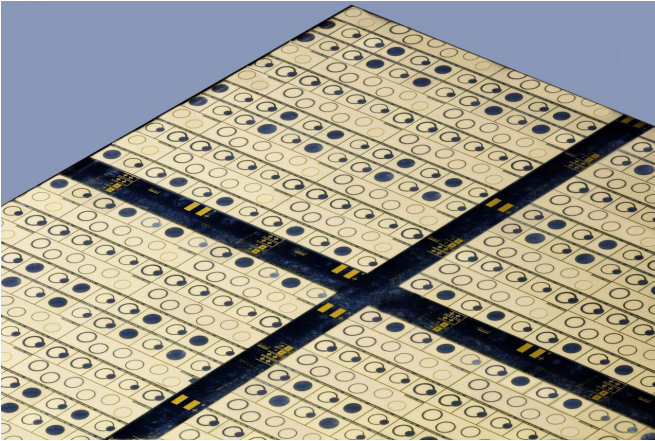


# Energy-efficient power electronics: Gallium oxide power transistors with record values

27 August 2019



Gallium oxide chip with transistor structures and for measurement purposes, processed at FBH via projection lithography. Credit: FBH/schurian.com

The Ferdinand-Braun-Institut (FBH) has achieved a breakthrough with transistors based on gallium oxide ( $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>). The newly developed  $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-MOSFETs (metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor) provide a high breakdown voltage combined with high current conductivity.

Powerful electronic components are indispensable for future communications, for the digital transformation of society and for artificial intelligence applications. On a footprint as small as possible, they should offer low energy consumption and achieve ever higher power densities, thus working more efficiently. This is where conventional devices reach their limits. Scientists all over the world are therefore investigating new materials and components that can meet these requirements. The Ferdinand-Braun-Institut (FBH) has now achieved a breakthrough with [transistors](#) based on gallium oxide ( $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>).

The newly developed  $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>-MOSFETs (metal-oxide-semiconductor field-effect transistor) provide

a high breakdown voltage combined with high current conductivity. With a breakdown voltage of 1.8 kilovolts and a record power figure of merit of 155 megawatts per square centimeter, they achieve unique performance figures close to the theoretical material limit of [gallium oxide](#). At the same time, the breakdown field strengths achieved are significantly higher than those of established wide bandgap semiconductors such as [silicon carbide](#) or gallium nitride.

## Optimized layer structure and gate topology

In order to achieve these improvements, the FBH team tackled the layer structure and gate topology. The basis was provided by substrates from the Leibniz-Institut für Kristallzüchtung with an optimized epitaxial layer structure. As a result, the defect density could be reduced and [electrical properties](#) improved. This leads to lower on-state resistances. The gate is the central 'switching point' of [field effect transistors](#), controlled by the gate-source [voltage](#). Its topology has been further optimized, allowing to reduce high field strengths at the gate edge. This in turn leads to higher breakdown voltages. The detailed results were published online on August 26, 2019 in the *IEEE Electron Device Letters* September issue.

**More information:** Kornelius Tetzner et al. Lateral 1.8 kV  $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> MOSFET With 155 MW/cm<sup>2</sup> Power Figure of Merit, *IEEE Electron Device Letters* (2019). [DOI: 10.1109/LED.2019.2930189](#)

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