

**April 5, 2017, 4:30pm – 5:30pm,  
Louise Slaughter Hall (CIMS)  
RIT Campus BLDG 78, Rochester Institute of Technology, NY 14623**

**2017 IEEE JCM  
Rochester Section Joint Microwave Theory and Techniques &  
Antennas and Propagation Society presents:**

***Gallium Nitride Power MMICs –  
Fact and Fiction***

By  
**Charles Campbell**  
Qorvo Engineering Senior Fellow  
&  
MTT Distinguished Guest Lecturer



**Abstract:**

Gallium Nitride (GaN) based transistor technology's characteristics of very high current density combined with high voltage operation have held promise to vastly improve many microwave circuit applications that presently utilize Gallium Arsenide (GaAs) devices. Today, GaN transistors are capable of high voltage operation while simultaneously demonstrating  $FT$  &  $F_{max}$  characteristics more typical of lower voltage GaAs PHEMT devices. The potential benefits of GaN device characteristics combined with monolithic microwave integrated circuit (MMIC) technology are many. Highly efficient switched modes of power amplifier operation should be possible at higher output power levels and frequency. High output impedance typical of transistors operated at three to five times the voltage of GaAs should facilitate lower loss matching networks due to the reduced transformation ratio. Alternately, transistor periphery and corresponding output power could be dramatically increased while maintaining impedance transformation ratios similar to that of existing GaAs PHEMT amplifiers. The higher output power density of GaN devices should lead to greatly reduced die size for GaN implementations of existing power amplifier functions. The improved heat flow realized by the high thermal conductivity Silicon Carbide (SiC) substrate material should allow for acceptable junction temperatures even with the much higher power dissipation. Very high power switches could be designed by using large control voltages and taking advantage of the high current capability (high  $I_{max}$ ) of GaN. While the advantages of GaN are manifest, many of the features that make GaN transistors attractive can be shown to create significant issues that are typically not encountered with lower voltage technologies. In this talk, examples and scenarios are discussed highlighting the benefits and issues associated GaN MMIC technology.

**Biography:**

**Charles F. Campbell** received B.S.E.E., M.S.E.E. and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State University in 1988, 1991 and 1993 respectively. From 1993 to 1998 he was with Texas Instruments involved with microwave module design and MMIC development. Since 1998 he has been with various divisions of TriQuint Semiconductor where he has held positions of Design Team leader, Design Engineering Director and Design Engineering Fellow. He is currently an Engineering Senior Fellow with the Infrastructure and Defense Products Division of Qorvo. A Fellow of the IEEE, he has served on the Editorial Board for IEEE Transactions on Microwave Theory and Techniques, general chair for the 2015 Compound Semiconductor Integrated Circuits Symposium, and the IEEE Microwave Prize selection committee. He has authored or co-authored over 50 journal and conference papers, and authored an on-line book chapter on MMIC power amplifier design.

**Meeting Registration:**

[Although there is no fee for Dr. Campbell's presentation, please register for the meeting.](#)

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