# SMAs for Industrial applications From first NiTiNOL to a big success

Francesco Butera





# 70 years of World Wide leadership

For more than **70 years**, our **technology** has been supporting **innovation** in the:

- Information and Displays industry,
- Lamp industry,
- Vacuum and Ultra-high Vacuum applications,
- Vacuum tubes and electronic devices industry,
- Ultra-high gas purification for Semiconductors,
- Renewable Energies area.

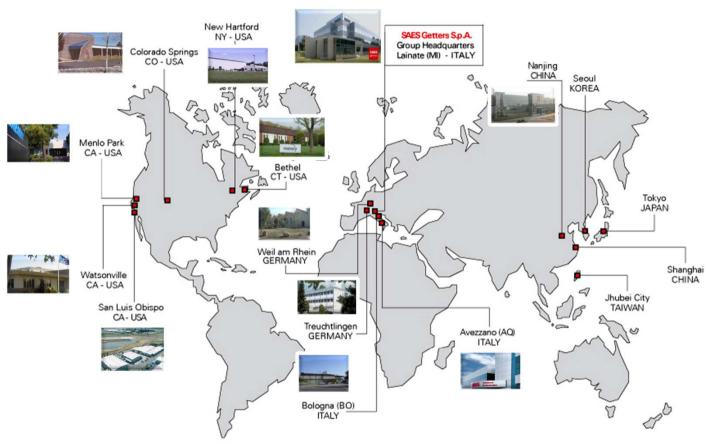
Since 2004 our **NiTi smart materials solutions** have been innovating:

- the Medical devices industry,
- the Consumer electronics industry,
- the Automotive industry,
- the White Goods and Domotic industries.





# Global Presence



- Worldwide-based sales and service network through Subsidiaries located in Europe, Asia, USA
- Over 1000 employees
- 10 manufacturing facilities in 3 continents



# **Group Organization**

**SAES Group** serves customers through four global **Business Units** that addresses different markets and applications



#### Industrial Applications BU

- •LIGHT SOURCES
- •ELECTRONIC DEVICES
- •VACUUM SYSTEMS & THERMAL INSULATION
- RENEWABLE ENERGIES
- •SEMICONDUCTORS



#### Shape Memory Alloys BU

- •MEDICAL DEVICES
- •INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS for Consumer Electronics, Domotic, Automotive



#### Information Displays BU

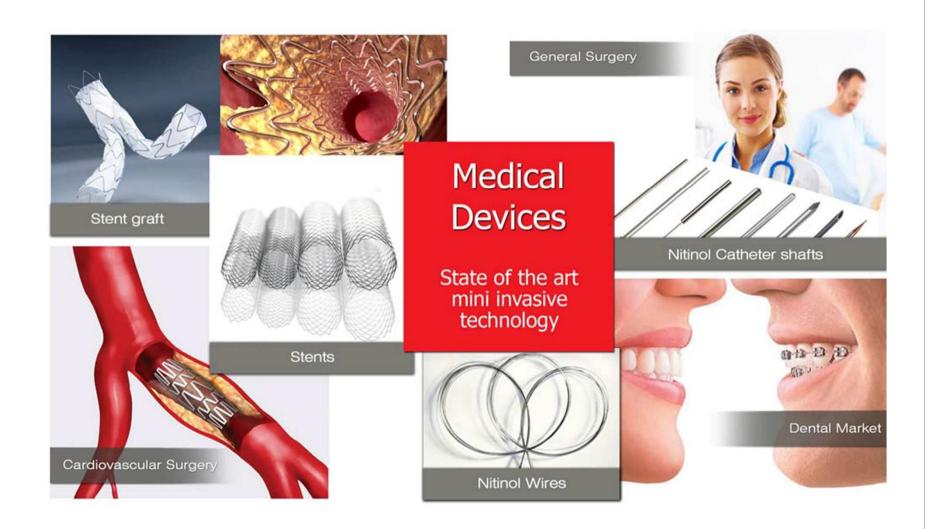
- •ORGANIC LIGHT EMITTING DIODES DISPLAYS (OLEDs)
- •LIQUID CRYSTAL DISPLAYS (LCDs)
- •COLOR CATHODE RAY TUBES (CCRTs)



**Business Development BU** 

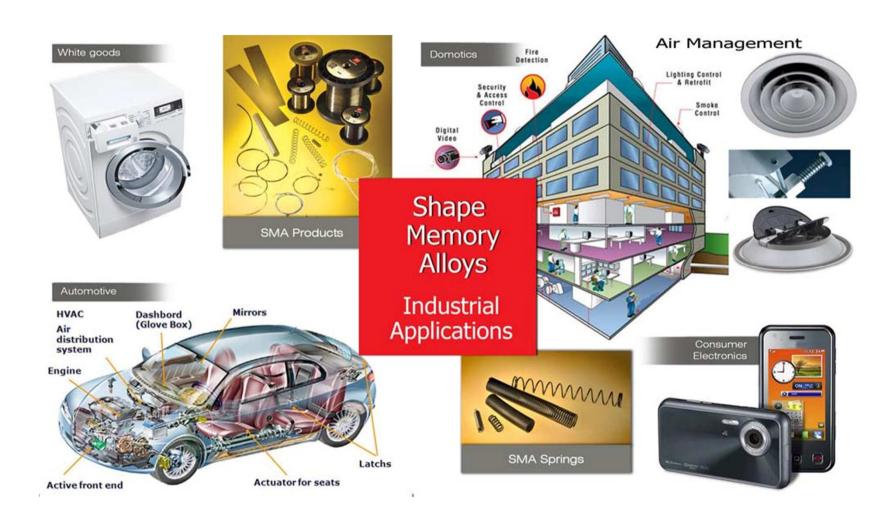


# SMA for medical





# SMA for industrial





# Our SMA Device company



#### **SMA** Actuators silent, powerfull, controllable, simple and ready for your business Have fun !!!

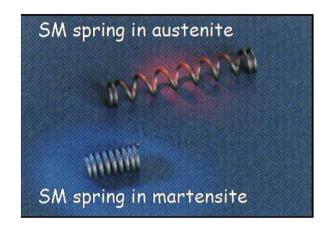


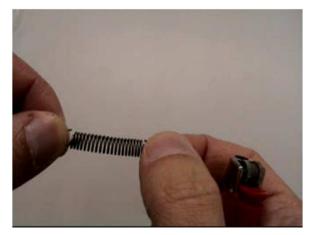
making innovation happen, together

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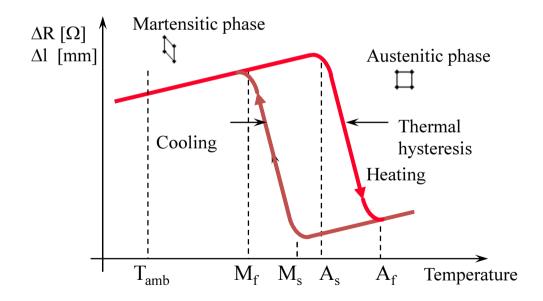


# Shape Memory Effect



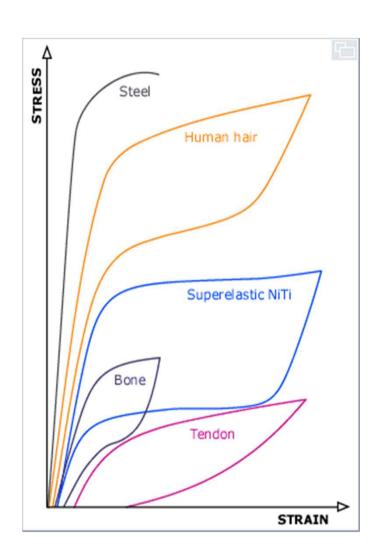


Shape memory alloys (SMA), if thermally stimulated by external heat or internal electrical current flow (Joule effect), exhibit a reversible thermoelastic martensite transformation with a macroscopic shape change



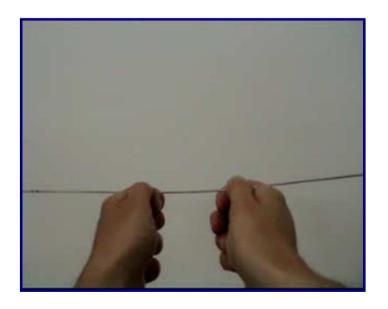


# SMA Superelastic alloys



#### Superelastic behaviour

Elastic recovery of a very large deformation (10 – 12 %)

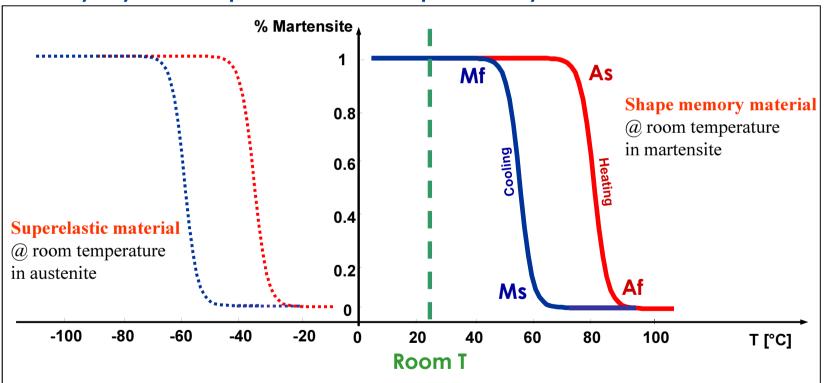




# Shape Memory & Superelastic effect

Making small changes in the composition can change the transition temperature of the alloy significantly. For this reason, SMA may be in austenite or in martensite at room temperature, showing a superelastic or a shape memory properties.

#### Histeresys cycle for Superelastic and shape memory material





# Full portfolio of Nitinol products

**Raw material** 

Semi-finished Shapes

SMA wires and components

Nitinol Medical Components

**Ingots** 

**Bars** 

**Coils and Redraw** 

**Tubes** 

Wires

**Sheets** 

Ribbon

**Trained wires** 

**Coil Springs** 

**Shaped components** 



**Tubular Laser Cut Stents** 

**Wire Stents and Wire Forms** 

**Micro-coils and Shapes** 

**Specialty Guidewire** 

Clean room assembly







From raw material to advanced components – an unique and integrated offer



# Some pictures ....





**VIM Furnace** 



NiTi Ingot



NiTi coils



# Wire drawing line





# SmartFlex® Wires



# SMARTFLEX is a 100% quality controlled SM wire for actuators

#### Main characteristics:

- Diameter: from 20 to 500 μm

- Transformation temperatures: 10 - 100 °C

- Maximum stroke: 5.0 %

- Force@150MPa: from 5 g to 3 Kg

- Lifetime: > 1.000.000 cycles

(under controlled conditions)

- Shaping: Coil springs, torsion wires



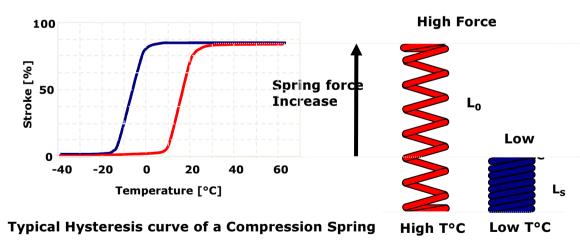
# SmartFlex springs



As thermal-actuators SMA' springs are very specific products. The combination of composition, heat treatment and operating conditions permits to cover a wide range of activation temperatures. Customized solutions may be developed to fulfill several applications.

#### **Springs vs. Wire**

- ☐ Higher Stroke
- ☐ Lower Force
- Indirect Heating
- ☐ Sensor Actuator
- Customization



At low temperature the Martensite phase presents low force.

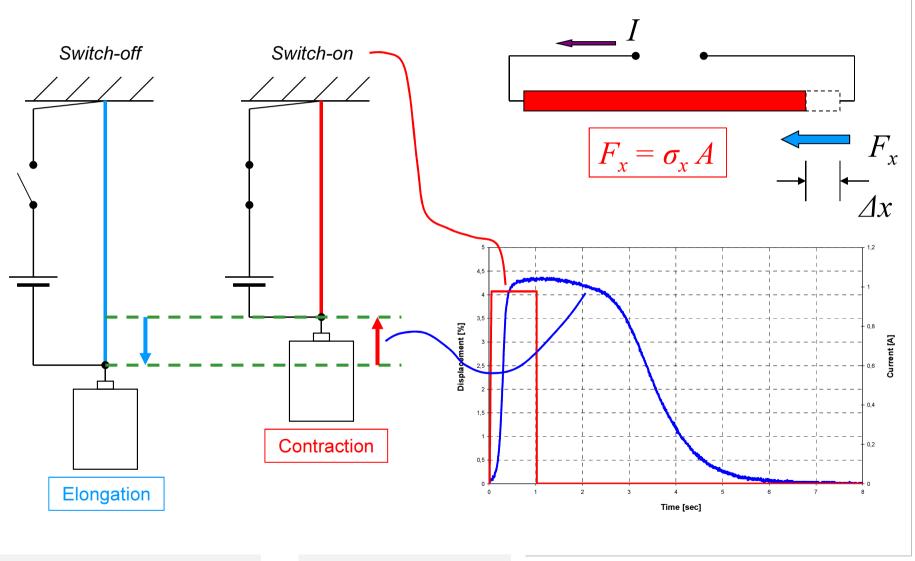
At high temperature the Austenite phase presents high force.

The spring moves continuously between such extreme positions in noiseless operation.

Activation temperature can be set between -50 and +100°C



# **Shape Memory Effect for Actuation**



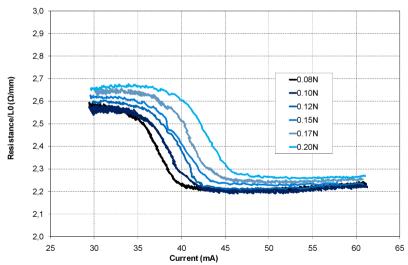
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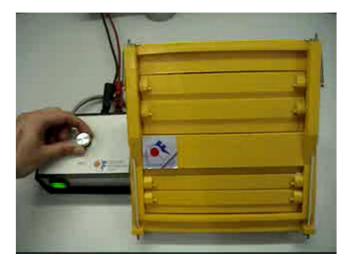
#### SMA works as an on-off operation, I need to control it ...

#### ... SMA wires offer an intrinsic position sensor

since their electrical resistance change accordingly to the displacement during the transition from martensite to austenite ( from about 100 to 80  $\mu\Omega$  cm). It is possible to control the displacement using the linear part of the curve as a feedback.



Electrical resistance vs current during the tranformation cycle

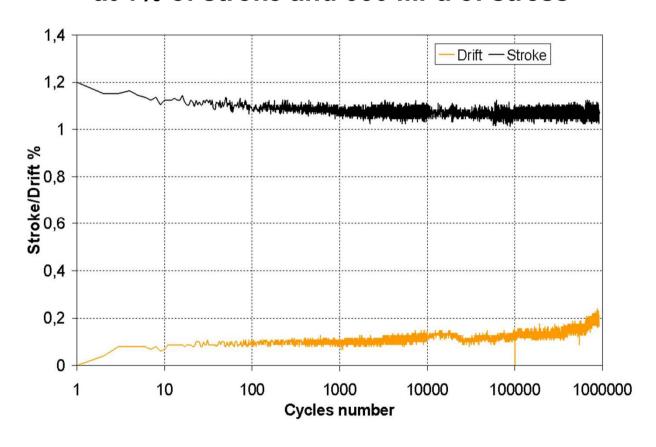


Example of controllable actuator from Fiat Research Centre



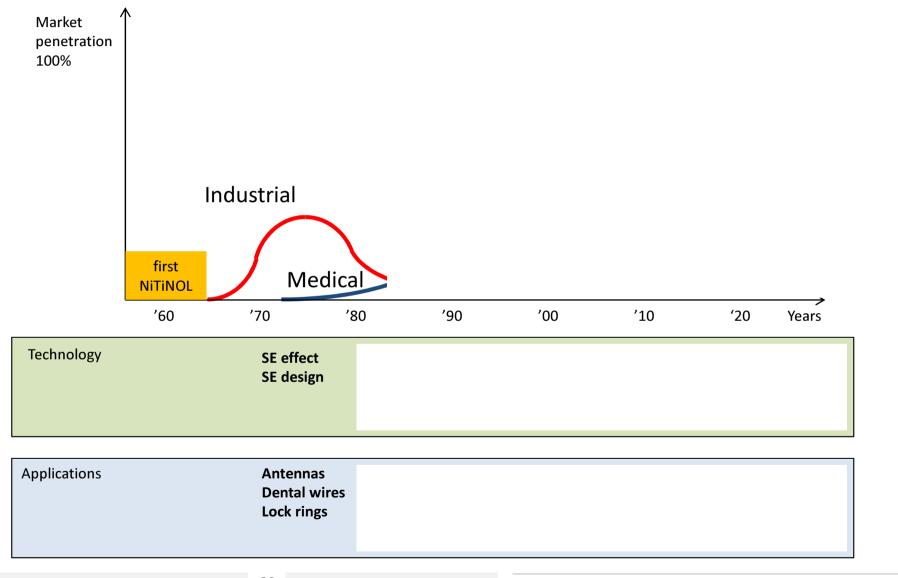
## SmartFlex<sup>®</sup> 76 μm - Fatigue test

# SMARTFLEX wire performs more than 1 million of cycles at 1% of stroke and 350 MPa of stress





#### NiTiNOL on the market: From discovery to full success





#### '80s: First Industrial applications

First applications exploited the superelastic effect for simple devices...

The first Shape Memory application was on "one shot" shrinkage to tighten connectors. This solution is still in production in the aerospace field







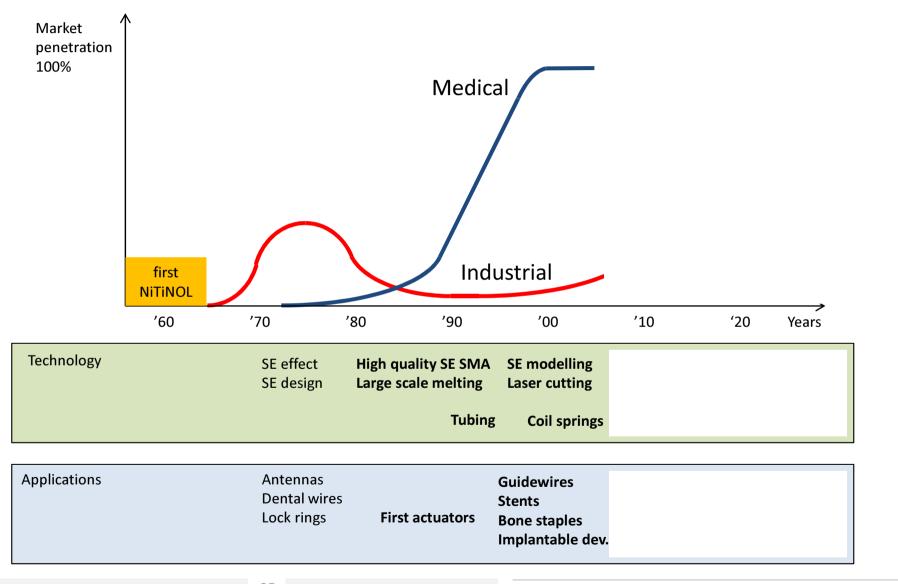








#### NiTiNOL on the market: From discovery to full success





#### '90s – '00s: Medical applications and market

Due to the perfect match between superelasticity in SMAs and human tissues properties, NiTi has been introduced and successfully used in several medical application.

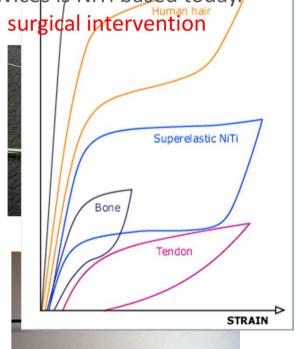
This market started in the 90's and now is a well established business.

Almost every implantable devices is NiTi based today.

This was a real revolution on surgical intervention













#### '90s – '00s: JP pioneering the industrial application

...At the same time, only in JP, University and Companies started first real applications using shape memory elements as thermal or electrical actuators

Some of them are still successfully in production

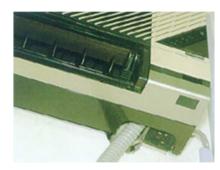








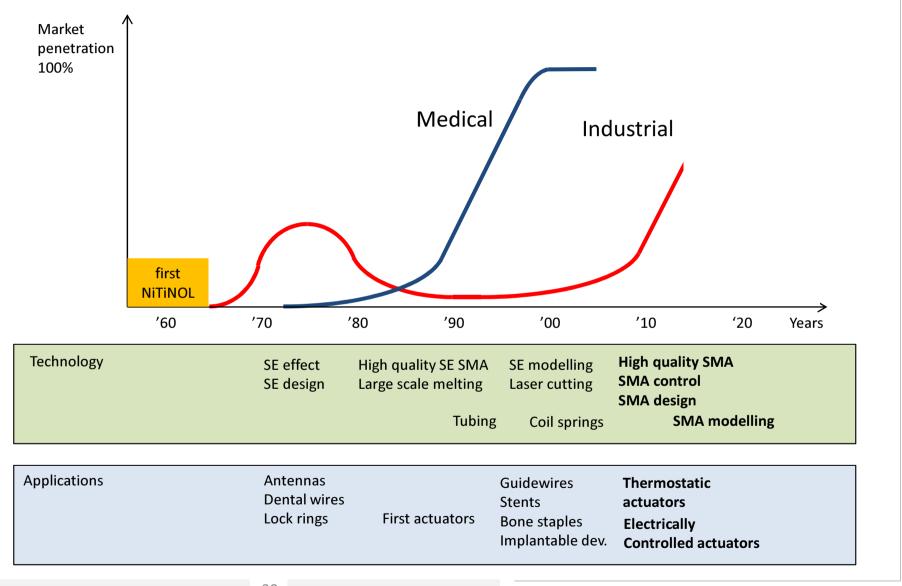




...In EU and USA automotive companies like FIAT and GM started interesting research on new devices generating new interest on this technology for industrial application



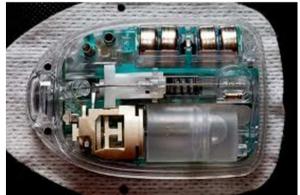
#### NiTiNOL on the market: From discovery to full success





#### Today: Omnipod – the SMA insuline pump





The OmniPod Insulin Pump portable delivery system provides a "freedom of lifestyle" change for diabetics requiring Insulin use.

The unique product was made possible with the use of a Shape Memory Alloy wire actuator jointly developed with Insulet and manufactured by Autosplice

Standard motors are too costly, too heavy, generate too much heat, and require far too much power to provide a portable solution.

The SMA actuator makes this assembly possible from both a technical and cost effective standpoint.



### Today: First high volumes automotive application

#### SMA pneumatic valves for lumbar support in Car's seats from ALFMEIER

#### **Actual production in**

**ACTUATOR SOLUTIONS GMBH:** 

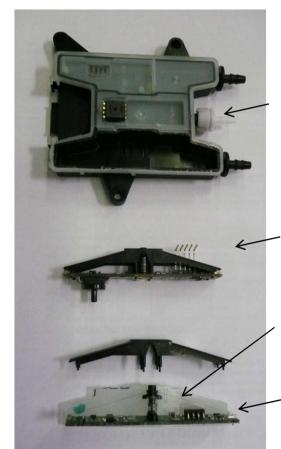
10 million actuators/year

Pneumatic valve to inflate and deflate cushions in car's seats.

Installed in all main vehicle's platform of:

- Daimler
- BMW
- GM
- Hyundai
- Ford
- Porsche/VW





Pneumatic valve



SMA actuator

SmartFlex wires

Electronic control board

# Contour adjustments

- 2-way lumbar suppor
- 4-way lumbar support
- Side bolster adjustment
- Cushion extension
- Shoulder/thigh support

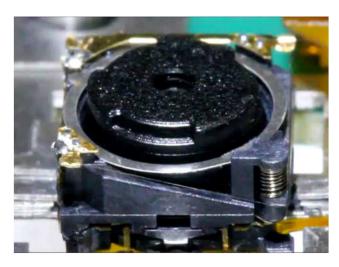


#### Today: A very large mass production is coming

#### SMA Optical Image Stabilizer + AF for mobile phones from ACTUATOR SOLUTIONS Gmbh

SMA OIS is placed underneath the SMA AF module.

ASG already has a fully working module integrated with a sensor under evaluation by major camera modules makers



With OIS enabled, the lens and sensor tilt inside the camera but remain still to the image subject – giving a sharp image



The lens and sensor are tilted together with SMA wire on all 4 sides of the camera

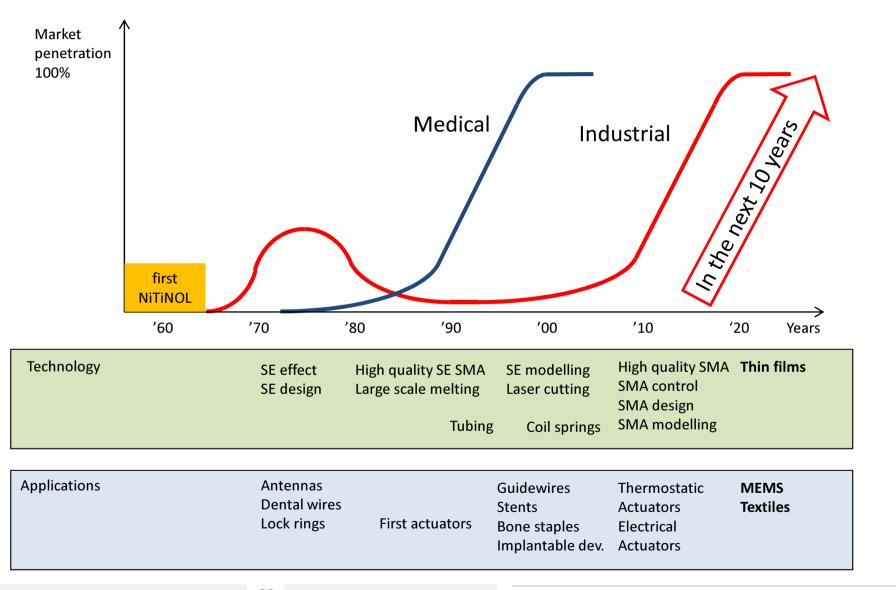
Both pitch & yaw tilt are measured by a gyroscope moving mechanically attached to the camera and compensated to a ZERO output by the OIS actuator





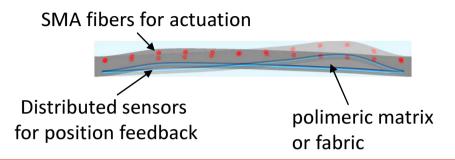


#### NiTiNOL on the market: From discovery to full success





#### The future... Smart composites



#### Multifunctional composite structure

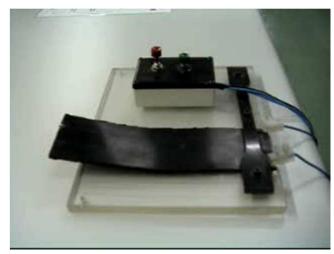
Active material with integrated fibers Distributed deformable sensor layer Smart composite structure

 $\rightarrow$ 

Detection of deformation feedback

Surface morphing and stiffness adaptation

Adaptive noise reduction



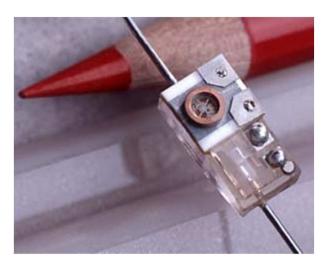
Active flaps based on SMA composite (CRF)



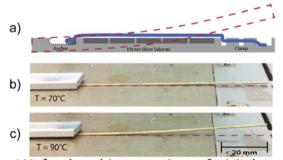
SMA active textile



#### The future... SMA MEMS

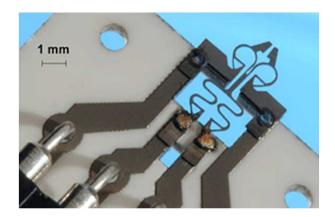


Dosing of a shape memory and a micro-valve flow sensor Functional Films: PD Dr. Manfred Kohl KIT - University of the State of Baden

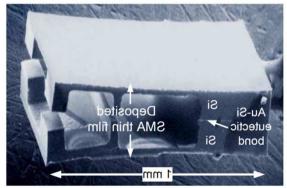


Wafer-level integration of niti shape memory alloy wires KTH – Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm,

Sweden



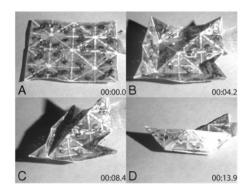
Microgripper of NiTi



Heterogeneous Integration of Shape Memory Alloys for High-Performance Microvalves (2012) Henrik Gradin, KTH Electrical Engineering



#### The future... Thin Films and programmable matter



Programmable matter by folding (2010) Harvard University Massachusetts Institute of Technology

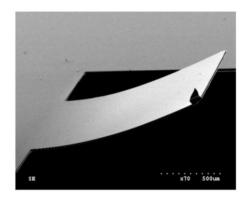


Fig. 10. TiNi deposited micro-cantilever when heated showing shape memory effect

TiNi shape memory alloy thin films for microactuator application

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore-MIT Alliance

# Let's start projects together

# Thank for your attention

making innovation happen, together



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