Next generation LMPA for heat sensitive substrates and components

Summary Low Melting Point Alloys

- History behind LMPA
- Differences between LMPA’s
- LMPA properties
- Application areas
- Application limitation and Additional benefits.

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OPTIMIZING SOLDER ALLOY COMPOSITION FOR LOW TEMPERATURE ASSEMBLY

Why low temperature assembly?

- **Reduce energy consumption** → **Reduced emission of toxic pollutants and greenhouse gases**
- **Make possible the use of temperature sensitive packaging materials and substrates** → **Additive manufacturing, wearable electronics, medical devices**
- **Make possible the use of cheaper packaging materials and substrates** → **Service temperatures much lower than process temperatures**

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Reducing Peak Reflow Temperature

- Superheat necessary to get the joints to wetting temperature

Two factors contributing to process temperature:

- Melting temperature of solder alloy

Example:

- SAC305 melts over a range 217-220˚C
- Typical peak reflow zone temperature 235-245˚ C
- “Superheat” 15-25˚C

Depending on thermal mass of board and components

Low Temperature Solder Alloy Formulation

The starting point is tin (Sn)

Forms IMC with and wets most substrates. Low melting point. Non-toxic

Adding other elements usually reduces the melting point

• Sn-Cu eutectic	227˚C
• Sn-Ag eutectic	221˚C
• Sn-Ag-Cu eutectic	217˚C
• Sn-Bi eutectic	139˚C
• Sn-In eutectic	120˚C
• Sn-Ga eutectic	15˚C

Right melting point range
Reasonable raw material cost

If the composition is a eutectic the alloy should have a sharp melting point like a pure metal

If the mix is off-eutectic the alloy will have a melting range, extending from the solidus to the liquidus

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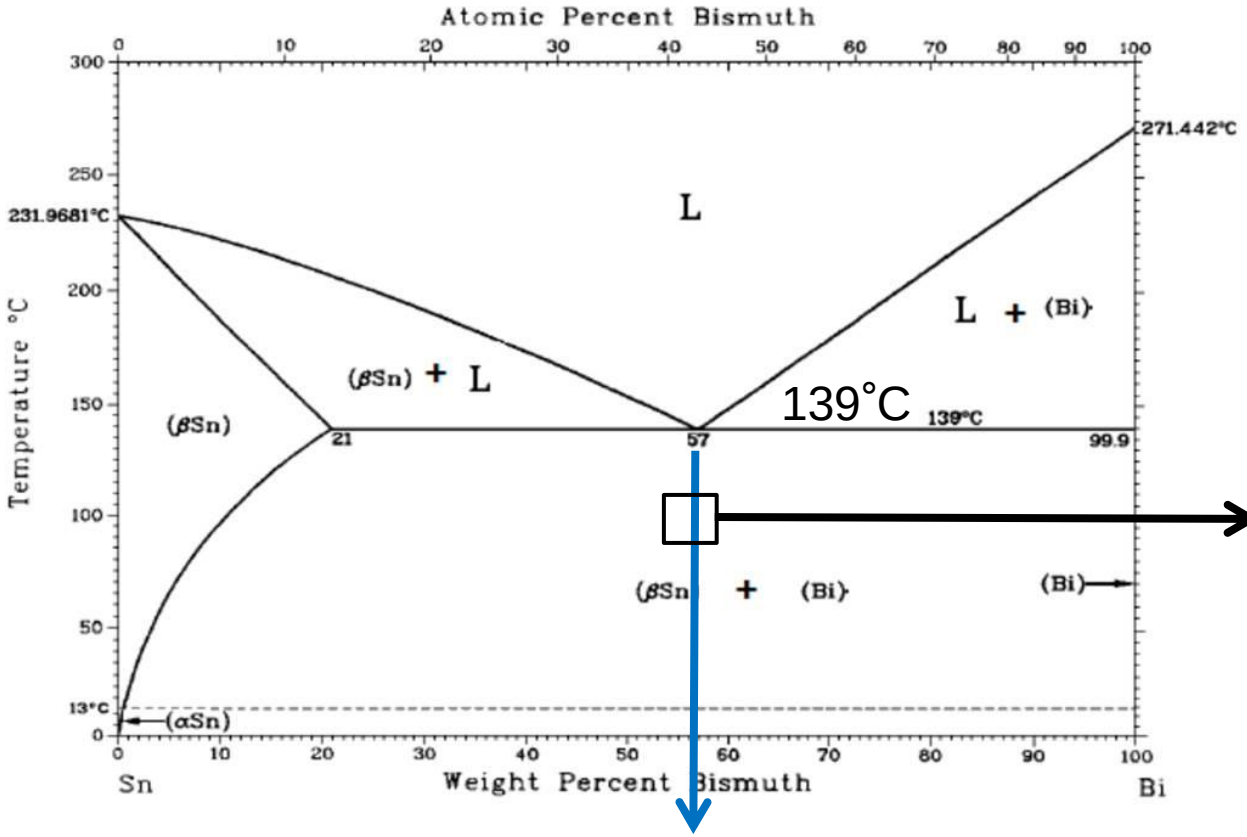
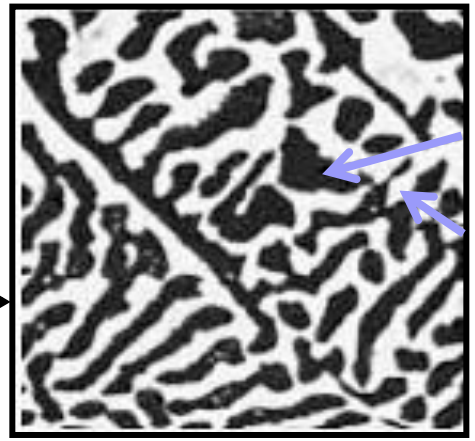
Starting with the Sn-Bi eutectic…



Eutectic Microstructure

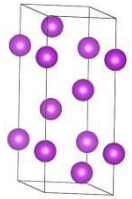


Tin

Bismuth

57% Bi

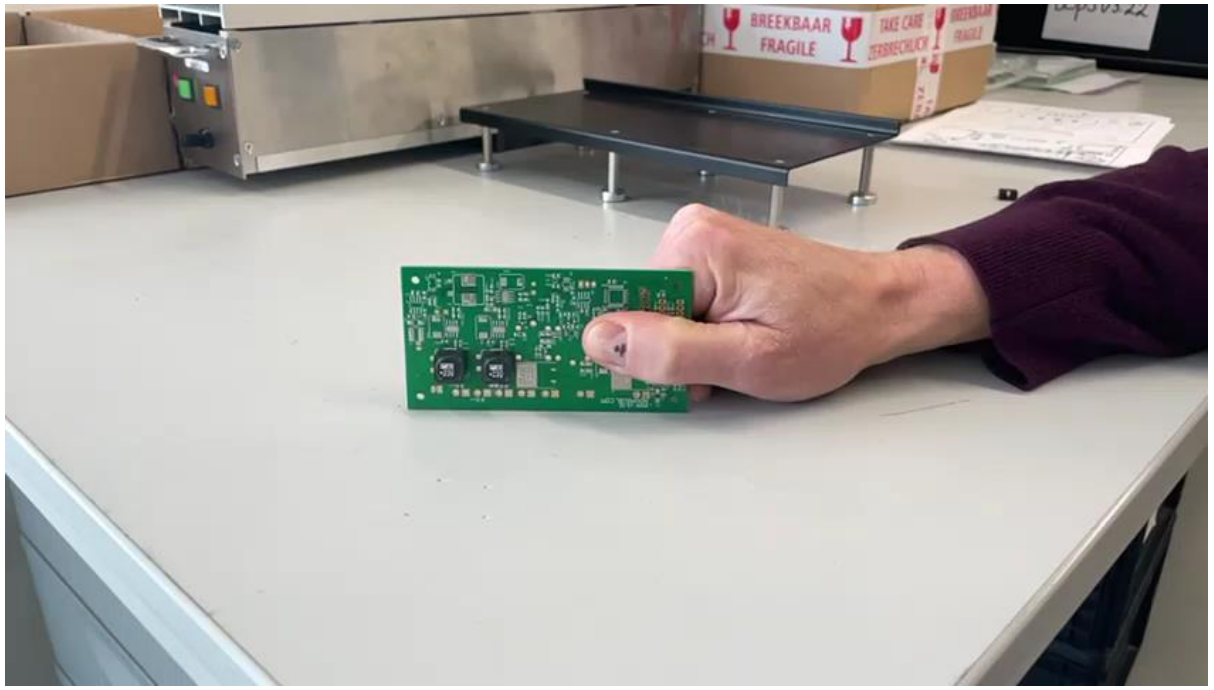
The matrix is the bismuth phase

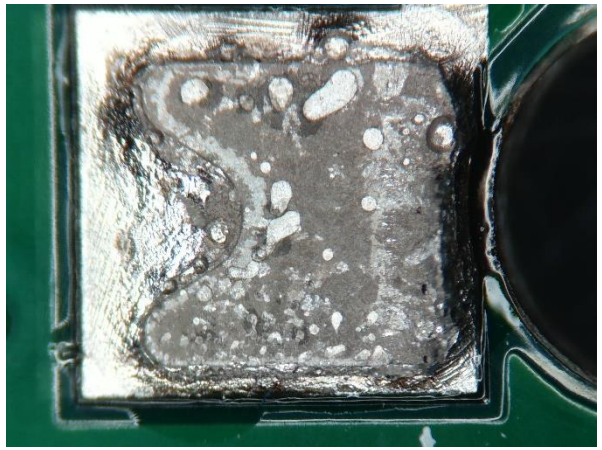


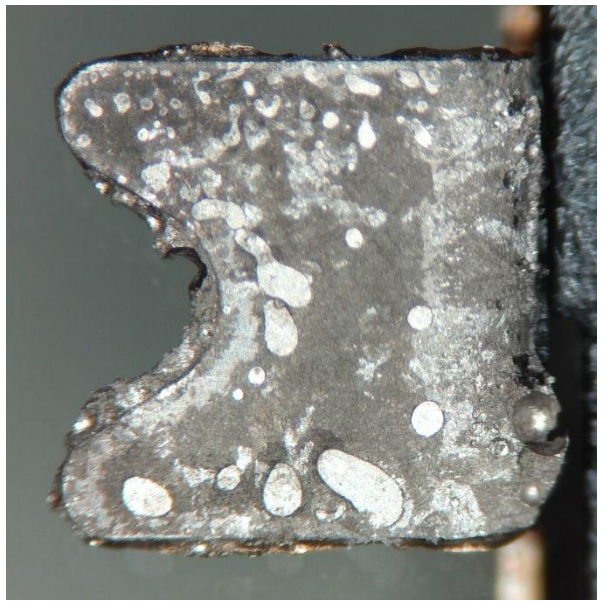
Rhombohedral crystal lattice

Tendency to brittle failure

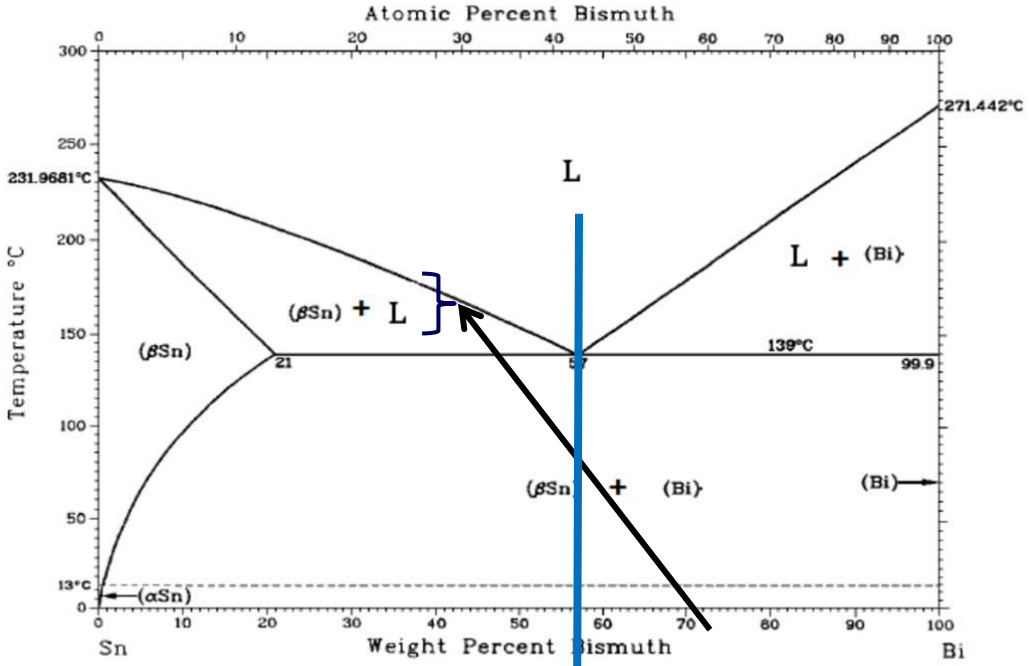
Brittleness eutectic SnBi







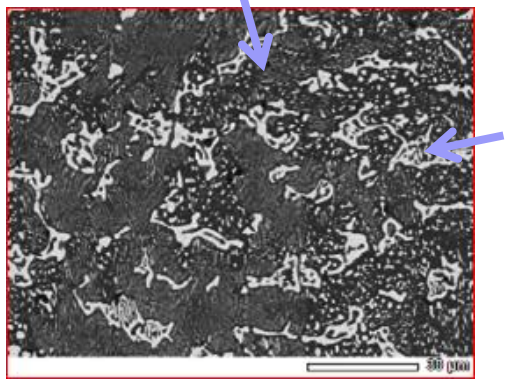
Moving to a lower Bi level…



~38% Bi

- Loses sharp melting point of eutectic
- Freezes over a range from **~~175-139℃~~**

Microstructure dominated by primary tin dendrites



Tin-bismuth eutectic in interdendritic spaces

Strengthening mechanisms…
Alloying addition options for Tin-Bismuth

Antimony (Sb)

- Soluble in tin and bismuth providing solid solution strengthening
- At higher concentrations may form intermetallic compound SbSn that could provide particle strengthening

Silver (Ag)

- No solubility in tin or bismuth.
- Forms intermetallic compound Ag_3Sn that can provide particle strengthening

Copper (Cu)

- No solubility in tin or bismuth
- Forms intermetallic compound Cu_6Sn_5

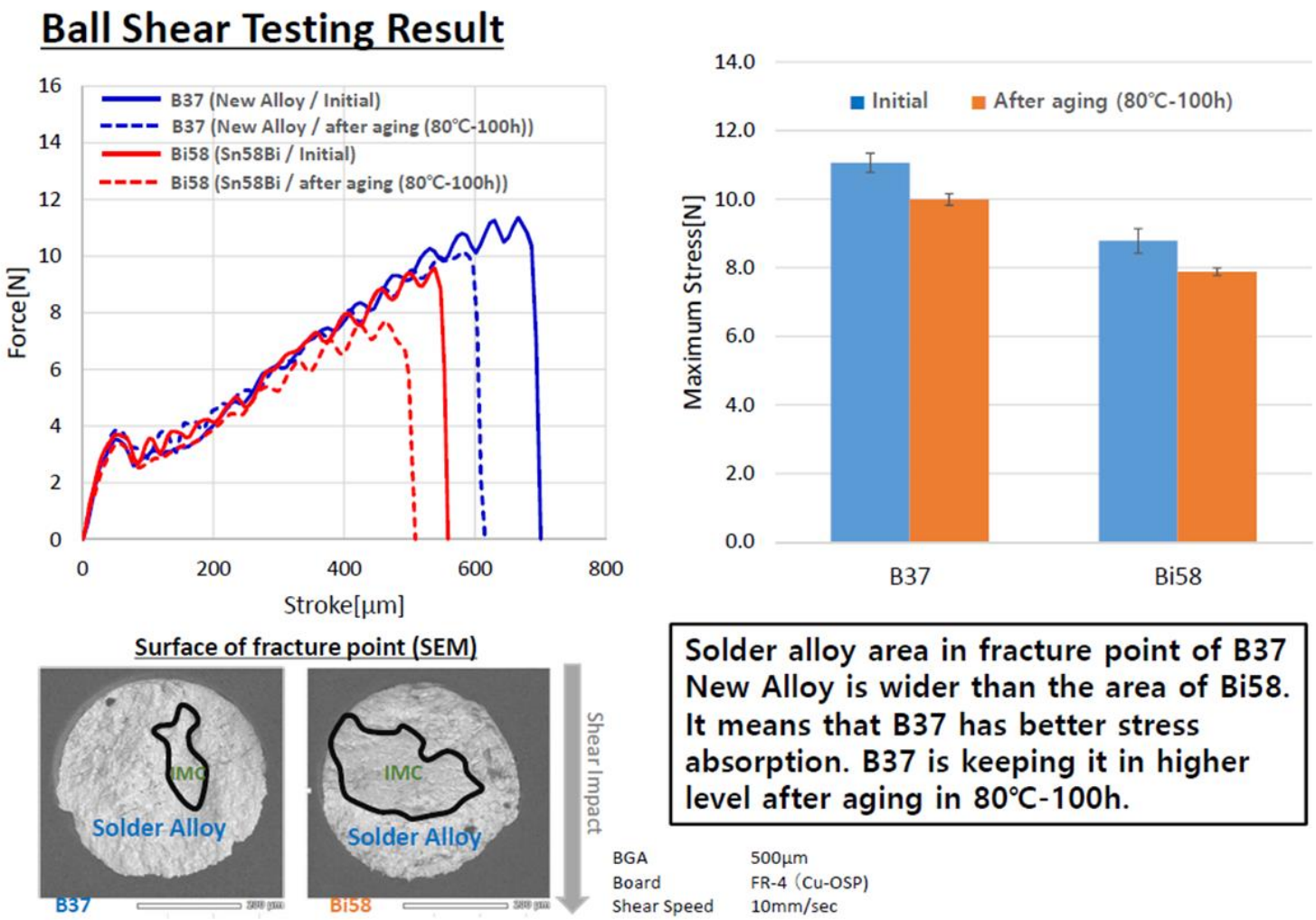
Nickel (Ni)

- No solubility in tin or bismuth
- Can form intermetallic compounds with tin, which could provide particle strengthening
- Incorporates into the crystal structure of Cu_6Sn_5 stabilizing to ambient temperatures the hexagonal form that would otherwise undergo polymorphic transformation to the monoclinic form at temperatures below 186℃

Germanium (Ge)

- No solubility in tin or bismuth
- Potential particle strengthener
- Antioxidant (dross suppressor)

Shear test eutectic SnBi vs next gen LMPA



Composition next generation LMPA

Sn-37Bi-0.5Sb-0.5Cu-0.05Ni
Sn-40.5Bi-0.5Sb
Etc.

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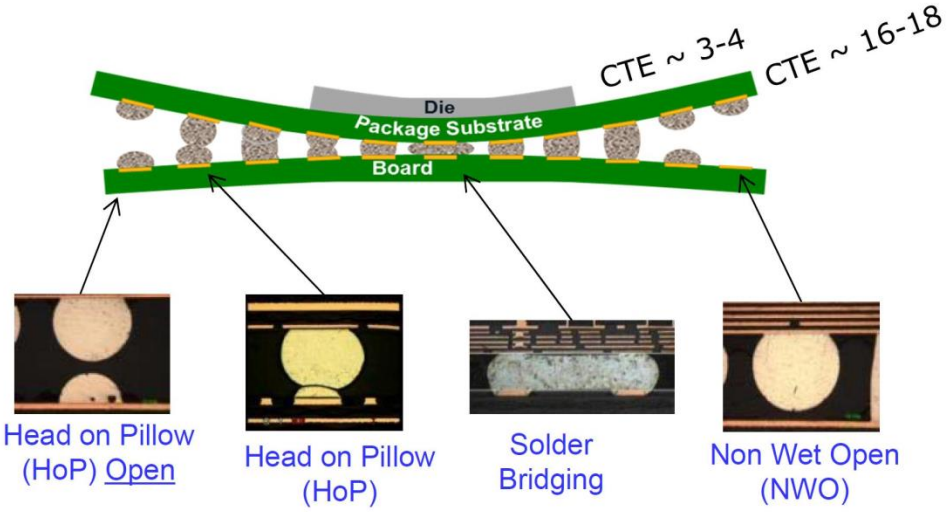
OPTIMIZING SOLDER ALLOY COMPOSITION FOR LOW TEMPERATURE ASSEMBLY

Why low temperature assembly?

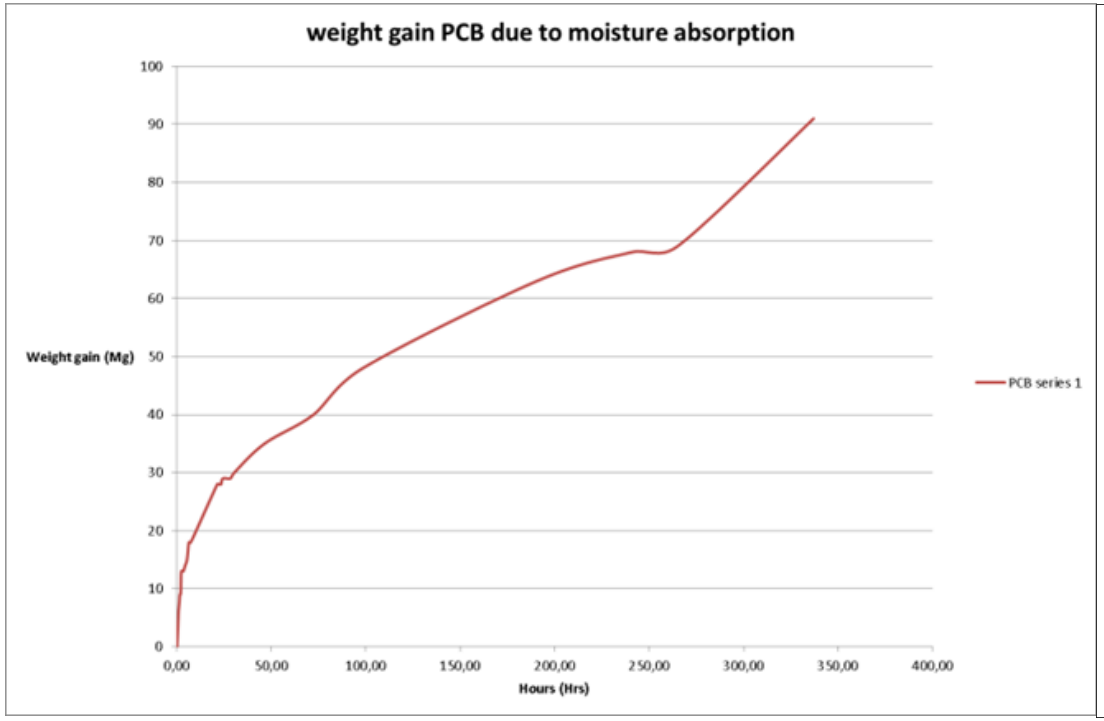
- **Reduced incidence of defects caused by package warpage**

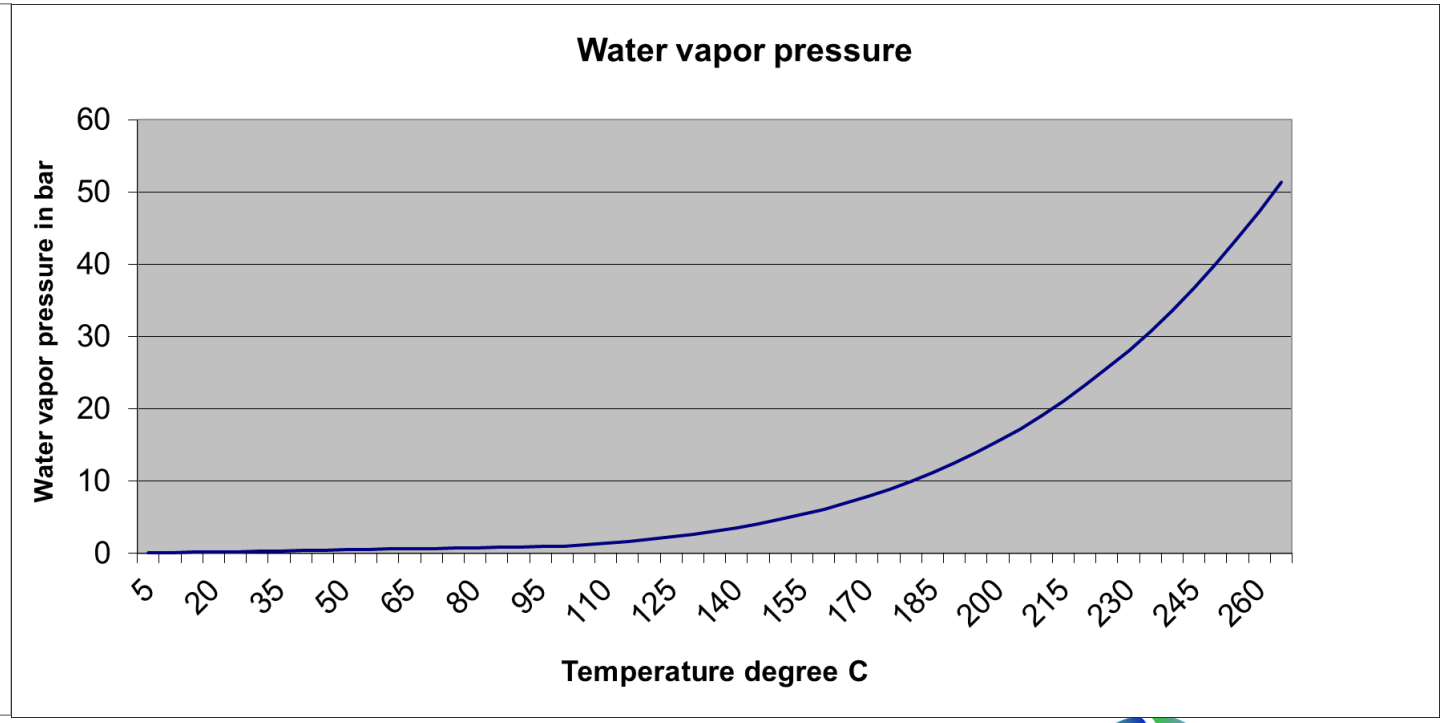
Peak Reflow Temperature ≤ 200℃



Scott Mokler et al. "The Application of Bi-Based Solders for Low Temperature Reflow to Reduce Cost While Improving SMT Yields in Client Computing Systems." *Proceedings of the SMTA International Conference, Rosemont, IL, Sept 2016.* .

Hygroscopic behaviour Polyimide

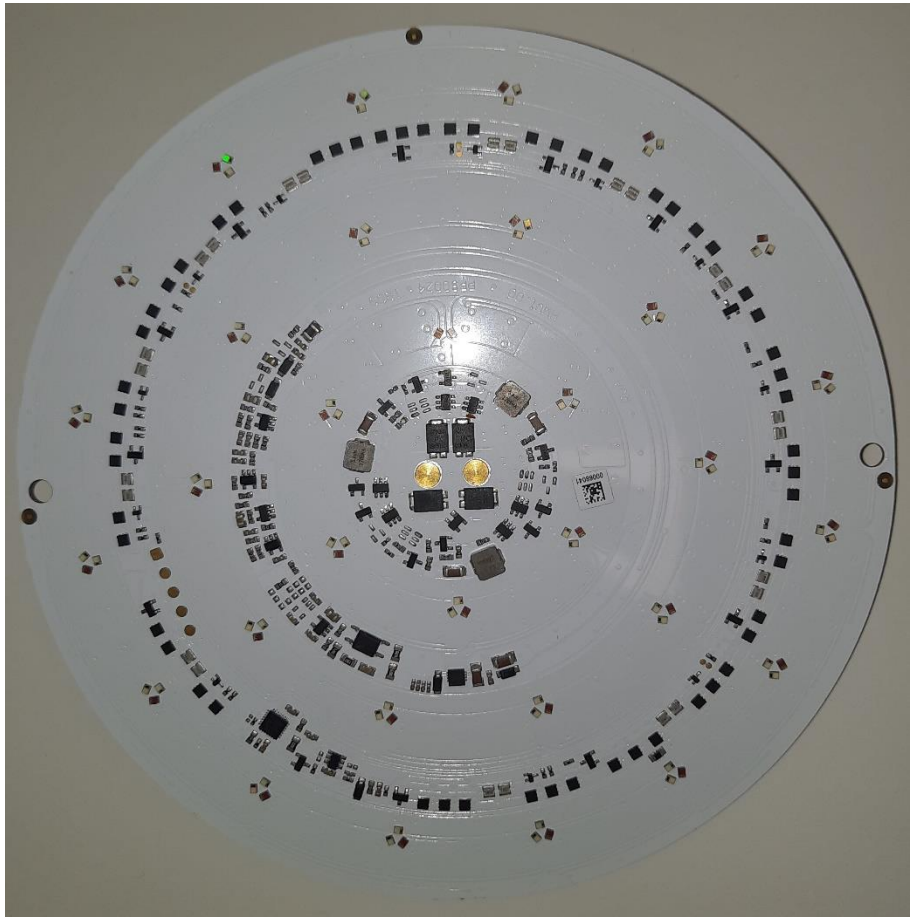




Polyimide material is most commonly used to produce flexible and flex-rigid boards because the material is exceptionally flexible, chemical resistant, thermally stable up to 260C, etc.

Moisture inside polyimide can cause delamination during the assembly process.
Reducing the assembly process temperatures will prevent delamination

No or very low discolloration of white soldermask after the reflow process



Traditional white soldermask commonly used for LED applications. This low cost soldermask has the intention to show yellowness after reflow.

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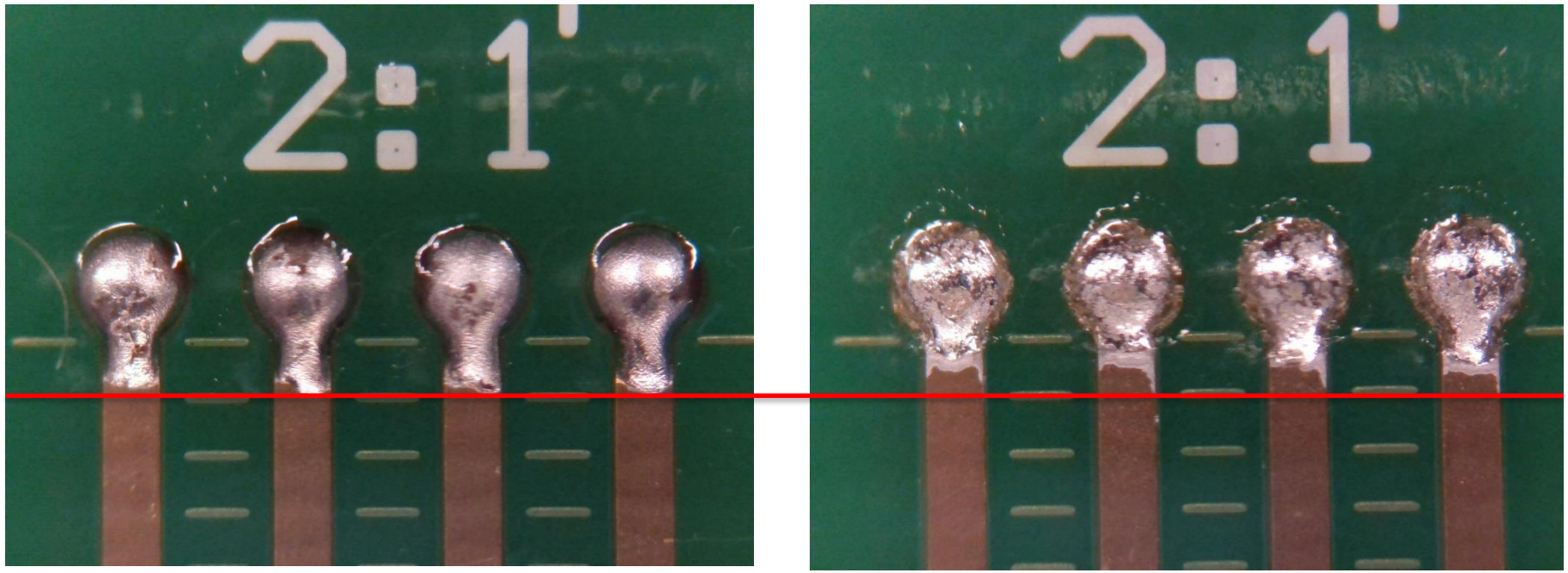
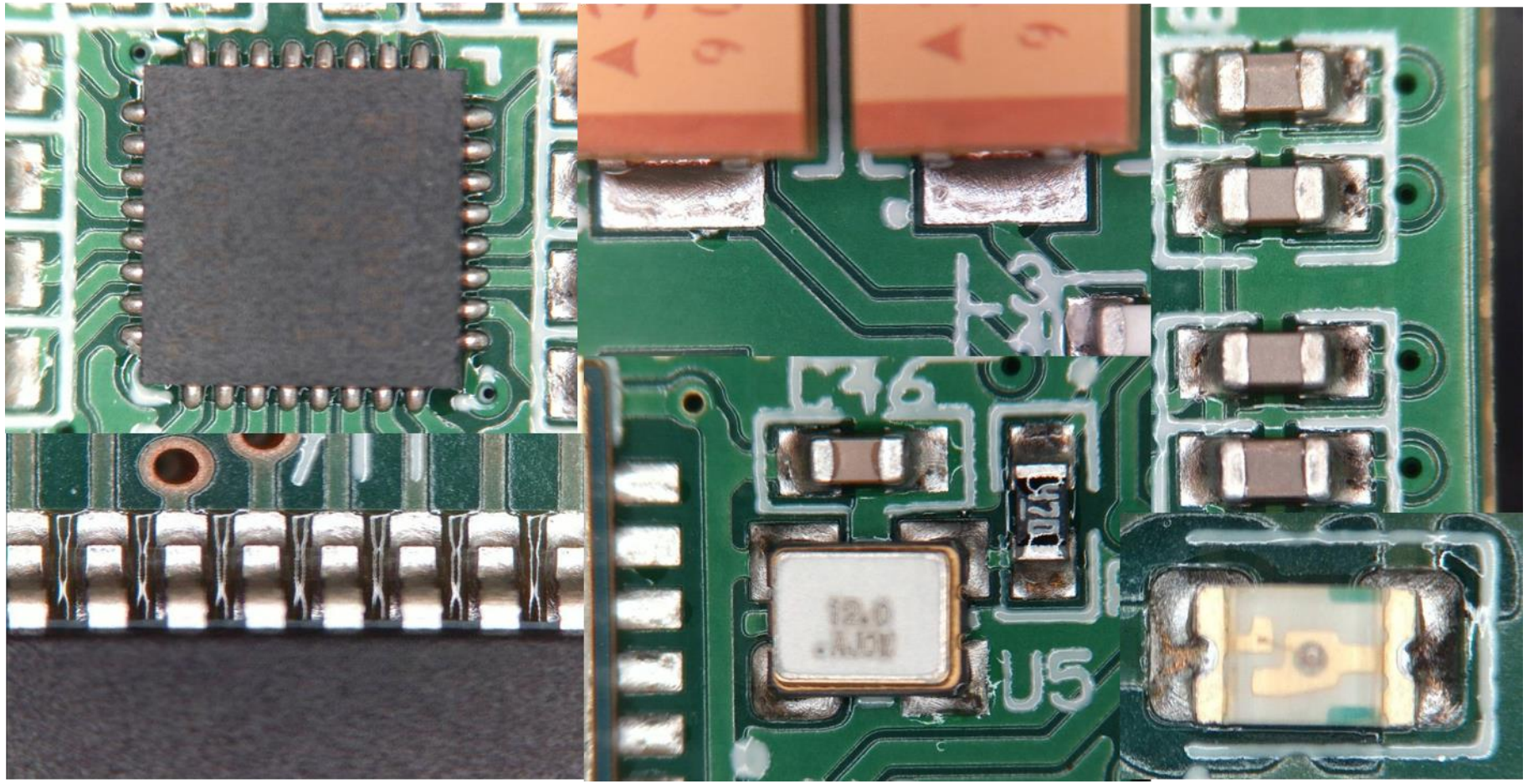
All next gen LMPA show Excellent wetting

LMPA **Lollipop** SAC305

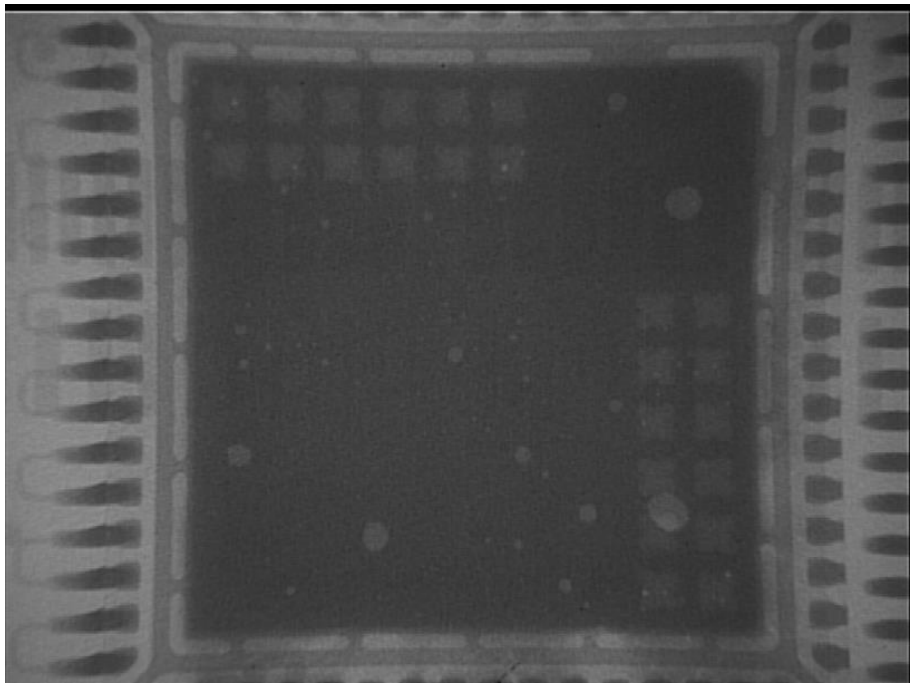


All next gen LMPA show excellent wetting

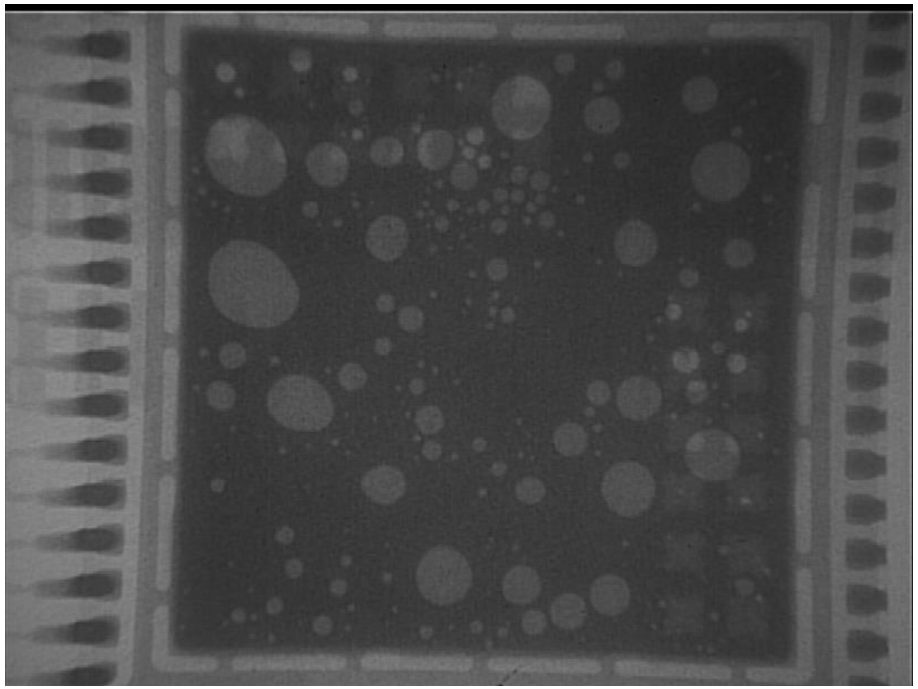


All next gen LMPA show Low voiding

LMPA



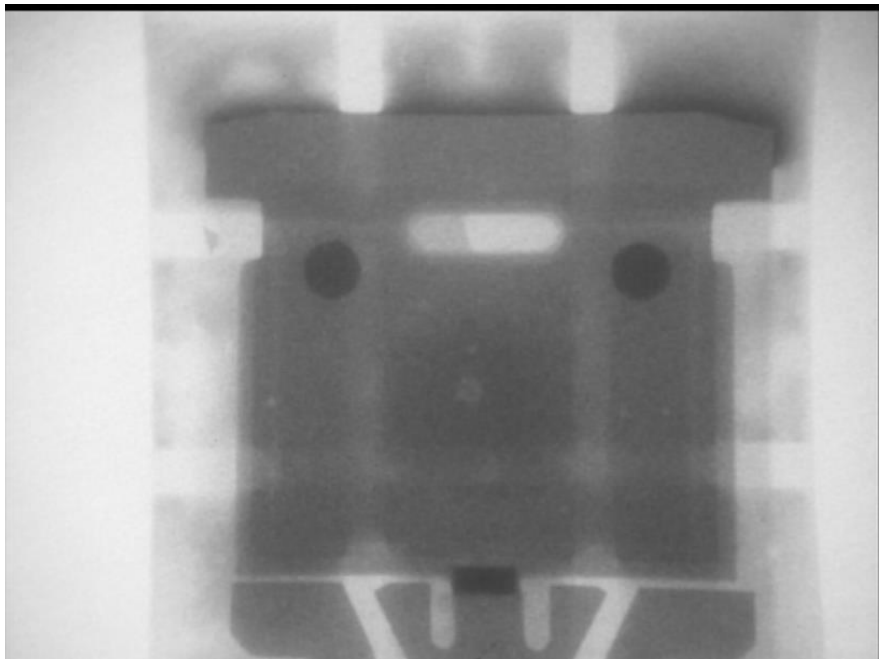
SAC305



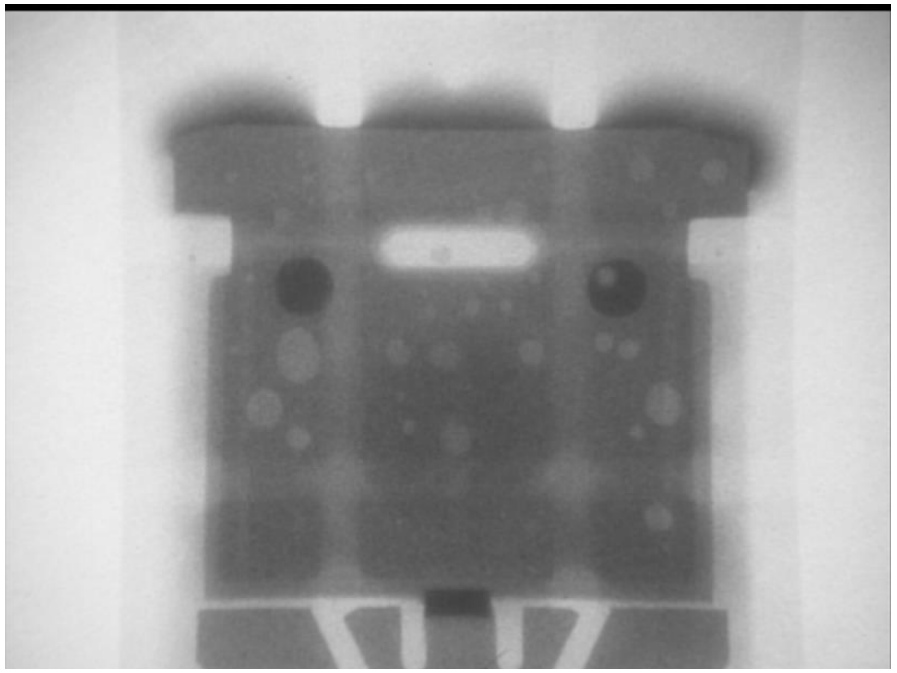
QFN64 9X9mm

All next gen LMPA show Low voiding

LMPA

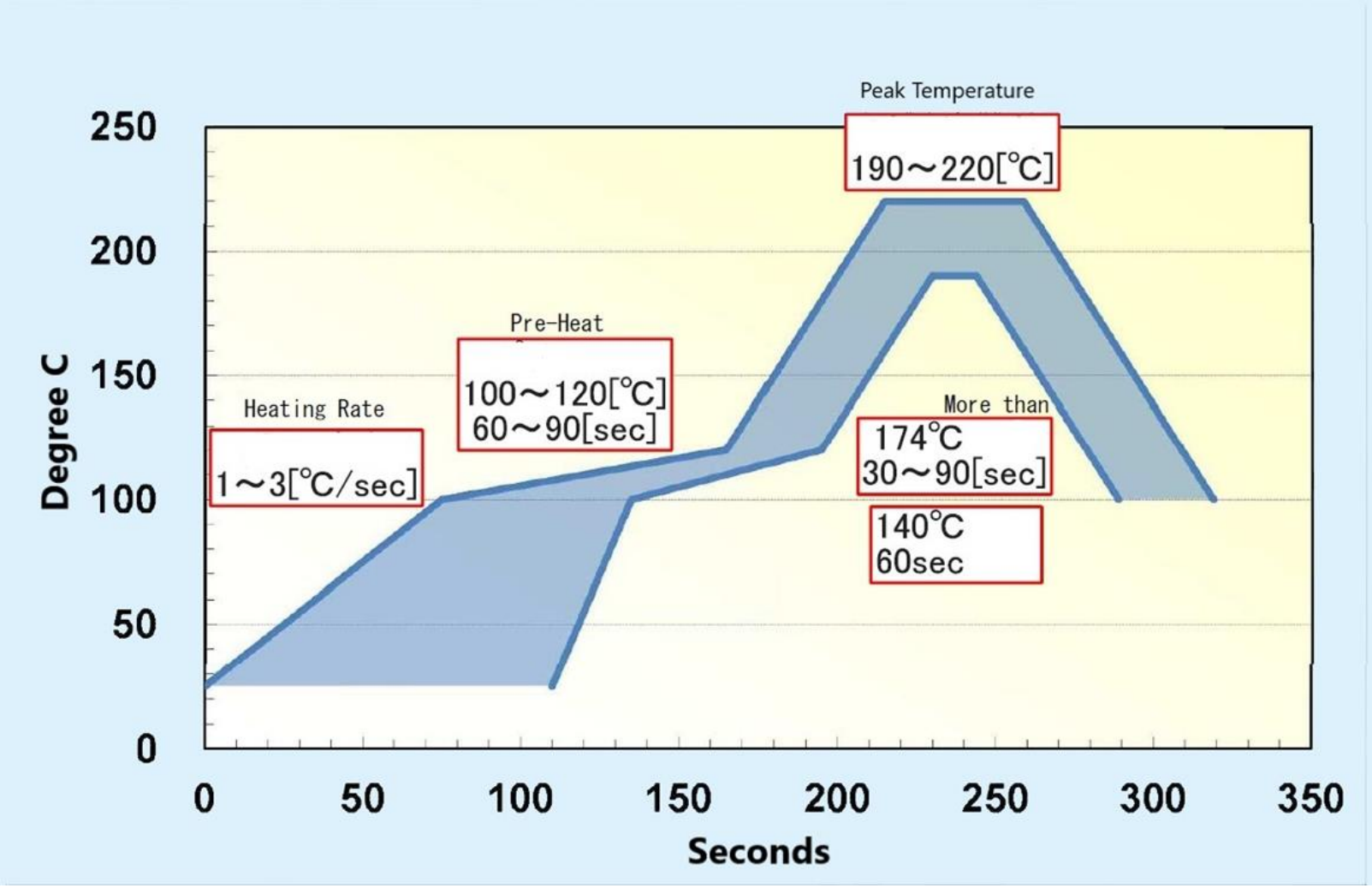


SAC305

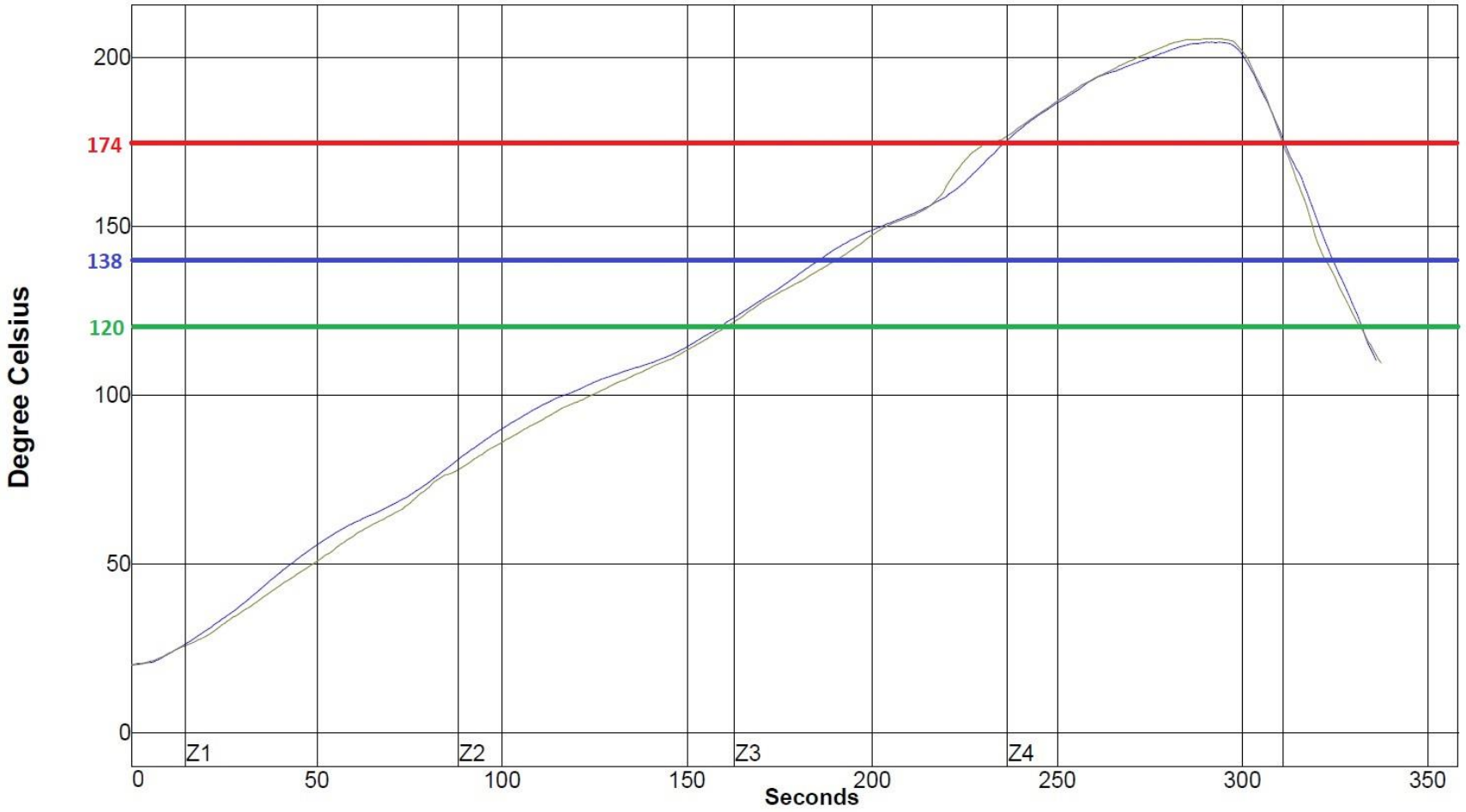


TO-252 / DPAK

Typical LMPA reflow profile



LMPA recommend reflow cooling parameters



Cooling rate +- 4C/sec

Exit temperature <120C

Next gen LMPA limitations

- Maximum application temperature 100C – 120C
- Thermal conductivity lower as traditional lead-free alloys
- Reliability lower or equal as traditional lead-free alloys
- Not ductile
- Large melting range instead of eutectic

LMPA Summary

- The use of temperature sensitive packaging materials and substrates
- The use of cheaper packaging materials and substrates
- Excellent wetting
- Low voiding
- No glue required in double side reflow applications using mixed technology (First reflow SAC305, Second reflow LMPA).
- Less or no discoloration of low cost white soldermask
- Reduce energy consumption

REFERENCES

- *Scott Mokler et al. ”The Application of Bi-Based Solders for Low Temperature Reflow to Reduce Cost While Improving SMT Yields in Client Computing Systems.” Proceedings of the SMTA International Conference, 2016*
- Keith Sweatman, “optimizing solder alloy compositionfor low temperature assembly” *Proceedings of the SMTA International Conference, 2019*
- Balverzinn GmbH, R&D
- Nihon Superior Co., Ltd, R&D

Thank you for your attention

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