

Recent advances in 6G radio research at University of Oulu

M. E. Leinonen, S. P. Singh, M. H. Montaseri, M. J. Nokandi, K. Rasilainen, J. Chen, Z. Siddiqui, M. Berg, M. Jokinen, T. Rahkonen and A. Pärssinen
University of Oulu, Finland



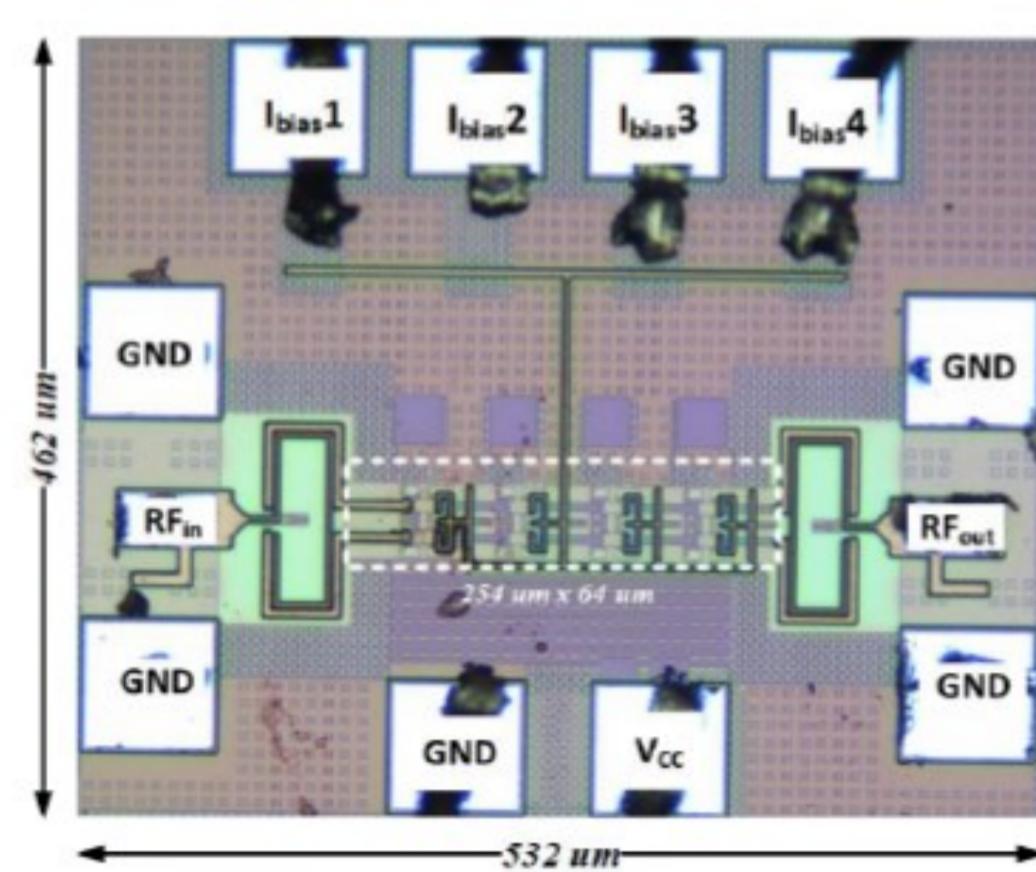
Introduction

The 6G extreme datarate networks introduce new research and implementation challenges

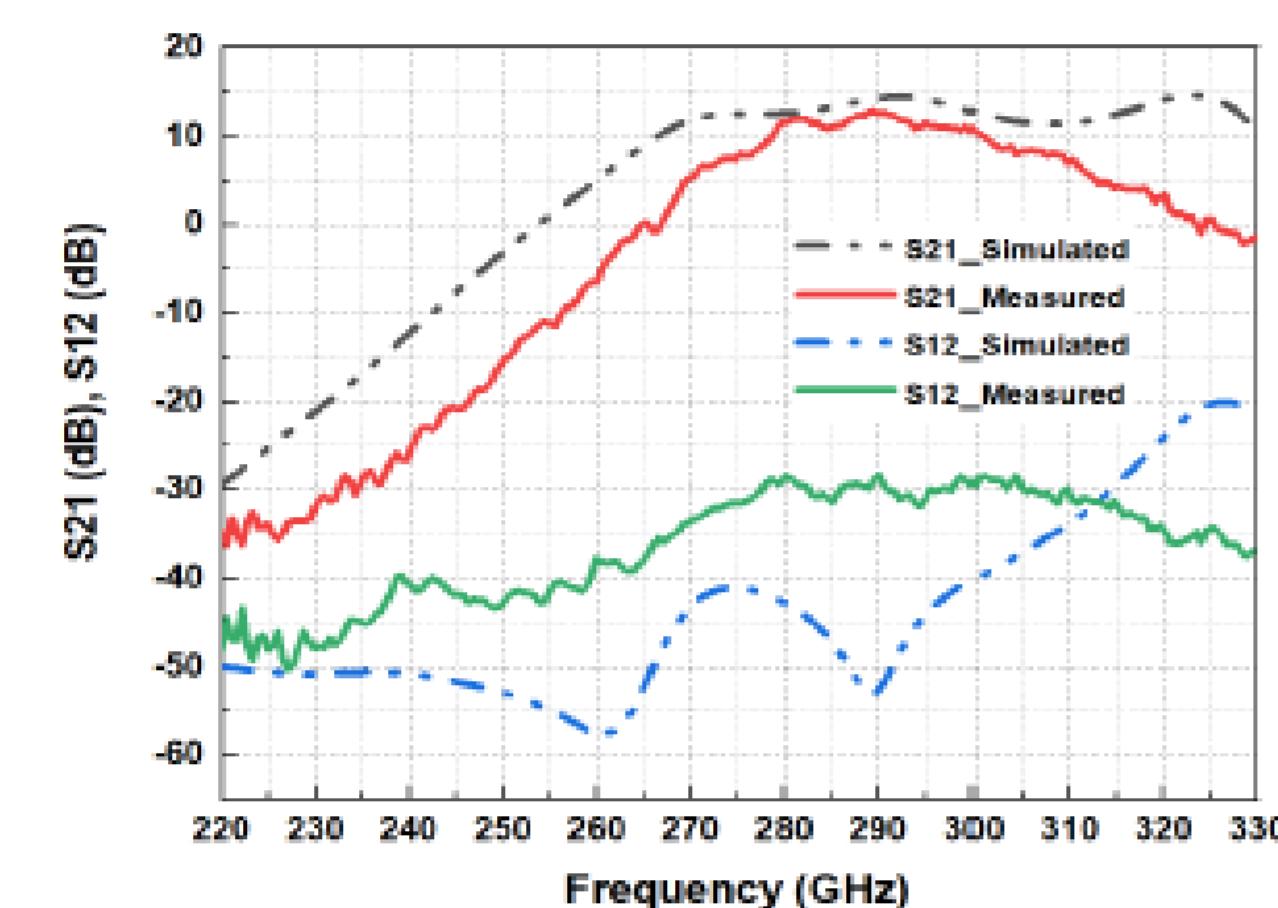
- Reduced sub-THz radio transceiver performance due to limitations of the available IC processes
- Directive antennas are needed to overcome excessive path loss
- RF parameter measurements at sub-THz frequency are significantly challenging compared to 5G FR1 and FR2

Selected 300 GHz radio transceiver IP blocks:

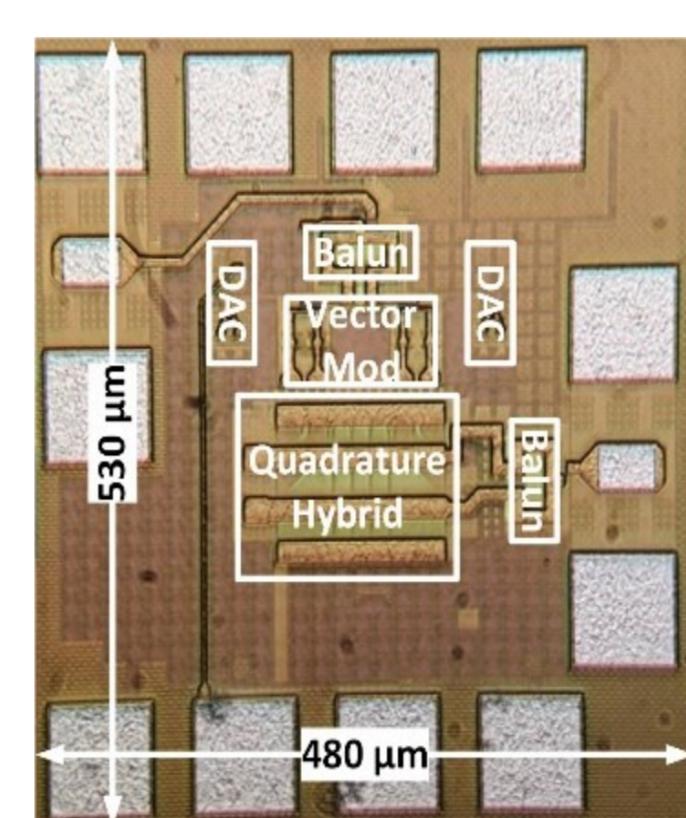
Single-ended 290 GHz LNA [1]



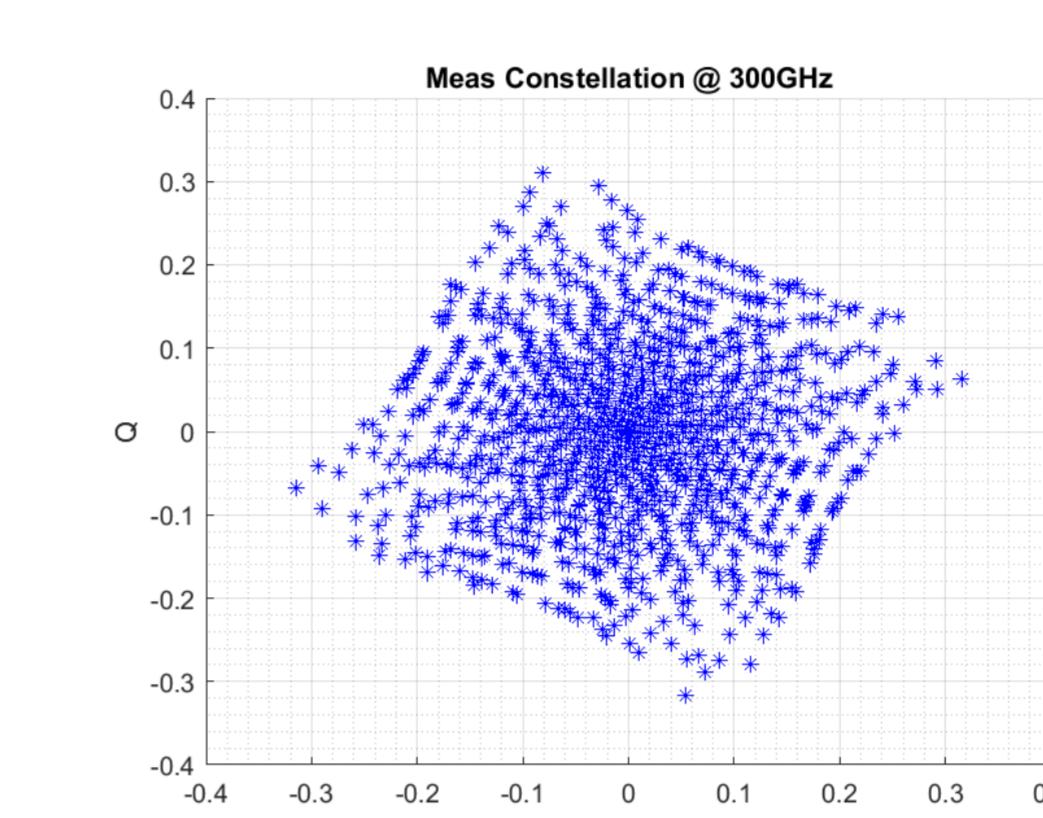
LNA gain: 12.9 dB @ 290 GHz
-3 dB BW: 23 GHz [1]



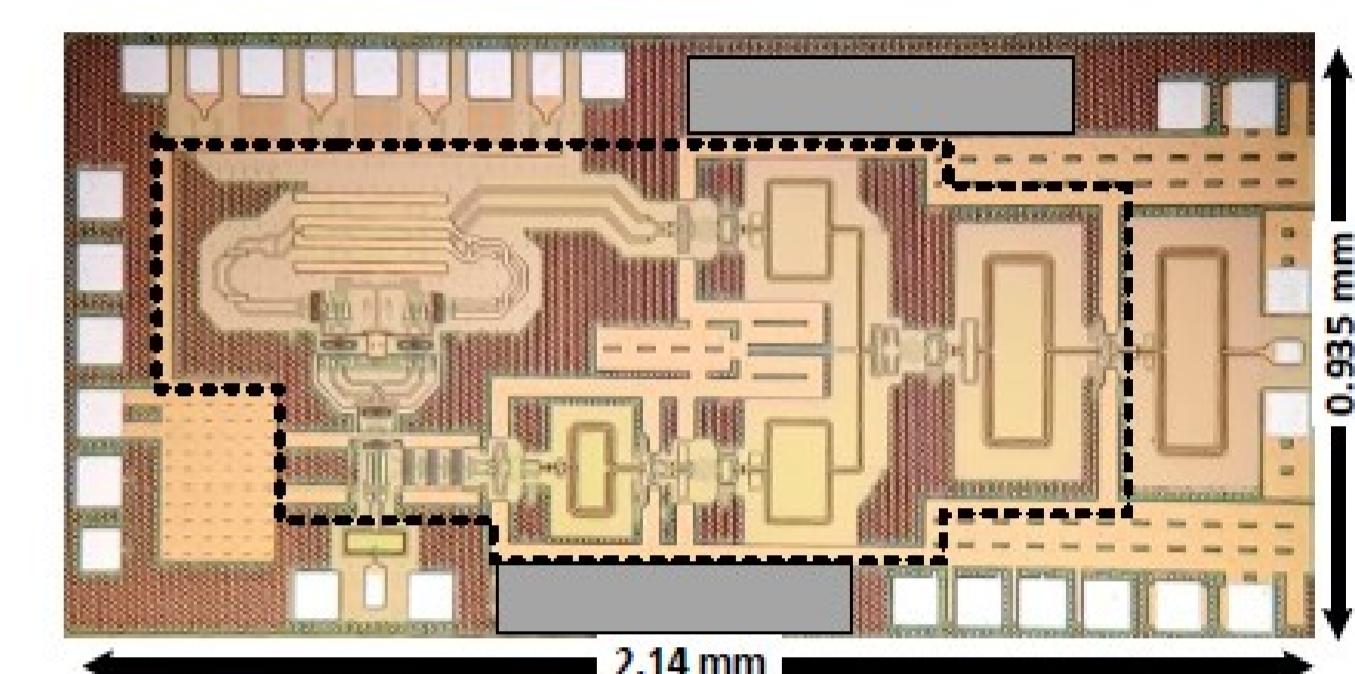
Vector modulator (VM)
270 - 330 GHz [2]



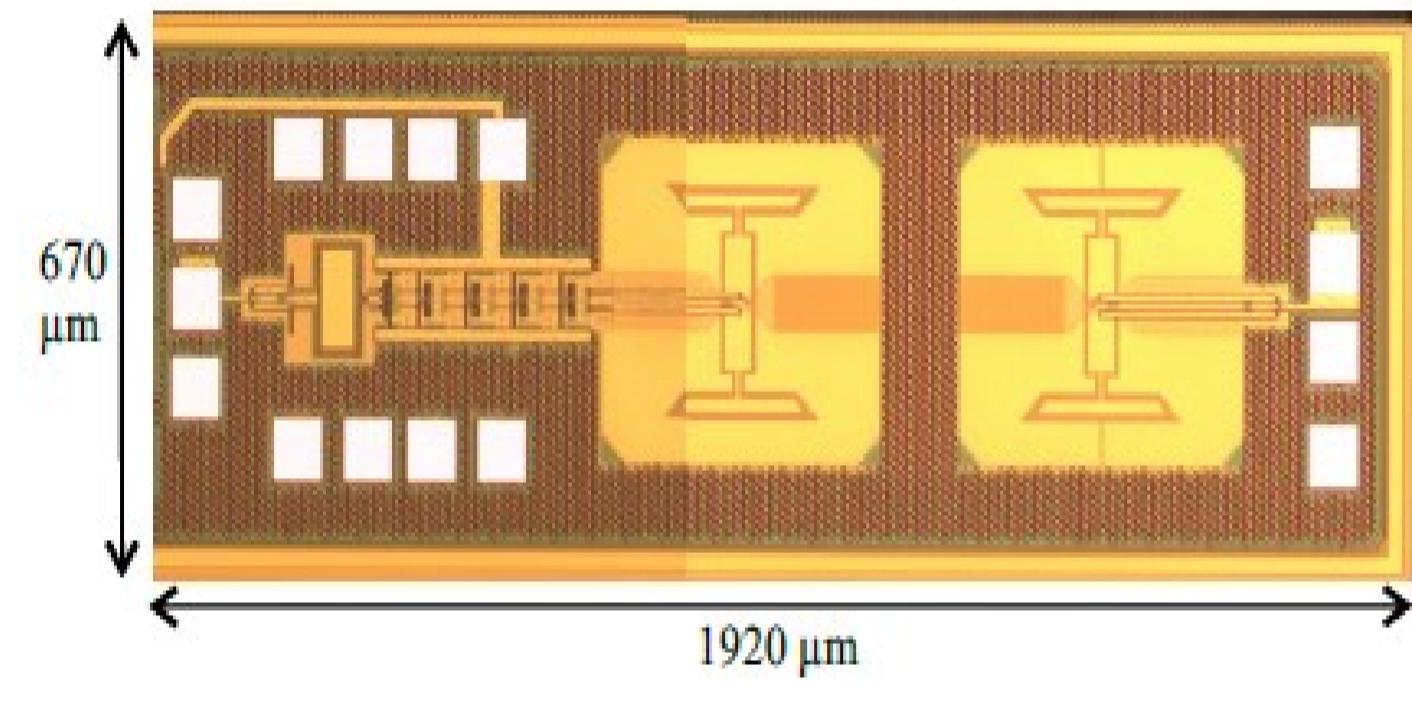
Measured VM constellation
@ 300 GHz [2]



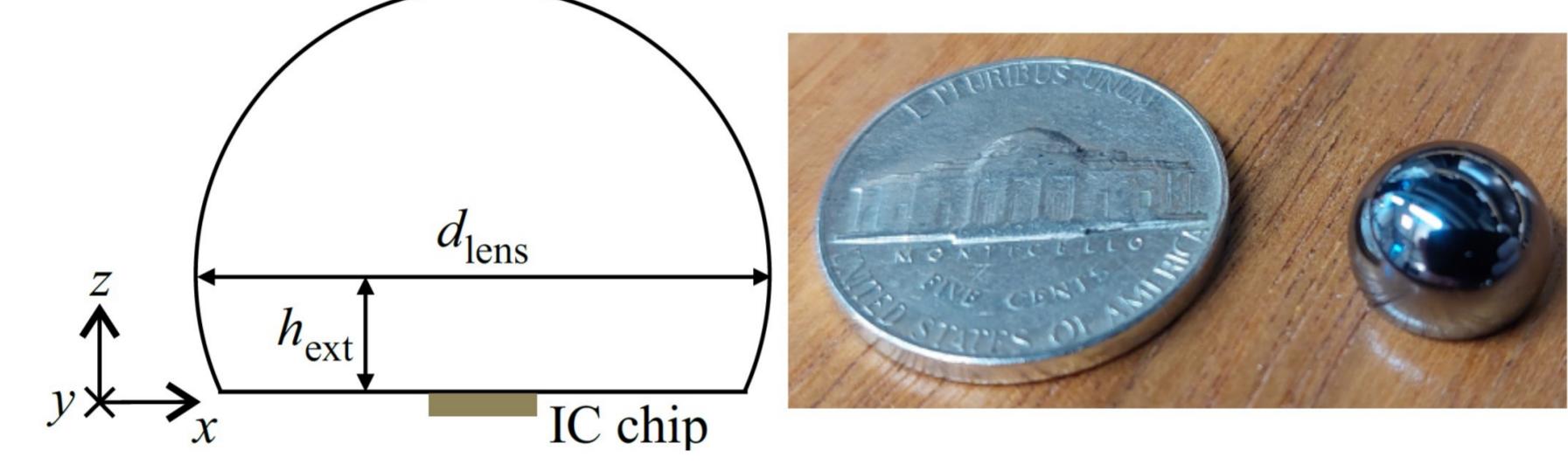
Sliding IF receiver 300-320 GHz [3]



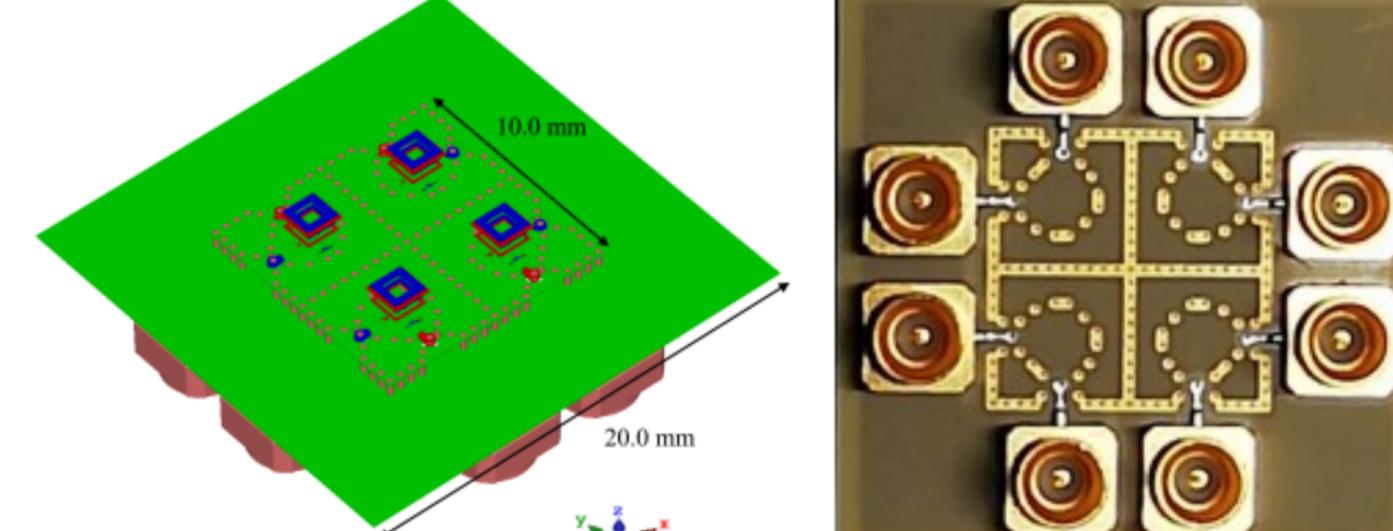
On-chip 300 GHz antenna,
LNA & env. detector: [4]



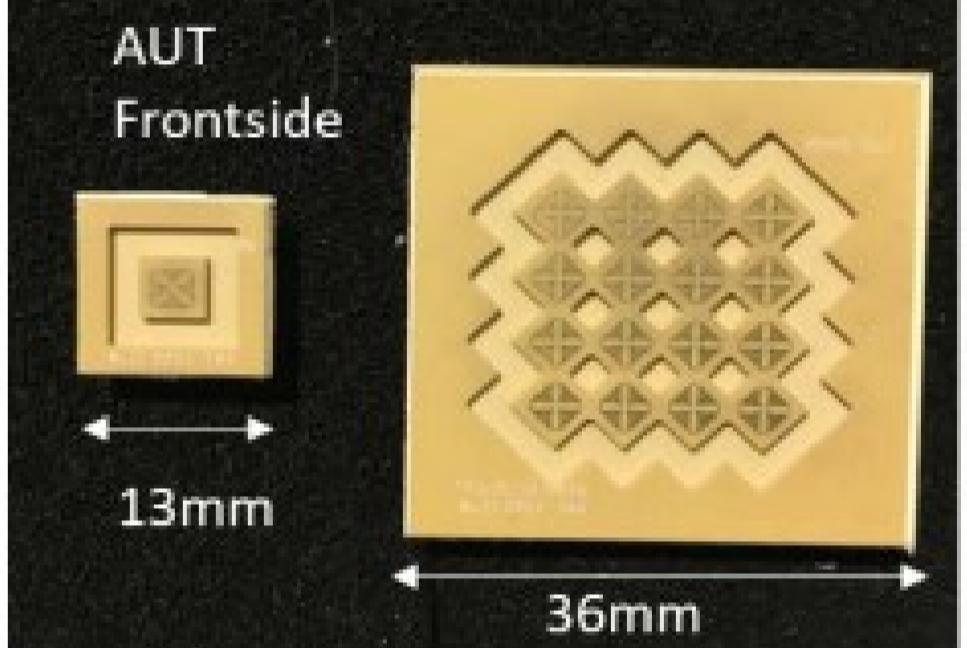
Si antenna for On-chip 300 GHz antenna [4]



Filtering antenna at 28 GHz [5]
Most read paper in TAP 2023

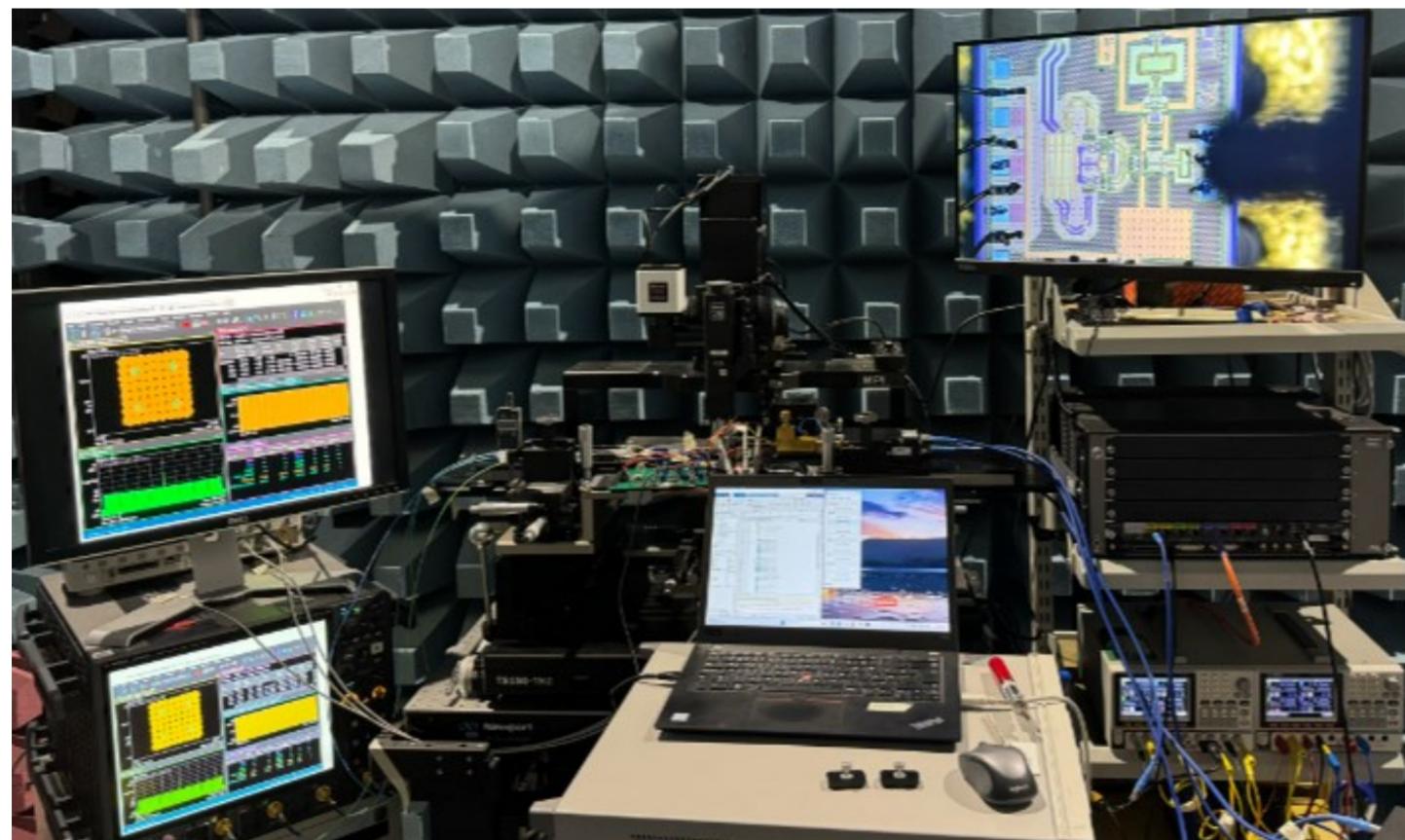


Broadband antenna at 28 GHz [6]
12th read paper in TAP 2023

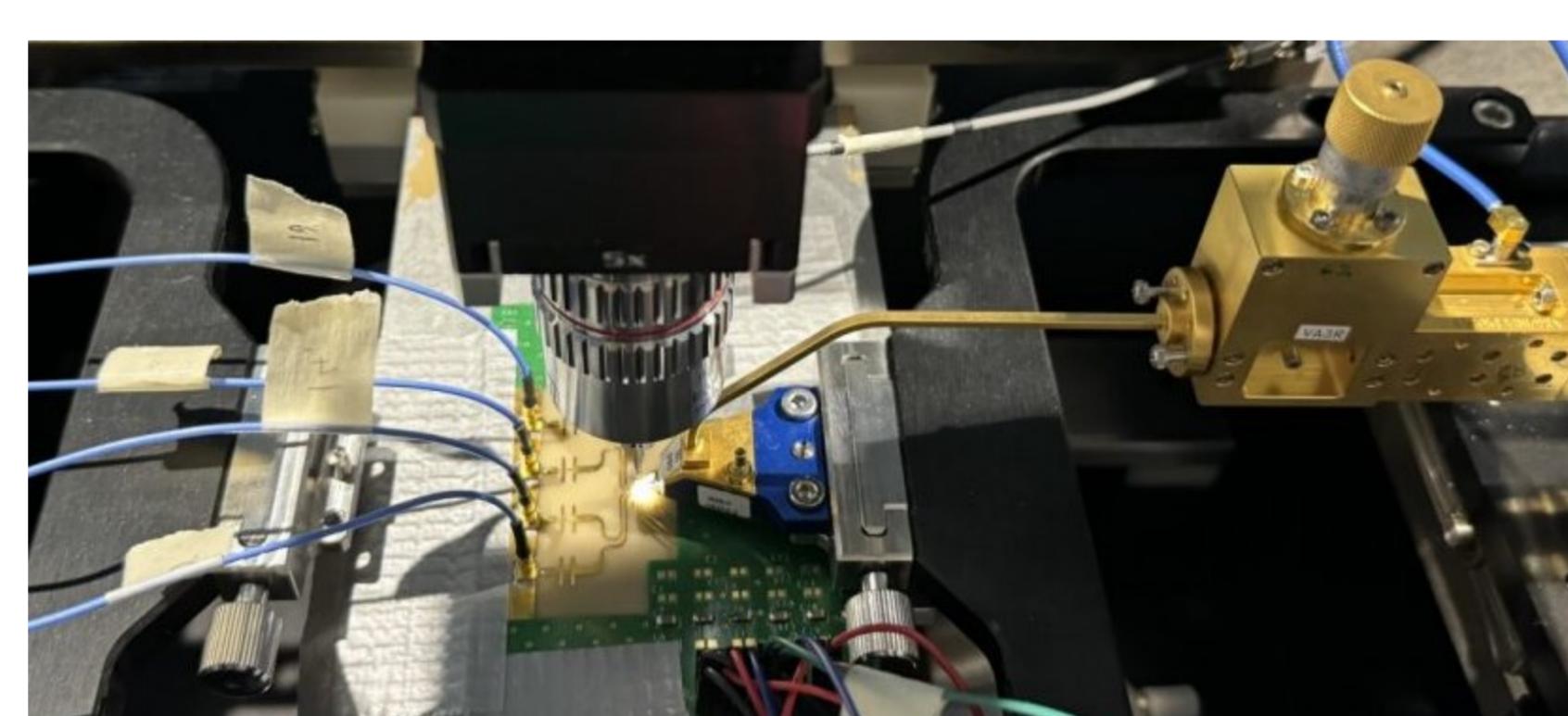


Example RF measurement systems for 300 GHz radios:

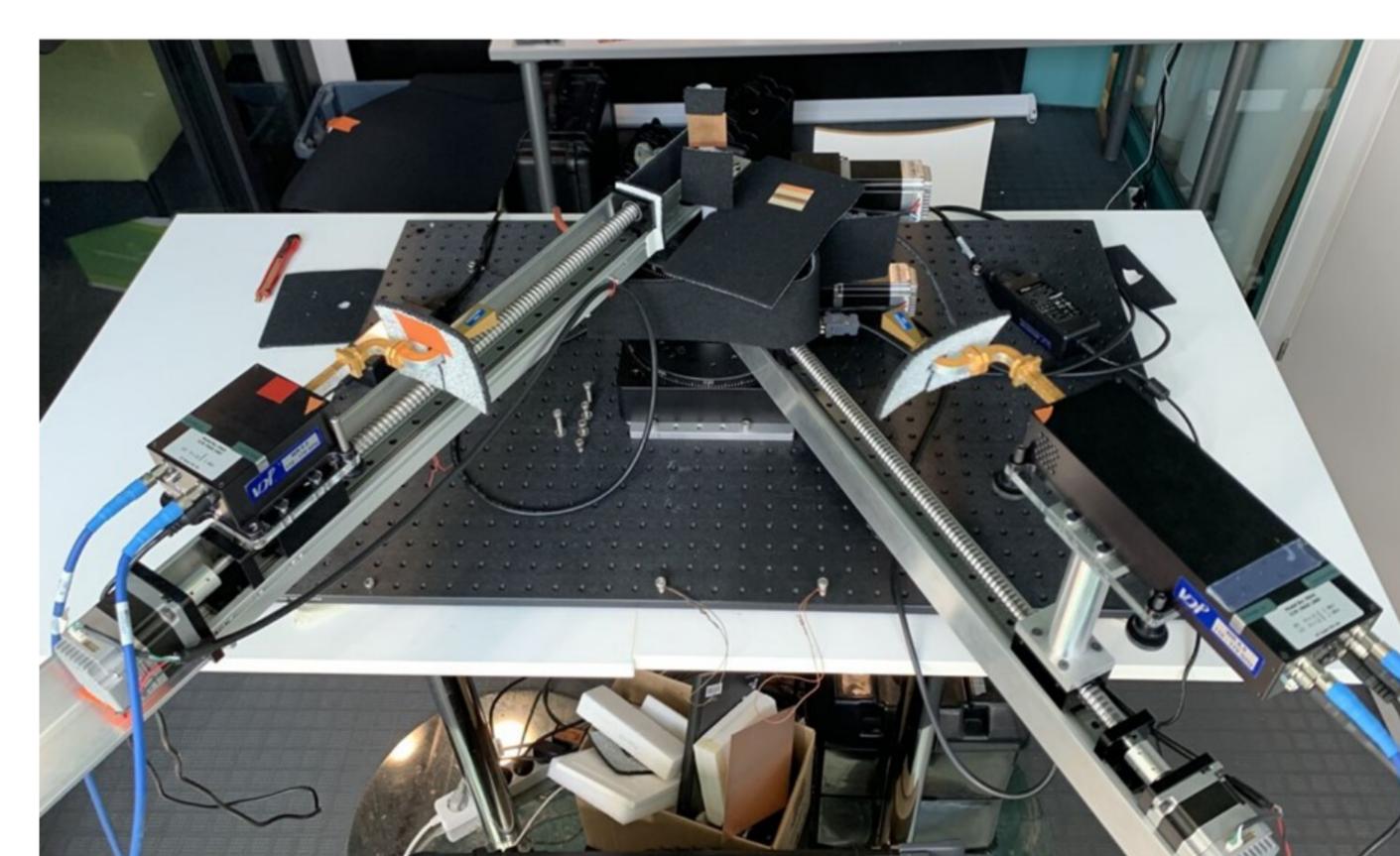
Conducted RFIC measurement system:



Close-up photo of RFIC probe station:



RIS measurement system



THz radio channel
measurement system



Conclusions

Current prototypes and experiments of 6G sub-THz radio are giving promising results

- Generally, 3D-Electromagnetic and RF simulations and measurements have good agreement at sub-THz
- Individual 300 GHz 6G RFIC transceiver blocks have been developed for a complete integration
- RF measurements at sub-THz require new measurement techniques before 6G standardization

References

- [1] S. P. Singh, T. Rahkonen, M. E. Leinonen and A. Parssinen, "Design Aspects of Single-Ended and Differential SiGe Low-Noise Amplifiers Operating Above fmax/2 in Sub-THz/THz Frequencies," in IEEE J. of Solid-State Circuits, vol. 58, no. 9, pp. 2478-2488, Sept. 2023
- [2] M. H. Montaseri, et. al. "A 270 – 330 GHz Vector Modulator Phase Shifter in 130nm SiGe BiCMOS," EuMIC2022, London, United Kingdom, 2022, pp. 309-312.
- [3] S. P. Singh, M. J. Nokandi, M. H. Montaseri, T. Rahkonen, M. E. Leinonen and A. Pärssinen, "A 300-320 GHz Sliding-IF I/Q Receiver Front-End in 130 nm SiGe Technology," RFIC2023 San Diego, CA, USA, Jun. 2023, pp. 37-40.
- [4] K. Rasilainen et al., "Over-the-Air Characterization of a Steerable Sub-THz Si Lens and On-Chip Antenna System," in IEEE Trans. on Microw. Theory and Techniques, Nov. 2023
- [5] Z. Siddiqui et al., "Dual-Band Dual-Polarized Planar Antenna for 5G Millimeter-Wave Antenna-in-Package Applications," in IEEE Trans. on Ant. and Prop., vol. 71, no. 4, pp. 2908-2921, Apr. 2023
- [6] J. Chen et al., "Broadband Cross-Slotted Patch Antenna for 5G Millimeter-Wave Applications Based on Characteristic Mode Analysis," in IEEE Trans. on Antennas and Propag., vol. 70, no. 12, pp. 11277-11292, Dec. 2022