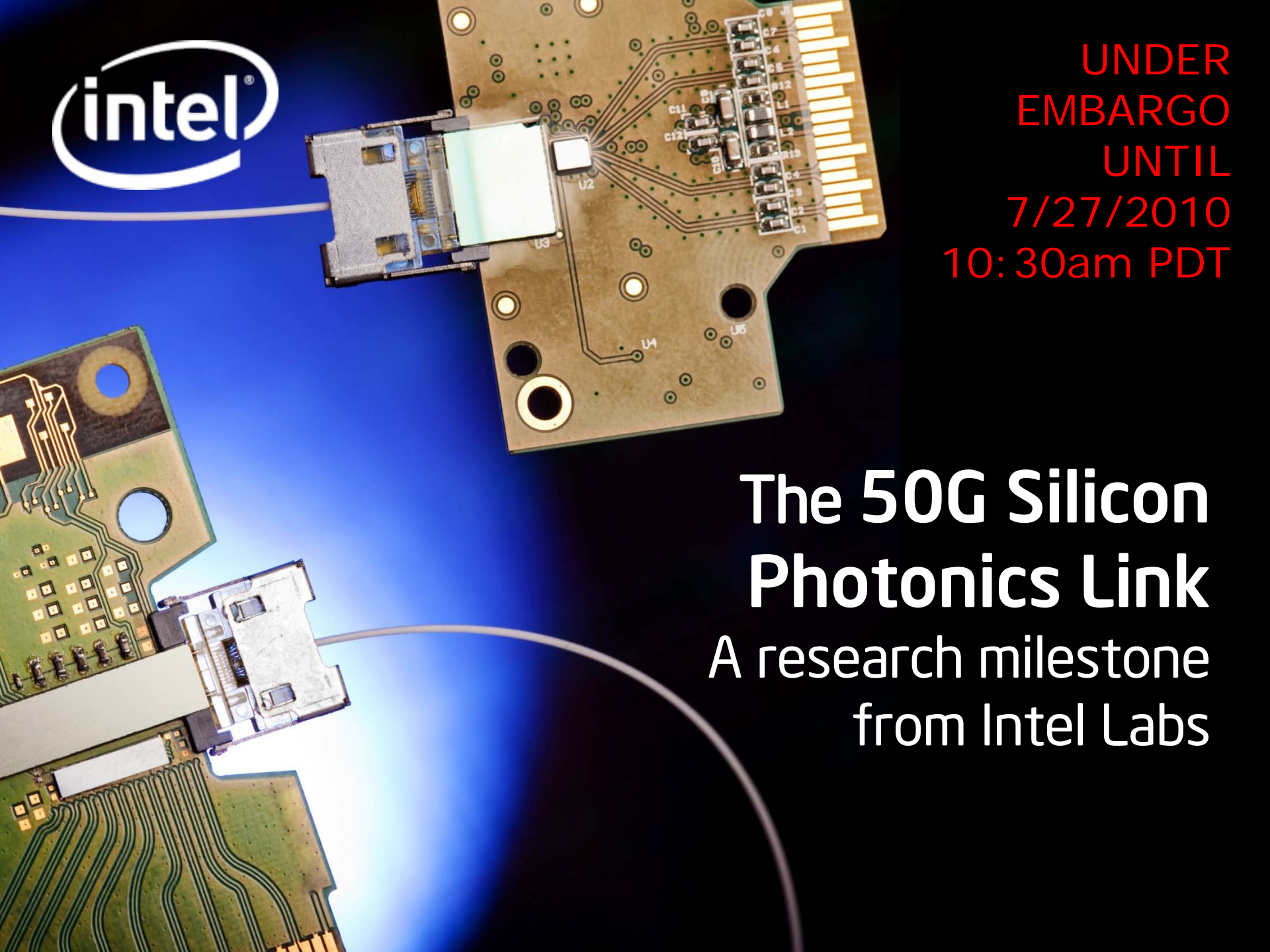




UNDER  
EMBARGO  
UNTIL  
7/27/2010  
10:30am PDT

# The 50G Silicon Photonics Link

A research milestone  
from Intel Labs



# Today's Agenda

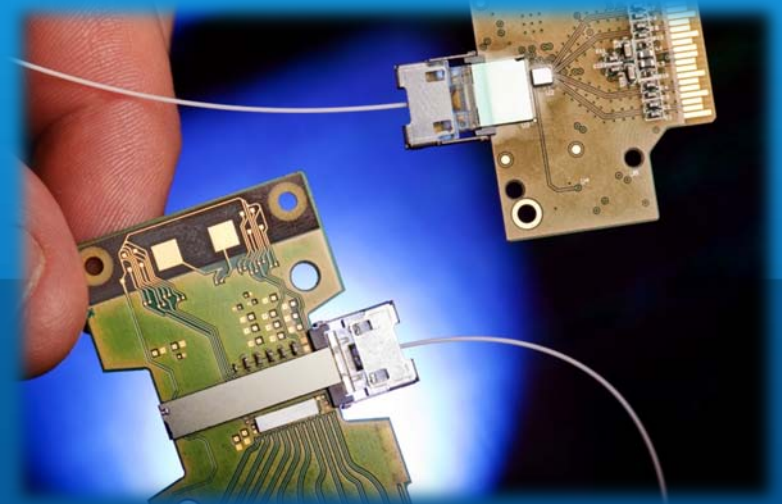
- Today's news
- Impact and applications
- Technical overview
- Questions and answers



Speaker:  
Dr. Mario Paniccia  
Intel Fellow  
Director, Photonics Technology Lab

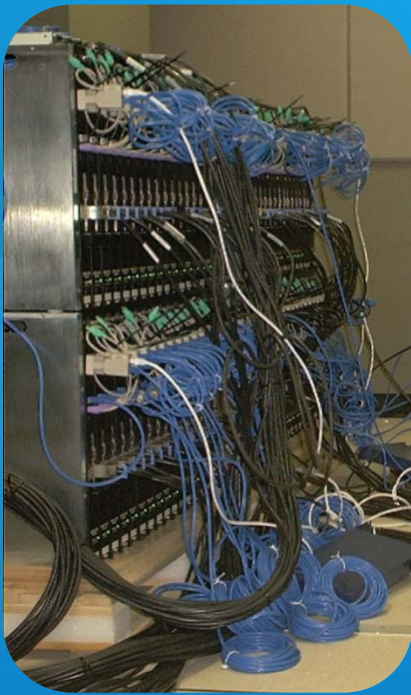
# Today's news: **50G Silicon Photonics Link**

- **First Silicon Photonics data link with integrated lasers**
  - Research milestone using Hybrid Silicon Lasers
  - “Concept vehicle” runs at 50Gbps, scalable to 100G, 400G, ...Terabit/s...
- **Integrates our previous breakthrough building blocks**
  - Devices to emit, manipulate, combine, separate and detect light
- **Brings silicon manufacturing to optical communications**



**Could make optical affordable for any compute platform, revolutionize apps & architectures**





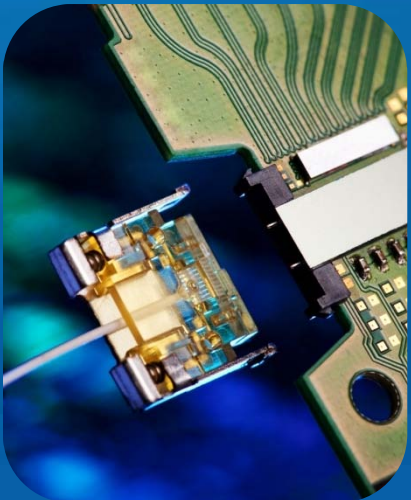
# Why Photonics?

## Copper wires reaching physical limits

- ~10 Gbps or higher becoming challenging
- Distance/speed tradeoff costing more in energy

## Alternative: Transmit data over optical fiber

- Much further reach at any given speed
- Multiple signals can travel on one fiber
- Thin & light = easy cable management

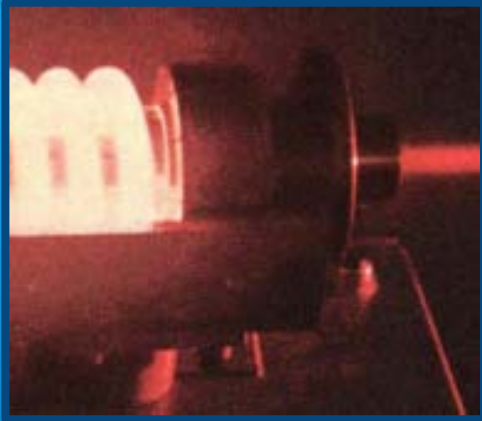


**Challenge: Optical technology  
is expensive**

# A Half Century of Innovation

1960

Lasers



*First Laser  
(Ted Maiman)*

50  
years

Today



*Countless apps*

- Practical usages not known upon invention
- Laser has impacted industries from medicine to manufacturing to entertainment and more
- All long distance communications driven by lasers

**Costs limits use of optical for everyday devices**

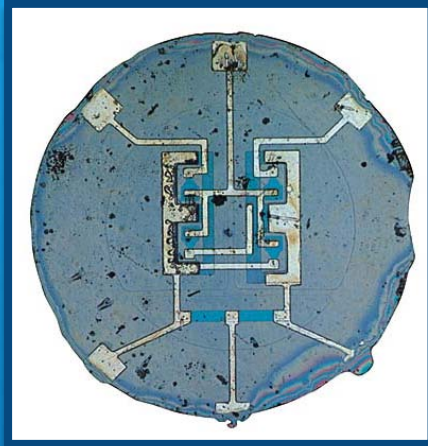


# A Half Century of **Integration**

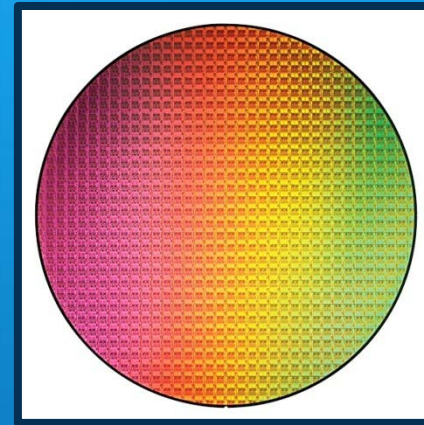
1959

Today

Silicon



~50  
years



*First Silicon IC (Noyce and Kilby)*

*Billions of Transistors*

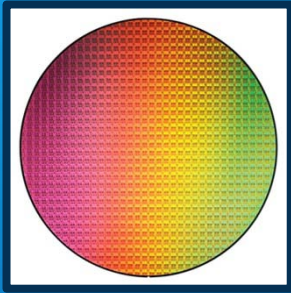
- We have gone from 2 transistors to 2 billion
- This “Moore’s Law” scaling has led to transformative technologies
  - Mainframes -> Servers -> PCs -> Laptops -> Handhelds
  - Internet, e-commerce, social media

**Silicon manufacturing has made this all possible**



# Bringing Si Manufacturing to the Laser

Si Manufacturing



High volume,  
low cost

Highly  
integrated

Scalable



Lasers



Very high  
bandwidth

Long distances

Immunity to  
electrical noise



*OPTICAL  
ANYWHERE,  
INCREDIBLE  
POTENTIAL*

# A Wealth of Data to Move

## Personal Media



Ave. Files on HD  
54GB

## Business



Retail Customer DB  
600 TB

## Medical



Clinical Image DB  
~1PB

## Social Media



HD video forecast  
12 EB/yr

## Science



Physics (LHC)  
300 EB/yr



**Photonics can move more data farther & faster**





# Example: Advanced Video Technology

*3D Displays*



*High Dynamic Range*



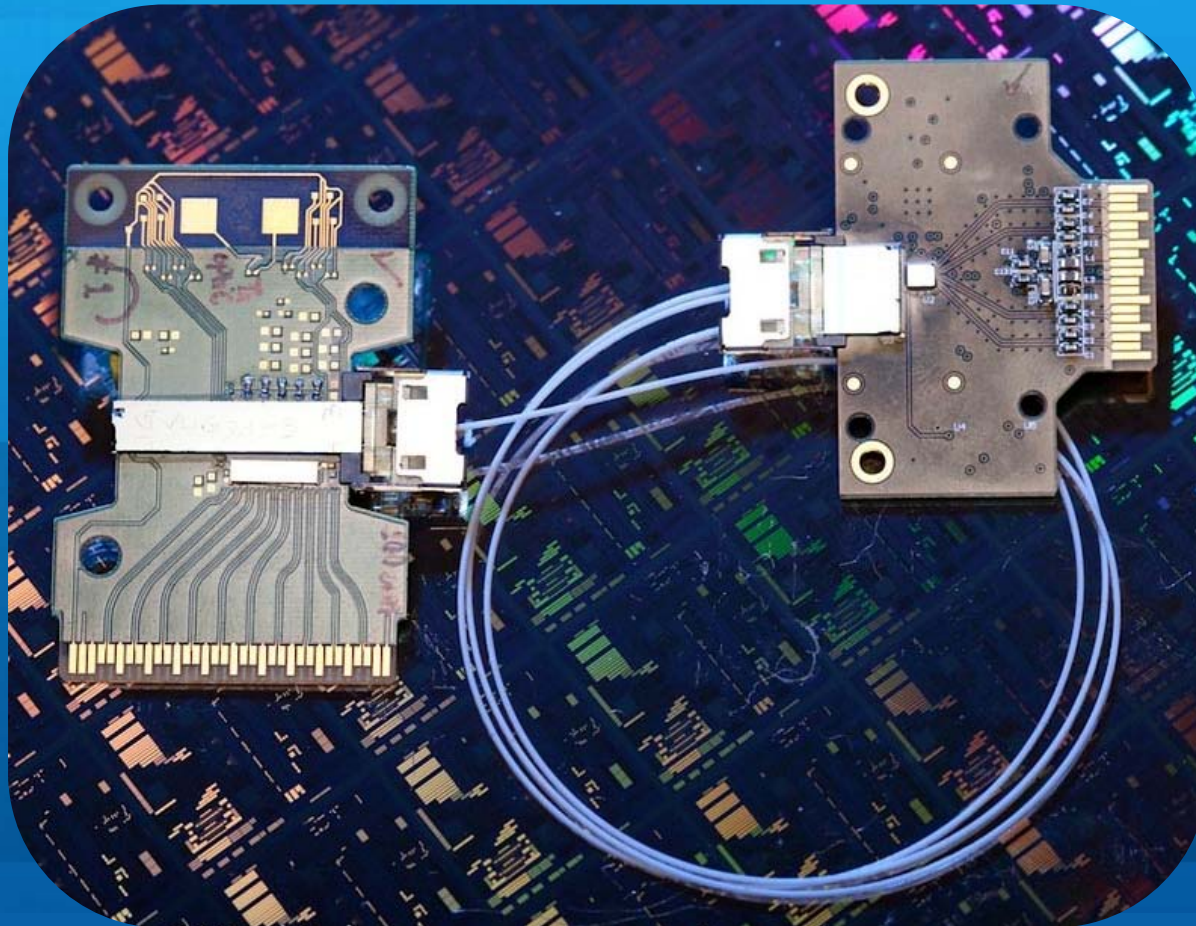
	24Hz		48Hz		60Hz		120Hz (3D)	
HDR Increase (color depth)	24	48	24	48	24	48	24	48
Today: Full HD 1080p	1.19 Gbps	2.39 Gbps	2.39 Gbps	4.78 Gbps	2.99 Gbps	5.97 Gbps	5.97 Gbps	11.94 Gbps
Tomorrow : Quad HD 2160p	4.78 Gbps	9.56 Gbps	9.56 Gbps	19.11 Gbps	11.94 Gbps	23.89 Gbps	23.89 Gbps	47.78 Gbps

Future: Ultra High Definition (4320p, 30bpp, 60Hz) needs 60 Gbps!

**Photonic links could facilitate better TV experiences**



# 50G Si Photonics Link: Tech Overview



# The Path to "Siliconizing" Photonics

## Lasers



1<sup>st</sup> Continuous Wave  
Silicon Raman Laser  
(Feb. '05)



Hybrid Silicon  
Laser (Sept. '06)

## Data Encoders

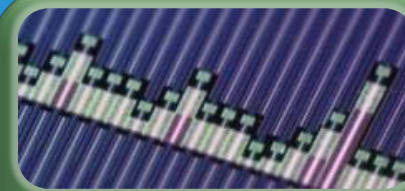


Silicon Modulators  
1GHz ( Feb '04)  
10 Gbps (Apr '05)  
40 Gbps (July '07)

## Basic Light Routing

Waveguides, multiplexers,  
demultiplexers, couplers...

## Light detectors



40 Gbps PIN  
Photodetectors  
(Aug. '07)



340 GHz Gain\*BW  
Avalanche Photo-  
detector (Dec '08)

**Numerous scientific breakthroughs  
in silicon photonic building blocks**



# The 50G Silicon Photonics Link

## Transmitting and Receiving Light with Silicon

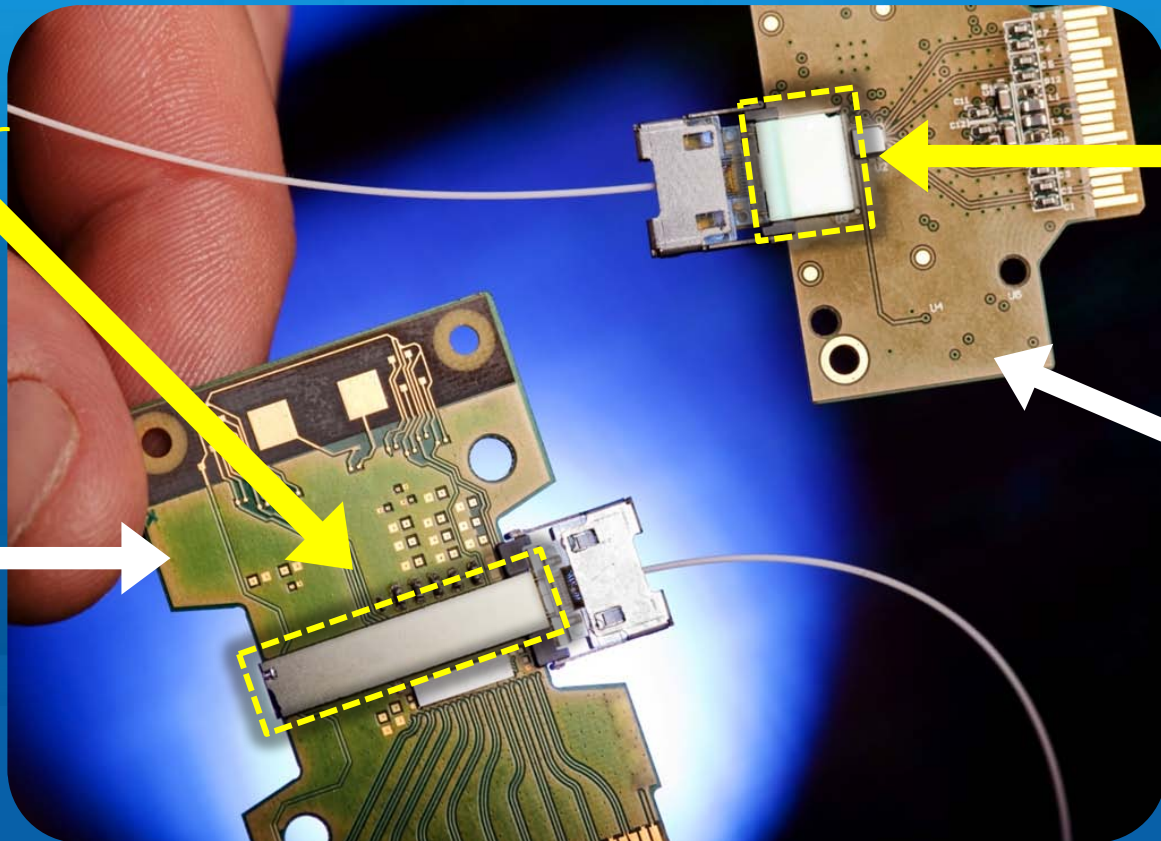


↑  
Integrated  
Transmitter  
Chip

↑  
Integrated  
Receiver  
Chip

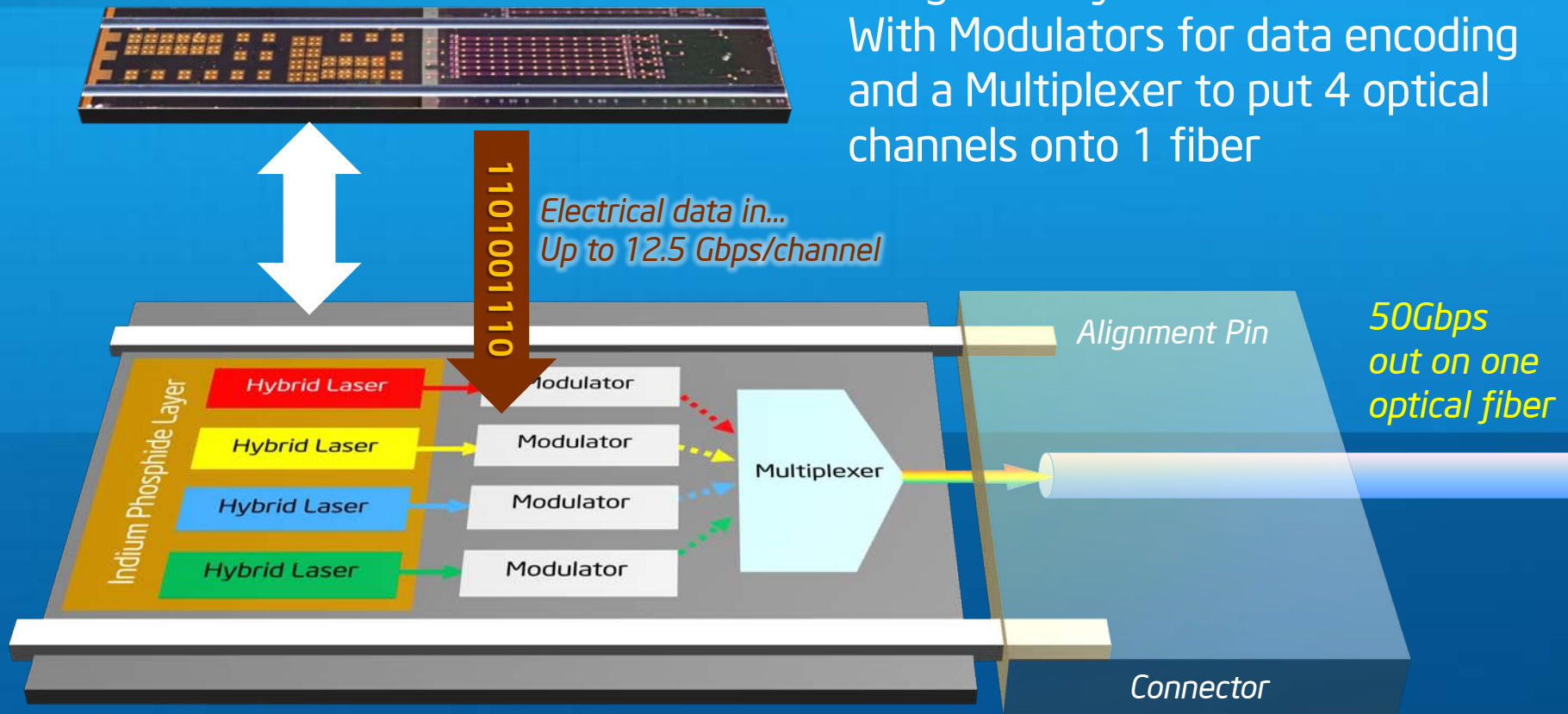
Transmit  
Module

Receiver  
Module



# Integrated Transmitter Chip

Integrates Hybrid Silicon Lasers With Modulators for data encoding and a Multiplexer to put 4 optical channels onto 1 fiber



**Parallel channels are key to scaling bandwidths at low costs**



# Key Technology: Hybrid Silicon Laser



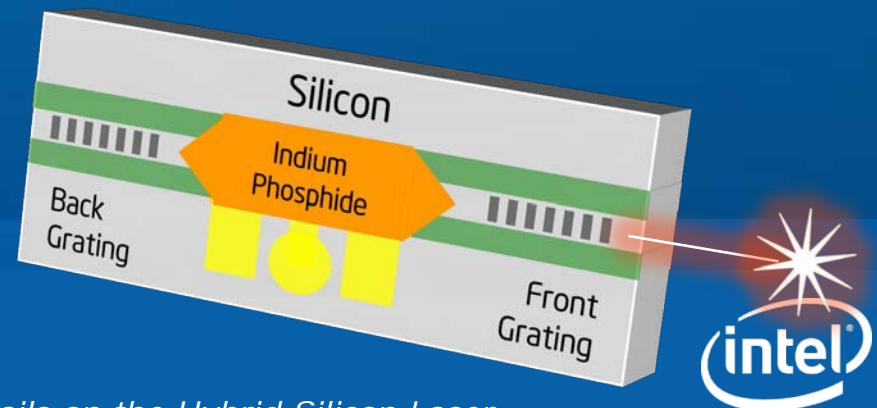
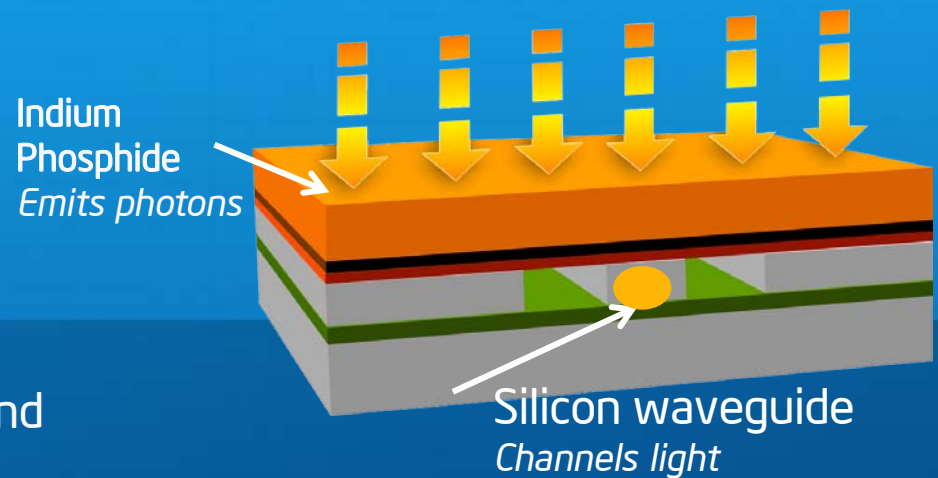
Research collaborations with Prof. John Bowers and team at UCSB paved way for Hybrid Silicon Laser breakthrough

## 2006

- Intel & UCSB develop a unique process to fuse InP to Silicon
- Can create 1000s of lasers with one bond

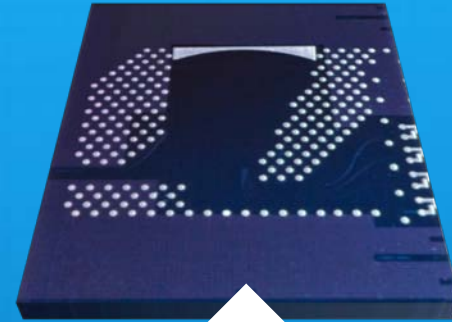
## 2008

Added etched gratings into waveguides that act as "mirrors," that are used to create different wavelengths of light

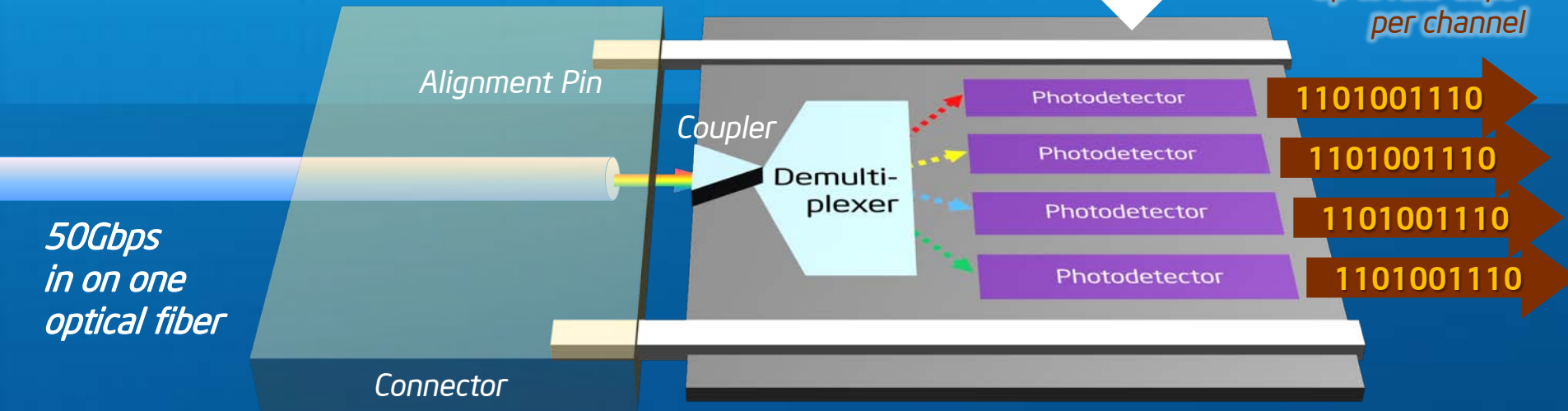


# Integrated Receiver Chip

Integrates a coupler to receive incoming light with a demultiplexer to split optical signals and Ge-on-Si photodetectors to convert photons to electrons



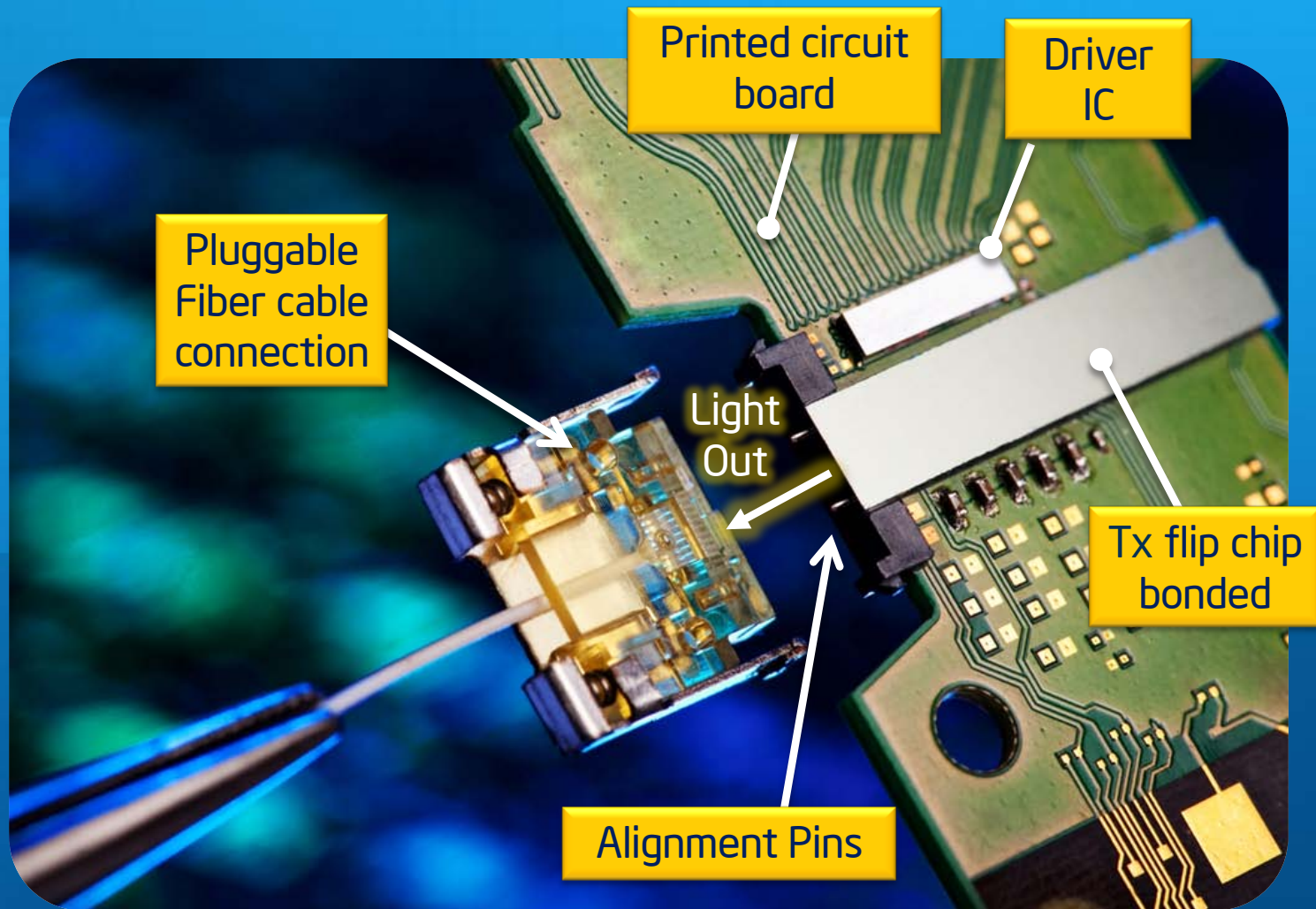
Electrical data out...  
Up to 12.5 Gbps  
per channel



**Receives 4 optical channels at 12.5Gbps and converts to electrical data**



# Enabling for High Volume Assembly



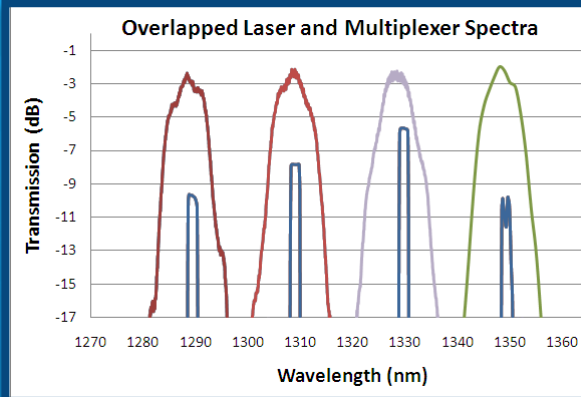
**Built using "PC-board" assembly techniques and passive optical connections**





# Measured Data

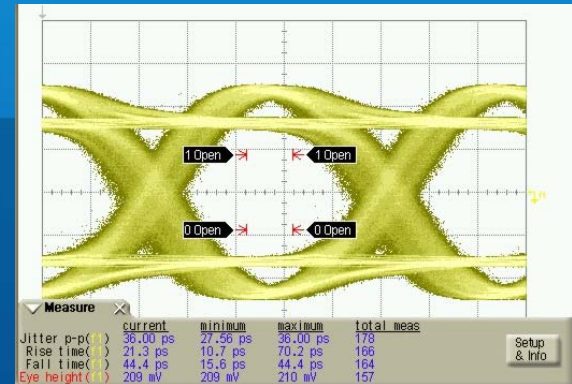
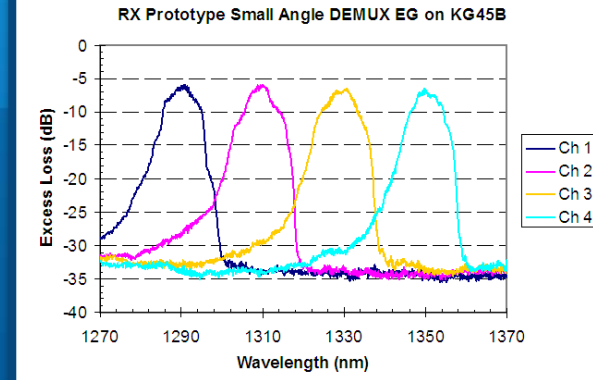
4 hybrid Silicon Laser Outputs



12.5Gbps data output per channel



Transmit



Receive



De-Multiplexer separates wavelengths

Electrical Output From Receiver

We ran link for more than a day with no errors (>1 Petabit)  
Translates to Bit-Error-Rate (BER) of  $< 3e^{-15}$



# The Path to Tera-scale Data Rates

Today: 12.5 Gbps x 4 = 50Gbps



25 Gbps x 4 = 100Gbps



Scale UP

40G, 100G...

Scale OUT

Speed	Width	Rate
12.5	x4	50G
12.5	x8	100G
25	x16	400G
40	x25	1T

12.5 Gbps x 8 = 100Gbps



Scale up AND out

Scale up AND out

Future  
Terabit+ Links

x16, x32...

Could enable cost-effective high speed I/O for data-intensive applications



# What Could You Download in <1 second?

**At 50  
Gigabit/s**

- An HD movie from iTunes
- 100 hours of digital music
- 1000 High-res photos
- 45 million tweets!

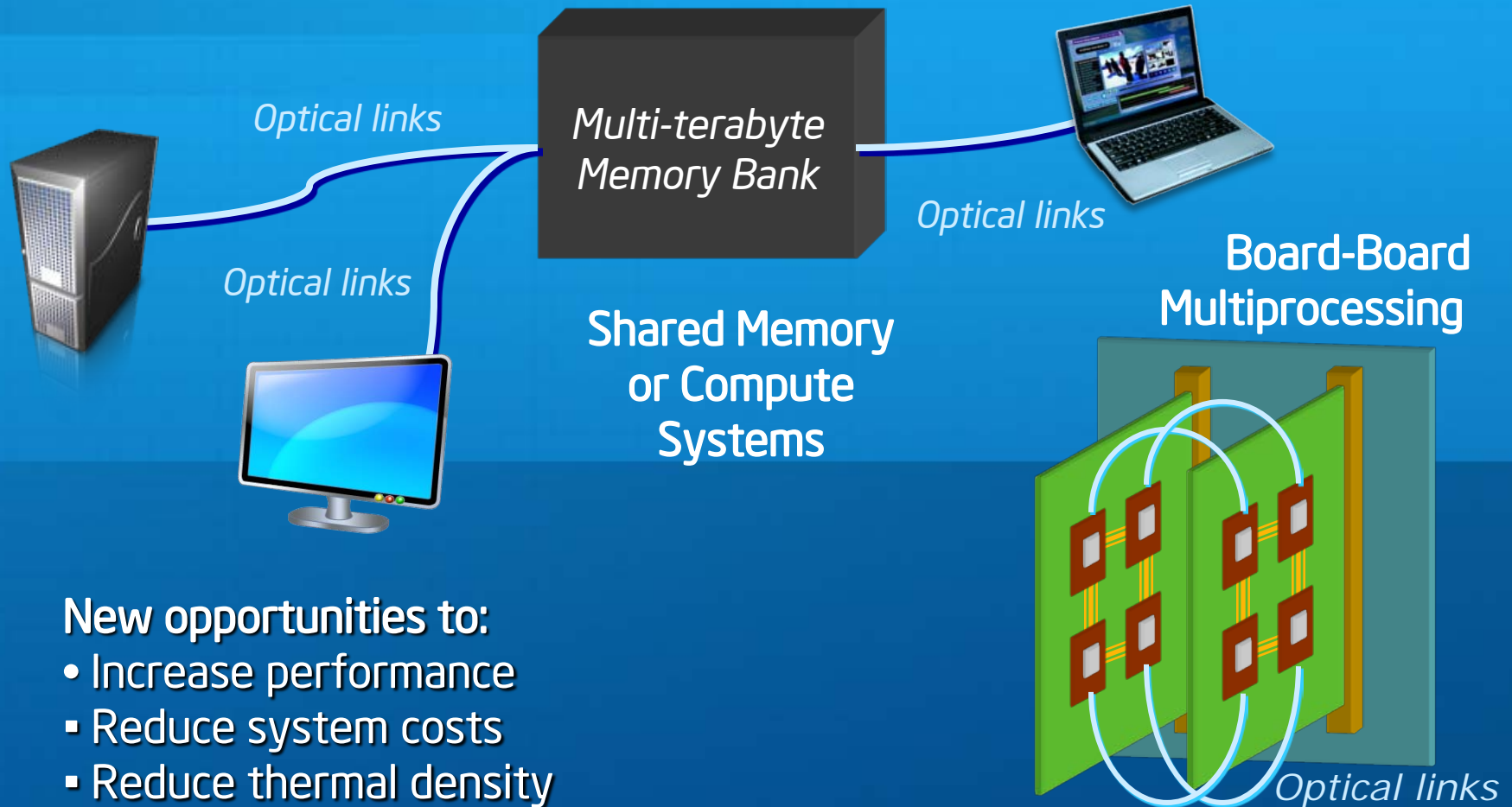
**At 1 Terabit/s  
(Future)**

- 2-3 seasons of a TV drama in HD
- The contents of a laptop hard drive
- An entire music library: 150+ albums

**1 Tbps could download the entire printed collection of the Library of Congress in about 1½ minutes!**



# Eliminating Distance Constraints



New opportunities to:

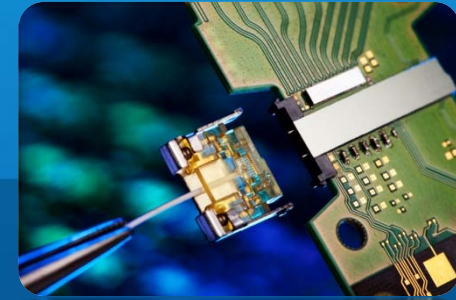
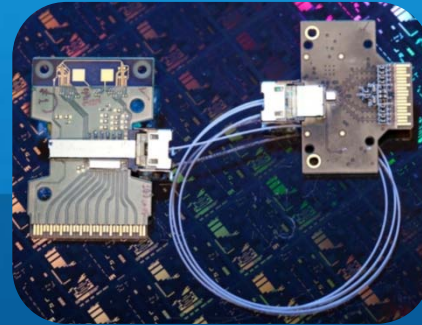
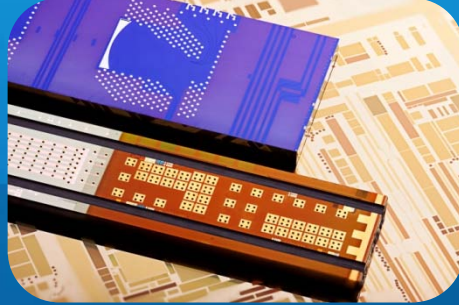
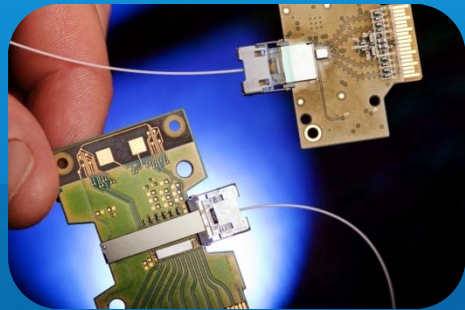
- Increase performance
- Reduce system costs
- Reduce thermal density

**Could revolutionize architectures for datacenters and cloud computing**



# Recap: 50G Silicon Photonics Link

- First Silicon Photonics data link with integrated laser
- Brings silicon manufacturing scalability to the Laser
- Integrates our previous breakthrough building blocks



## Going forward:

- Scale "up" and "out" towards Terabit/s bandwidth
  - Optimize our integration process and packaging
- Enable data-intensive apps for future Intel platforms





Thank You!

To learn more,  
Visit [www.intel.com/pressroom](http://www.intel.com/pressroom)  
and [www.intel.com/go/sp](http://www.intel.com/go/sp)

# Press References

## Industry Analysts:

- Martin Reynolds, Gartner VP  
+1-510-657-7067, [Martin.reynolds@gartner.com](mailto:Martin.reynolds@gartner.com)
- Jim McGregor, InStat Principal Analyst  
+1-480-609-4554, [jmcgregor@in-stat.com](mailto:jmcgregor@in-stat.com)

## Optical Technology Experts:

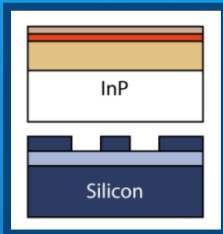
- Prof John Bowers, University of California at Santa Barbara  
Hybrid Silicon Laser expert and research collaborator  
+1-805-886-2357, [bowers@ece.ucsb.edu](mailto:bowers@ece.ucsb.edu)
- Prof Graham Reed, University of Surrey, UK  
Early silicon photonics pioneer and modulator expert  
+44 7833 626597, [G.Reed@surrey.ac.uk](mailto:G.Reed@surrey.ac.uk) (traveling in Pacific time zone)
- Prof Alan Willner, University of Southern California,  
Laser and high speed systems expert  
+1-213-272- 6942 [willner@email.usc.edu](mailto:willner@email.usc.edu) (traveling in Eastern time zone)



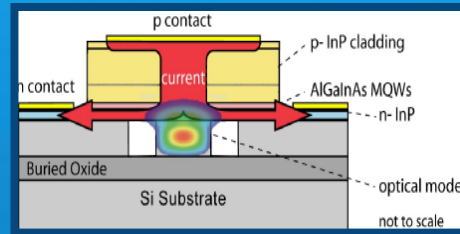
# Hybrid Silicon Laser

*(Developed with UCSB)*

- Creating a Silicon-based laser by bonding a III-V material (Indium Phosphide) onto Silicon

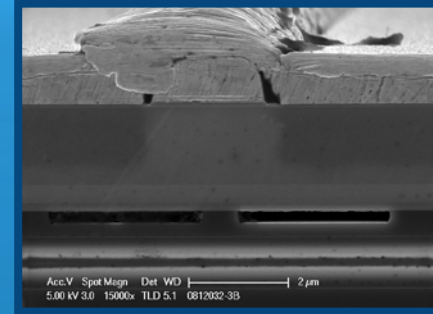


InP bonded to Si

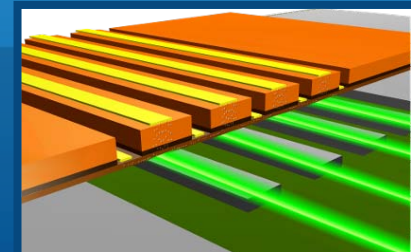


Cross Section of Hybrid Laser

- InP emits light when electrically stimulated
- Light bounces back and forth in silicon, and is amplified by the InP based material
- Mirrors are gratings etched into the silicon
  - Grating pitch defines the laser wavelength



SEM of Cross Section



One bond, no alignment needed

With ONE bond 1000's of lasers are aligned  
Can produce different wavelengths by simple lithography