

Flex-RV: World's First Non-silicon RISC-V Microprocessor

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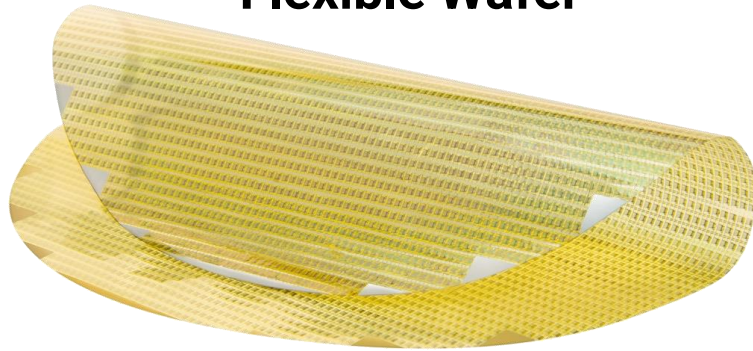
May 13th, 2025



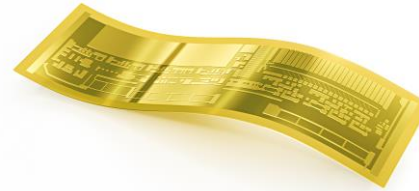
Company & FlexIC Technology

World leader in low-cost “physically” flexible integrated circuits or FlexICs

Flexible Wafer



FlexIC

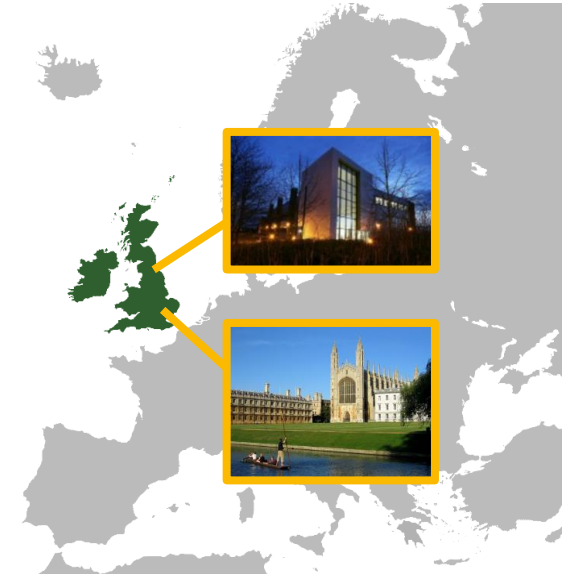


FlexIC Facts

Transistor: Metal-oxide thin-film transistor (TFT)
Semiconductor: IGZO (Indium Gallium Zinc Oxide)
Devices: n-type IGZO TFT, dedicated resistor & MiM capacitor
Substrate: Polyimide with total thickness <30 μm
Process geometry: $\leq 0.8 \mu\text{m}$ channel length
Logic: Resistive n-type
Fab: Low-cost lithography
Wafer Size: 200/300mm
Supply Voltage: $\leq 3\text{V}$
Routable metal layers: 4
Memory: ROM & LPRom
Under development: CMOS, EPROM, SRAM/SRAM compiler)



FlexLogic Fab - 1000m² footprint



2010

Founded

Cambridge Durham

UK headquarters UK manufacturing

~370

Employees

>\$400Mn

Investment to date



Flex-RV: Bendable RISC-V Microprocessor


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Bendable non-silicon RISC-V microprocessor

[Emre Ozer](#) , [Jedrzej Kufel](#), [Shvetank Prakash](#), [Alireza Raisiardi](#), [Olof Kindgren](#), [Ronald Wong](#), [Nelson Ng](#), [Damien Jausseran](#), [Feras Alkhalil](#), [David Kong](#), [Gage Hills](#), [Richard Price](#) & [Vijay Janapa Reddi](#)

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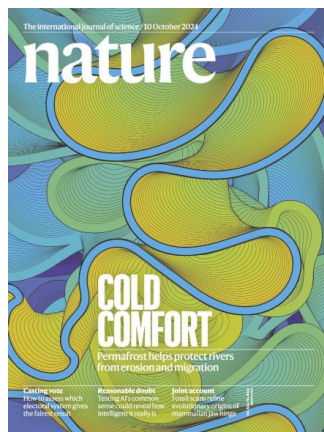
8892 Accesses | 112 Altmetric | [Metrics](#)

Collaboration



HARVARD
UNIVERSITY

 qamcom



Milestones

- First non-silicon RISC-V microprocessor
- Integrated ML capability
- Assembled onto a FlexPCB
- Demonstration of functionality while physically flexed

Motivation: Extreme Edge Applications

Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG)

Smart labels & packaging

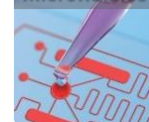


Smart switch



Healthcare

Microfluidics



Smart patch

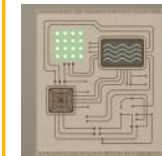
Smart dressing



Smart ingestibles



E-Textile

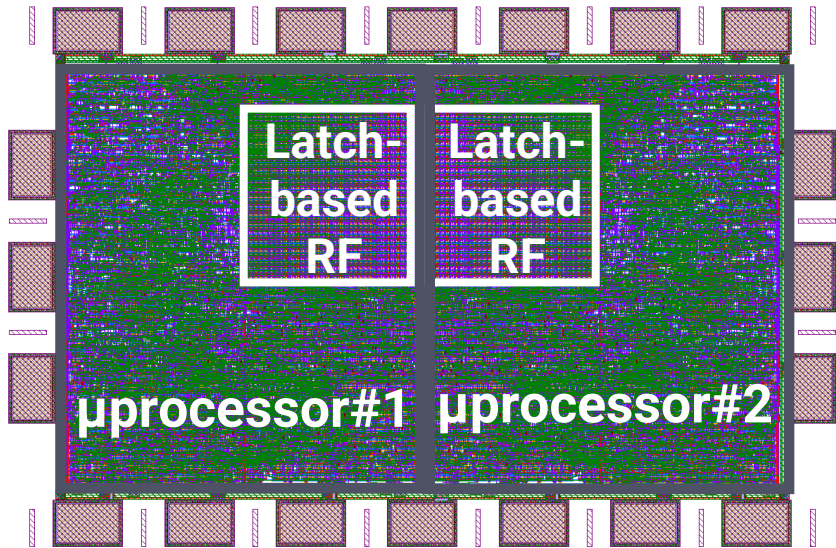
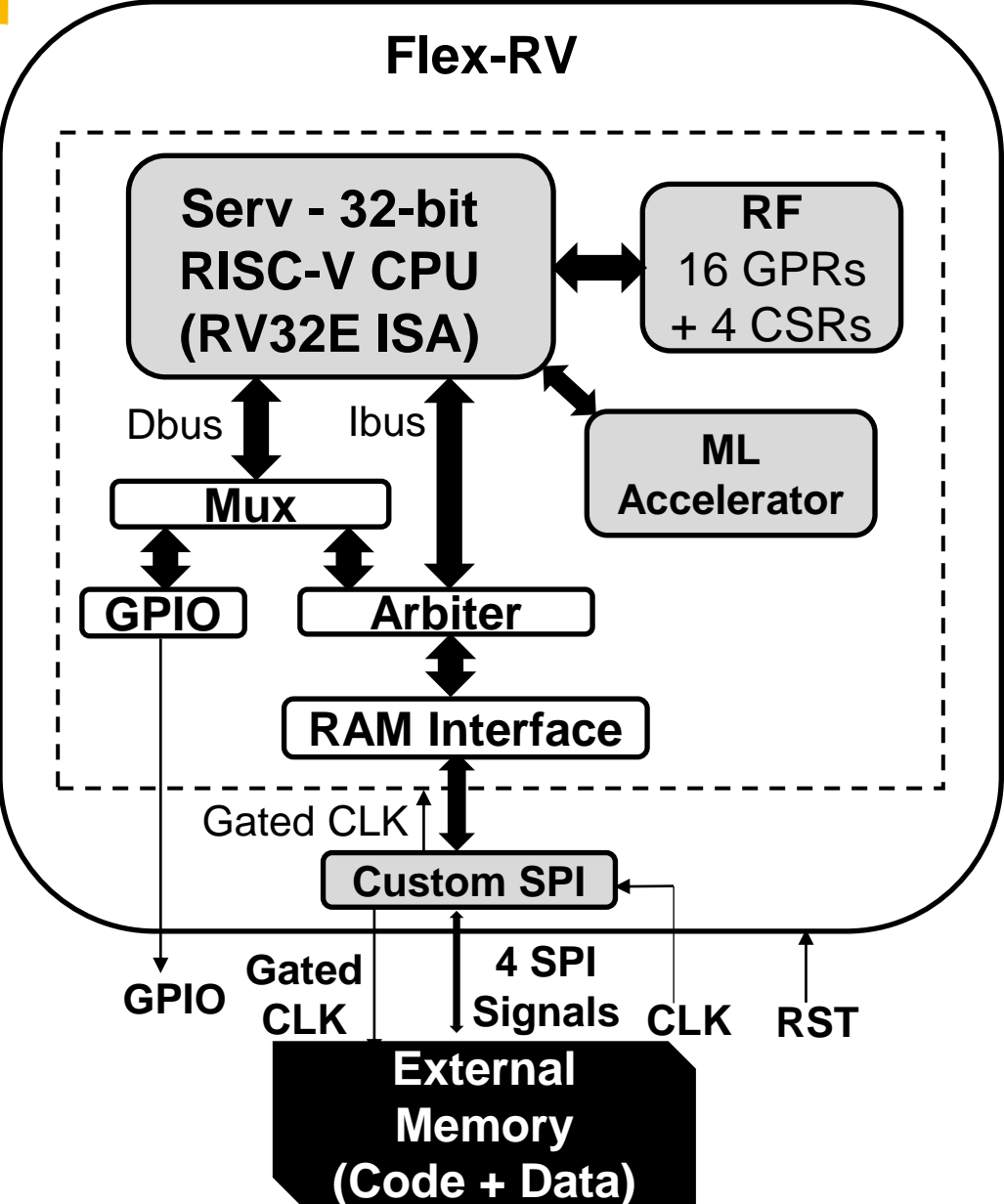


Agrotech





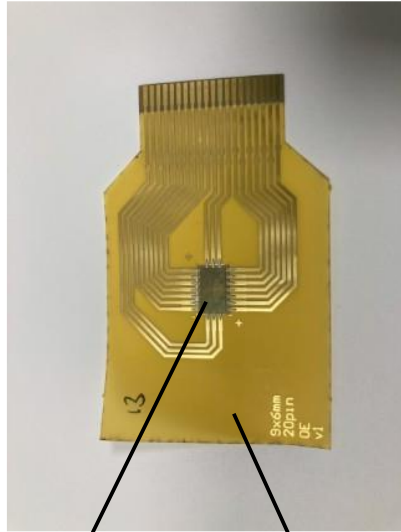
Flex-RV Design & Implementation



Technology	0.6 μm resistive n-type FlexIC
Area	17.49 mm ² per Flex-RV microprocessor
Gatecount	12,596 NAND2-equivalent per Flex-RV microprocessor
Implementation Clock Frequency	61 kHz
Power	5.79 mW @3V per Flex-RV microprocessor

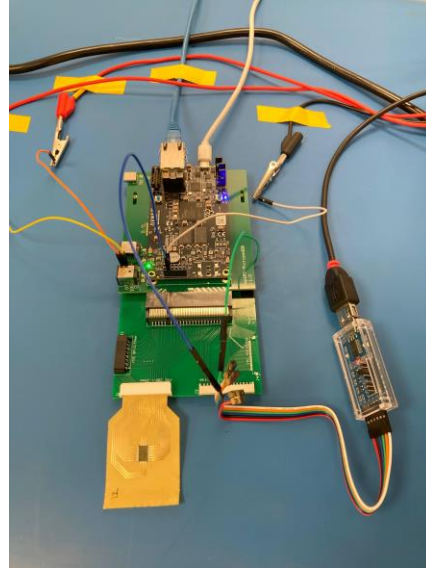


Assembly of Flex-RV onto a FlexPCB and Tests

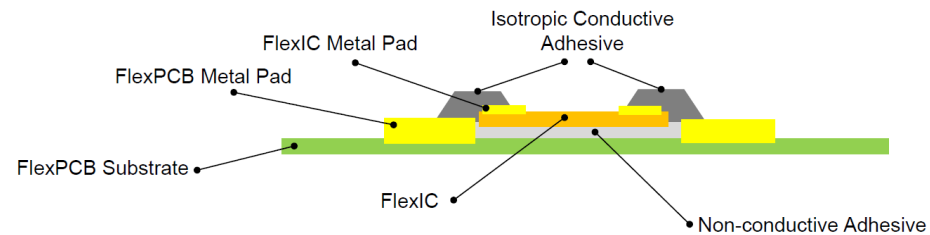
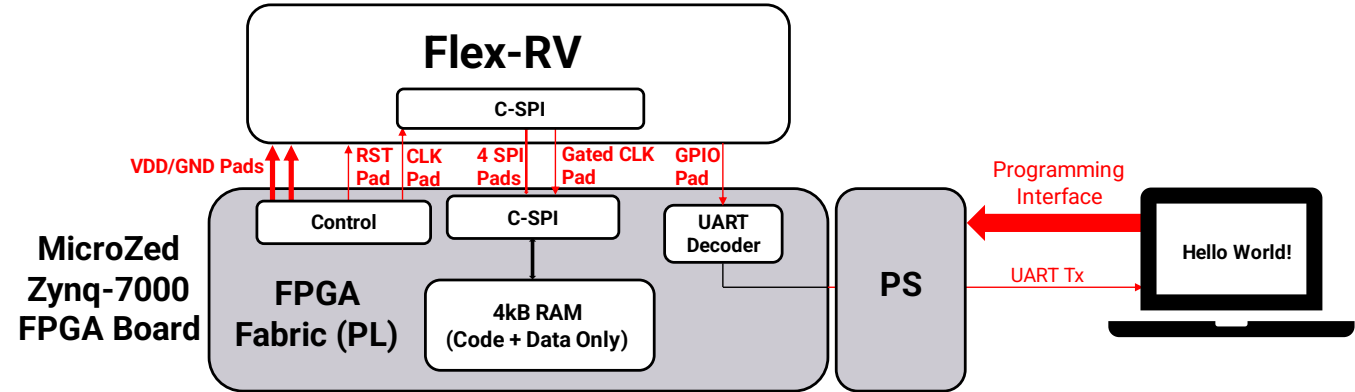


Flex-RV

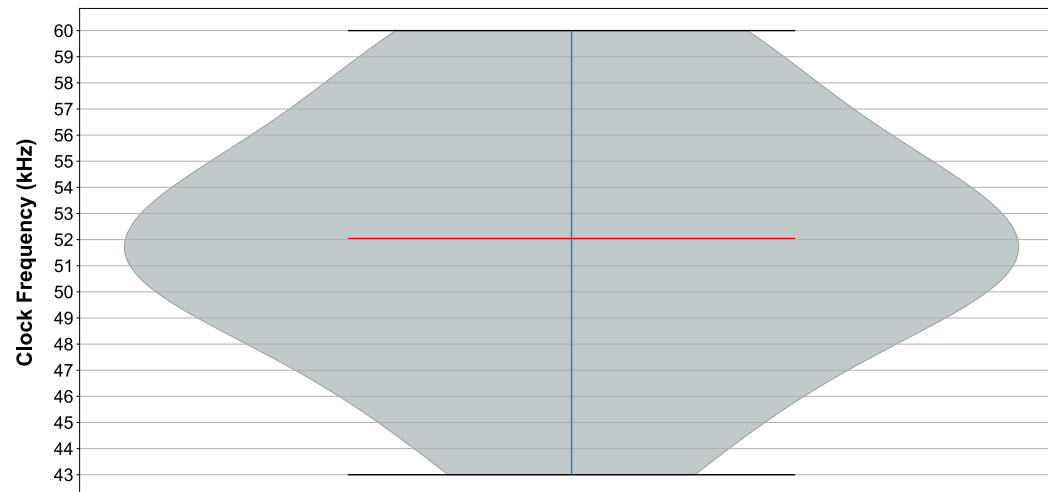
FlexPCB



MicroZed
Zynq-7000
FPGA Board



Over-Edge Printing

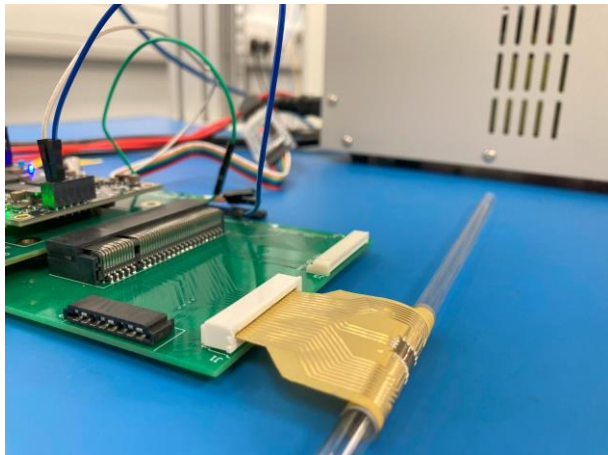


Average: 52kHz
Max: 60kHz

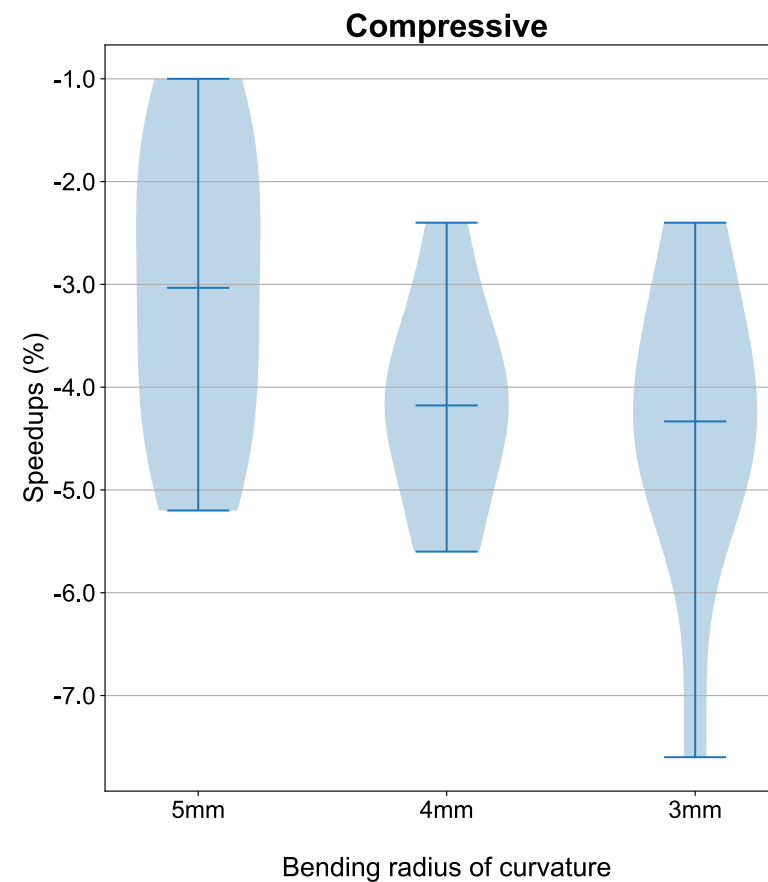
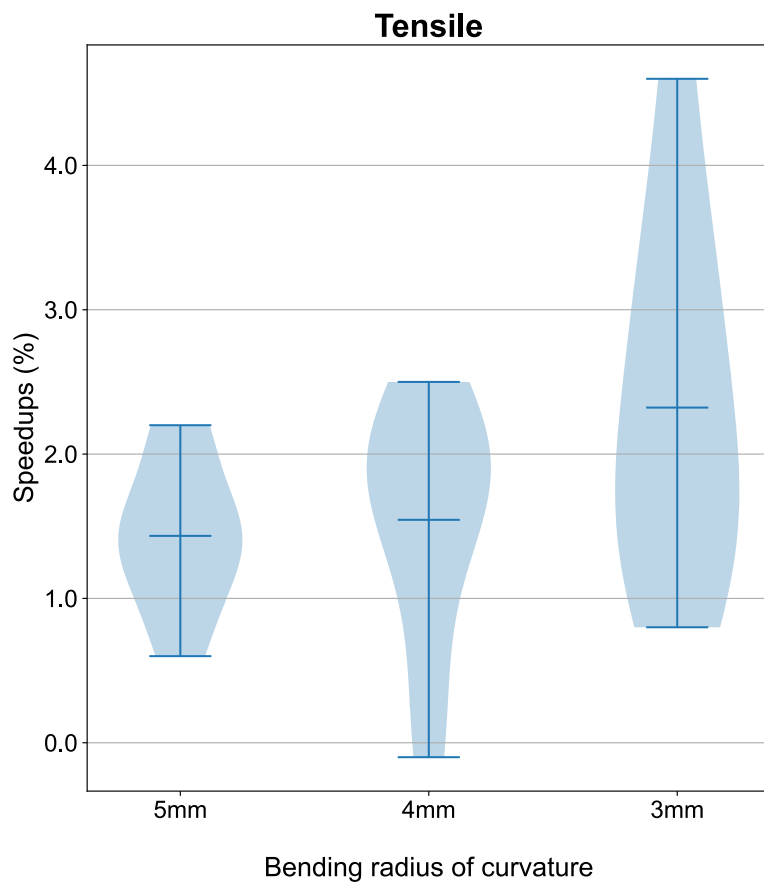
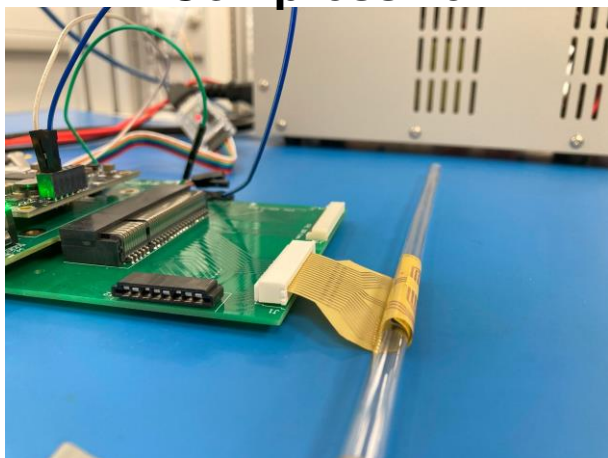


Bending Tests

Tensile



Compressive





Flex-RV Demo Video



Flex-RV is the first programmable and physically flexible general-purpose RISC-V microprocessor, featuring machine learning capabilities, and demonstrated to bend below a 5mm radius of curvature whilst still executing programs, all for less than a dollar.



Conclusion

First **non-silicon RISC-V processor** and can run arbitrary compiled programs written in high-level languages (e.g., C)

Integrated programmable ML accelerator with custom RISC-V instructions support to accelerate ML applications

Demonstration of functionality and dynamic bendability of **the assembled system (i.e., Flex-RV on Flex-PCB)**



Questions?

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