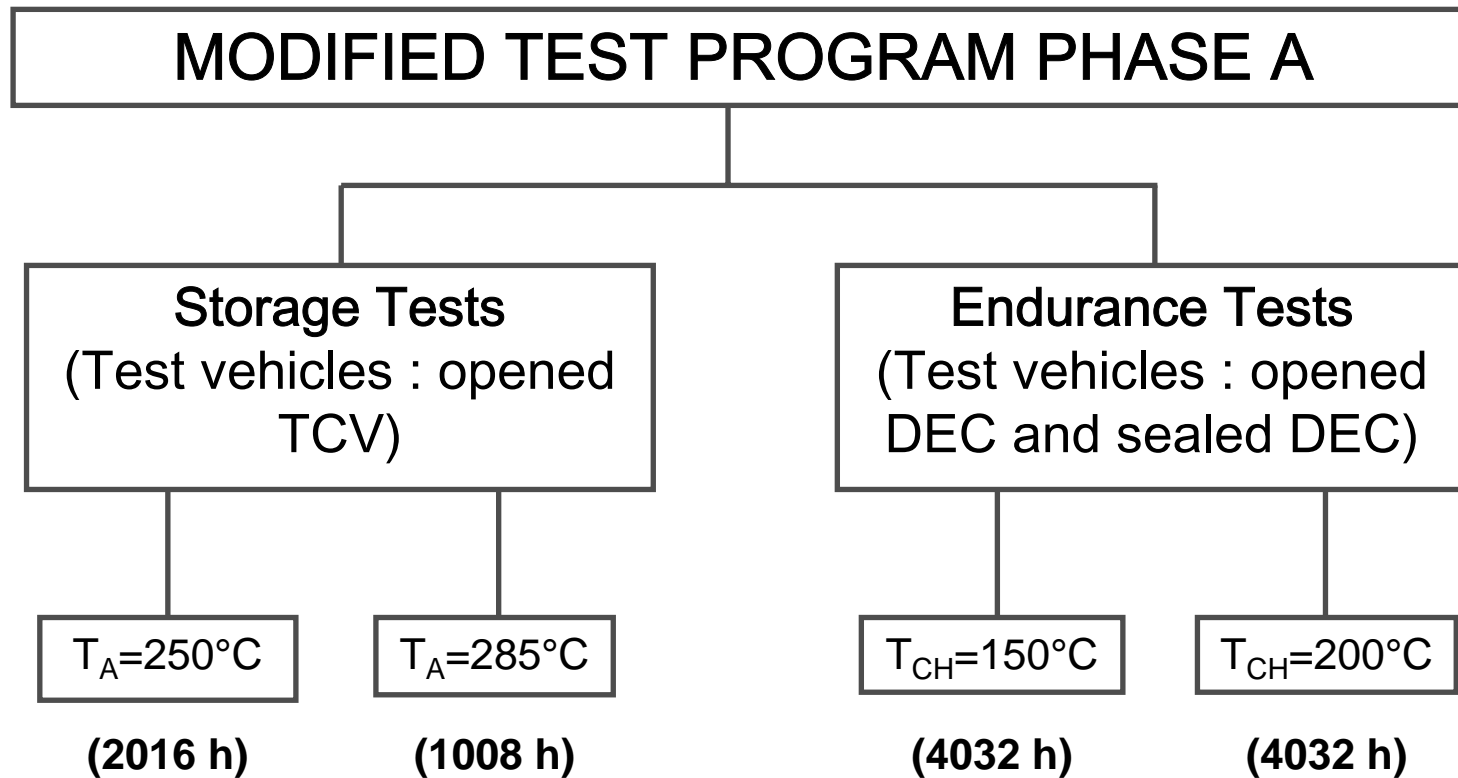
- D01PH process reliability data purchase under storage tests (250°C, 285°C)
- D01PH process reliability evaluation under endurance tests (150°C and 200°C channel temperatures)

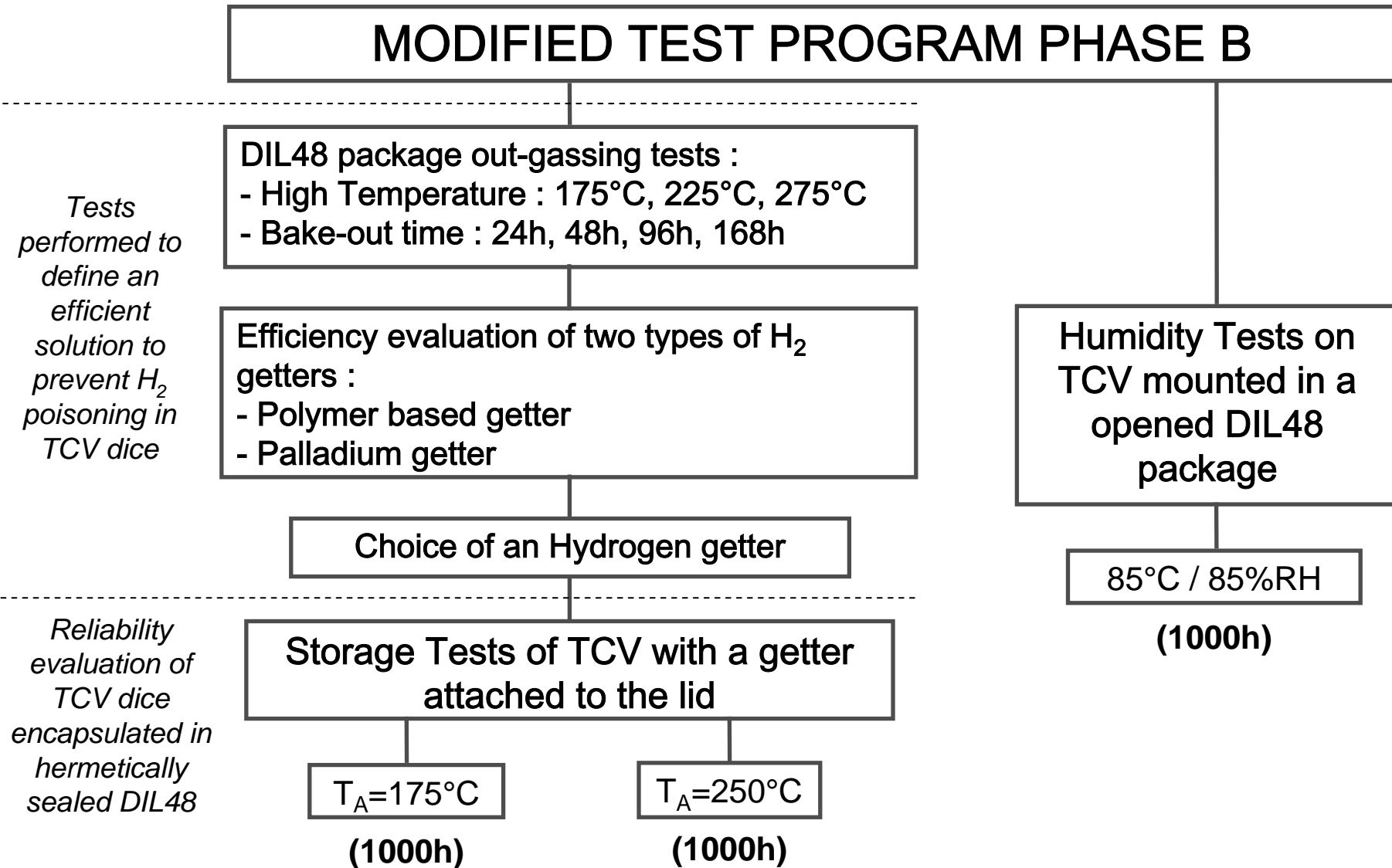
(Test structures : opened DIL48 packages and opened FO92 packages)

Modified test program Phase B

Objectives :

- To find an efficient solution to prevent H₂ poisoning on TCV dice hermetically sealed in DIL48 packages
 - Reliability evaluation of D01PH TCV dice mounted in hermetically sealed DIL48 package
 - Reliability evaluation of D01PH TCV dice in a humid atmosphere : 85°C/85%RH
- (Test structures : opened DIL48 packages)





Storage tests results

- TCV (mounted in opened DIL48 packages) stored at 250°C during 2016h
- TCV (mounted in opened DIL48 packages) stored at 285°C during 1008h

Endurance tests results

- DEC (mounted in opened and sealed FO92 packages) stored under biasing at 150°C channel temperature during 4032h
- DEC (mounted in opened and sealed FO92 packages) stored under biasing at 200°C during 4032h

Storage tests results : TCV electrical characterisation

Pattern	Measured Parameter	Description & measurements conditions
GP/IN & GP/IN/TIN metal interco.	R_GP/IN R_GP/IN/TIN	Resistor (15Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 12 \text{ mA}$
TE / IN metal interco.	R_TE/IN	Resistor (17.5Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 10 \text{ mA}$
Air bridge (AB 20)	R_AB_20	Resistor (0.5Ω)
Air bridge (AB 30)	R_AB_30	Resistor (0.3Ω)
Air bridge (AB / IN)	R_AB_IN	Resistor (6.51Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 18 \text{ mA}$
Air bridge (AB / IN / TIN)	R_AB_IN_TIN	Resistor (3Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 36 \text{ mA}$
Si_3N_4 capacitor	$I_{\text{leak}} \text{ Si}_3\text{N}_4$	Leakage current at $V = +15\text{V}$
$\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4 / \text{SiO}_2$ capacitor	$I_{\text{leak}} \text{ SiO}_2$	Leakage current at $V = +15\text{V}$
Schockley pattern	RCN	Contact resistance at $I_{\max} = 2.5\text{mA}$
NiCr resistor	R_NiCr	Resistor (100Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 10 \text{ mA}$
IN/TIN metal line	R_IN_TIN	Resistor (2.5Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 36 \text{ mA}$
Transistor N-on	V_p	Pinch-off voltage : $I_{ds} = 1\mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$, $V_{ds} = 1.5\text{V}$
	gm_0	Transconductance : $V_{ds} = 1.5\text{V}$, $V_{gs} = 0\text{V}$
	I_{dss}	Drain-source current : $V_{gs} = 0\text{V}$, $V_{ds} = 1.5\text{V}$
	V_{brgss}	Break down voltage : $I_{gs} = 1\mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$ $V_{ds} = 0\text{V}$
BE diode	V_{fwd}	Threshold voltage : V for $I_{forward} = 1\mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$
	V_{BR}	Breakdown voltage : $I_g = 1\mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$, $V_{ds} = 0\text{V}$
	I_{rev}	Leakage current : maximum rating $< -9\text{V}$

Storage tests results : TCV failure criteria*

Patterns	Failure Criteria	
FET Parameters	I_{DSS}	-10%
	V_P	+10%
	V_{BGD0} & V_{BGS0}	-10%
Metallic Resistors	+10%	
Metal Interconnections	+20%	

* Values coming from : "A methodology for the space qualification of GaAs MMICs", 3rd issue, CNET - 1992

Storage tests results : 2016h at 250°C

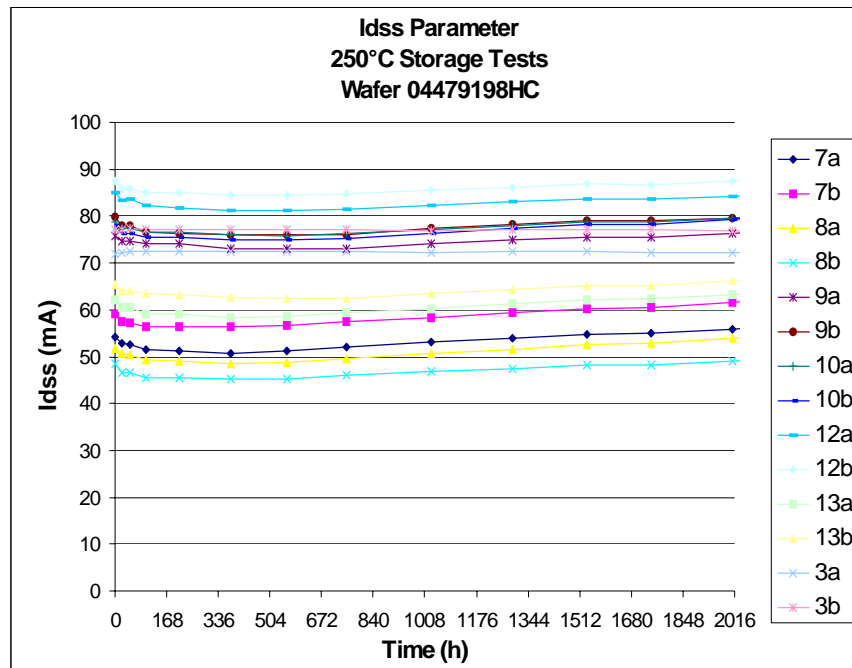
Whatever the wafer studied :

- No change in passive elements after 2016h of tests
- FET parameters : no failure (catastrophic or by drift) has been noticed

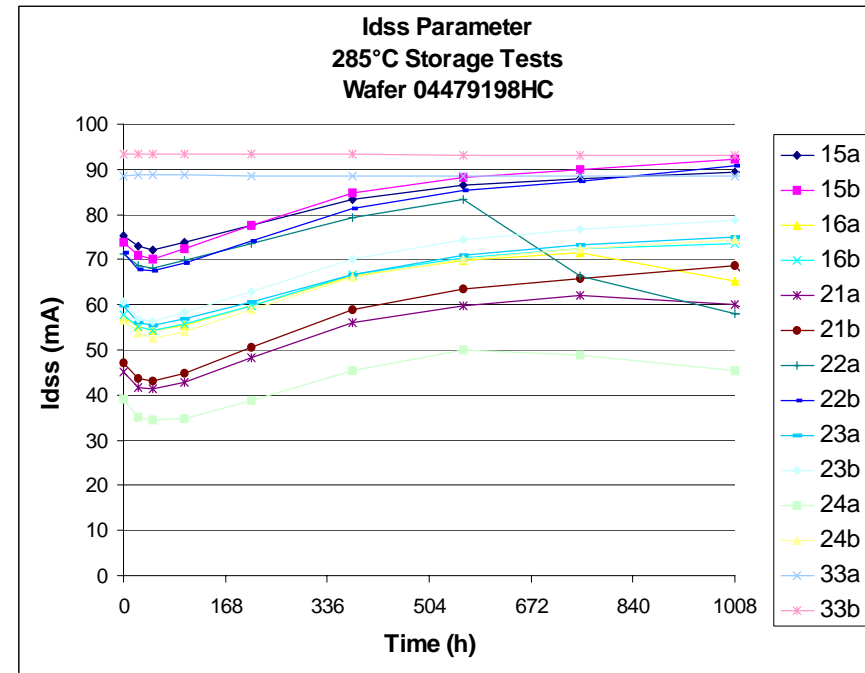
Storage tests results : 1008h at 285°C

- The first failures appear for the FET parameters after 500h of storage
- The failed FET parameter during 285°C storage tests are :
 - I_{DSS}
 - V_{BRGSS}

250°C & 285°C storage tests results : I_{DSS} parameter - 04479198HC Wafer

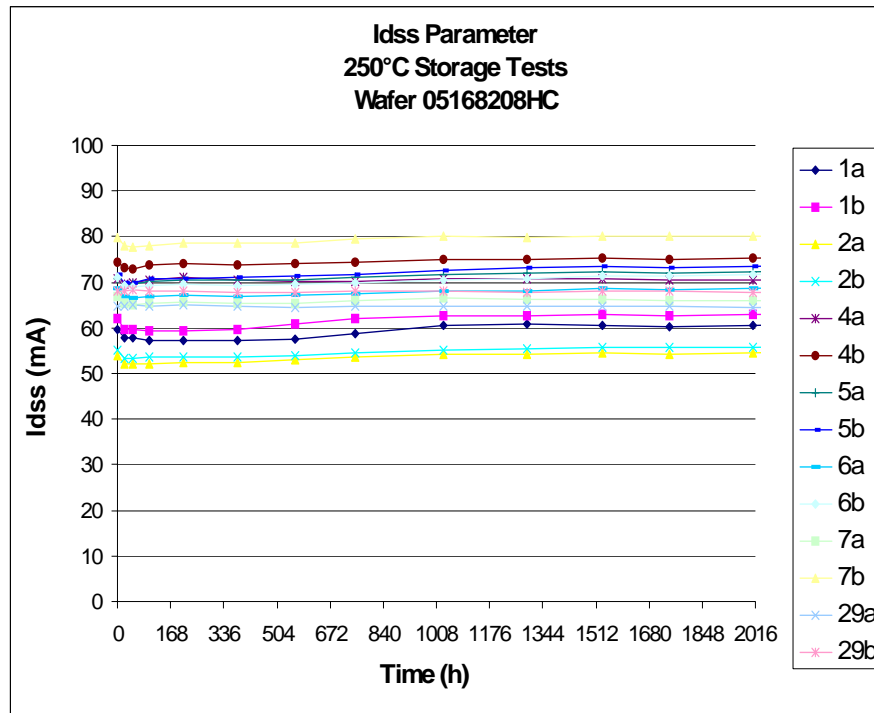


250°C TCV storage test : 2016h

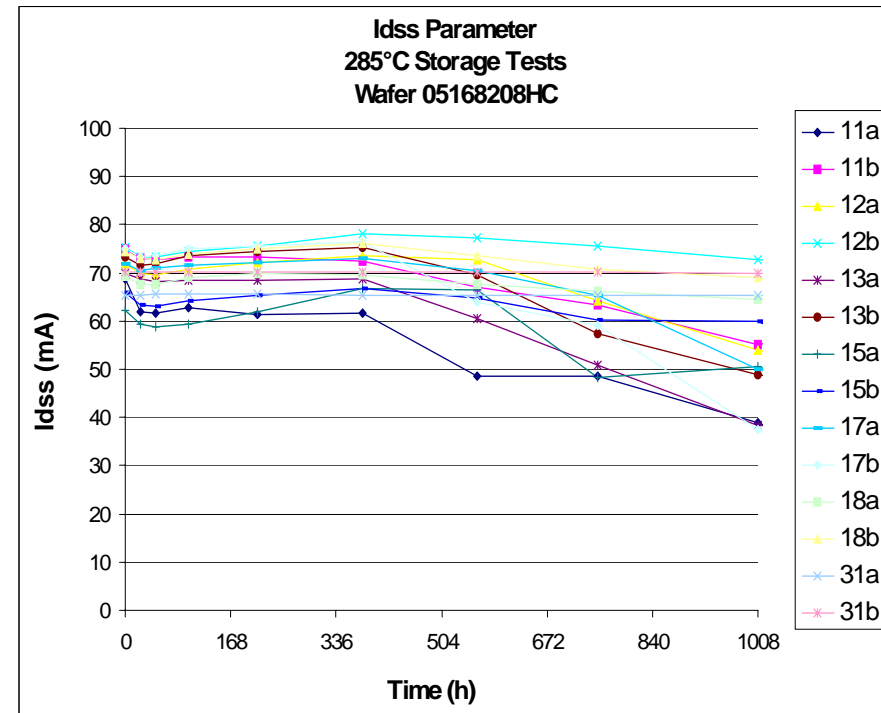


285°C TCV storage test : 1008h

250°C & 285°C storage tests results : I_{DSS} parameter - 05168208HC Wafer



250°C TCV storage test : 2016h



285°C TCV storage test : 1008h

Reliability data calculated from storage tests at 250°C & 285°C :

⇒ **Activation Energy (E_A)**

Measured Parameter	Activation energy associated (E_A)
4x50µm On-Transistor	$E_A = 1.2$ eV (calculated from the I_{DSS} variation during storage tests at 250°C & 285°C)
GP / IN metal interconnection	$E_A = 1.8$ eV
GP/IN/TIN metal interconnection	$E_A = 1.8$ eV
Air bridge (AB / IN / TIN)	$E_A = 1.4$ eV
Si ₃ N ₄ capacitor	$E_A = 1.3$ eV
Si ₃ N ₄ / SiO ₂ capacitor	$E_A = 1.2$ eV
Schockley pattern	$E_A > 1.1$ eV
NiCr resistor	$E_A = 1.9$ eV
IN/TIN metal line	$E_A = 1.3.$ eV

The **1.2 eV activation energy** calculated for the 4x50µm FET corresponds to a **median life in excess of 2.10⁸ years in ambient conditions**

Endurance tests results : DEC biasing conditions & DEC electrical characterisation

- *Biasing conditions :*
 - Pinch off voltage : V_P at $I_{DS} = 1\text{mA/mm}$ & $V_{DS} = 1.5\text{V}$
 - Drain-Source current : I_{DSS} at $V_{GS} = 0\text{V}$ & $V_{DS} = 1.5\text{V}$
 - Minimum noise figure : NF_{MIN} at $F = 12\text{ GHz}$, $V_{DS} = 3\text{V}$ & V_{GS} tuned for $I_{DS} = 1/3 I_{DSS}$
- *DEC electrical characterisation :*

Parameter	Measurements conditions
V_p	Pinch-off voltage : $I_{ds} = 1\text{mA/mm}$, $V_{ds} = 1.5\text{V}$
I_{dss}	Drain-source current : $V_{gs} = 0\text{V}$, $V_{ds} = 1.5\text{V}$
V_{brgss}	Break down voltage : $1\mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$, $V_{ds} = 0\text{V}$
NF min	Minimum noise figure : $V_{ds} = 3\text{V}$, V_{gs} tuned for $I_{ds} = 1/3 I_{dss}$ at 12 or 18 GHz
Ga	Associated gain : measurements conditions similar to NF min

Endurance tests results :

- Endurance tests have been performed on opened DEC's & hermetically sealed DEC's
- ***DEC failure criteria****

Patterns	Failure Criteria	
FET Parameters	I_{DSS}	-10%
	V_P	+10%
	V_{BGD0} & V_{BGS0}	-10%
	NFmin at 12GHz	+0.5dB
	Associated Gain at 12GHz	-.5dB

* Values coming from : "A methodology for the space qualification of GaAs MMICs", 3rd issue, CNET - 1992

Endurance tests results : 4032h at 150°C & 200°C channel temperature

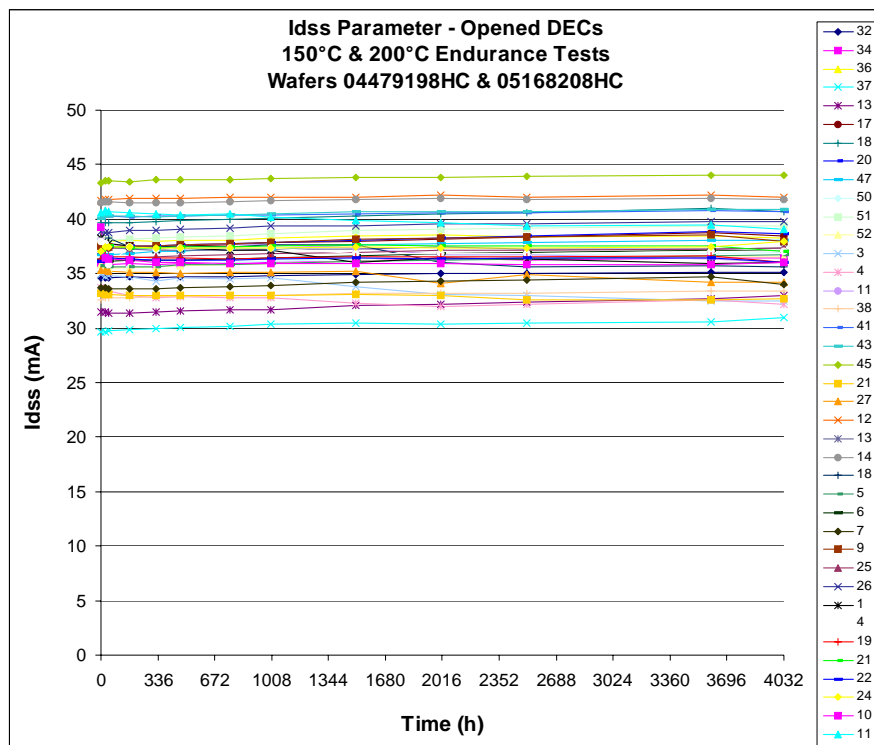
DEC tested in opened packages :

- No failure (catastrophic or by drift) has been noticed on all the DEC parameters checked after 4032h of endurance tests

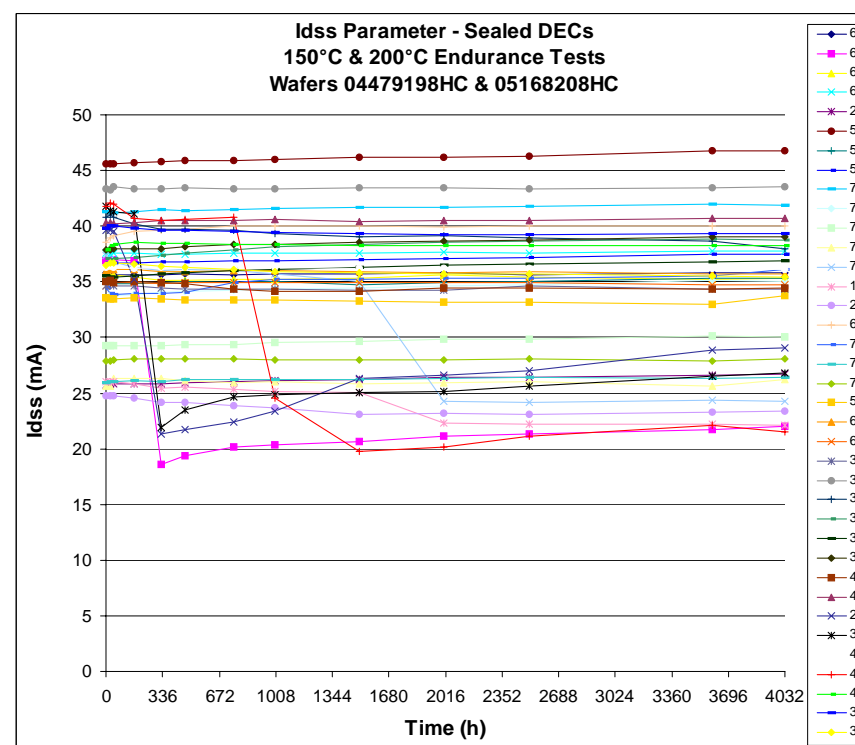
DEC tested in hermetically sealed FO92 packages :

- Sudden drift failures (in the range of 25% - 30% for the I_{DSS} & V_P parameters) have been noticed on 5 DEC's during the endurance tests
- These failure are not linked to one particular biasing or to one specific endurance temperature but are clearly the signature of the dice Hydrogen poisoning

150°C & 200°C Endurance tests results : I_{DSS} parameter



DEC I_{DSS} parameter – Opened package
150°C & 200°C endurance tests
04479198HC & 05168208HC Wafers
All biasing conditions merged



DEC I_{DSS} parameter – Sealed package
150°C & 200°C endurance tests
04479198HC & 05168208HC Wafers
All biasing conditions merged

250°C & 285°C Storage tests results :

- The results obtained on TCVs stored at 250°C & 285°C showed that the activation energy of the tested elements varies between 1.2eV & 1.8eV
- The lower activation energy (1.2eV) has been calculated for the 4x50µm on-transistor I_{DSS} parameter and corresponds to a median life in excess of 2.10^8 years in ambient conditions

150°C & 200°C Endurance tests results :

- Some DEC samples tested in hermetically sealed FO92 packages exhibited a degradation by “Hydrogen poisoning” due to the presence of H_2 inside the package
- All DEC samples mounted in open packages successfully passed 4032h of endurance tests without any degradation whatever the temperature and the biasing conditions used

Test program phase B :

1. Reliability evaluation of D01PH processed TCV dice hermetically sealed in DIL48 package

1.A : Tests performed to define an efficient solution to prevent H₂ poisoning in TCV dice hermetically sealed in DIL48 packages :

- DIL48 package out-gassing : test of different high temperature and different bake-out time
- Efficiency evaluation of 2 types of Hydrogen getters

1.B : Storage test results of hermetically TCV sealed in DIL48 package :
1000h at 175°C & 1000h at 250°C

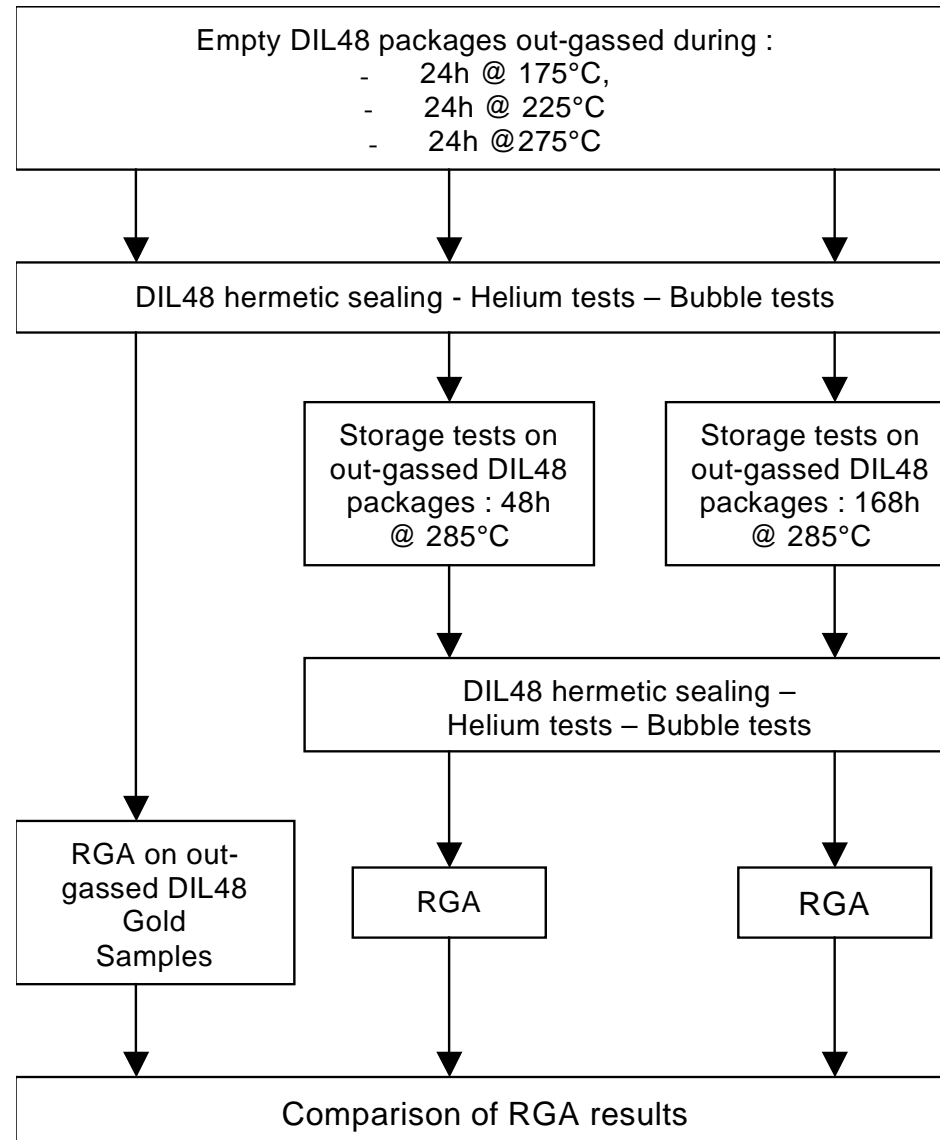
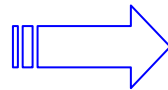
2. Reliability evaluation of D01PH processed TCV dice in a humid atmosphere

- Test of TCV dice (biased or no biased) mounted in opened packages at 85°C/85%RH during 1000h

1.A : Tests performed to define an efficient solution to prevent H₂ poisoning in TCV dice hermetically sealed in DIL48 packages :

- **Influence of the temperature** on H₂ removal efficiency : test of 3 high temperature out-gassing conditions
 - 24h at 175°C under vacuum (40 mTorr)
 - 24h at 225°C under vacuum
 - 24h at 275°C under vacuum
- **Influence of the bake-out time** on H₂ removal efficiency : test of 3 out-gassing conditions
 - 48h at 250°C under vacuum
 - 96h at 250°C under vacuum
 - 168h at 250°C under vacuum
- **Efficiency assessment** : Residual Gas Analysis (RGA) associated with fine and gross leak tests

Influence of the
temperature on H₂
removal efficiency :
Tests description



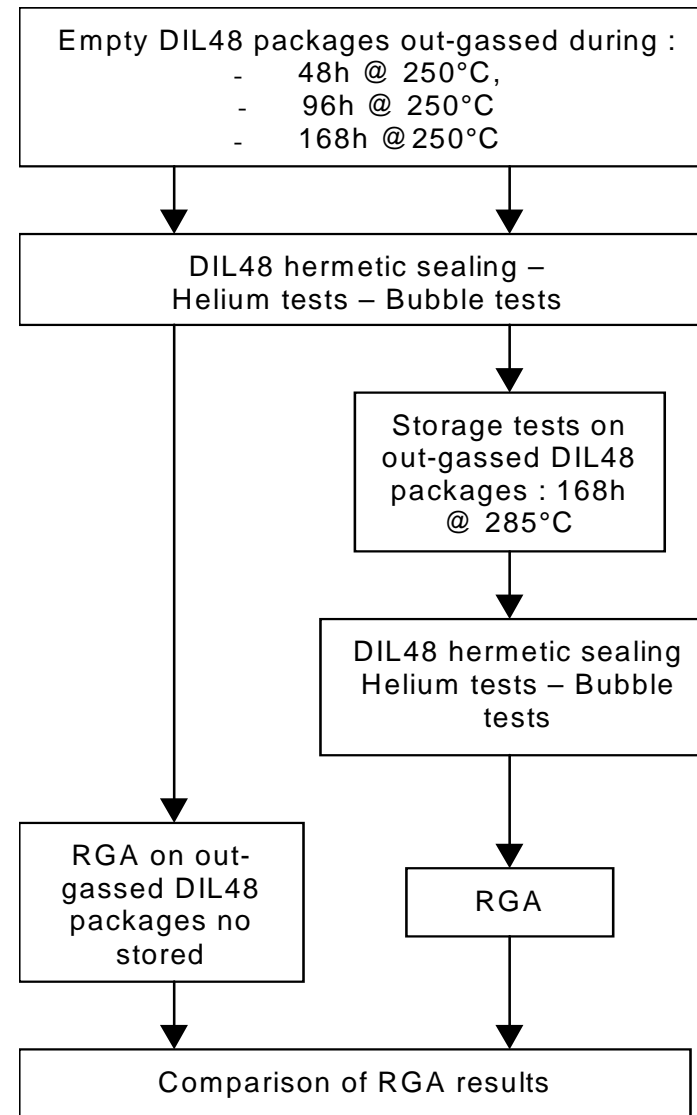
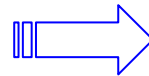
Influence of the temperature on H₂ removal efficiency : RGA Results

DIL48 out-gassing conditions	DIL48 storage conditions	RGA results : % of H ₂
No out-gassing	Ambient	0.27%
	48h @ 285°C	4.01%
	168h @ 285°C	3.94%
24h @ 175°C under vacuum	Ambient	0.37%
	48h @ 285°C	4.4%
	168h @ 285°C	3.57%
24h @ 225°C under vacuum	Ambient	0.4%
	48h @ 285°C	4.38%
	168h @ 285°C	3.87%
24h @ 275°C under vacuum	Ambient	0.22%
	48h @ 285°C	4.75%
	168h @ 285°C	3.6%

- DIL48 packages stored at high temperature : $\approx 4\%$ of H₂
- DIL48 packages stored at ambient temperature : $\approx 0.4\%$ of H₂

⇒ 24h vacuum out-gassing conditions up to 275°C have no effect for removing H₂ trapped in DIL48 package material

Influence of the
bake-out time on H₂
removal efficiency :
Tests description



Influence of the bake-out time on H₂ removal efficiency : RGA Results

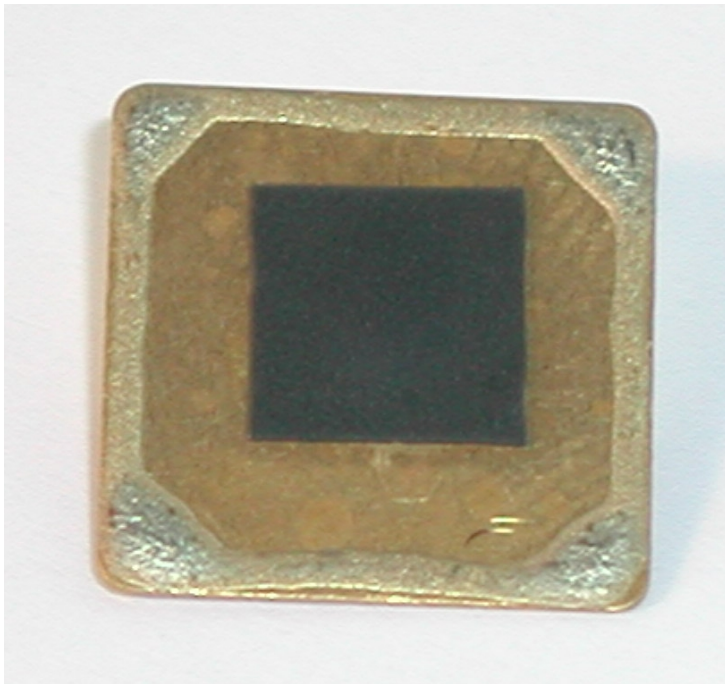
DIL48 out-gassing conditions	DIL48 storage conditions	RGA results : % of H ₂
48h @ 250°C under vacuum	No storage	0.45%
	168h @285°C	4.02%
96h @ 250°C under vacuum	No storage	0.48%
	168h @285°C	3.46%
168h @ 250°C under vacuum	No storage	0.35%
	168h @285°C	3.6%

- DIL48 packages stored at high temperature : $\approx 4\%$ of H₂
- DIL48 packages stored at ambient temperature : $\approx 0.4\%$ of H₂

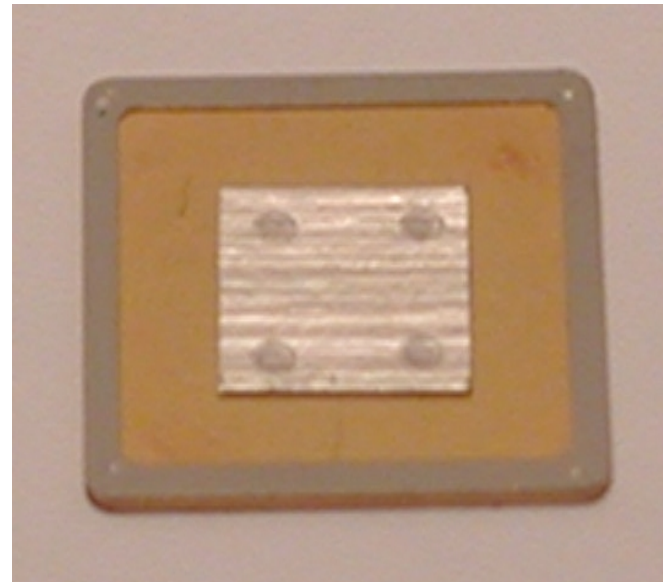
⇒ 24h at 275°C and 168h at 250°C do not remove all the H₂ trapped in DIL48 packages

1.B : Hydrogen getter efficiency results

- 2 hydrogen getters tested : Polymer based getter & Palladium getter
- Dimensions : 6mm x 6mm x 0.2mm



Polymer Based getter
attached to the lid
(H2-3000 Cookson Product)



Palladium getter
attached to the lid
(Hi-Rel Product)

Storage tests : 1000 h at 250°C

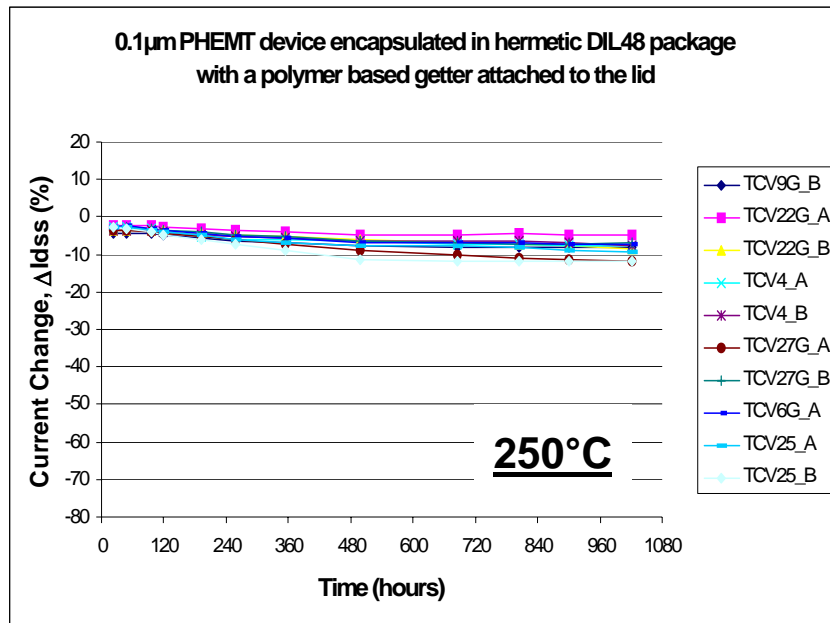
- D01PH processed TCV dice encapsulated in hermetically sealed DIL48 packages with a **Polymer based getter attached to the lid**
- D01PH processed TCV dice encapsulated in hermetically sealed DIL48 packages with a **Palladium getter attached to the lid**
- Use of non out-gassed DIL48 packages

Storage tests : 1000 h at 250°C

➤ All TCV Patterns controlled :

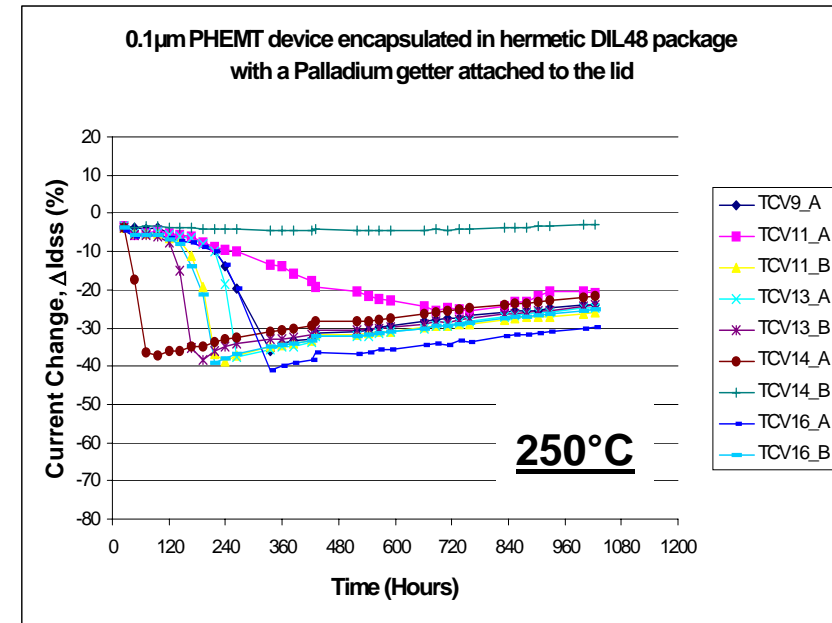
- As expected, no change in passive elements after 1000 hours
- The most sensitive parameter to H₂ poisoning are :
 - I_{DSS} , V_P
 - 4x50µm transistor parameters presented below

Storage tests : I_{DSS} parameter results



TCV hermetically sealed in a DIL48 package with a **polymer based getter** attached to the lid

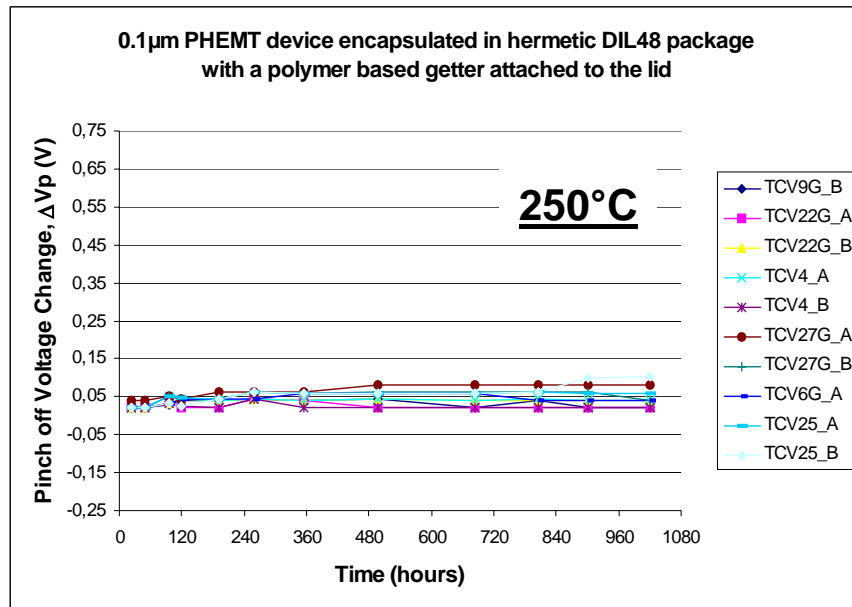
$$\Delta I_{DSSmax} = -11\%$$



TCV hermetically sealed in a DIL48 package with a **Palladium getter** attached to the lid

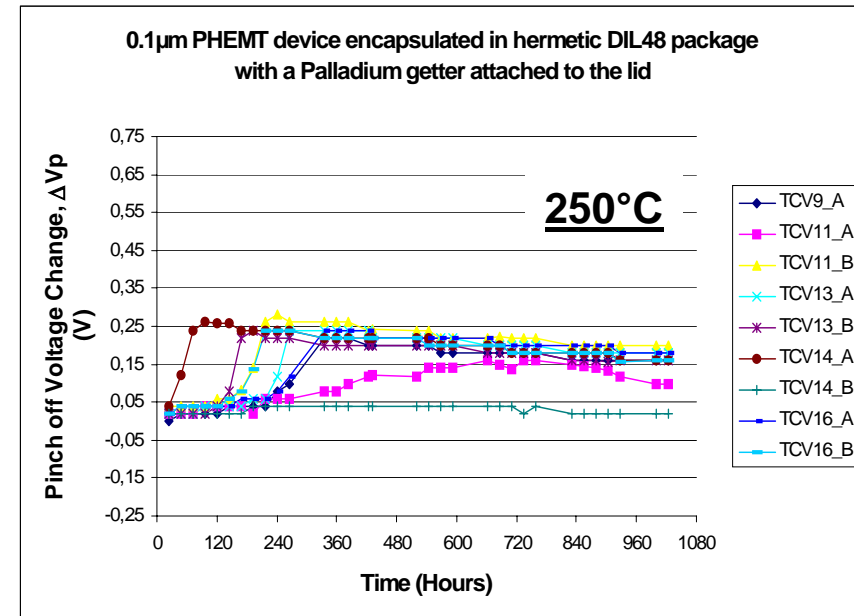
$$\Delta I_{DSSmax} = -40\%$$

Storage tests : V_P parameter results



TCV hermetically sealed in a DIL48 package with a **Polymer based getter** attached to the lid

$$\Delta V_{Pmax} = 0.08V$$



TCV hermetically sealed in a DIL48 package with a **Palladium getter** attached to the lid

$$\Delta V_{Pmax} = 0.25V$$

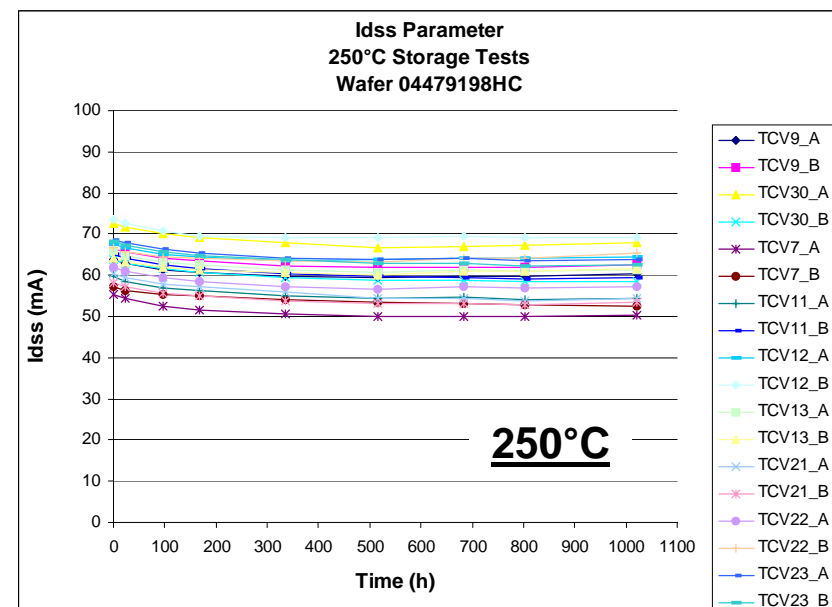
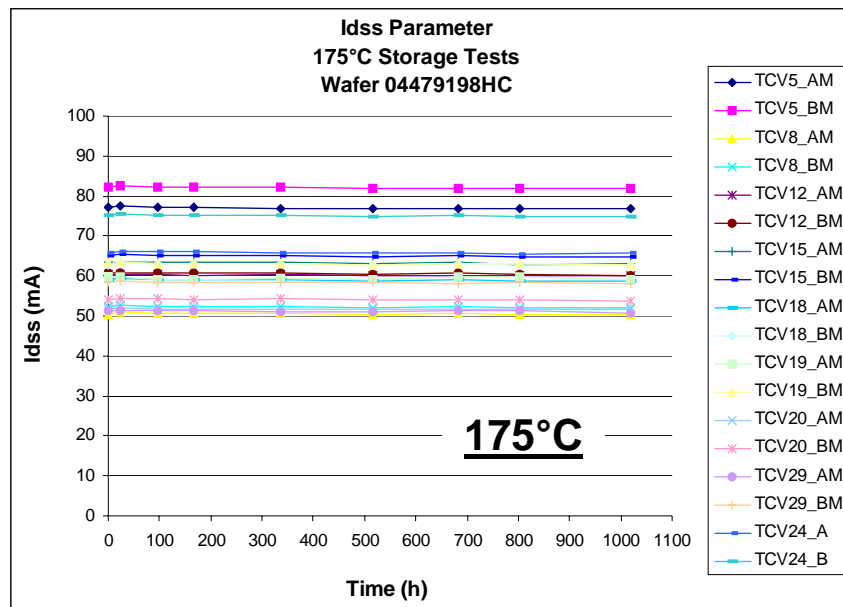
The tests performed to define an efficient solution to prevent H₂ poisoning in TCV dice hermetically sealed in DIL48 packages show that :

- The different DIL48 package out-gassing conditions tested have no effect on the Hydrogen removal, whatever the high temperature (175°C, 225°C, 250°C & 275°C) and the bake-out time tested (24h, 48h, 96h & 168h)
- The Polymer based getter is a good solution to efficiently absorb Hydrogen trapped in DIL48 packages while the Palladium getter is not a successful solution

**1.B : Storage test results of hermetically TCV sealed in DIL48 package
with a polymer based getter attached to the lid :
1000h at 175°C & 1000h at 250°C**

- All TCV Patterns controlled
- As expected, no change in passive elements has been noticed after 1000h at 175°C and 1000h at 250°C
- FET parameters : no failure (catastrophic or by drift) has been noticed whatever the wafer studied and the storage performed

175°C & 250°C storage tests results : I_{DSS} parameter - 04479198HC Wafer

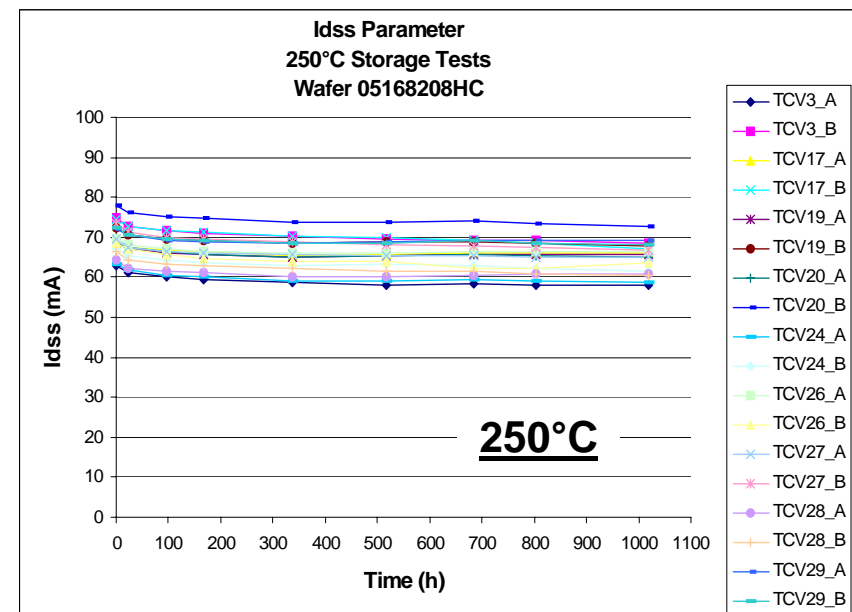
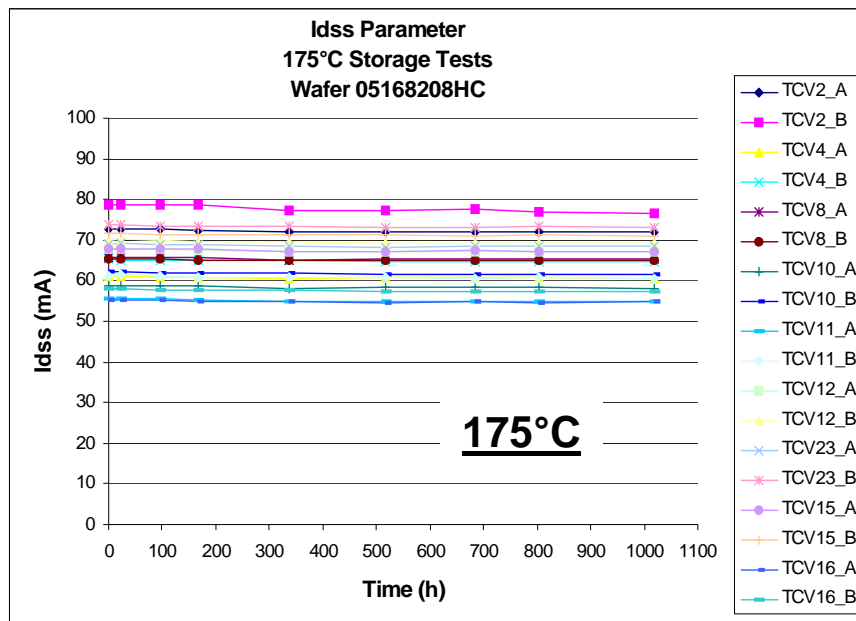


TCV hermetically sealed in a DIL48 package with a

Polymer Based getter attached to the lid

$$\Delta I_{DSSmax} = -9\%$$

175°C & 250°C storage tests results : I_{DSS} parameter - 05168208HC Wafer



TCV hermetically sealed in a DIL48 package with a

Polymer Based getter attached to the lid

$$\Delta I_{DSSmax} = -9\%$$

- All the D01PH processed TCV dice encapsulated in hermetically sealed DIL48 packages with a H2-3000 polymer based getter attached to the lid successfully passed 1000h of storage tests without any degradation whatever the temperature used (175°C and 250°C)
- These results have to be confirmed by performing high temperature storage tests on MMICs hermetically sealed in specific packages with the same polymer based getter attached to the lid
- The same storage tests have now to be performed on ED02AH TCV dice hermetically sealed in DIL48 package with a getter attached to the lid in order to validate the solution proposed to prevent Hydrogen poisoning when using OMMIC processed dice

2 : Reliability evaluation of D01PH processed TCV dice in a humid atmosphere :

- 3 humidity test series have been performed :
 - 857h at 85°C/85%RH
 - 1121h at 85°C/85%RH
 - 1143h at 85°C/85%RH
- Test vehicles tested : TCV dice, coming from 2 different wafers, biased or no biased and mounted in opened packages
- Biasing conditions for the 4x50µm on-transistor :
 - I_{DSS} at $V_{GS} = 0V$ & $V_{DS} = 1.5V$(Resistors, capacitors and diodes have not been biased during the tests)
- The humidity tests have been carried out at ESTEC

Humidity test results : TCV electrical characterisation

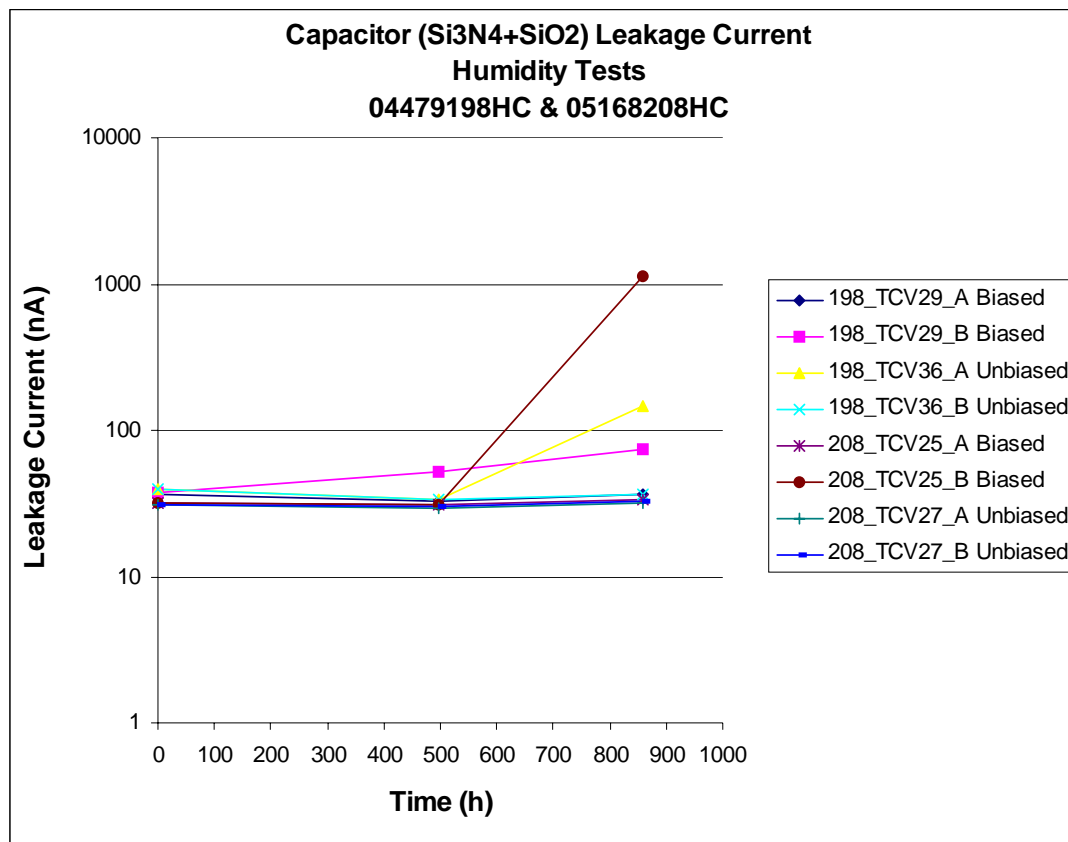
Pattern	Measured Parameter	Description & measurements conditions
GP/IN & GP/IN/TIN metal interco.	R_GP/IN R_GP/IN/TIN	Resistor (15Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 12 \text{ mA}$
TE / IN metal interco.	R_TE/IN	Resistor (17.5Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 10 \text{ mA}$
Air bridge (AB 20)	R_AB_20	Resistor (0.5Ω)
Air bridge (AB 30)	R_AB_30	Resistor (0.3Ω)
Air bridge (AB / IN)	R_AB_IN	Resistor (6.51Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 18 \text{ mA}$
Air bridge (AB / IN / TIN)	R_AB_IN_TIN	Resistor (3Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 36 \text{ mA}$
Si_3N_4 capacitor	$I_{\text{leak}} \text{ Si}_3\text{N}_4$	Leakage current at $V = +15\text{V}$
$\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4 / \text{SiO}_2$ capacitor	$I_{\text{leak}} \text{ SiO}_2$	Leakage current at $V = +15\text{V}$
Schockley pattern	RCN	Contact resistance at $I_{\max} = 2.5\text{mA}$
NiCr resistor	R_NiCr	Resistor (100Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 10 \text{ mA}$
IN/TIN metal line	R_IN_TIN	Resistor (2.5Ω) ; $I_{\max} = 36 \text{ mA}$
Transistor N-on	V_p	Pinch-off voltage : $I_{ds} = 1\mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$, $V_{ds} = 1.5\text{V}$
	gm_0	Transconductance : $V_{ds} = 1.5\text{V}$, $V_{gs} = 0\text{V}$
	I_{dss}	Drain-source current : $V_{gs} = 0\text{V}$, $V_{ds} = 1.5\text{V}$
	V_{brgss}	Break down voltage : $I_{gs} = 1\mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$ $V_{ds} = 0\text{V}$
BE diode	V_{fwd}	Threshold voltage : V for $I_{forward} = 1\mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$
	V_{BR}	Breakdown voltage : $I_g = 1\mu\text{A}/\mu\text{m}$, $V_{ds} = 0\text{V}$
	I_{rev}	Leakage current : maximum rating $< -9\text{V}$

Humidity test results

- Whatever the 1000h of humidity tests performed and whatever the wafer studied, no change has been noticed on :
 - the interconnections, the resistors, the air bridges
 - the Si_3N_4 capacitors
 - the $4 \times 100 \mu\text{m}$ BE Diodes

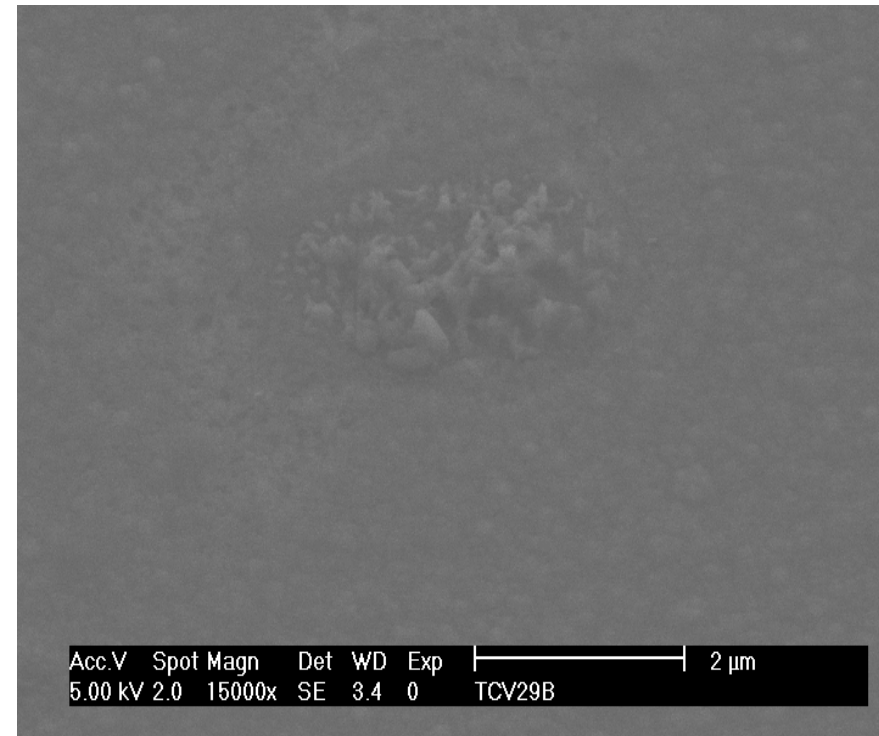
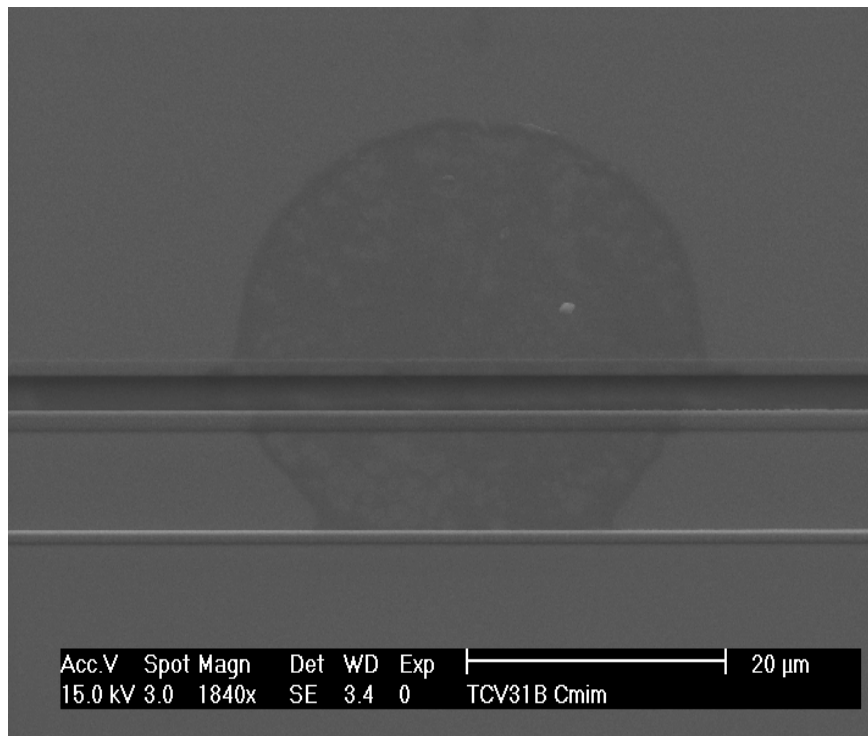
- Failures appear during the humidity tests for :
 - $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4 + \text{SiO}_2$ capacitors
 - FET parameter : V_p

Typical Si_3N_4 + SiO_2 capacitors failure

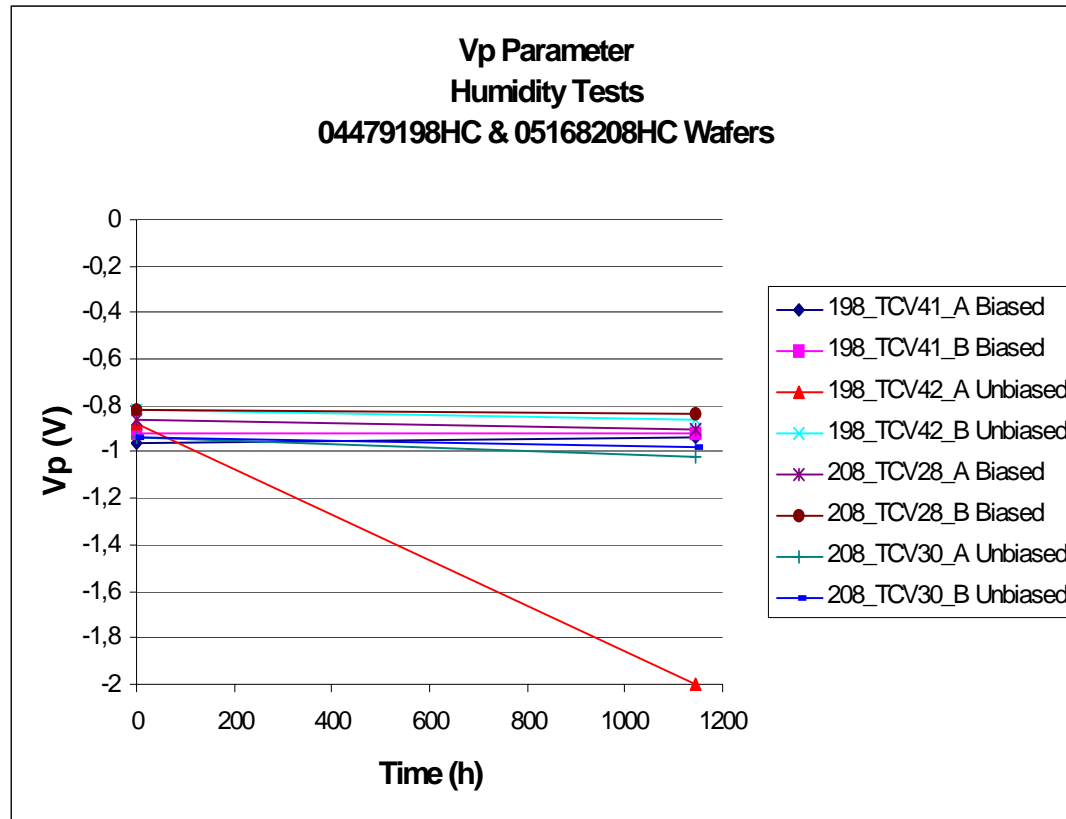


Capacitor leakage current increased by more than 100% after the 1000h of humidity tests

SEM analysis of failed $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4 + \text{SiO}_2$

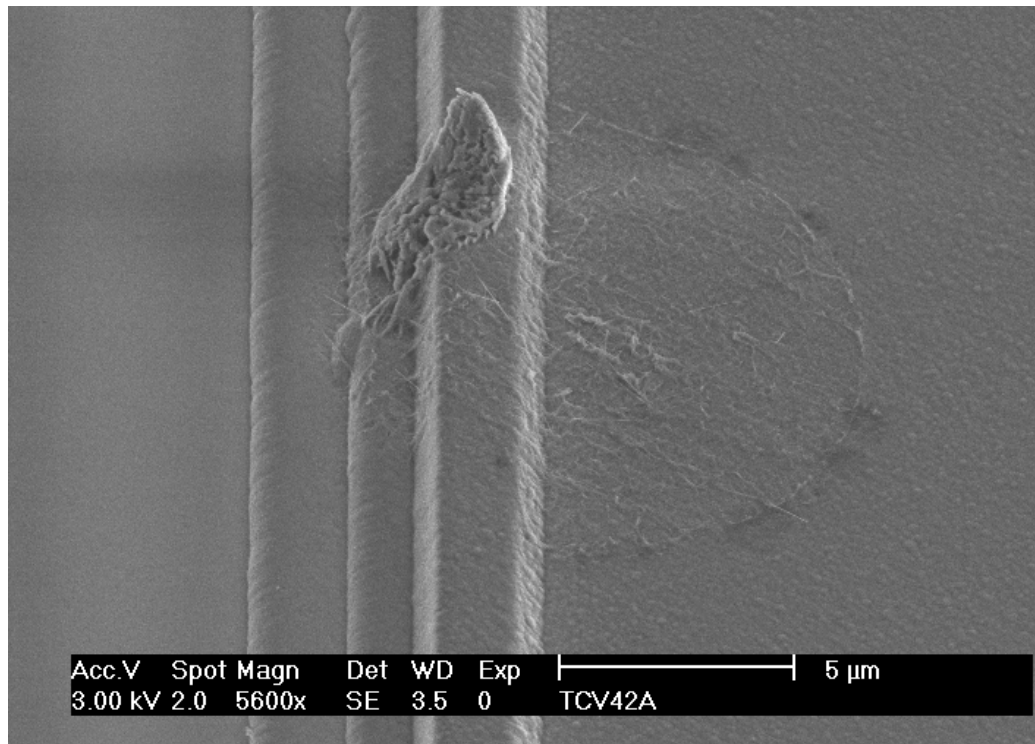


Typical FET failure



Catastrophic degradation of the V_p parameter after the 1000h of humidity tests

SEM analysis of failed transistors



Failure due to a defective capacitor located between the transistor gate and the ground

Test program phase A : 250°C & 285°C Storage tests results

- The results obtained on opened TCVs stored at 250°C & 285°C showed a good reliability : the activation energy of the tested elements varies between 1.2eV & 1.8eV
- The lower activation energy (1.2eV) has been calculated for the 4x50µm on-transistor I_{DSS} parameter and corresponds to a median life in excess of $2 \cdot 10^8$ years in ambient conditions

Test program phase A : 150°C & 200°C Endurance tests results

- Some DEC samples tested in hermetically sealed FO92 packages exhibited a degradation by “Hydrogen poisoning” due to the presence of H_2 inside the package
- All DEC samples mounted in open packages successfully passed 4032h of endurance tests without any degradation whatever the temperature and the biasing conditions used

Test program phase B : Hydrogen getter efficiency

- The methods tested to prevent Hydrogen poisoning in DIL48 hermetically sealed package show that :
 - the out-gassing conditions tested are not an efficient solution to remove the Hydrogen trapped in the package material
 - the H2-3000 polymer based getter is a good solution to prevent Hydrogen poisoning in D01PH processed dice
- More experiments have to be performed :
 - to evaluate the efficiency of such a polymer-based getter on ED02AH processed dice mounted in DIL48 package
 - to evaluate the efficiency of the H2-3000 polymer based getter on MMIC (using D01PH or ED02AH process) encapsulated in specific packages
 - to test getters from other suppliers

Test program phase B : Humidity test results

- From 85°C/85%RH 1000h humidity tests, it appears :
 - Only MIM capacitors are sensitive to moisture
 - No degradation is observed for active devices

- FIB analysis to determine where the defect has been initiated in the MIM capacitor