

Microwave Journal



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ELECTRONICA

005

Semiconductors, MMICs and RFICs

The New Power Brokers: High Voltage RF Devices

Determining "Hot S_{22} " for Power Amplifiers

PIN Diode Tradeoffs



LDMOS

GaN

GaAs

Si Bipolar

RF CMOS



Founded in 1958

0.1 GHz

2 GHz

5 GHz

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I have just finished reading the RFID article on page 58 of the March issue. I would like to correct the author's description of the Cardullo/Parks device covered by US Patent # 3,713,148. I am the co-inventor and designer of the device and I am also a co-founder of the company that designed the device. The author states the device is a "passive" transponder. My understanding of passive devices is that they use "backscatter" as the retransmission technique. Our device had an RF transmitter stage. This was necessary as we needed much more range than is possible with passive backscatter devices. The device was also RF carrier powered and therefore needed no batteries. Finally, the device had a rewriteable memory. That was a lot of technology for 1970.

We thought we had a device that would revolutionize such chores as collecting tolls, keeping track of railroad cars, etc. Sadly, when we presented the device to the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey they turned us down. One of the reasons they gave was because it "violated driver's rights" to photograph them for failing to pay the toll and therefore they were not interested. The Southern Rail Road had a barcode scanner and they were not interested. San Francisco's BART also turned us down. And so it went. It's hell being first and a small business.

Yours,

William Parks

PS: I enjoyed the article.

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