



SWTEST

PROBE TODAY, FOR TOMORROW

2025 CONFERENCE

Enabling the Semiconductorization of Photonics

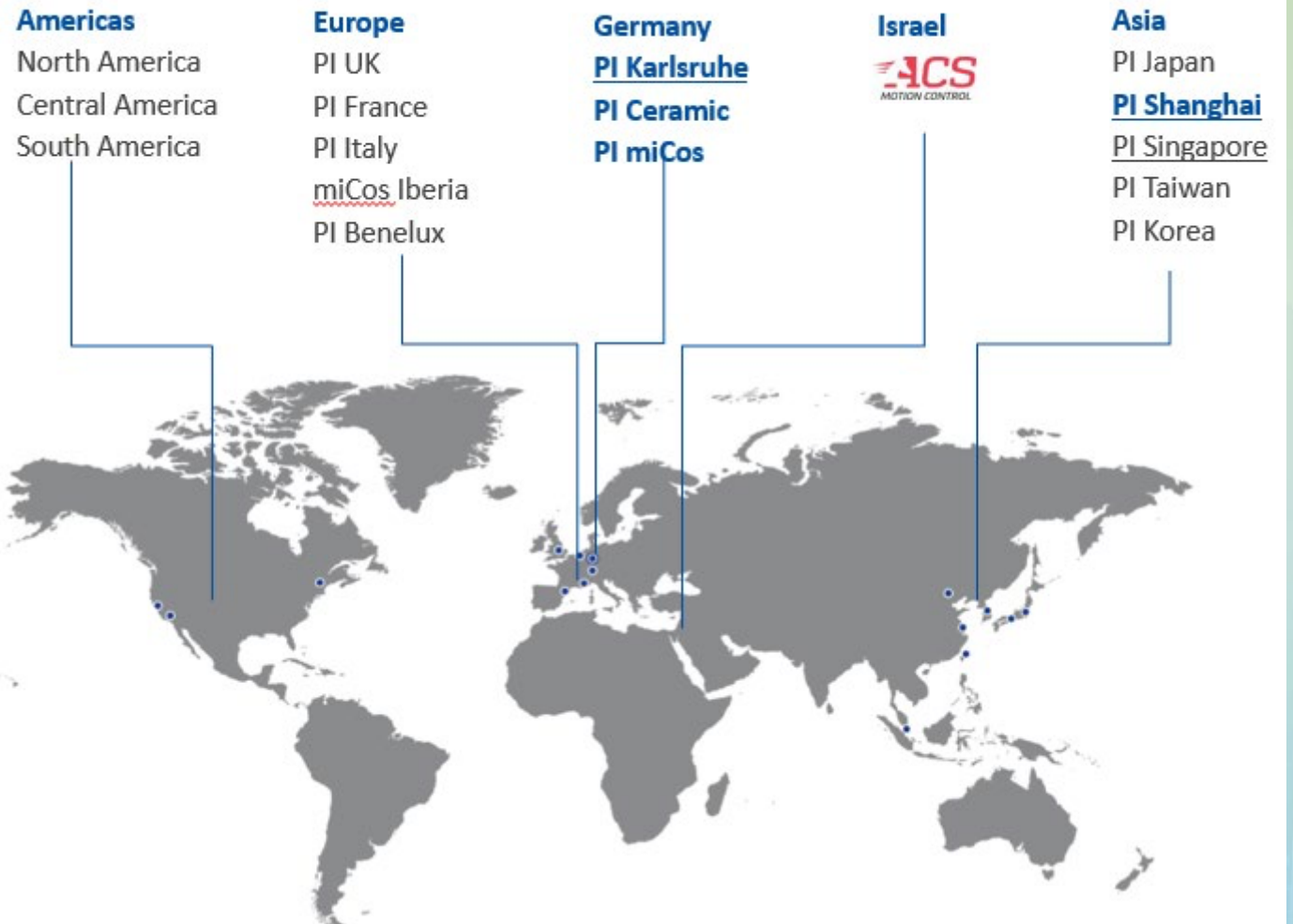
Scott Jordan
PI



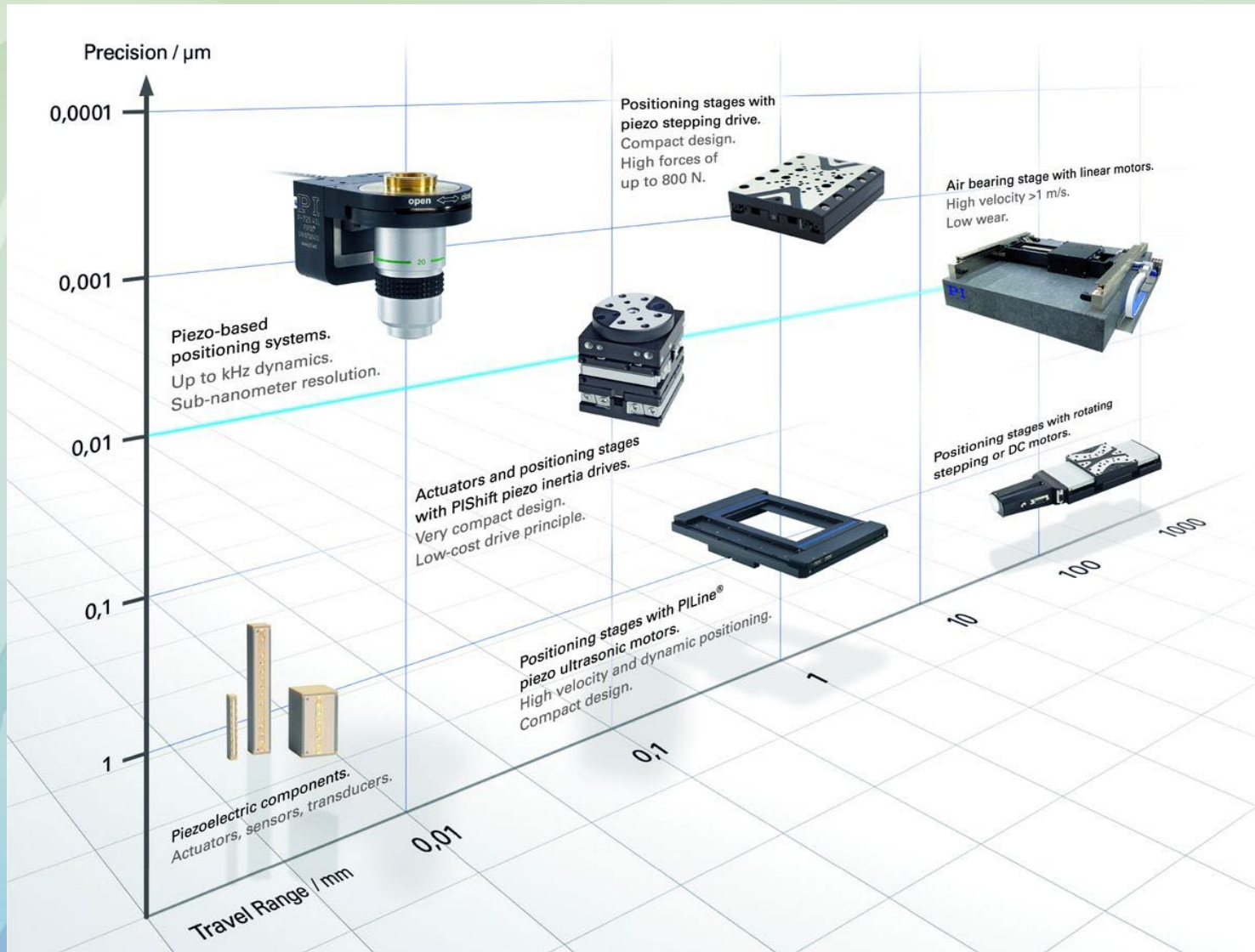
The PI Group

- ~1700 Employees
- 15 Subsidiaries
- Design & Service Centers in USA, Asia, Europe
- >100 man Years of Alignment Expertise
- Privately Owned – Not Driven by Quarterly Results
- Focused on Long Term Relationships w/Customers & Suppliers

Precision Automation, Nanopositioning, Piezo Technology



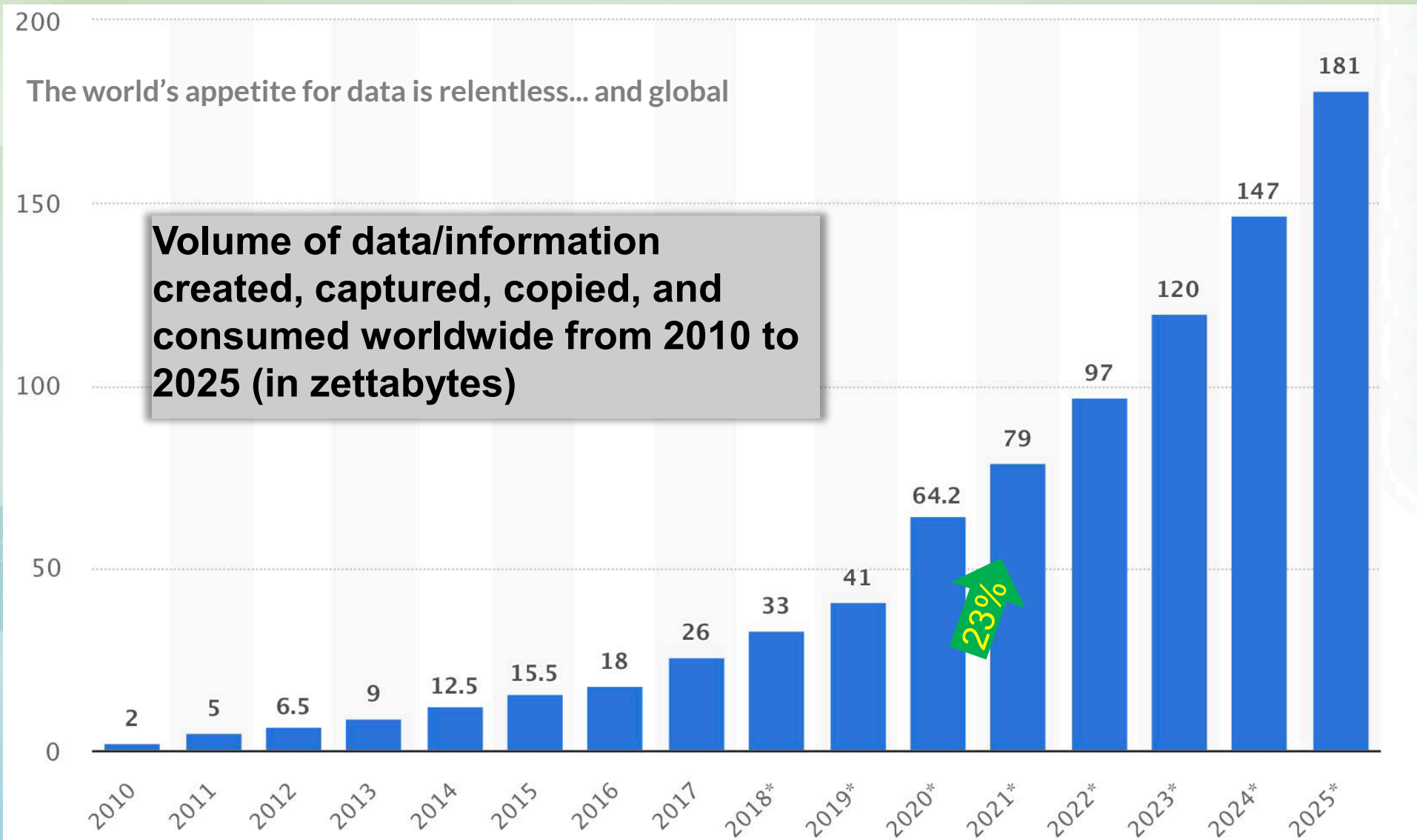
The PI Group



PI's Engineered Systems Group
Builds World-Class
Automation Platforms



There's really only *one* trend...

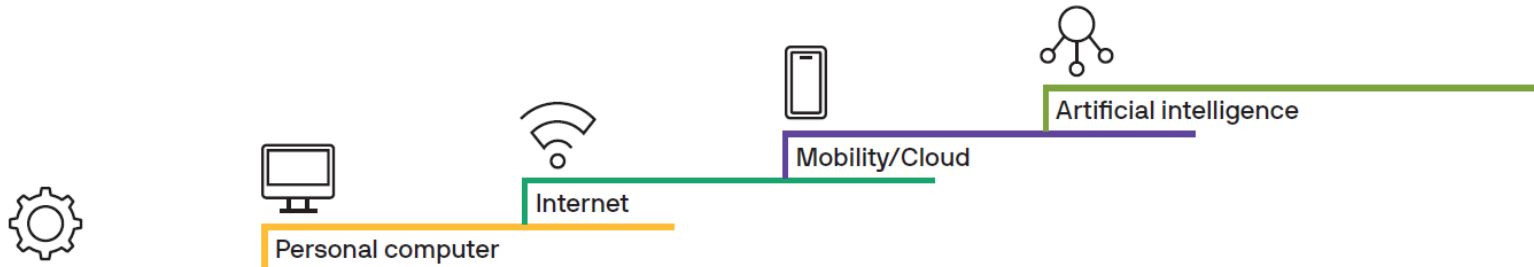


*Throughout:
Latest
available data
from credible
sources, with
links to source*

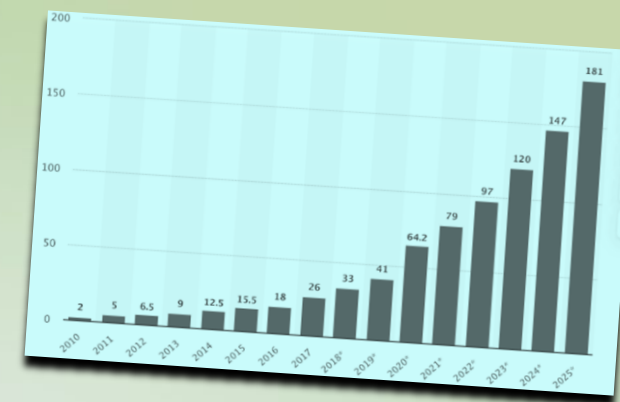
<https://www.statista.com/statistics/871513/worldwide-data-created/>



AI: The new accelerant



Mainframe											
1980		1990		2000		2010		2020		2030	
Company	Mkt cap (USD bn)	Company	Mkt cap (USD bn)	Company	Mkt cap (USD bn)	Company	Mkt cap (USD bn)	Company	Mkt cap (USD bn)	Company	Mkt cap (USD bn)
IBM	38	IBM	54	Microsoft	604	Microsoft	269	Apple	2,232	?	
Eastman Kodak	8	Panasonic	33	Cisco Systems	355	Google	197	Microsoft	1,682		
Xerox	5	Toshiba	27	Intel	274	Apple	191	Amazon	1,634		
Hewlett-Packard	4	NEC	19	Lucent Technologies	238	IBM	171	Alphabet	1,185		
Emerson Electric	2	Fujitsu	19	Nokia	210	Cisco Systems	138	Facebook	778		
Texas Instruments	2	Mitsubishi Electric	16	IBM	193	Oracle	123	Tencent	698		
Motorola Solutions	2	Eastman Kodak	13	Oracle	158	Hewlett-Packard	122	Tesla	669		
Nortel Networks	2	Sanyo Electric	13	Nortel Networks	139	Intel	113	Alibaba	649		
Intel	1	FUJIFILM Holdings	12	Sun Microsystems	135	Samsung	88	Samsung	501		
Harris	1	Hewlett-Packard	11	Dell	130	QUALCOMM	77	TSMC	489		

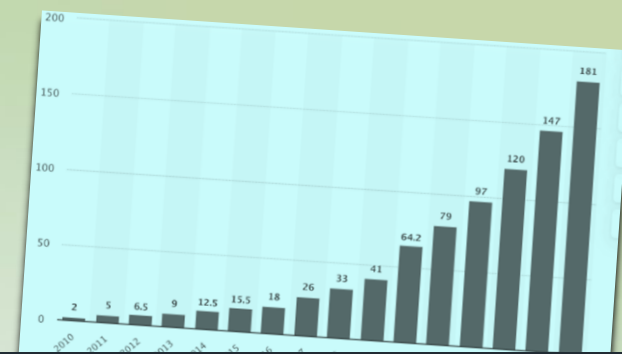


“Often, when a major platform shift occurs – think mainframes to minicomputers, PCs to mobile devices, CPUs to GPUs (central processing units to graphics processing units) – it creates entirely new pools of demand. In the next few years, we expect a record pace of new, densely packed, high powered data center builds. These will be filled with GPUs, custom silicon, advanced memory packages and photonics to support network bandwidth.”

--[J.P. Morgan Asset Management](#), 10/2023



mm-scale to planetary scale, humanity's appetite for data drives Photonics



"...a chip maker could build a co-packaged optical transceiver on to the edge of a package, and then use UCle to connect it to another chiplet..." --Andrew Shah

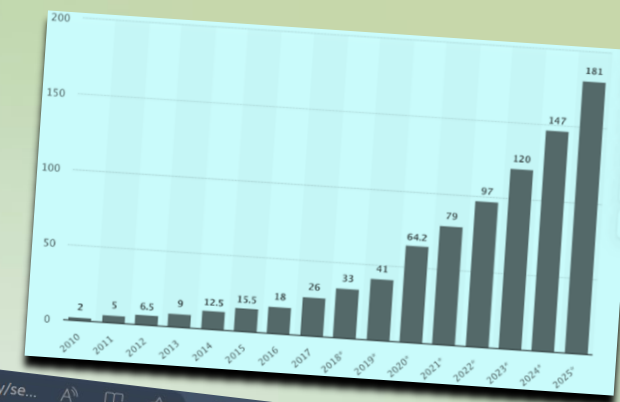


"Good ideas are always crazy until they're not."

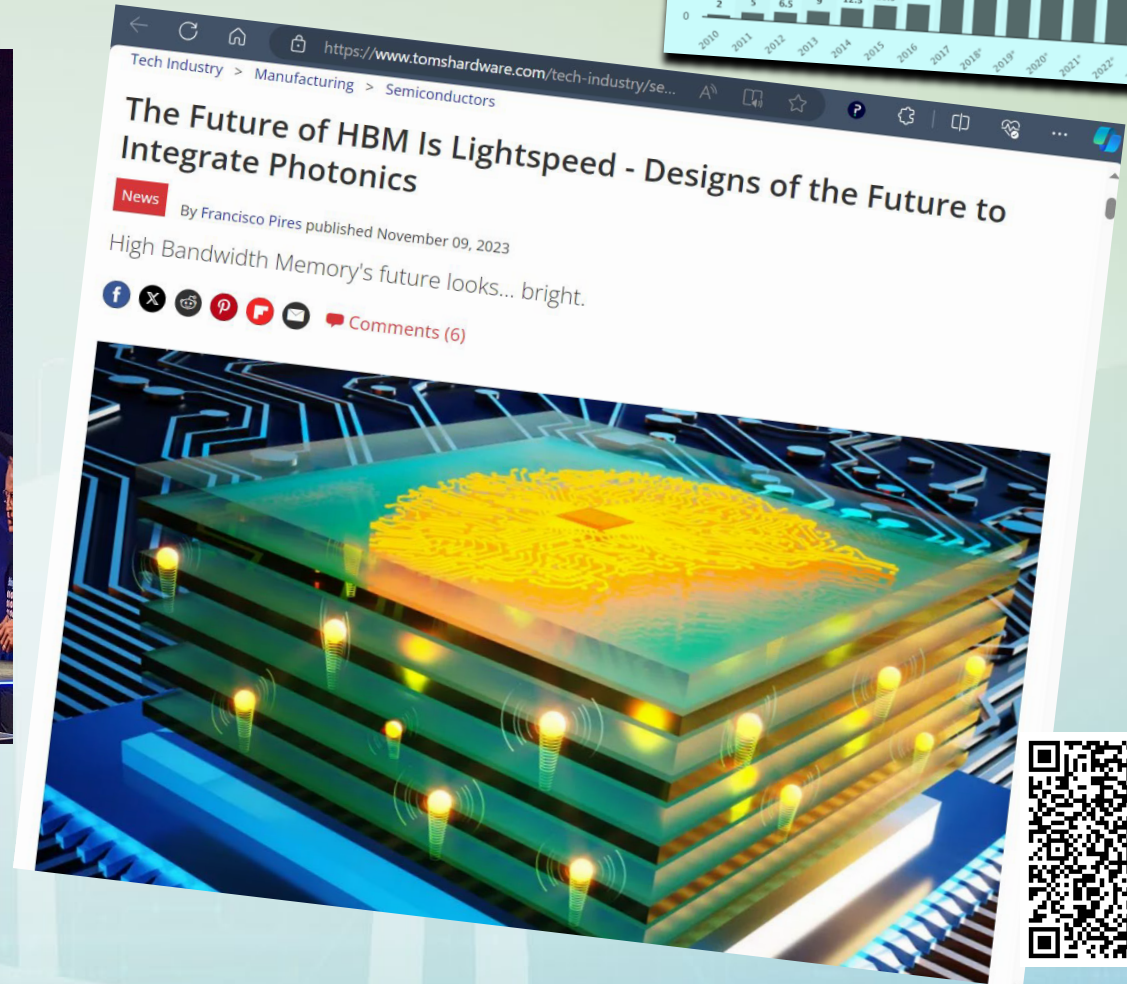
--Elon Musk

Courtesy SpaceX

mm-scale to planetary scale, humanity's appetite for data drives Photonics

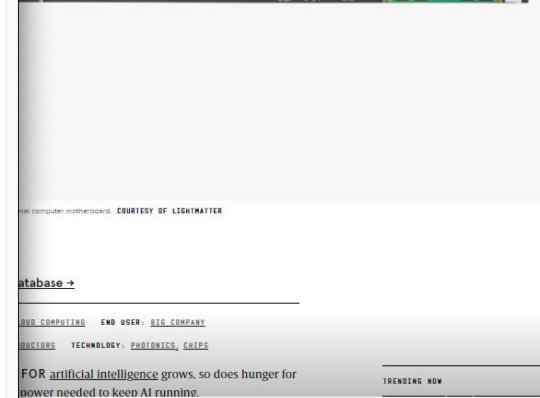
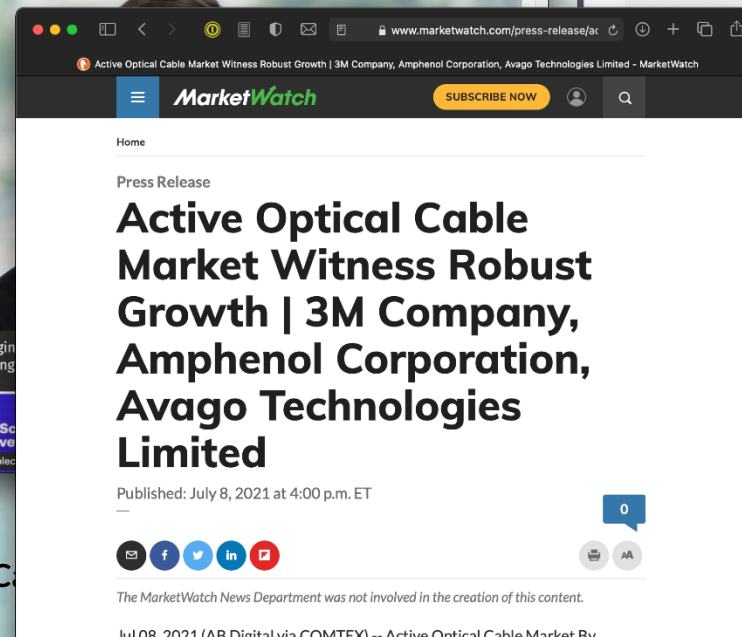
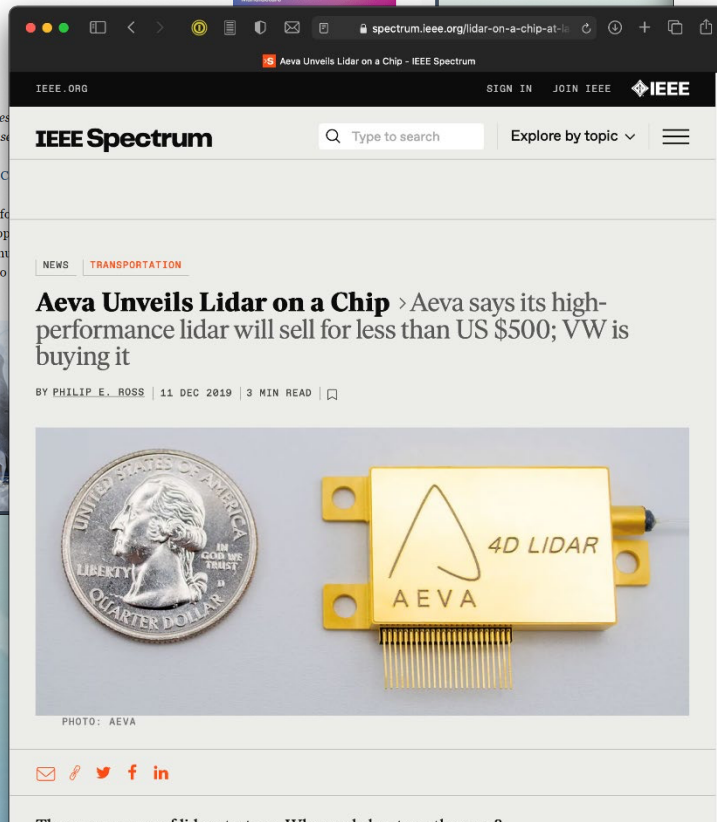
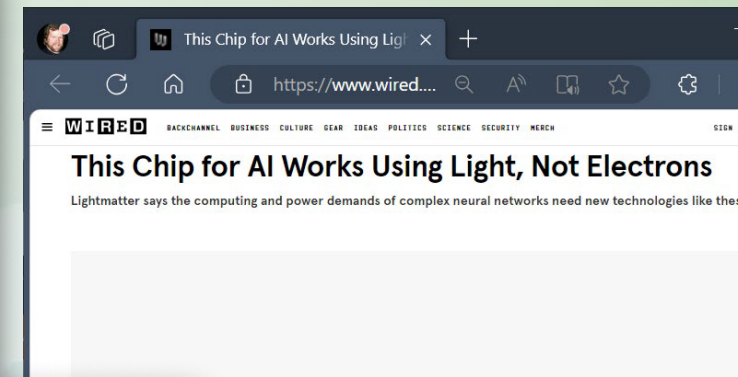
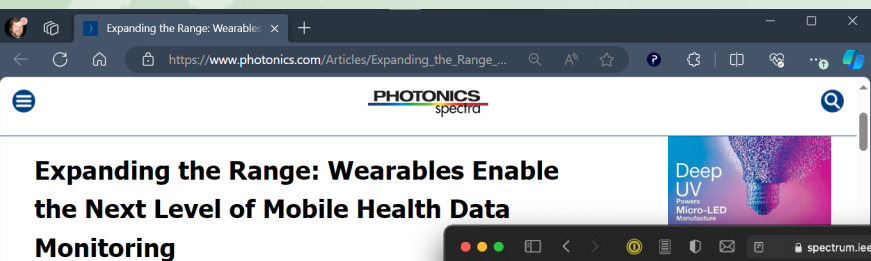
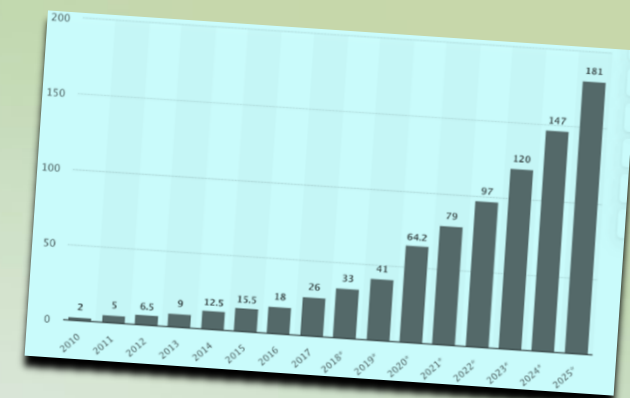


"...a chip maker could build a co-packaged optical transceiver on to the edge of a package, and then use UCle to connect it to another chiplet..." --Andrew...

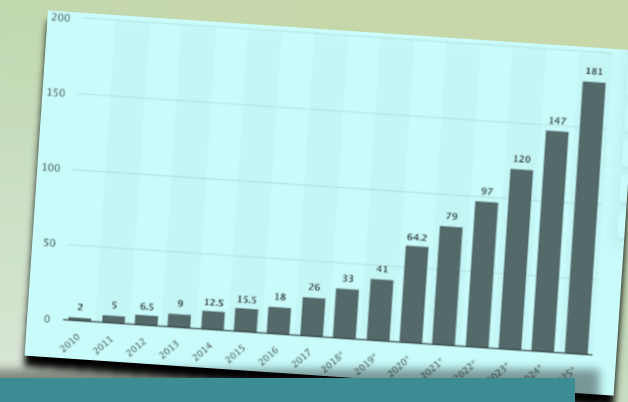


Observation:

Silicon Photonics is *not just about the data center anymore*



mm-scale to planetary scale, humanity's appetite for data drives Photonics

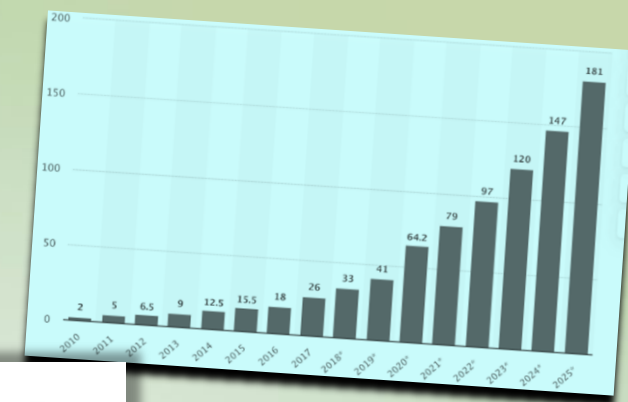


“Introducing inter-chip optical interconnects could obliterate bandwidth and capacity limitations coming from today’s copper interconnects, which are hampered by impedance mismatches between the CPU and the dual-inline memory modules.”

--Dongjae Shin, Samsung, at PIC 2019

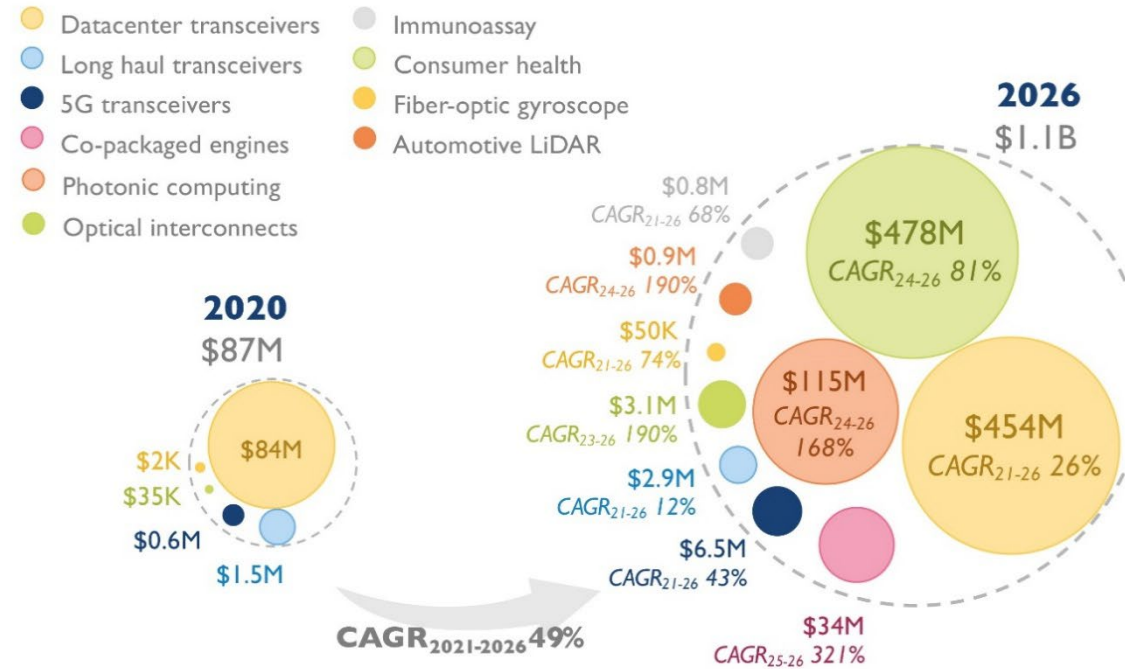


Driving Photonics: New applications → *no single point of market failure*



2020-2026 silicon photonics die forecast by application

(Source: Silicon Photonics 2021 report, Yole Développement, 2021)

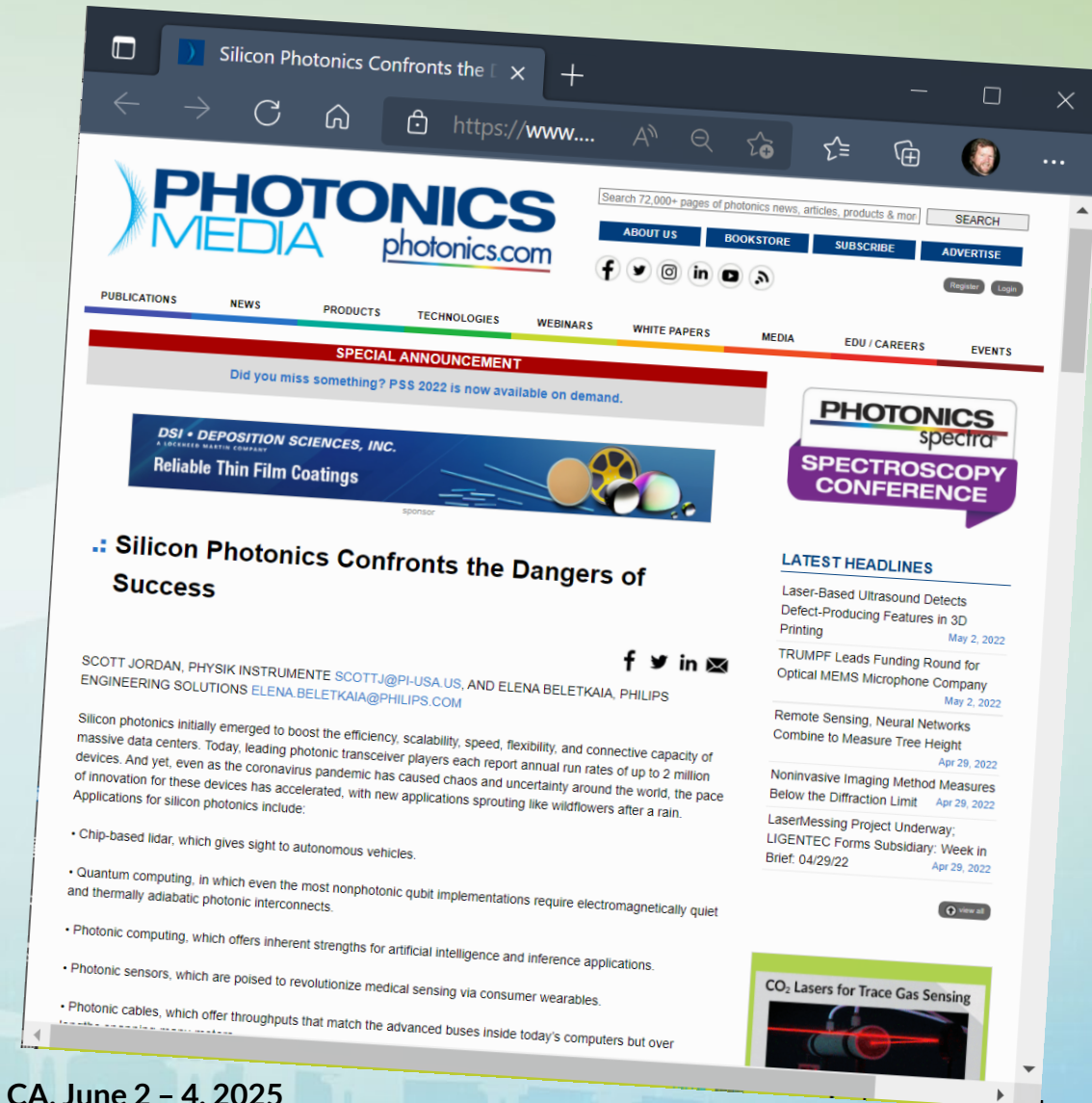


What this means:

Fasten your seatbelts

3-order-of-magnitude ramp!

“The photonics industry faces a gut check as its past success drives future demand at a scale and pace that the industry will be challenged to meet.”



What this means:

Fasten your seatbelts

Photonics Spectra Cover article



“New investments in technology and packaging capacity will be essential before the silicon photonics era can get fully underway.”



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As PIC Production Ramps Up, Fabricators Eye Alignment Options

by MICHAEL EISENSTEIN, SCIENCE WRITER

The early 2000s saw the rapidly growing global appetite for data collide with the limitations of copper-based wire networks. The performance of these conventional data transmission systems declined dramatically at data bandwidths beyond 10 Gbit/s, imposing a major speed limit on the growth of the Internet.

Fortunately, an alternative technology, in which silicon-based photonic devices are coupled to fiber optic cables, was already proving its mettle as a potential replacement. At the time, the technology largely found use along the network backbone. Intel's CEO, Pat Gelsinger, could see the writing on the wall as early as 2005, when he was a senior vice president at the company. "Today, optics is a niche technology," he told MIT Technology Review. "Tomorrow, it's the mainstream of every chip that we build."



Active alignment systems have increasingly accelerated the alignment of photonic integrated circuits (PICs) and fiber arrays. PICs (Physik Instrumente's) fast multichannel photonics alignment technology, for example, uses sophisticated parallel-processing scanning and optimization algorithms to simultaneously couple multiple arrays



These are Early Days

Parallels to 1980s chip industry:

- Ecosystem just being born
- Custom equipment
- In-house and captive integrators



Fast forward to today:

- You can build a fab by writing POs

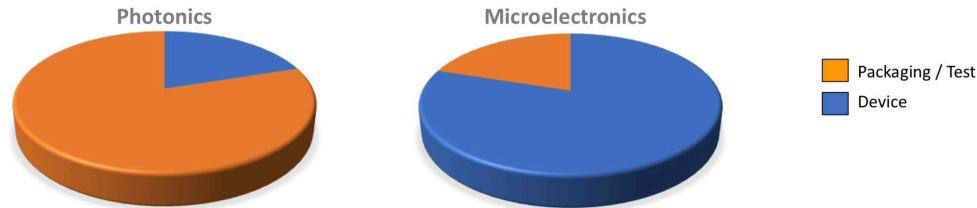
Excerpted from <https://www.chiphistory.org/128-an-intel-wafer-fab-cleanroom-circa-1980>



Alignment: The Repetitive Cost

Cost breakdown

Packaging cost is a big piece of the pie for Photonics
Microelectronic packaging is geared towards low cost



Packaging is key to lower cost of photonics

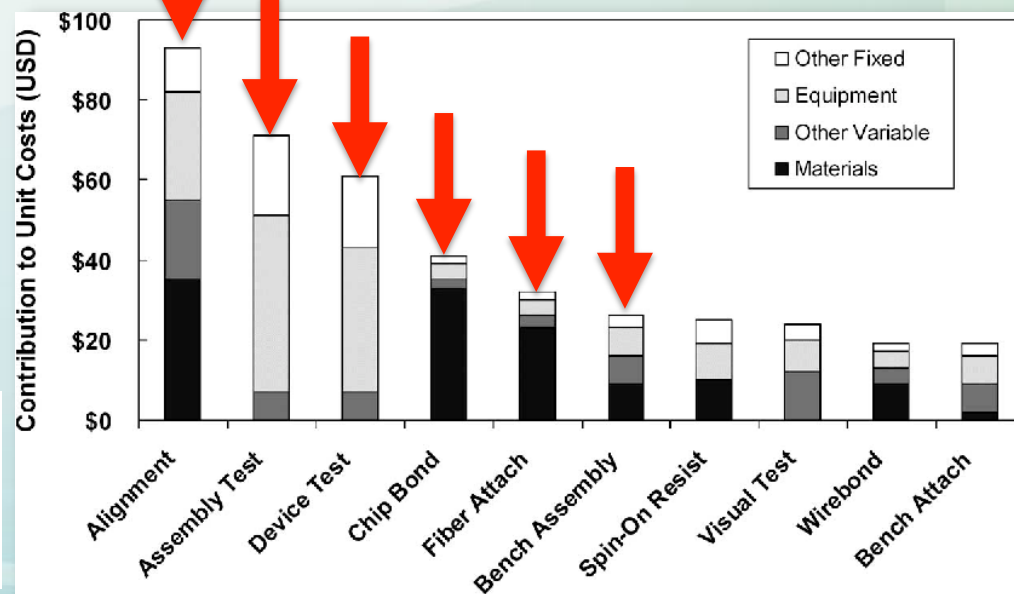
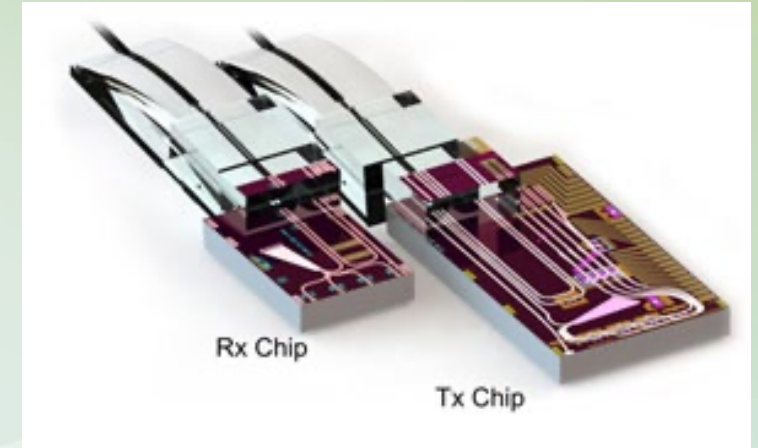
Leverage the microelectronic industry

IBM

Photonics Summit, Cadence, 6th September 2017, San Jose CA



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“Automated High-Throughput Assembly for Photonic Packaging”, Barwicz et al, *Photonics Summit*, Cadence, 2017,
https://www.cadence.com/content/dam/cadence-www/global/en_US/documents/company/Events/summits/photronics/fortier-2017.pdf

“Process-based cost modeling of photonics manufacture...”, E. Fuchs et al, J. Lightwave Tech., 2006,
<https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/Process-based-cost-modeling-of-photonics-the-cost-a-Fuchs-Bruce/125e24b2e2e71860f088526441ee5ce16e6ce42c>

These are Early Days

The way forward:

1. Automation
2. Innovation
3. Cooperation

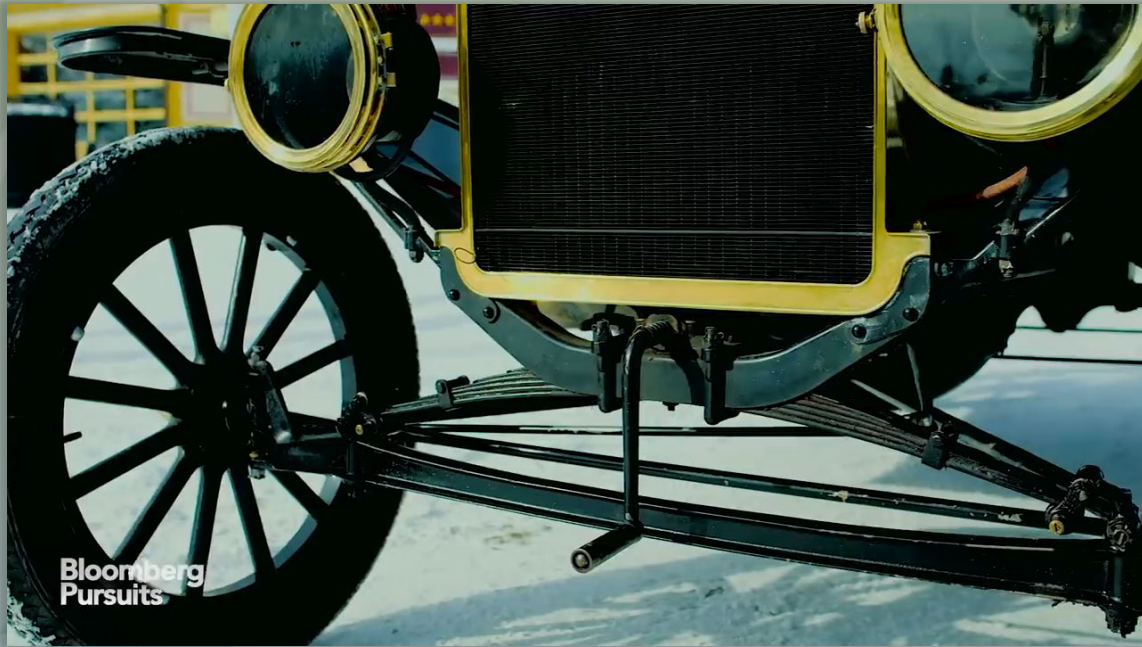
These are Early Days

The way forward:

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After Motion Control: *Micro-Robotics*

Built-in functionality *and intelligence* mark the future (and not just for motion control)



Courtesy Bloomberg
"Driving a Ford Model T Is a Lot Harder Than You'd Think!"



"Do what I tell you to do"

- Accelerate
- Brake
- Turn...



Courtesy Tesla
"Full Self-Driving"



"Do what I want you to do"

- Go to Aldi

"10 exabytes per month"
--VisualCapitalist.com



A Modular Approach to Meet all Needs

Hexapods

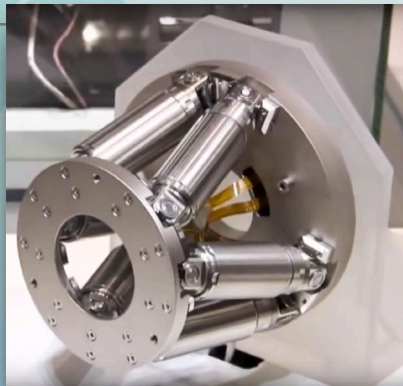
- Trajectory is not defined by bearings
- Compact, 6 degrees-of-freedom, rigid
- No moving cables

Stacks

- Modular
- ACS controls

Both

- Rotate about optical channel, focus, etc.



Use Nanocubes:

- For speed
- For tracking
- For resolution

Nanocubes & Air Bearings

- Long lifetime, zero maintenance, no lubrication, nanometer resolution, high dynamics

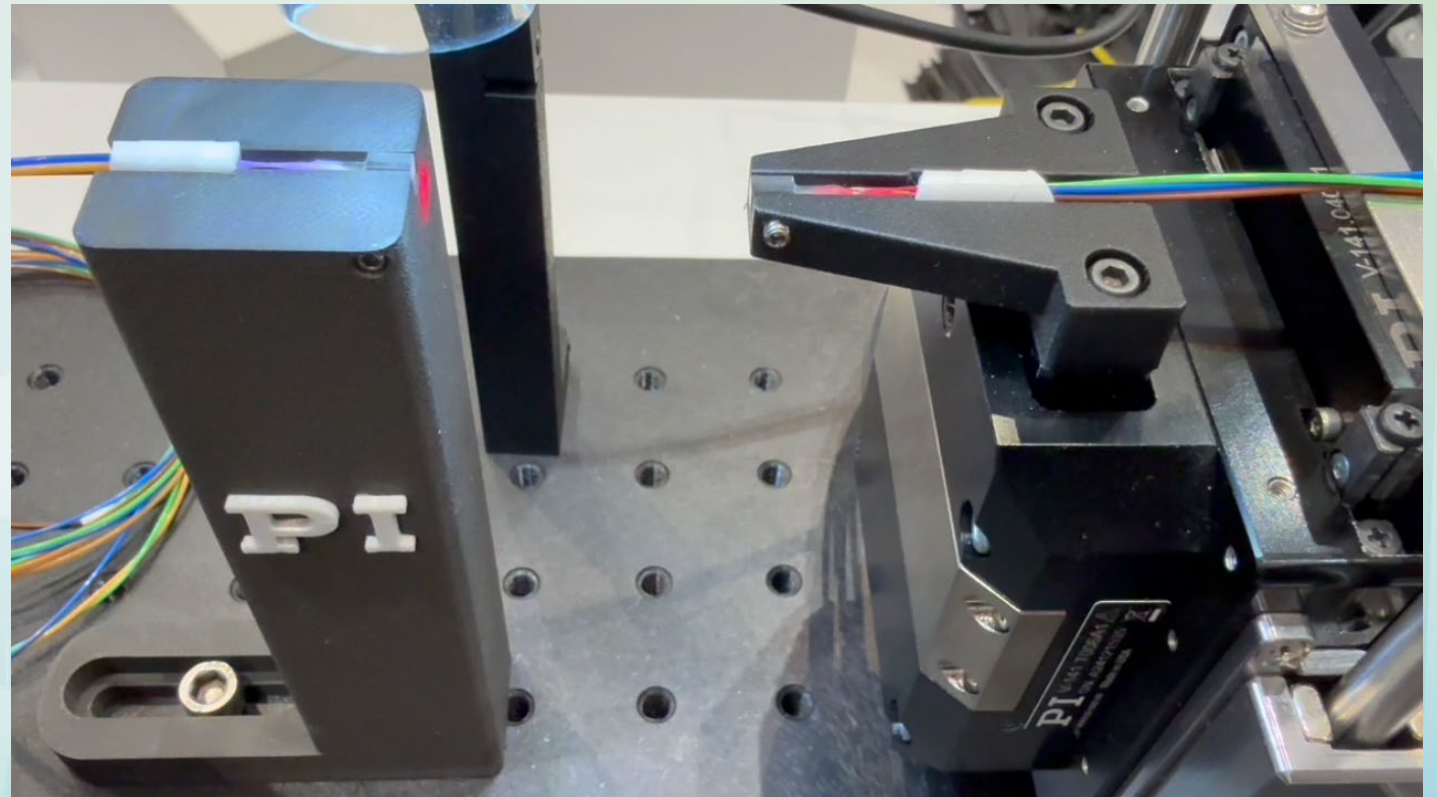
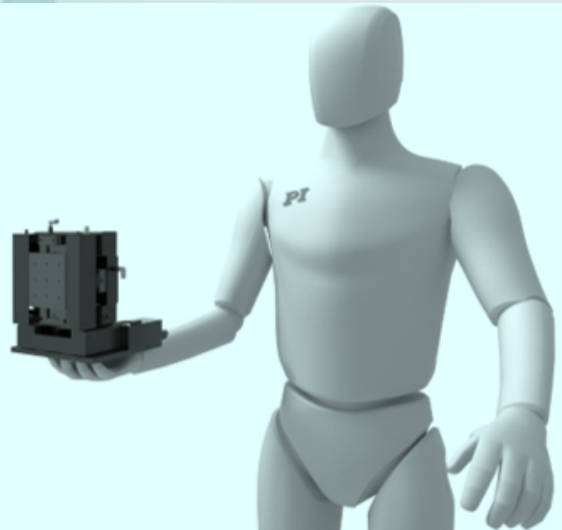
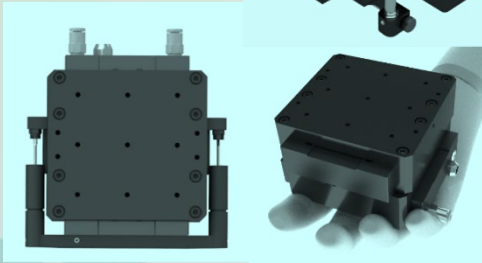
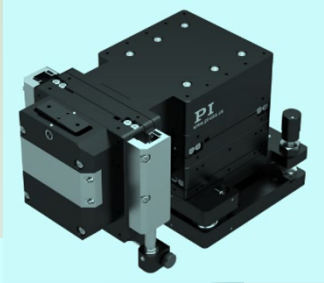
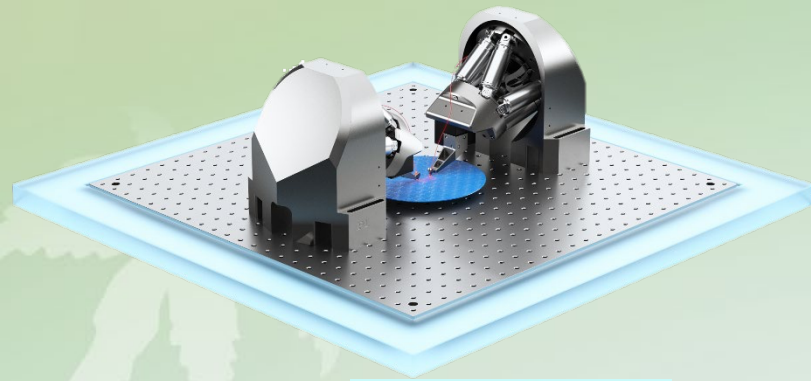
All

- Leverage proven technologies
- *Firmware-based alignment*
- *Parallel alignment processes*

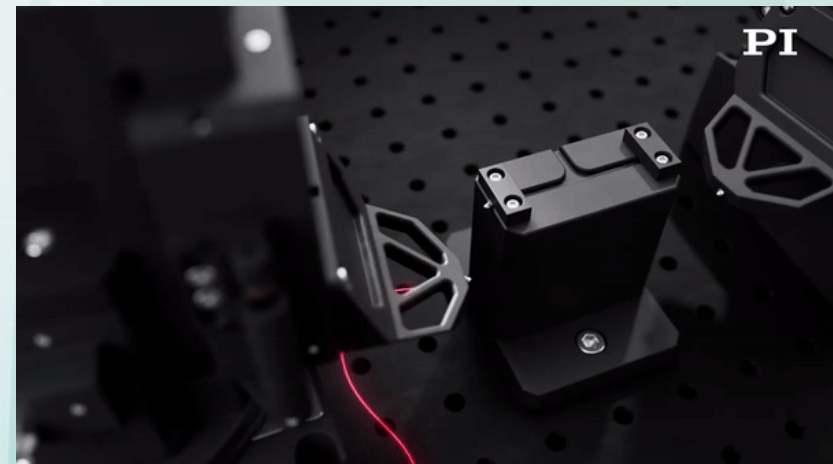
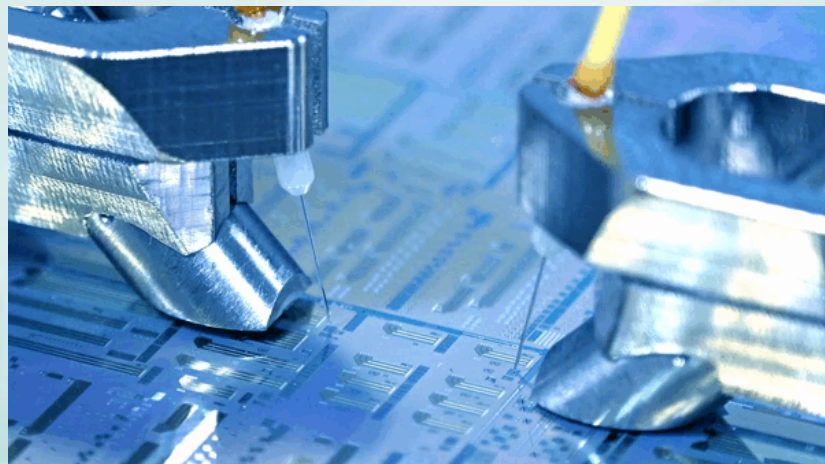
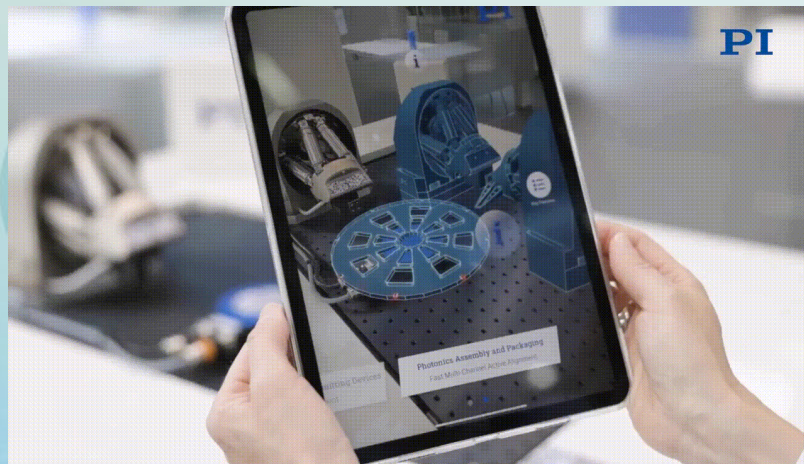
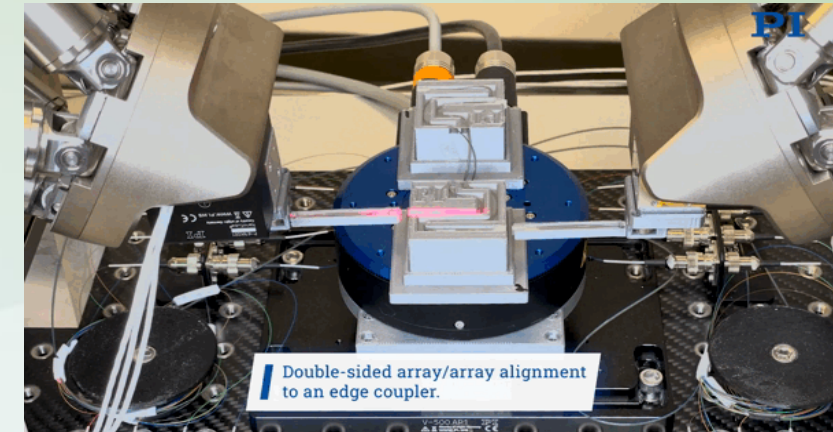
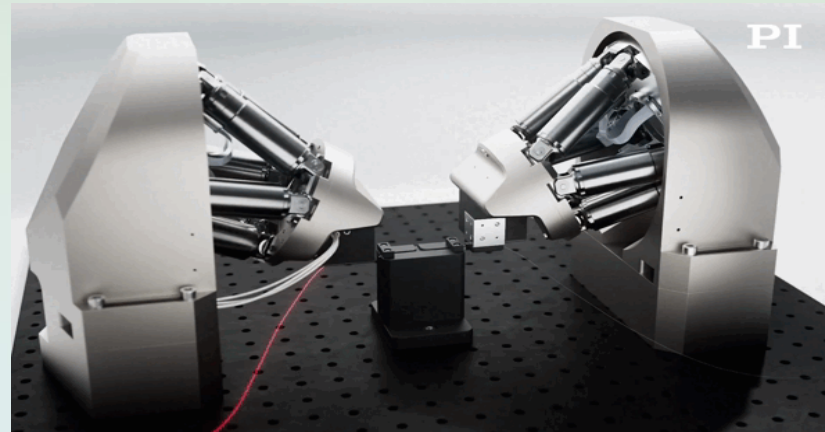
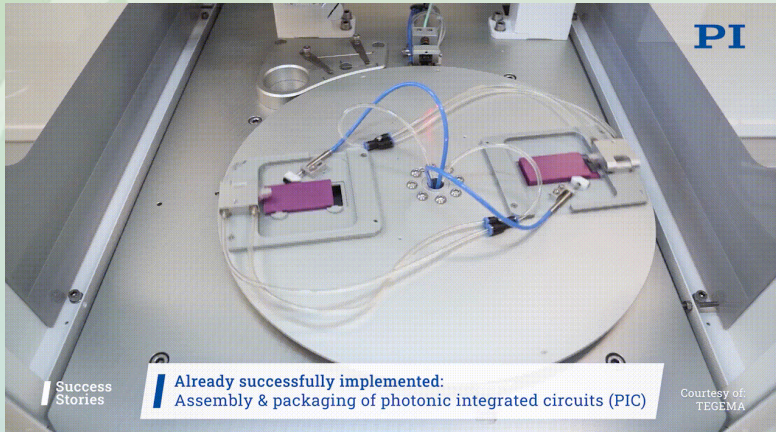


The Solution Spectrum

- Hexapod Micro-Robots
- Piezo Nanopositioners
- Wide range of novel mechanical bearing options
- Unique: High-Speed Air Bearing stacks for Alignment
- **New NovAlign Fast Compact 4- or 6-DOF aligners**



Automation Solutions

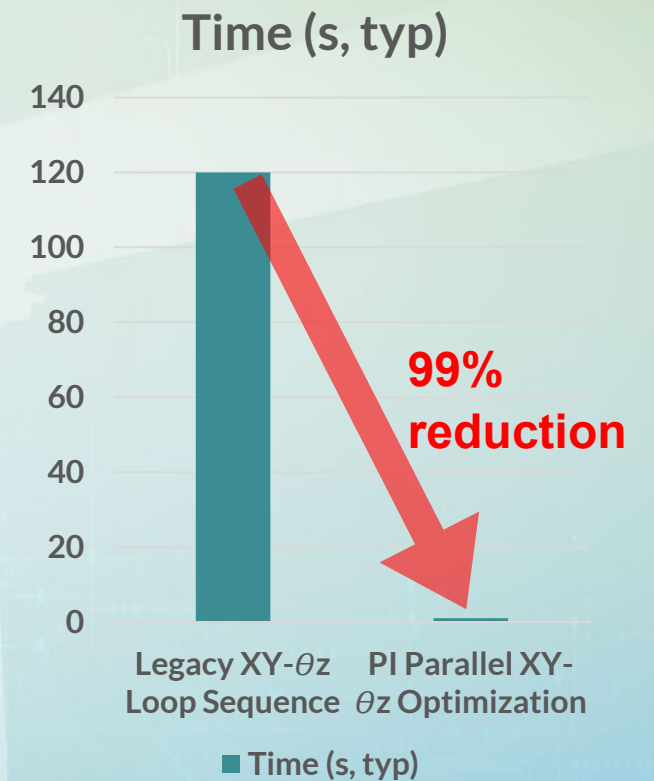
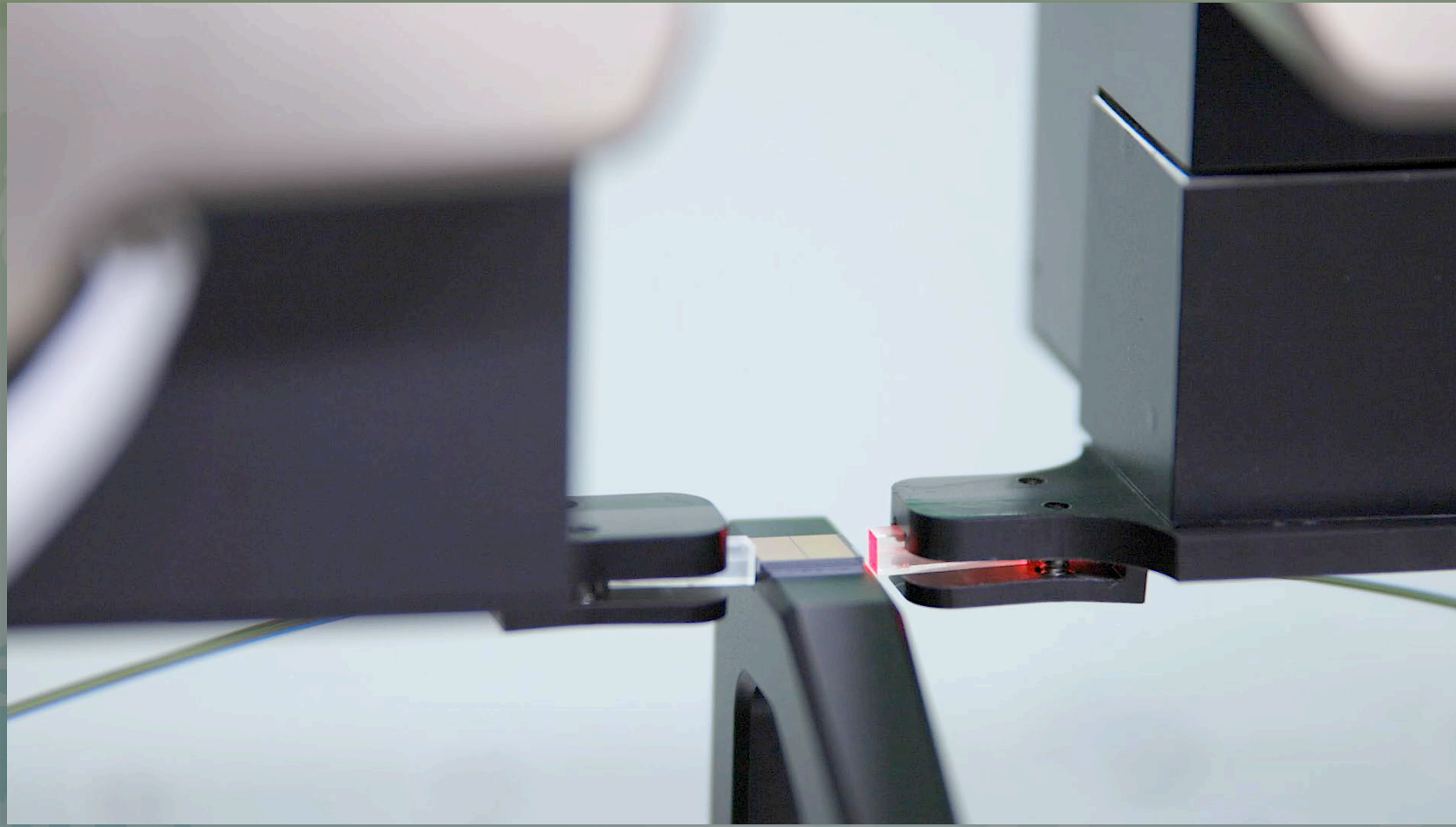


These are Early Days

The way forward:

1. Automation
- 2. Innovation**
3. Cooperation

PI's Novel Parallel Multi-DOF Optimization



Unique: Air Bearing Fast Alignment Engines

Super cleanliness

Zero maintenance, Zero wear

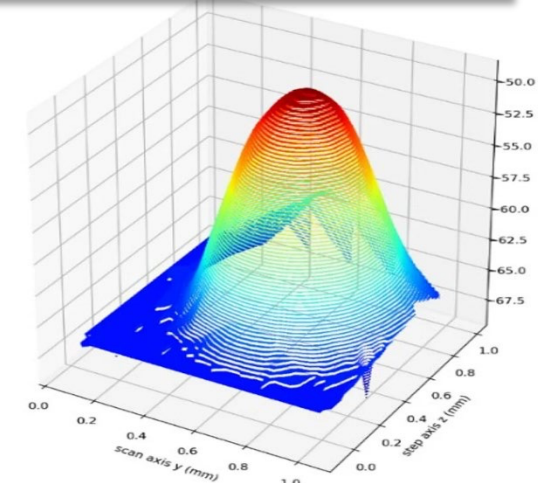
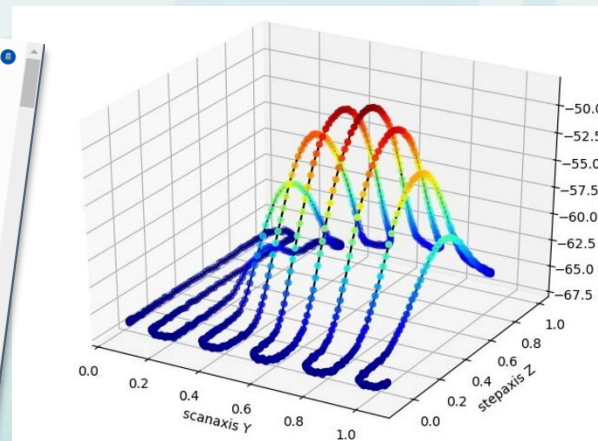
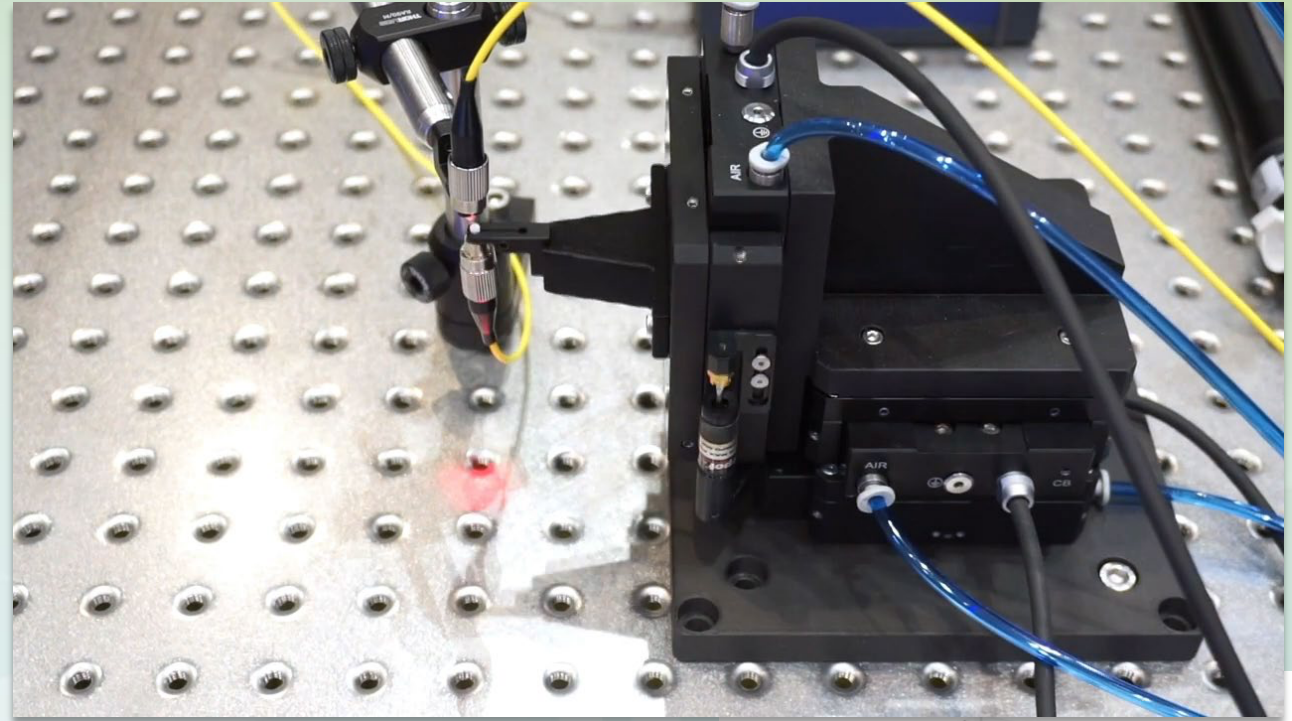
Highest MTBF

Fast Area Scan

- First light acquisition
- Profiling & characterization

Parallel Gradient Search

- Fast Optimization
- Real-time tracking across multiple DOFs
- Drift compensation
- Lock-on



Carlsbad, CA, June 2 - 4, 2025

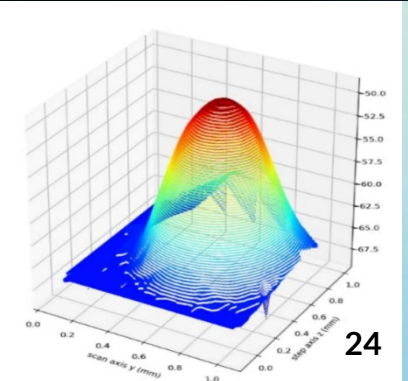
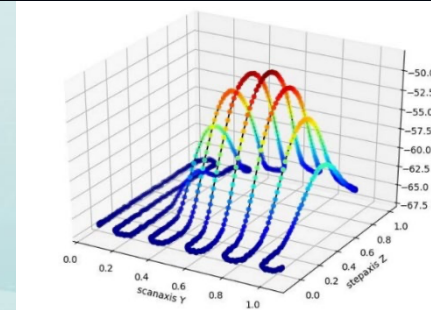
NEW: Revolutionary Fast First-Light Acquisition

*PI*Lightning:

Solving the First-Light Problem

Now:

- Typ. >10X faster first-light acquisition
- Even higher gains for double-sided first-light acquisition
 - Parallel first-light seek! Typ. <1sec
- Single command, fully autonomous, respects soft limits
- Integrated with full FMPA alignment suite



NEW: Revolutionary Fast First-Light Acquisition

PLightning:

Solving the First-Light Problem

NEW

**PLightning™
Fast First-Light
Seek**

**Fast Area Scans
for Peak
Selection,
Profiling,
Centroid
Calculation**

**Fast Parallel
Gradient Search
for Full
Optimization
Across I/Os,
Channels, DOFs,
Elements**

These are Early Days

The way forward:

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The Ecosystem Emerges: Contract Manufacturing

The silent partner

- Photonic-competent players exist
 - Example: Fabrinet →
- Scalability
- Global presence
 - Geographically strategic

Optical Contract Manufacturing

fabrinet

- Optical CM's, such as Fabrinet, have been around for 25 years
- Fabrinet is a trusted manufacturing partner of most of the industry OEM's
- Fabrinet can support from NPI to scaling for volume production
- They provide high quality, competitive costs, and global supply chain
- They are now supporting leading edge SiPh packaging



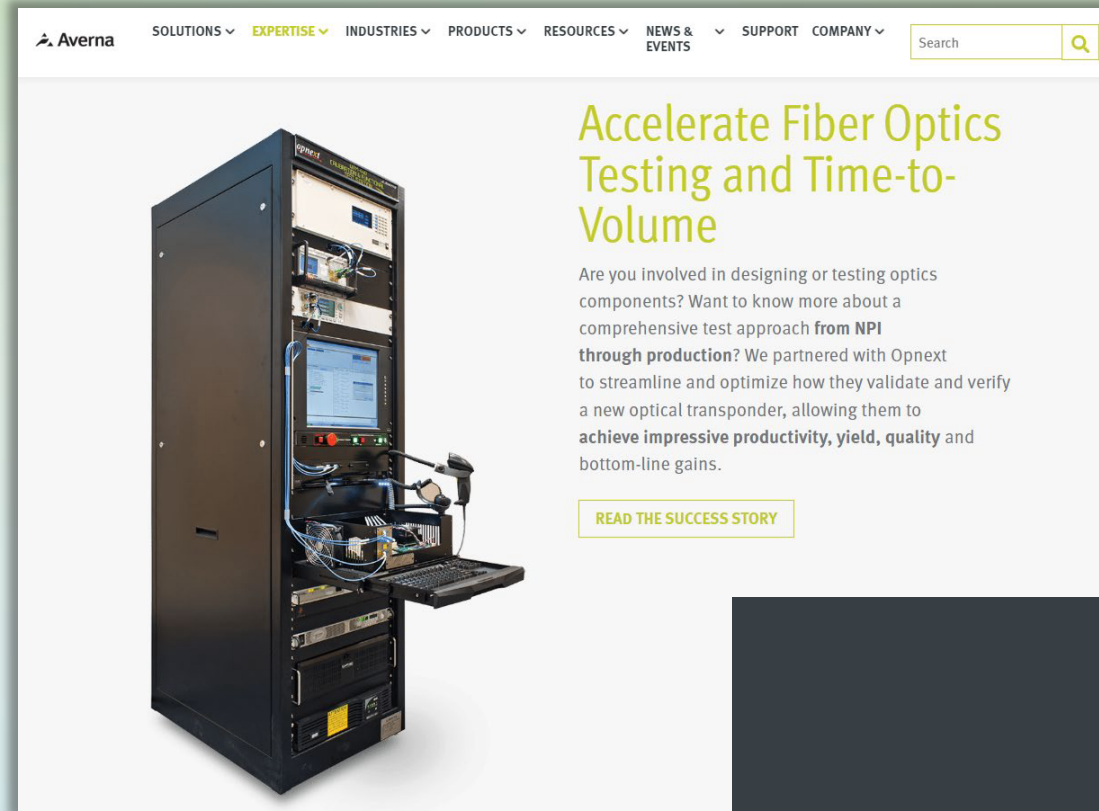
Fabrinet Confidential



The Ecosystem Emerges: Systems Integrators

The builders

- Custom tools to accomplish mission-critical tasks
- From concept to scale
 - Example: Avera →



Summary: The Deluge Approaches

- Many, many new applications
- 3 order-of-magnitude volume scaling
 - Consumer applications now in the game
 - Serious challenges to scale
 - Interconnect technology and testing must keep pace
 - Yields must improve
- *"Silicon photonics" is key to technology's future*

“Today, optics is a niche technology. Tomorrow, it's the mainstream of every chip that we build.”

--Pat Gelsinger, 2005, MIT Technology Review

PI is here to help

- Enabling semiconductor manufacturing since its infancy
- Enabling genomics automation since its infancy
- Enabling silicon photonics since its infancy

Keep in touch!

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Auburn, MA, 01501

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Visit us: www.pi-usa.us

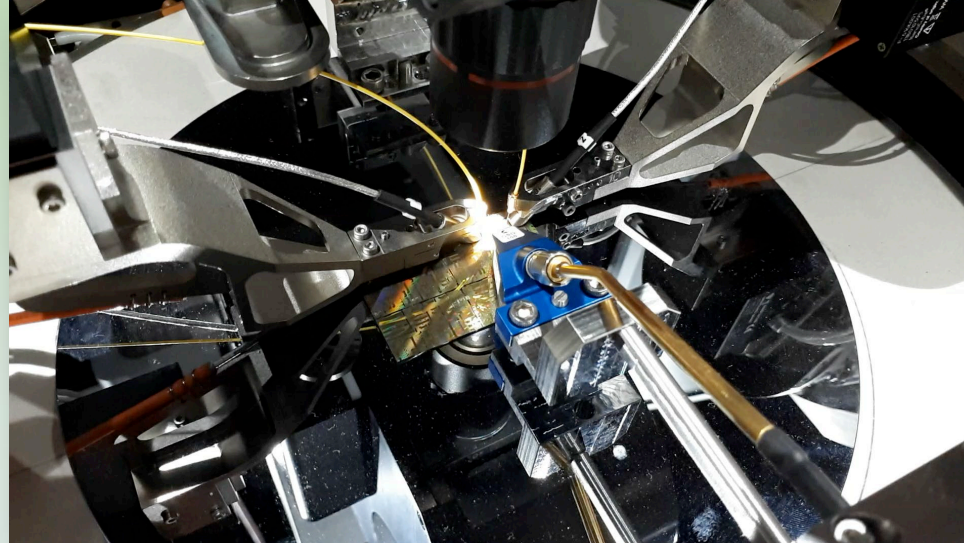
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Ask for a free
Tech Note
on Parallelism in
Optimization

