



#### Wearables



## Flexible Organic LCD: From lab to fab to the next wave of products

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**Automotive** 

Sensors





## FlexEnable at a glance

- Headquarters Cambridge, UK
- World's most experienced team of plastic electronics engineers with collective experience of over 700 engineering years, >600 patents
- Lowest cost and most flexible platform for bringing surfaces to life
- Focused on mainstream applications LCD, OLED and sensor arrays for IoT
- Proven volume-production technology and experienced tech-transfer team

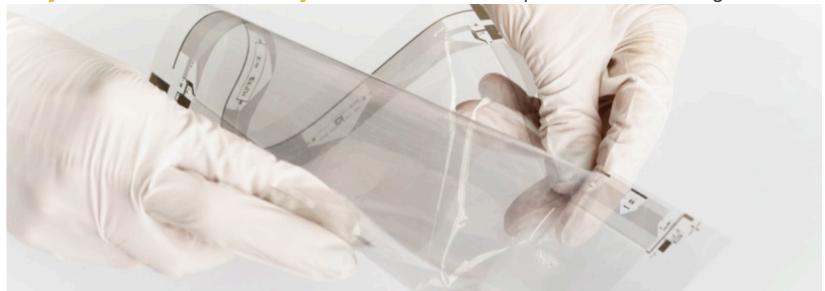




## Industrially-proven technology platform

- The lowest cost flexible electronics platform based on high performance organic thin-film transistor (OTFT)
- Enables ultrathin, ultra-lightweight, shatterproof and flexible displays and sensors

Fully industrialised and easily transferred for mass production in existing facilities



Low-temperature OTFT backplane is combined with various frontplanes to create **truly flexible electronics over small and large surfaces**.



## FlexEnable's OTFT technology highlights

#### Mechanical



0.25mm
Transistor bend radius
Wraps around a matchstick



25µm
Substrate thickness
As thin as a human hair



100gsm Weight per area As light as a sheet of paper

#### **Electrical**



1.5cm²/Vs
Better mobility than a-Si



Long Lifetime Better stability than a-Si



Low-leakage Better leakage currents than a-Si

#### Manufacturing



< 100°C Lowest transistor manufacturing temperature



**High Yield** 



Low Cost
Lowest cost flexible for all
areas and surfaces



#### TFT Trends – OTFT better than a:Si and truly flexible (Yole's view)

 OTFT is now recognised as the most flexible TFT technology, and now has mobility performance significantly better than a:Si

OTFT is also the lowest cost flexible display backplane technology Mobility (cm<sup>2</sup>/vs) Bendable / Foldable / True flexibility Curved Conformable Rollable 100 LTPS Possible extension Metal Oxide of oxide flexibility? 10-OTFT 2016 lab result / Mid term fab goal (5 years) OTFT 2016 "Fab-level" performance a-Si Wearable displays (<300 ppi) 0.1 Medical sensors Bending radius (mm) 0.01

\*Organic Thin Film Transistor: Flexible Displays And Other Applications, Yole Dévelopement- Oct 2016 http://www.yole.fr/OTFT Applications.aspx



## Thin, light, robust and flexible displays and sensors



Organic LCD in partnership with Merck



Flexible fingerprint sensor on plastic with partner ISORG







Flexible OLED in partnership with CPT



Flexible X-ray image sensor



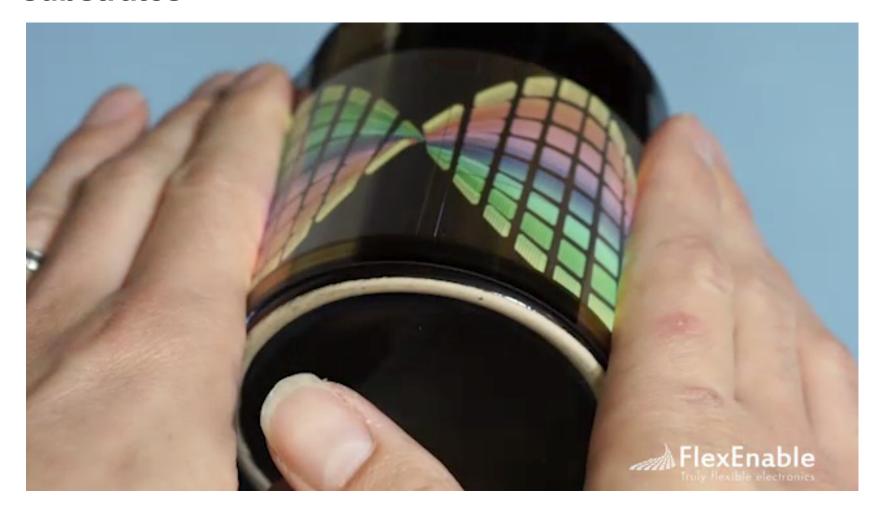




Flexible EPD in production today via Plastic Logic Germany



# Breakthrough Organic LCD on ultra low cost substrates





## 12.1" OLCD winner IDTechEx "Best Product Award" May 2017







## 12.1" plastic LCD (OLCD) – and scalable to large sizes





#### 20mm Bend Radius Achieved with OLCD

- Curved lamination trials using 4.7"
   OLCD platform to determine minimum bend curvature
- OLCD Bend Radius achieved: 20mm
   @ 90 degrees bend angle
  - Glass LCD: ~R500
- Lamination Surface: Flat → Curve
   → Flat







## **OLCD Applications**

OTFT / OLCD is particularly suited to applications that require: conformability, unbreakability, light-weight, AND

Large area, long lifetime, or high brightness









# OLCD: Large area and bright, long lifetime applications

**Display Lifetime** 





<6"

### World first: A-pillar display in Yanfeng XiM17 concept car

FlexEnable 12.1" glass-free, conformable organic liquid crystal display (OLCD) has been incorporated into a car's Apillar to allow for greater visibility and safety.

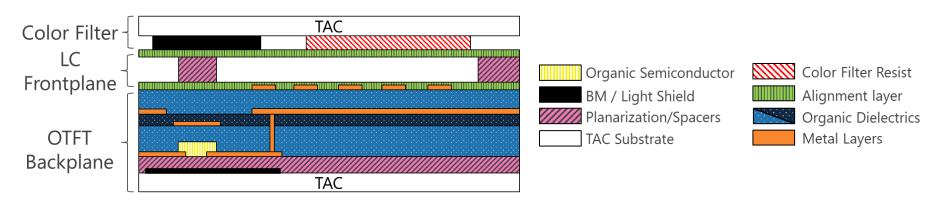
The demonstrator was included in YFAI's XiM17 autonomous concept interior that made its world debut at the 2017 North







#### OLCD can achieve same performance as glass a-Si LCD displays



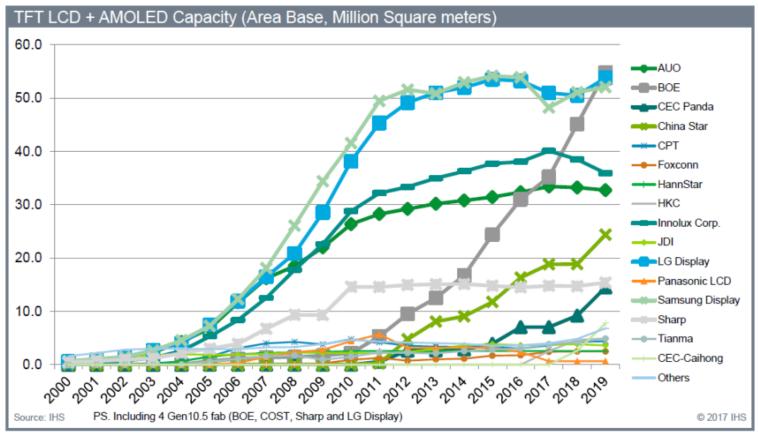
Property	Clear PI	TAC
Thickness (µm)	30	40
Light Transmission (%)	<90%	>94%
Birefringence R <sub>th</sub> (nm)	135	<10
Haze (%)	~1	<0.5
Yellow Index (b*)	~2	<0.07
Cost, Supply Chain	High Cost	~\$1/m², Ubiquitous

 TAC film gives best possible optical performance at a fraction of the cost of other flexible display technologies



## Huge Capacity growth in China over past decade

- Rapid growth of FPD Capacity in China BOE to be #1 globally from 2019
- 230M m<sup>2</sup> of display production by 2021
- Several Gen 10.5 fabs under construction: CSOT: \$6Bn project, 0.6M m<sup>2</sup> clean room



• Many older Gen 4/5 fabs now a decade old – fit for repurpose.

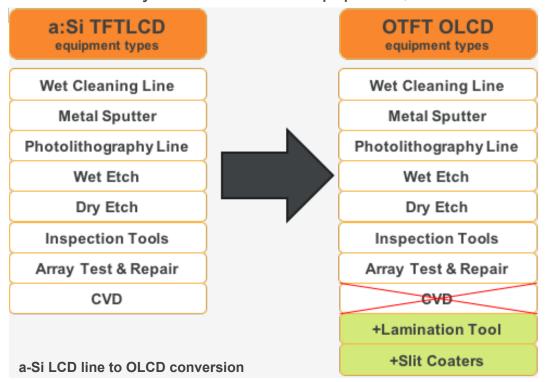


## **OLCD:** Retrofit existing a:Si TFTLCD lines

OLCD has been specifically designed to be retrofitted into existing a:Si TFTLCD lines

The process uses nearly all of the same equipment, but CVD is not required – it is

replaced



 In many existing lines the process can be implemented / tested with almost no capex, in order to prove the process



## Partnering to bring OTFT Technology to displays and sensors



ProductEnable)
ProductEnable











# Truly and FlexEnable sign License Agreement to bring low-cost, scalable flexible display production to China



Chuck Milligan, CEO of FlexEnable (left) and Dr James Wong, Chief Operation Officer (COO) and Group Executive Director of Truly (right)

- Truly and FlexEnable signed a technology transfer and license agreement in July 2017
- Truly Semiconductors is the first display maker to adopt OLCD
- Truly will implement the process into its existing production lines in Shanwei, China
- Volume production is expected in 2018

"FlexEnable's OLCD technology is a breakthrough in the TFT-LCD industry and with its characteristics of thinness, lightweight, and more durability it is going to create lots of possibilities for innovative product design. We have been receiving many enquiries for flexible display from the market, specifically, wearable devices, smart home appliances, electric cars and self-driving cars etc. This is a pretty exciting display technology and we do believe there is a considerable potential market size."



KK Ho, General Manager, R&D center, Truly Semiconductors Ltd



## Summary

- OTFT is widely recognized as the best technology to enable **fully-flexible**, **low**cost and ubiquitous displays and sensor arrays.
- **OTFT has already been transferred from Lab to Fab** FlexEnable's technology is the only OTFT technology used in display manufacturing, and commercial products, today.
- We have in production a **mobility >1.5 cm<sup>2</sup>/Vs** (well beyond a:Si) and this is continually increasing
- OTFT today has **better stability than a:Si**, and **excellent uniformity** key to achieving low cost manufacturability.
- Fundamental and broad IP portfolio with key patents that enables lowtemperature processing of OTFTs on plastic, and brings a step-change in OTFT stability
- These technology advantages drive an exciting roadmap with ever-improving performance, large area flexible displays, decreasing cost and new applications





## Thanks!

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