



1  
00:00:00,000 --> 00:00:08,000  
[SFX: Digital Beeping]

2  
00:00:08,000 --> 00:00:09,000  
[SFX: Scribbling]

3  
00:00:09,000 --> 00:00:15,000  
[SFX: Deep Bass]

4  
00:00:16,500 --> 00:00:18,600  
[Music]

5  
00:00:18,700 --> 00:00:23,600  
As part of NASA's Earth Observing Fleet  
Landsat has been monitoring the planet's health

6  
00:00:23,670 --> 00:00:29,770  
for over 40 years. With stunning images in  
multiple wavelengths, Landsat provides valuable

7  
00:00:29,770 --> 00:00:36,250  
data to farmers, scientist, city planners,  
as well as the public. And behind these images

8  
00:00:36,250 --> 00:00:42,040  
lies QWIP, the Quantum Well Infrared Photodector,  
which is processed here in the Detector Development

9  
00:00:42,040 --> 00:00:47,370  
Lab at NASA Goddard. Similar to the sensor  
in your digital camera or cell phone, the

10  
00:00:47,370 --> 00:00:52,360  
QWIP detector is designed to be more sensitive  
and to detect specific wavelengths. Let me

11  
00:00:52,360 --> 00:00:58,400  
show you how these high-end detectors are  
created. The spectrum of light contains many

12  
00:00:58,400 --> 00:01:03,710  
wavelengths of which the colors of visible light are a small portion. We have built and

13  
00:01:03,710 --> 00:01:10,440  
packaged detectors to cover wavelengths from Microwave to X-ray The basic goal of a detector

14  
00:01:10,440 --> 00:01:15,440  
is to absorb the energy from a region of these wavelengths of light and turn it into an electrical

15  
00:01:15,440 --> 00:01:21,640  
signal. The first step for us is to take the wavelength, resolution, and sensitivity requirements

16  
00:01:21,640 --> 00:01:27,970  
of the mission and turn that into a detector design using CAD software. The layout is sliced

17  
00:01:27,970 --> 00:01:32,730  
into individual layers or masks that will be combined during fabrication to create the

18  
00:01:32,730 --> 00:01:39,730  
final detector device. Welcome to the Detector Development Lab. This is a unique, Class 100

19  
00:01:39,960 --> 00:01:46,170  
clean room where we have the agility and technology to develop first-of-a-kind detectors as well

20  
00:01:46,170 --> 00:01:51,670  
as the experience and the process control to turn those into flight qualified products.

21  
00:01:51,670 --> 00:01:57,140  
All of the specialized equipment in this lab is used for 1 of 3 general purposes - Lithography,

22  
00:01:57,140 --> 00:02:04,140  
Etching, and Deposition. Together these 3 processes make up our basic toolset. The first

23  
00:02:05,210 --> 00:02:10,300  
basic process is called Lithography. Don't adjust your picture, the yellow lights provide

24  
00:02:10,300 --> 00:02:15,280  
protection for photoresist, a photosensitive polymer that is used to define the detector

25  
00:02:15,280 --> 00:02:21,330  
geometries to as small as 1 micron. The first step in lithography is to apply photoresist

26  
00:02:21,330 --> 00:02:26,220  
to the substrate. This is done by spinning on a liquid suspension of the polymer in the

27  
00:02:26,220 --> 00:02:31,849  
spin-coater. The coated wafer is taken to the photo-mask aligner, where the chrome-on-quartz

28  
00:02:31,849 --> 00:02:36,510  
mask that was created by the design and layout is placed in extremely close proximity to

29  
00:02:36,510 --> 00:02:43,209  
the substrate and aligned to existing patterns with in a micron of accuracy. A UV light source

30  
00:02:43,209 --> 00:02:50,209  
exposes the photoresist through the mask, transferring the pattern into the photoresist.

31  
00:02:50,700 --> 00:02:56,290  
Finally the substrate is developed, rinsing away the exposed areas of the photoresist.

32  
00:02:56,290 --> 00:03:02,029  
The next step is to use this protective mask and etch to remove material from the exposed

33  
00:03:02,029 --> 00:03:08,769  
areas of the substrate. We have a wide variety of methods for removing materials including

34  
00:03:08,769 --> 00:03:15,769  
wet chemical etchants, reactive plasmas, and ion sputtering. In one of the most fascinating

35  
00:03:17,260 --> 00:03:22,430  
examples, the Deep-Reactive-Ion Etcher uses short etching and passivation cycles in a

36  
00:03:22,430 --> 00:03:29,430  
high-power ICP chamber to etch silicon 100's of microns deep with 100:1 aspect ratios.

37  
00:03:29,909 --> 00:03:34,540  
After etching, the photoresist mask is stripped off in a solvent and the substrate is ready

38  
00:03:34,540 --> 00:03:41,540  
for deposition of the next layer of material. Deposition is the third basic process in our

39  
00:03:42,529 --> 00:03:49,529  
toolset and it covers a wide range of specific processes and materials. During deposition,

40  
00:03:50,169 --> 00:03:55,290  
a thin film of material is added back to the surface of the detector's substrate. Materials

41  
00:03:55,290 --> 00:04:00,379  
run the gamut from insulating dielectrics to metal-nitrides, to pure metals and even

42

00:04:00,379 --> 00:04:06,099

superconductors. Here in the Atomic-Layer-Deposition system, single atomic layers of materials

43

00:04:06,099 --> 00:04:12,709

can be built up one-by-one for precise control of thickness and uniformity. Once the deposition

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00:04:12,709 --> 00:04:19,199

is complete the substrate goes back to lithography to pattern the new layer of material. In building

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00:04:19,199 --> 00:04:25,350

up the designed detector we start with a substrate such as silicon or gallium arsenide wafers.

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00:04:25,350 --> 00:04:31,780

Next, numerous iteration of these 3 basic process steps are applied to the substrate

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00:04:31,780 --> 00:04:36,450

in order to build up the materials and geometry needed to detect the energy of interest such

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00:04:36,450 --> 00:04:42,280

as IR, define the pixels and allow electrical read-out, while meeting all the scientific

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00:04:42,280 --> 00:04:48,660

requirements for the mission. Here is a gallium arsenide wafer with 16 QWIP arrays that has

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00:04:48,660 --> 00:04:54,660

completed fabrication. The substrate is taken to our packaging lab where it is diced into

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00:04:54,660 --> 00:05:00,620

individual dies. The die are screened, then meticulously cleaned and indium-bump bonded

52  
00:05:00,620 --> 00:05:06,030  
directly to a specialized Read-Out Integrated  
Circuit, which converts the raw electrons

53  
00:05:06,030 --> 00:05:10,700  
generated in each detector pixel to a signal  
that can be interfaced to the instrument's

54  
00:05:10,700 --> 00:05:17,700  
computers. Finally, the detector and ROIC  
are bonded to the necessary fixtures and PC

55  
00:05:17,700 --> 00:05:23,010  
boards and the detector subsystem is ready  
for integration with the rest of the scientific

56  
00:05:23,010 --> 00:05:29,130  
instrument. The QWIP detector on Landsat 8  
is just one example of many missions supported

57  
00:05:29,130 --> 00:05:35,260  
by the DDL. We have built and packaged detectors  
to cover wavelengths from X-ray to microwave,

58  
00:05:35,260 --> 00:05:42,260  
in support of missions such as ASTRO-H, SWIFT,  
HAWC, Suzaku, and JWST. Each detector was

59  
00:05:44,910 --> 00:05:50,260  
specifically designed to meet the science  
and mission requirements, developed, fabricated,

60  
00:05:50,260 --> 00:05:55,960  
packaged, tested, and delivered for integration.  
These unique capabilities at Goddard have