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| **Radiocommunication Study Groups** |  |
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| Annex 2 to Working Party 1A Chairman’s Report | |
| preliminary draft new Report ITU-R SM.[THZ.tREND] | |
| Technology trends of active services in the band above 275 GHz | |

Scope

This Report contains technology trends of active services in the band above 275 GHz. This Report intends to provide technical information for preparation of sharing and compatibility studies between active and passive services, as well as among active services   
in the band above 275 GHz.

Abbreviations and acronyms

ATR Attenuated Total Reflection spectrometry

BNA N-Benzyl-2-Methyl-4-Nitroaniline

BWO Backward-Wave Oscillator

DAST Diethylaminosulfur Trifluoride

DFG Difference Frequency Generation

FEL Free-Electron Laser

FTIR Fourier Transform Infrared spectroscopy

HBT Heterojunction Bipolar Transistor

HEMT High Electron Mobility Transistor

IMPATT Impact Ionization Avalanche Transit-Time

LoS Line of Sight

LT-GaAs Low Temperature grown Gallium Arsenide

MMIC Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuit

NEP Noise Equivalent Power

NFC Near Field Communication

NLoS Non Line of Sight

QCL Quantum Cascade Laser

RTD Resonant Tunnelling Diode

TDS Time Domain Spectroscopy

TNNNET Tunnel Injection Transit-Time

THz Terahertz

UTC-PD Uni-Traveling-Carrier Photodiode

References

Recommendation ITU-R [P.676](http://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-P.676/en): Attenuation by atmospheric gases

Recommendation ITU-R [P.838](http://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-P.836/en): Specific attenuation model for rain for use in prediction methods

Recommendation ITU-R [P.840](http://www.itu.int/rec/R-REC-P.840/en): Attenuation due to clouds and fog

Report ITU-R [RS.2194](http://www.itu.int/pub/R-REP-RA.2189): Passive bands of scientific interest to EESS/SRS from 275 to 3 000 GHz

Report ITU-R [RA.2189](http://www.itu.int/pub/R-REP-RA.2189): Sharing between the radio astronomy service and active services in the frequency range 275-3 000 GHz

Report ITU-R [F.2107-2](http://www.itu.int/pub/R-REP-F.2107): Characteristics and applications of fixed wireless systems operating in frequency ranges between 57 GHz and 134 GHz

APT/ASTAP/REPT-04: Technology trends of telecommunications above 100 GHz

# 1 Introduction

The spectrum of frequencies above 275 GHz is not allocated for specific services, but identified for passive service in the Radio Regulation (RR). The spectrum regulation of frequencies above 3 000 GHz is still under study in accordance with Resolution 118 (Marrakesh, 2002)**.** At the World Radiocommunication Conference 2012 (WRC-12), RR No. **5.565** was amended in accordance with Resolution **950 (Rev.WRC-07)** to identify for use by administrations for passive service applications, such as radio astronomy service, earth exploration-satellite service (passive) and space research service (passive). However, the use of the range 275-1 000 GHz by the passive services does not preclude use of this range by active services.

New Question ITU-R 237/1,”Technical and operational characteristics of the active services” was developed and approved in 2013 to encourage administrations to study the technical and operational characteristics of active services in the frequency range 275-1 000 GHz. In addition to the technical and operational characteristics, sharing studies between active and passive services, as well as among active services are expected to be carried out taking into account those characteristics in accordance with the new Question ITU-R 237/1.

Due to remarkable progress in the recent technologies above 275 GHz, the integrated devices and circuits operating above 275 GHz enable us to achieve the sophisticated applications, such as spectroscopy, imaging, non-destructive testing and THz camera. Although the advantages of such high frequencies are to use ultra-broad bandwidth which cannot be allotted in the microwave and millimetre-wave frequency bands, , those advantages are not yet utilized to develop the ultra-high speed wireless communication systems.

In order to reflect the advancement of terahertz (THz) technologies into the radiocommunication applications, it is necessary and urgent to understand the current technology trends of active services in the band above 275 GHz.

In addition to remarkable progress of THz technologies, IEEE802 currently established IEEE 802.15.3d Task Group to develop IEEE802 standard operating at THz frequency ranges. However, the frequency ranges above 275 GHz for active services are not yet identified, nor have allocations made to any service in this range in the Radio Regulation. It is also urgent from the regulatory point-of-view to understand technical and operational characteristics of active systems to avoid interference between the passive services operating in this range and the active services to be developed and deployed in the near future.

This Report overviews the technology trend of active systems studied in the band above 275 GHz and intends to provide technical information for preparation of sharing and compatibility studies. The technologies discussed in this Report are in the areas of THz wireless communication, sensing and imaging.

# 2 Regulatory information

No. **5.565** of the Radio Regulation was amended to identify for use by administrations for passive service applications, such as radio astronomy service, earth exploration-satellite service (passive) and space research service (passive) at WRC-12. RR (Edition of 2012) No. **5.565** is shown below:

275-3 000 GHz

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Allocation to services | | |
| Region 1 | Region 2 | Region 3 |
| **275-3 000** (Not allocated) MOD 5.565 | | |

**5.565** The following frequency bands in the range 275-1 000 GHz are identified for use by administrations for passive service applications:

– radio astronomy service: 275-323 GHz, 327-371 GHz, 388-424 GHz, 426-442 GHz, 453-510 GHz, 623-711 GHz, 795-909 GHz and 926-945 GHz;

– Earth exploration-satellite service (passive) and space research service (passive): 275‑286 GHz, 296-306 GHz, 313-356 GHz, 361-365 GHz, 369-392 GHz, 397‑399 GHz, 409-411 GHz, 416-434 GHz, 439-467 GHz, 477-502 GHz, 523‑527 GHz, 538‑581 GHz, 611-630 GHz, 634-654 GHz, 657-692 GHz, 713‑718 GHz, 729‑733 GHz, 750-754 GHz, 771-776 GHz, 823-846 GHz, 850‑854 GHz, 857-862 GHz, 866-882 GHz, 905-928 GHz, 951-956 GHz, 968-973 GHz and 985-990 GHz.

The use of the range 275-1 000 GHz by the passive services does not preclude use of this range by active services. Administrations wishing to make frequencies in the 275-1 000 GHz range available for active service applications are urged to take all practicable steps to protect these passive services from harmful interference until the date when the Table of Frequency Allocations is established in the above-mentioned 275-1 000 GHz frequency range.

All frequencies in the range 1 000-3 000 GHz may be used by both active and passive services. (WRC-12)

# 3 THz wireless communication

There are a number of research activities on ultra-broadband wireless communication systems in the frequency band above 275 GHz. Some researches aim at ultra-high-speed wireless communication systems which interface 40-Gbps and 100-Gbps Ethernet. Due to high capacity transmission capability and large propagation loss of communication links using THz technologies, these links can operate as the last mile access links. Several trials using the frequency above 275 GHz have been demonstrated by R&D organizations.

## 3.1 Possible use case of THz communication systems

In examining use cases of THz communications, the following specific points should be considered:

• Utilization of ultrawide frequency band width

• Possibility of miniaturization of antenna and device

• High directivity and large free space propagation loss (wavelength is less than 1/5 of the 60GHz band, and although free space propagation loss is 25 times or more, it is compensated by high gain antenna characteristics)

• Development of manufacturing technology such as for oscillators, power amplifiers, and beam steering antennae

### 3.1.1 Super-proximity communication between chips and between circuit boards

Figure 1 shows a use case of super-proximity communication between chips and between circuit boards. Wirelessly connecting parts and circuit boards are expected to have the effect of eliminating wiring and miniaturizing substrates and devices.

Table 1 shows the typical requirements of this use case. It is summarised that communication distances when implementing ICs and/or layering IC-implemented substrates in the same housing will range from a few mm to a few tens of cm.

Regarding transmission speed, a speed of 10 Gbps has already been prescribed for USB3.1, and for PCIExpress 4.0, a transfer speed for the data link layer has been standardized at 4 GB/sec = 32 Gbps (bidirectional), and additionally, up to 4 GB/sec x 64 = 256 GB/sec (2 Tbps) which bundles up to 64 lanes have been specified.

While it is not always necessary to support communication exceeding Tbps, with communication between chips and between circuit boards utilizing THz communication, ultra high speed transmission exceeding at least a few tens of Gbps will be required.

Regarding propagation environment, it is necessary to examine both LoS and NLoS communication as a proximity model or super-proximity in housing which assumes a metallic housing accompanied by the strong reflective waves. It is necessary to consider the effect of multipath between devices arranged in super-proximity, and multipath via device housing inner walls by the penetration of THz waves through substrates.

Figure 1

Use case of super-proximity communication between chips and between circuit boards



Table 1

Typical requirements.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Communication distance | A few mm to a few cm (super-proximity to proximity) |
| Data speed | A few tens of Gbps |
| Propagation environment | Super-proximity in housing and proximity model (LoS/NLoS) |
| Required BER | 10-9 |

### 3.1.2 Content synchronization with the cloud through near field communication

Figure 2 shows a use case of content synchronization with the cloud through near field communication. Recently, services which utilize the cloud have been rapidly increasing, together with collaboration services between a rapidly increasing smartphone and the cloud.

Cloud storage service is one of cloud services which store photos and video shot on a user’s smartphone through a network without making the user conscious of this synching process. However, packet communication utilizing 3G and LTE used by smartphones to frequently synchronize contents on the cloud without the user being conscious of it, leads to unexpected increases in battery consumption.

This use case assumes that, in addition to IC charging function at automated ticket gates at train stations, users can possess smartphones equipped with THz communication function. When passing through a train station ticket gate on your way to the office or school, simultaneously content synchronization through THz communication will suppress smartphone battery consumption.

Table 2 shows the typical requirements for these use cases. Although communication distance is less than a few cm, to synchronize an effective data volume or content during a very short time period of about 1 second, it is desirable that communication speed be made as fast as possible.   
For this purpose, in addition to communication speed, it will also be necessary to develop an authentication and association system which will enable the communication link establishment time to be made very short. On the other hand, even if THz near field communication exceeding   
100 Gbps is feasible, it is necessary to investigate whether or not the storage reading and writing speed, which smartphones assumed in these use cases are equipped with, is compatible with such high speed transmission. As one example, the reading and writing speed of SSD (Solid State Disc) declared to presently be the fastest in the world, is about 500 Mbytes/sec. (4 Gbps).

It is also assumed that the propagation environment will be an inter-device proximity model which applies only to LoS. Investigating whether or not multipath reflections between devices in proximity will affect data transfer needs to be studied.

Figure 2

Use case of content synchronization with the cloud through near field communication



Table 2

Typical requirements

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Communication distance | Up to a few cm (proximity) |
| Data speed | 4 Gbps – a few tens of Gbps |
| Propagation environment | Inter-device proximity model (LoS) |
| Required BER | 8% PER (before retransmission control) |

### 3.1.3 Wireless communication between servers inside a data center

Figure 3 shows a use case of THz communication between servers inside a data center. Recently, services utilizing the cloud have been rapidly increasing and have accelerated the construction of data centers. Generally, several server racks equipped with various servers including storage and multiple switches can be found in data centers, and it is desirable that the wiring between servers within server racks and the wiring between racks be made wireless.

Table 3 shows the typical requirements in this use case. Communication distances from a few cm, assuming connection between servers arranged vertically within server racks, to a few m assuming connection between racks.

Regarding the propagation environment, it is necessary to consider both LoS and NLoS which assumes an office model where building materials with comparatively low permeability   
(high reflectivity) are utilized, but if we envision a special case where the server rack is placed near the wall surface and cable connections between rear panels are replaced by THz communication link, a two-wave model can be applied between rear panels.

Figure 3

Wireless communication between servers inside a data center



Table 3

Typical requirements

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Communication distance | A few cm – a few m (proximity) |
| Data speed | A few tens of Gbps – a few hundreds of Gbps |
| Propagation environment | Office model/two-wave model (LoS/NLoS) |
| Required BER | 8% PER (before retransmission control) |

## 3.2 THz transceiver technologies

### 3.2.1 300 GHz transceiver using MMIC

Figure 4 shows a block diagram of the overall structure of a transmitter module. A diagonal horn antenna, power amplifier, modulator, and multiplier are mounted in the metal waveguide package. The multiplier multiples 75 GHz carrier generated by local oscillator and the 20 GHz signals are supplied to the modulator. To evaluate the transmission module, an evaluation system is configured by installing a receiver module to perform evaluation. The receiver module consists of a standard horn antenna (24 dBi) and a waveguide module equipped with a Schottky barrier diode. Figure 5 shows the measured spectrum of a 20 Gbps ASK signal (300 GHz) at the power amplifier output terminal. A modulating signal at a center frequency of 300 GHz+/-20 GHz was observed by the output spectrum the modulator, as shown in Figure 6.

Figure 4

Blockdiagram of transmitter module



Figure 5

Eyediagram of 20 Gbps signal of transmitter module



Figure 6

Output spectrum of power amplifier



### 3.2.2 300 GHz transceiver using RTD

The oscillator is the so-called resonant tunneling diode (RTD), which oscillates at an appropriate DC bias voltage. By changing the bias voltage, 300-GHz carrier signal is modulated as ON and OFF depending on the amplitude of the bias voltage. As for the receiver, the direct-detection receiver is used, as shown in Figure 7. The maximum bit rate was 1.5 Gbps and the transmission of uncompressed HDTV signals was succeeded by diode technologies. It is also demonstrated that the RTD can be also operated as a detector with high sensitivity. An error-free 2.5 Gbps transmission at 625 GHz using frequency multiplier for the transmitter was also demonstrated.

Figure 7

Block diagram of the wireless link using diode technologies



*[Editor’s note: Information on technical characteristics of THz transceivers needs to be further provided to prepare for sharing studies between passive and active services at the next meeting]*

# 4 Sensing and imaging

THz waves possess moderate substance permeability and good spatial resolution, as well as unique characteristics which other electromagnetic frequency bands do not have, such as spectral fingerprinting of reagents, differentiation of single-stranded and double-stranded DNA, absorption difference of water and ice, and sensitivity toward semiconductor impurities; moreover, THz waves are also safe for the human body. Based on these facts, a wide-range of sensing and imaging applications are expected.

## 4.1 THz Generation Method

Table 4 summarizes the relationship between THz generation methods and their technologies.

Table 4

THz generation methods and their technologies

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Generation Method | Generation Technology | Material | Function |
| Ultra-short pulse photoexcitation | Photoconductive antenna | LT-GaAs | THz-TDS  Room temperature operation |
| Nonlinear optics | Parametric  DFG | GaAs, GaP, GaSe , ZGP, PPLN,  BD-GaAs, OP-GaAs | Variable wavelength  Room temperature operation |
| Photomixing | Photoconductor  UTC-PD | LT-GaAs  InP/InGaAs | Room temperature operation |
| Laser | QCL | GaAs/AlGaAs, InGaAs-AlInAs/InP | Narrow linewidth  Cryogenic temperature operation |
| Solid state electronics | Gunn, IMPATT, RTD  Compound Semiconductor | GaAs, InP, Si  AlAs/GaInAs/AlAs  HBT, HEMT, mHEMT, pHENT | Fixed wavelength  Room temperature operation |
| Electron tube | BWO, Gyrotron |  | Variable wavelength  Room temperature operation |

(1) Ultrashort pulse photoexcitation

Presently, this is the most common THz pulse generation method. By photoexciting non-linear crystal (NLC), photo-conductive antenna (PCA), semiconductors, and superconductors, etc. using an ultrashort pulsed laser with a duration of about a femtosecond, subpicosecond photoconductive current modulations within semiconductors can be brought about, and a wide band THz optical pulse can be generated by utilizing secondary non-linear polarization (light rectification) using   
non-resonant, non-linear media. This method is widely utilized in THz Time Domain Spectroscopy (THz-TDS).

THz-TDS has an extremely high signal to noise ratio (S/N ratio) compared to the Fourier transform far-infrared spectrophotometer using a conventional thermal light source, and is being applied in THz spectroscopy and imaging, etc. Although the structure, crystal makeup, and excitation laser wavelength should be respectively selected for the structure of the photo-conductive antenna, and the semiconductor and non-linear crystal, owing to recent advancements in ultrashort pulse laser technology, and by using a regenerative amplifier to generate a high strength pulsed light as the excitation light, a THz pulse possessing a high electric field strength can be derived.

(2) Non-linear optics

This generation method is classified into parametric generation and difference frequency generation (DFG). Parametric generation involves wavelength conversion by way of phonon polaritons within non-linear crystals such as LiNbO3. It features tunable wavelength and operation at room temperature, and the miniaturization of light source size from desktop-size to palm-size is possible together with the miniaturization of excitation lasers. Recently, a peak strength THz pulse exceeding 1kW has been derived, which is comparable to values using a free-electron laser (FEL).

On the other hand, difference frequency generation (DFG) is the generation of a difference frequency utilizing the secondary non-linear optical effect of non-linear crystals. In recent years, generation methods with organic crystals such as DAST and BNA have been reported, and in terms of generation strength, mW output using intracavity DFG have been reported.

(3) Photomixing

By injecting a two-wavelength laser light into a photo-conductive device or photo diode, a THz wave which is an optical differential frequency is generated applying photoelectric conversion through photomixing. As for the photo diode, THz light exceeding 1THz can be generated owing to the uni-traveling-carrier photodiode (UTC-PD) possessing high speed and high output characteristics.

**(4) Laser**

The quantum cascade laser (QCL) possesses a structure which is layered with semiconductor materials of different energy barrier heights in nanometer-order thicknesses, and realizes laser oscillation through intersubband transition. Although, in principle, it will be a very narrow line width, in actuality it is limited to low temperature operation (max. operating temperature through pulse drive is 200 K). However, the output power at a frequency exceeding 1THz is relatively large.

**(5) Solid-state electronics**

They traditionally developed as microwave or millimeter-wave devices. Gunn diodes utilize intervalley transition having conduction bands with different effective masses, and Impact Ionization Avalanche Transit-Time (IMPATT) diodes and Tunnel Injection Transit-Time (TNNETT) diodes are transit time diodes which create structurally high field areas where electrons travel.

RTDs consist a double barrier structure with semiconductor thin film, and realize differential negative resistance using the tunneling phenomenon which occurs there, deriving a basic oscillation exceeding 1THz (although output is small).

As a practical high frequency semiconductor device currently applied in oscillators, amplifiers, and even MMIC (Monolithic microwave integrated circuit), there is HBT (Heterojunction bipolar transistor) which utilizes compound semiconductors, and HEMT (High electron mobility transistor). While InP type semicoductors with material characteristics such as high electron mobility are expected to operate faster, there also have been reports of devices which operate at more than a few hundred GHz, by applying technology such as pHEMT (pseudomorphic HEMT) and mHEMT (metamorphic HEMT) which aspire toward higher speeds.

**(6) Electron tube**

THz wave is generated by the backward-wave oscillator (BWO) through the interaction of the slow wave circuit and electrons; by Smith-Purcell radiation through the Smith-Purcell effect which occurs when electrons pass over a metallic diffraction grating; by the gyrotron through the cyclotron resonance maser action involving electron mass changes due to the relativistic effect. While output is generally large, housing size is also large.

## 4.2 THz Cameras

The following are trends in the THz two dimensional array sensor which is based on bolometer-type non-cooled infrared array sensor technology.

Figure 8 shows an image of an infrared camera equipped with two dimensional infrared array sensor with a pixel count 320x240 and a pixel pitch 23.5 μm when injected with QCL of a 3.1 THz frequency. The pixel structure in this case has an additional THz absorption layer, and by adjusting the metallic thin film sheet resistance from a vacuum impedance matched to 377 Ω, sensitivity at approximately 3 THz is improved by about 1 digit (Figure 9(a)). In addition, the narrow bandwidth THz array sensor shown in Figure 9 (b) has been developed for the purpose of improving sensitivity by an additional 2–4 times only at certain wavelengths.

Figure 10 shows the wavelength dependency of the NEP (noise equivalent power) for the wide bandwidth and narrow bandwidth THz array sensors themselves. As can be seen by looking at the characteristics of the wide bandwidth THz array sensor, it exhibits roughly flat NEP characteristics from wavelength 3 μm to a little less than 200 μm, and NEP starts to worsen from above 200 μm. Figure 11 and Table 5 show an external view and specifications of a palm-size THz camera equipped with one of the two types of array sensors, a wide bandwidth THz array sensor. Using high resistivity silicon as THz lens material, a parylene film as a non-reflective coating is formed on the silicon. As well, an infrared blocking filter (metal mesh filter which allows transmission of wavelengths more than about 30 μm) is attached in front of the THz lens. This camera can be driven from a computer via a USB 2.0 interface and also can record digital image data to a computer.

Figure 8(a) (b) Narrowband

Broadband THz array sensor, THz array sensor

Figure 9

QCL beam pattern of THz array sensor with a pixel count 320x240 and a pixel pitch 23.5 μm



Figure 10

Wavelength dependency of NEP of THz array sensor

Figure 11

External view of THz camera



Table 5

Specification of THz camera

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Method | Bolometer type |
| Array format | Pixel count: 320 × 240  Pixel pitch: 23.5 μm |
| Visual field | Approx. 15° × 11°  (when equipped with a focal point distance 28mm lens) |
| Frame rate | 30Hz |
| Output | Digital image data: USB2.0  Synchronous signal: BNC |
| Lock-in imaging function | Synchronous signal: 15Hz, 7.5Hz, 3.75Hz, 1.875Hz (TTL output: +5V) |
| Signal processing function | Frame integration  Spatial filter |
| Weight | Approx. 550g (not including lens and filter) |

## 4.3 Spectroscopy

Spectroscopic systems can be classified into the conventional Fourier transform infrared spectrometer (FTIR), and the wavelength sweeping spectroscopic system and THz time domain spectroscopic system (THz-TDS). The Martin-Puplet system which is an extension of conventional infrared technology is an example of the FTIR. Wavelength sweeping spectroscopic systems utilize a backward-wave tube to directly change the wavelength of a THz wave, and difference frequency methods which utilize two variable wavelength lasers. However there are issues with the variable range and wavelength accuracy.

### 4.3.1 THz-TDS (Time Domain Spectroscopy)

A powerful new tool for measuring in the THz region called THz-TDS was developed in the past decade. Electric waveforms of mono-cycle THz radiation pulse are generated and measured by gated detection with a short NIR laser pulse. Usually, the mono-cycle THz radiation pulse contains very wide range of spectrum, typically, between 100 GHz and 10 THz. This method is becoming popular for material diagnosis.

### 4.3.2 FTIR (Fourier Transform Infrared) spectroscopy

Many materials have a so-called finger print spectra in the frequency range above 275 GHz.  
Indeed spectroscopy in the frequency range above around 1 000 GHz has been used since 1960s, and some commercial products have been already developed. The system covers the frequency band fully up to mid-infrared range. In the mid-infrared band, spectra depend on intra-molecule behaviour, and spectral libraries of almost all standard chemicals are available. Thus chemists can use a commercial system as a common tool to identify unknown materials. In the far-infrared region, or in THz frequency band, the fingerprint spectra depend on inter-molecule behaviour, phonon absorption, hydrogen bonds, or similar molecules conditions. Unlike mid-infrared there is no commercial spectral library.

### 4.3.3 Material analysis

Solid and liquid property analysis is performed applying THz-TDS. THz band polarimetry is used, for example, for evaluating material birefringence characteristics at each frequency. Utilizing this kind of evaluation function, devices are also starting to be marketed which are equipped with analysis functions for the development of new materials, such as analysis of polymer optical isomers. On the other hand, although THz waves are very susceptible to absorption by water,   
it has become possible to measure samples containing water, which was traditionally considered difficult in application, utilizing attenuated total reflection spectrometry (ATR method) at THz frequencies.

With this method, as sample characteristics can be derived without penetrating water, it is also possible to detect cells within the culture fluid using the ATR method, and is being anticipated as an effective method for THz applications in biotechnology.

## 4.4 Non-destructive testing

### 4.4.1 Industrial products applications

The demand for THz imaging in industrial products and materials continues to be very strong-rooted. This is because only radio waves to THz bands, or radiation such as X-rays can be used to see through opaque objects in visible light. Of these, the handling of ionized radiation such as X rays is accompanied by risk and constraints, while radio waves to THz bands have low energy as quanta and are non-ionizing, and X rays are generally problematic in terms of detecting light elements such as carbon. Of radio waves to THz bands, compared to microwaves among others which, in principle, have long wavelengths and poor image resolution (spatial resolution), milliwaves to THz waves which achieve spatial resolution at mm order or less have a far greater utility for application in imaging.

In industrial products, non-metallic materials which transmit THz waves are abundant in our everyday lives. Some of the most typical of these products are made of plastics, vinyl, and paper, while others are made of ceramics and rubber and possess various functions and often have high added value. As examples, there are medical components which utilize the heat resistance of ceramics and the flexibility of rubber. These products are widely used in the energy area and medical area, and are highly needed in foreign particle detection. The size of defects is frequently at least about 1–10 μm, and a high S/N ratio and speed are required.

THz CT technology is promising as THz imaging technology in non-destructive testing which cannot be managed using X rays. THz waves which can derive spectroscopic information can detect defects, as well as information on what kind of defects they are, and are attracting attention as a technology which can bring new added value to analysis. Defects which require detection include foreign particles, as well as thin film unevenness and defects in coating, etc. The desired accuracy depth is generally about a few μm, but in an inspection of semiconductor substrates etc., there are cases when electrical characteristics of thin film thickness of less than about a few 100 nm are required. Although measuring such thin film was thought to be difficult using THz waves, owing to recent advances in technology development, this is starting to be shown to be possible.

### 4.4.2 Biological and medical applications

Nowadays, clinical inspection applications are wide ranging from inspections for lifestyle diseases to cancer markers, if we include research applications. Of the basic principles for sensing in-vivo target proteins etc., there are many which are modelled after the recognition mechanism of organisms such as the antigen-antibody reaction. However, for a human to discern the presence/absence of this recognition, one level higher processing is required. For example,   
in the detection method for allergens utilizing an inspection method called enzyme immunoassay,   
a capture antibody which specifically binds with the allergen is affixed to a substrate, and after reacting with a sample, the presence/absence of this allergen is detected using a detection antibody or detection marker. In this way, multi-stage reactions are employed to indicate the test results through colour or fluorescence. Such markers have been designed to efficiently produce colour through the slightest reaction with the substrate, and in chemiluminescent measurements, detection sensitivity in the order of picogram is achieved. However, multi-stage inspections also have issues such as requiring numerous reagents and long inspection time, as well as an increase in error factors through multi-stage processing.

Within this background, a German research group in 2000 reported on the possibility of no marker detection using THz waves. These researchers showed in their experiments that there were differences in THz band refractive index and transmittance in single-stranded and double-stranded DNA. Later, a research group in the U.S. proposed a method of detecting the binding of avidin and biotin through the phase delay in the THz-TDS time waveform. This means that it is possible to detect the presence/absence of binding, without the use of markers, from changes in the refractive index and absorbance of biological polymers at THz bands. In Japan, utilizing an imaging measuring system comprised of a quantum cascade laser and THz camera, a line of small-molecule compounds were affixed on a membrane filter, and proteins which specifically bind with them were successfully detected in image format, verifying that it is possible to detect biological substances such as proteins swiftly, conveniently, and in a marker-free fashion.

On the other hand, there is the issue of detection sensitivity as an important technology development theme. The inspection sensitivity required for clinical inspections is in the range of milligram to picogram, and the inspection sensitivity particularly in the range from nanogram to picogram is most needed in no marker inspections. As an example of inspection applications requiring such small sensitivity, application in predictive diagnosis for autoimmune diseases stemming from autoantibodies in the blood can be raised.

Generally, protection from the invasion of bacteria and viruses from the outside occurs through immune reaction within the body. However, with autoimmune diseases, substances involved in immunity within the body attack the body. For example, with type 1 diabetes, autoantibodies which target three types of pancreatic proteins have been discovered, and it is known that 70–90% of patients possess at least one of these autoantibodies. In addition, the relationship between these three autoantibodies and their incidence has been investigated, and clear relationships have been presented. Therefore, by conducting preliminary inspections to know whether or not these autoantibodies exist within the body, onset can be predicted, and they can also be used in prevention.

It is desirable that such inspections be performed for health examinations, and it is important that inspection technology which is convenient, fast, and cheap be developed. When applied in health examinations, it is ideal if various diseases can be predicted in one inspection, and not just for type I diabetes indicated here. In other words, to perform inspections at one time by reacting the autoantigens of various diseases affixed onto a single inspection chip with small amounts of autoantibodies found in drawn blood, technology that can perform no marker inspections and detect picogram order biological substances is require.

Among clinical inspections, test drugs for conventional immune serum inspections, including inspections based on antigen-antibody reaction, were expected to have a domestic market of   
157.2 billion yen in FY2008 and 168 billion yen in FY2013, according to a survey conducted by Fuji-Keizai. This market amounts to over 40% of the test drug market, and occupies the highest ratio. With their advent, no marker and high accuracy inspection technology is expected to enter these markets and contribute to the expansion of market size.

On the other hand, such needs for no marker and trace substance inspection are assumed in various settings, and their spillover effect is great. They include the security field in inspecting dangerous gases, bacteriological weapons, and explosives; infectious virus inspection such as for new type influenzas where there are concerns of pandemic; and inspection of trace substances in the environment, residual pesticides in agricultural products, and residual antibiotics in livestock.

Therefore, it is important to pursue the early development of no marker inspection technology as an infrastructure, research relating to the selectivity of inspection substances based on this technology, and R&D to improve detection sensitivity. As one technology to improve the detection sensitivity of THz waves, there is a method utilizing a metallic mesh as a sensor, which has led to technologies enabling the detection of proteins in the order of nanogram/mm.

By merging technology for the no marker detection of trace substances with imaging technology, the range of uses will continue to expand. In particular, it will be possible to comprehensively inspect proteins which specifically bind to small molecule arrays and sugar chain arrays, and will become a technology which can advance into the drug discovery field. In addition, no marker detection using THz wave technology will clarify the existence of proteins which have been overlooked until now as they could not be marked, and is expected to become a powerful screening technology in life science research.

# 5 THz related activities within the international standard organization

*[Editor’s note: IEEE802 is invited to provide their THz standardization activity to this section]*

# 6 Initial Consideration of Sharing with Passive Services

There may be several practical practicable steps that administrations and manufacturers can take in order to protect passive services in the 275-1 000 GHz.

RR **5.565**

“Administrations wishing to make frequencies in the 275-1 000 GHz range available for active service applications are urged to take all practicable steps to protect these passive services from harmful interference until the date when the Table of Frequency Allocations is established in the above-mentioned 275-1 000 GHz frequency range.”

*[Editor’s note: Administrations are asked to provide information regarding sharing between active and passive services within the 275-1 000 GHz frequency range to the next meeting]*

# 7 Conclusions

The characteristics of THz devices and systems discussed in this Report are rapidly being improved by the advancement of device technologies. THz wireless communication systems, in particular, may have large potential to transmit high data rate close to 100 Gbps whose speed is currently discussed within IEEE802. The sharing study between passive and active services and the review of RR needs to be taken into account to introduce those devices into market in the near future.