



# Delivering Stable Timing Under Harsh Real-World Environmental Conditions with High-Precision 100-ppb TCXO



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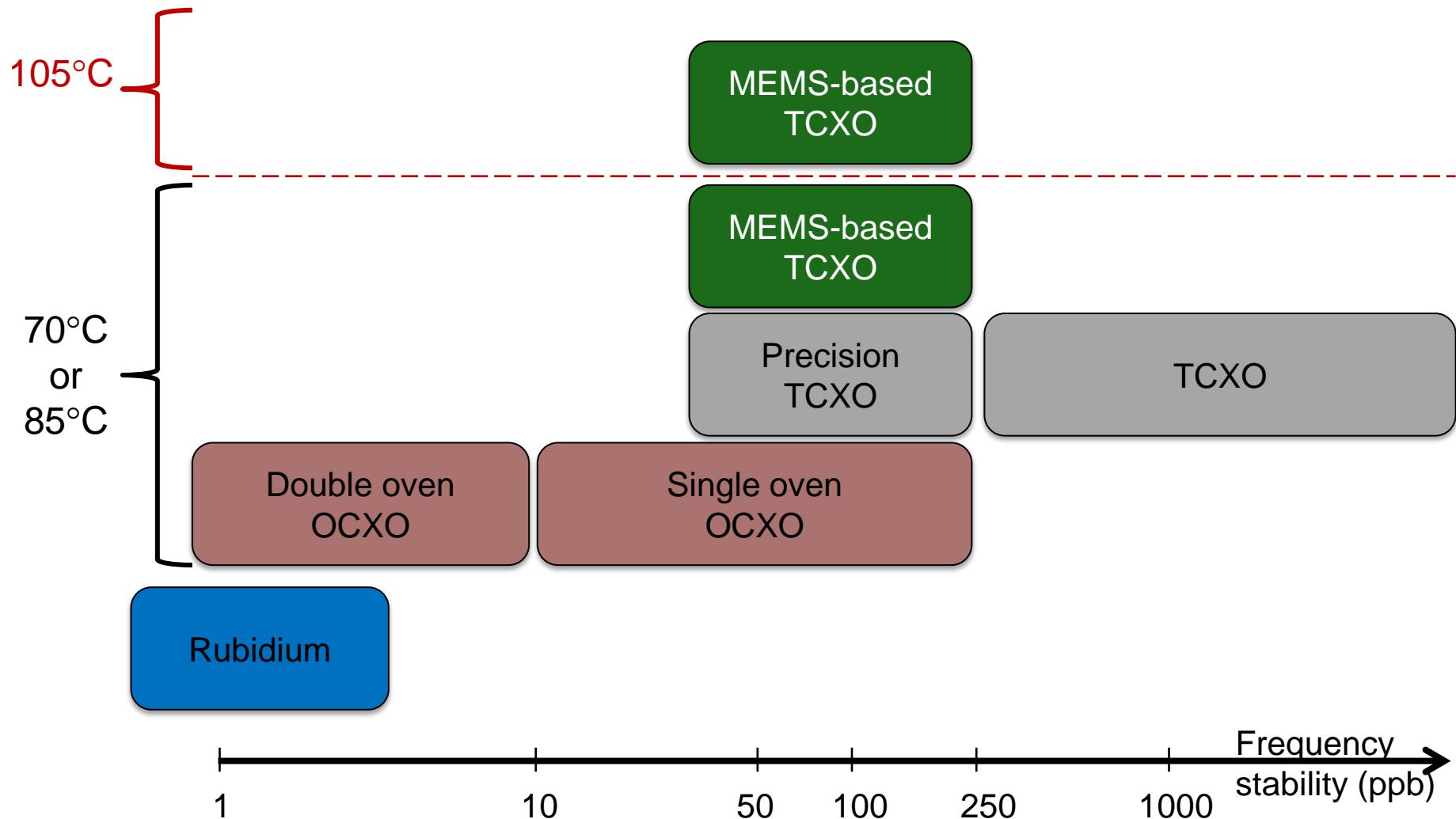
The Smart Timing Choice™

# Outline



- Introduction
- Precision MEMS-Based Temperature Compensated Oscillator (TCXO) architecture
- Performance data
- Conclusions

# Introduction



# Applications



- Stratum-3: GR1244 compliant
- SyncE
- IEEE1588
- Small Cell / Femtocell
- Industrial GPS

# MEMS-Based TCXO Target: Precision Timing Under All Conditions



## Stability

- Temperature range
- Temperature ramp
- Activity dips
- Freq. slope over temperature
- VDD / Load

## Short Term Stability

- ADEV
- Wander (MTIE / TDEV)
- Still air and in airflow

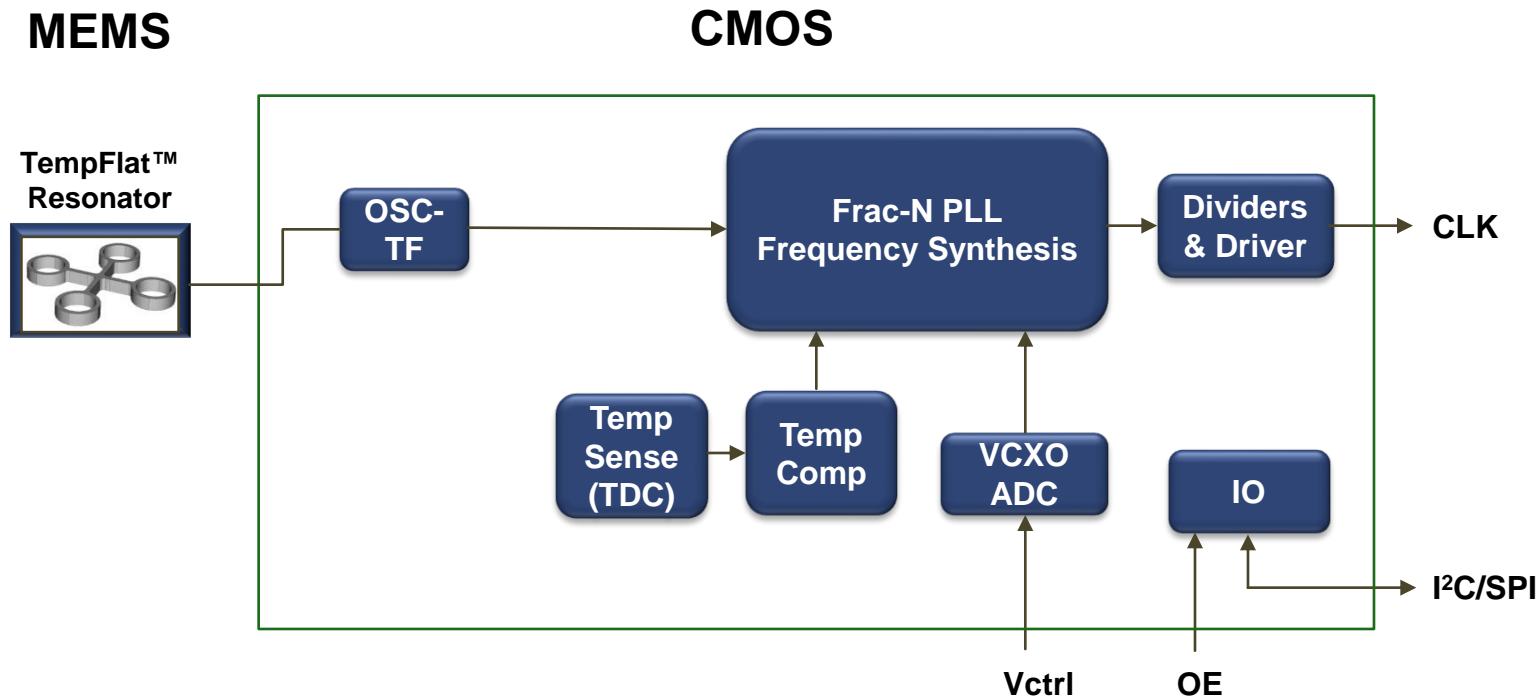
## Robustness

- Vibration
- Shock
- PSNR

## Flexible Feature Set

- Frequency range
- Differential output
- Digital frequency control

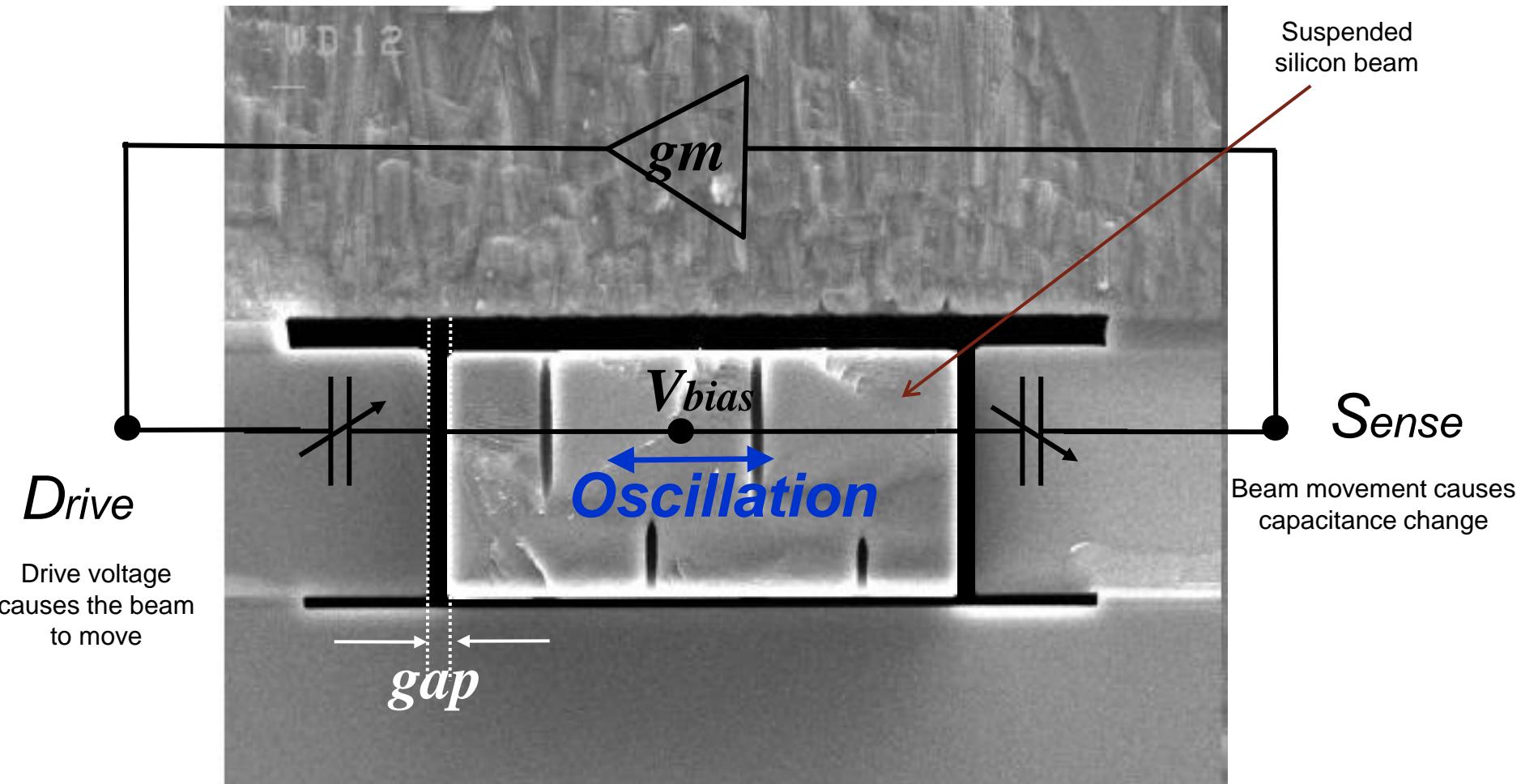
# MEMS-Based Precision TCXO Architecture



- Fractional-N synthesizer for frequency control
- High bandwidth low noise temperature sensing for fast temperature tracking without phase noise degradation

# Sustaining Circuit Vibrating Resonator Principle

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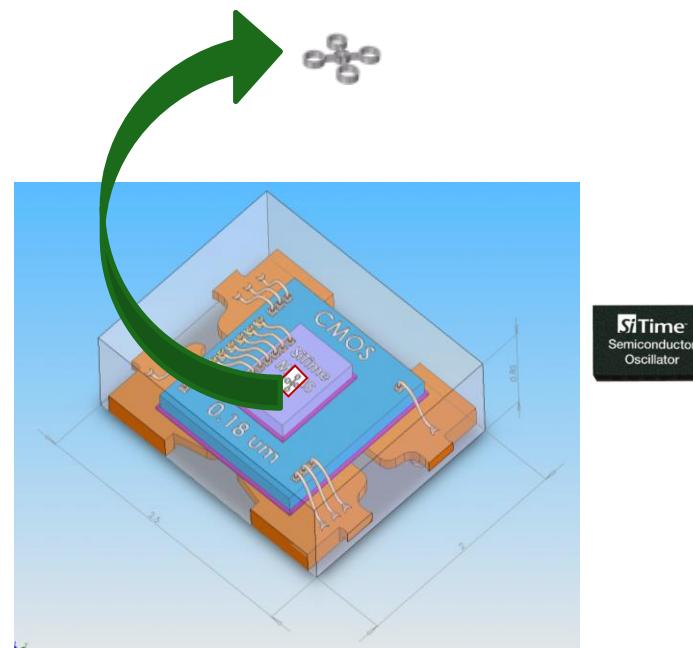
Electrostatic MEMS is free of activity dips

# Single-Anchor MEMS Resonators: Robust Against Shock & Vibration



- Resonator mass is extremely small and stiff → Large acceleration needed to move mass
- MEMS resonator mass is 1000 to 3000 times smaller than quartz

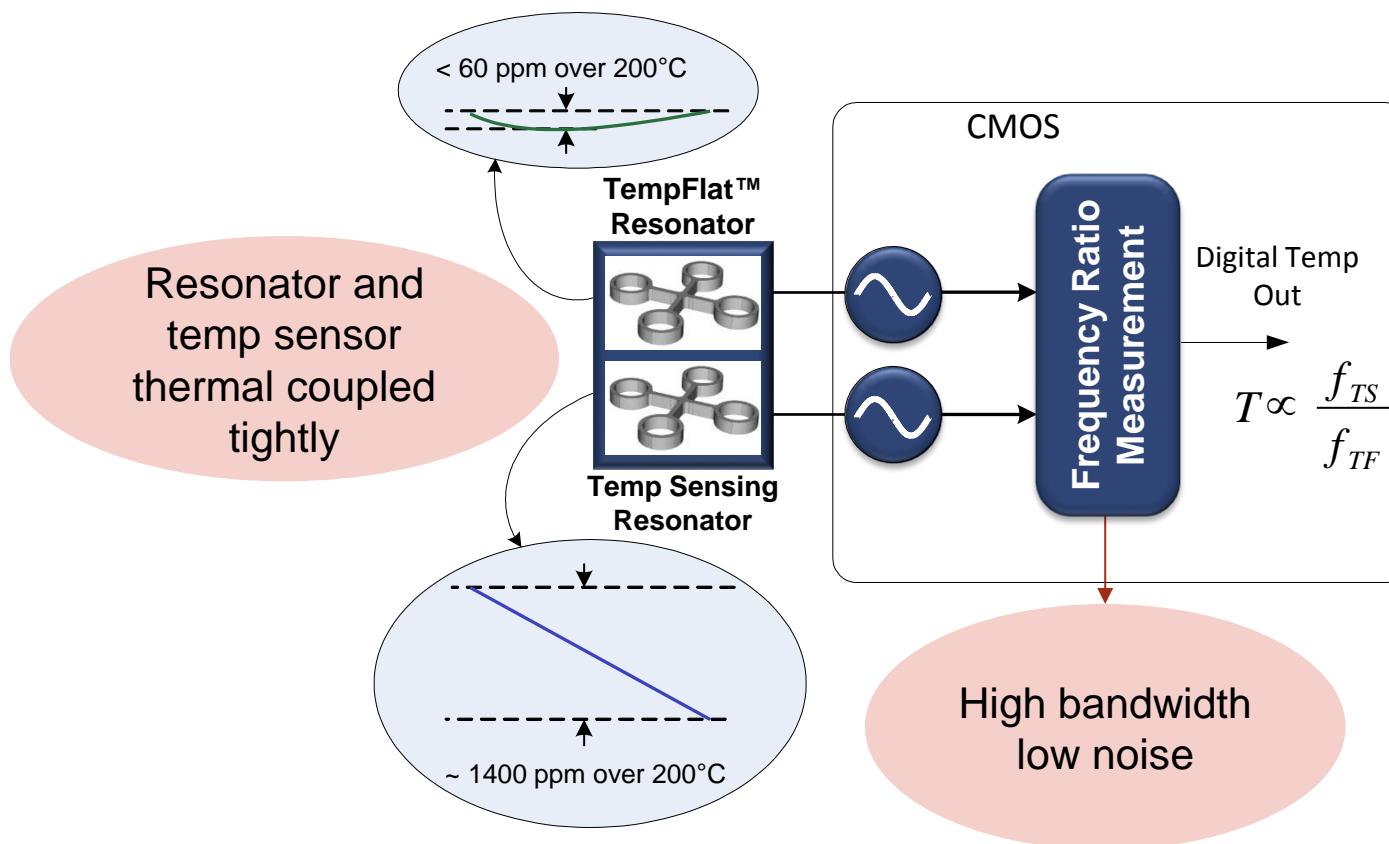
**Silicon MEMS Resonator Mass  
Independent of Package and frequency**



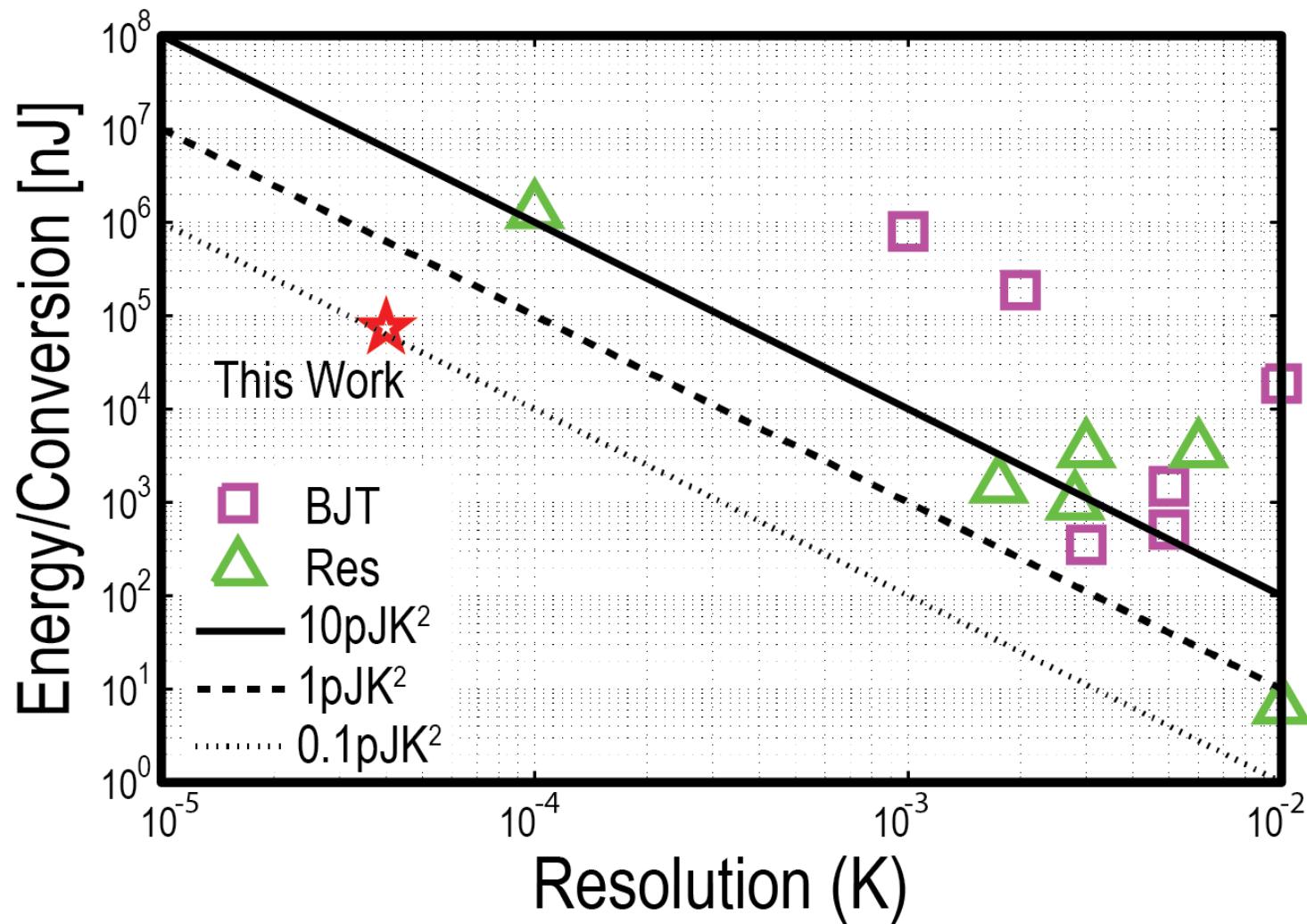
# Dual MEMS Resonator Temperature Sensing



- < 30  $\mu\text{K}$  resolution in 100 Hz bandwidth
- Temp sensor phase noise < oscillator phase noise → Noise-less temperature compensation



# Dual MEMS Resonator Yields Highest Figure of Merit

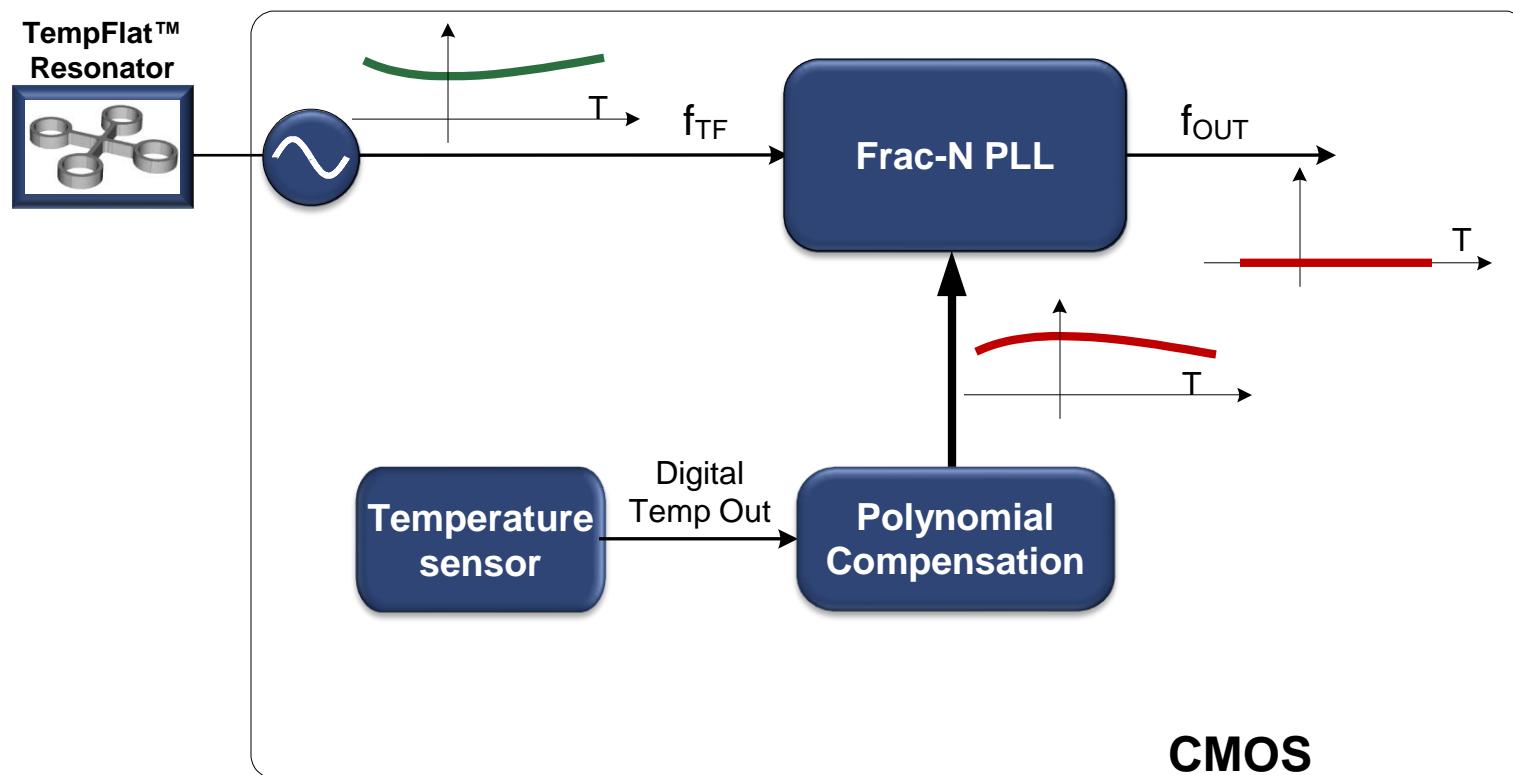


$$\text{Res. FOM} = (\text{Energy/Conversion}) \times \text{Resolution}^2$$

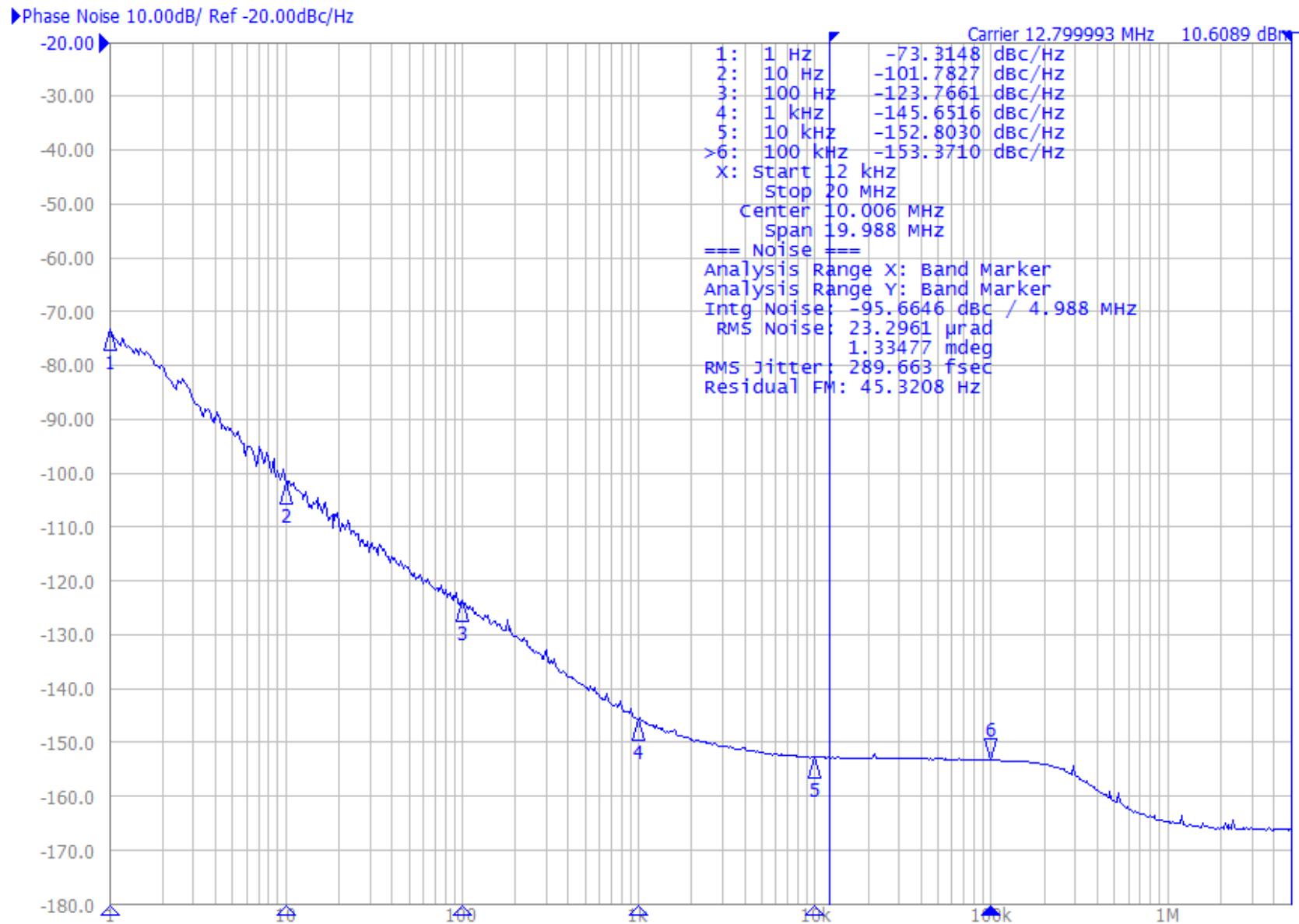
# High-BW Temperature Compensation: Key to Precision TCXO in thermally noisy environment



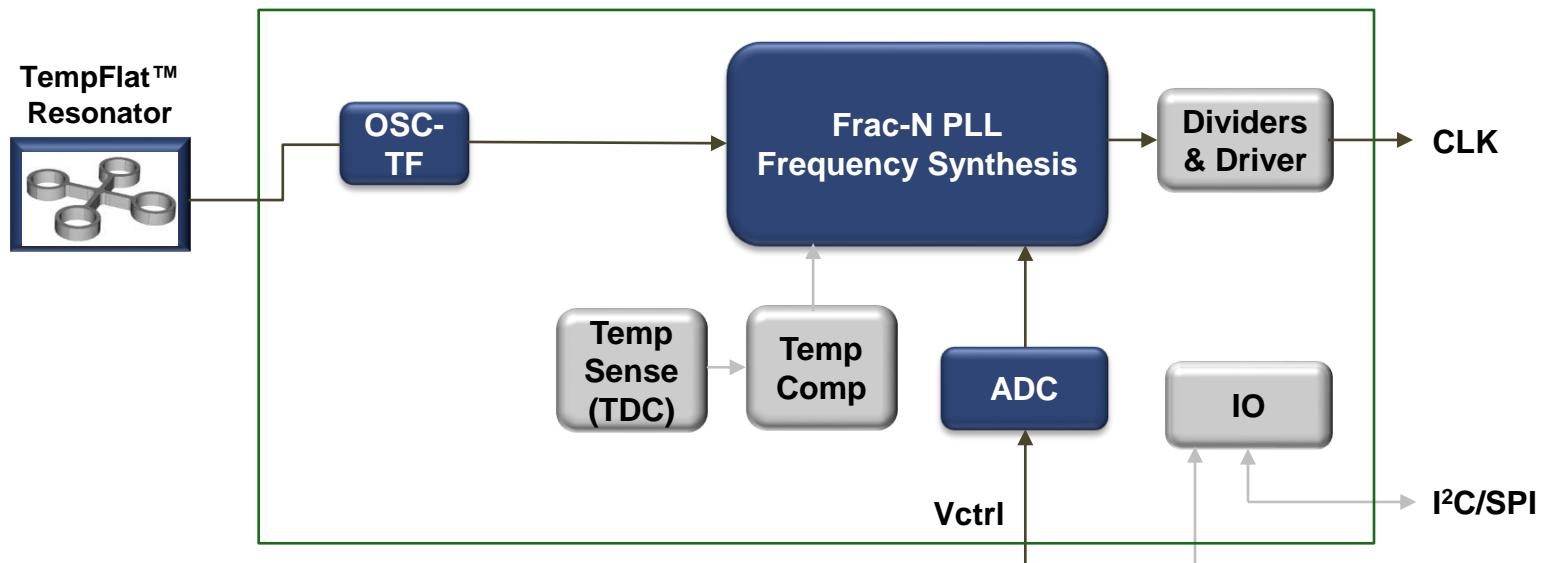
- MEMS-based TCXO Temperature tracking BW up to 350 Hz, 40x faster than best-in-class TCXO
- Tracks fast temperature fluctuations (fans, heating due to chipset proximity)
- Noiseless Temperature compensation: No additional phase noise from temp comp



# MEMS-Based TCXO Phase Noise



# Voltage Control for MEMS-Based VC-TCXO



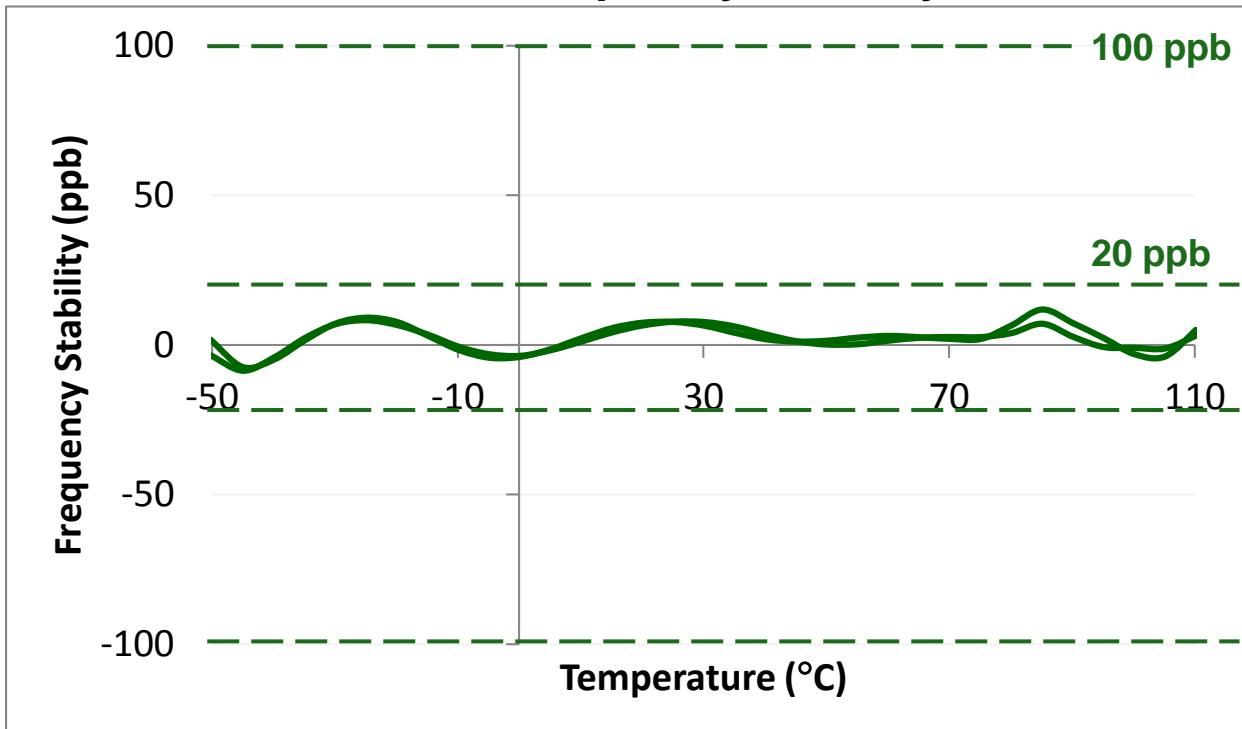
- PLL-based frequency pull
- Highly linear characteristics across full Vctrl range: < 0.1%
- Highly consistent VCXO frequency control gain: < 10%
- f-vs-T degradation due to Vcntrl: ~ ±10ppb across full Vctrl range
- Low noise ADC for low phase noise performance
- Wide pull range selection: ±6.25 ppm to ±50 ppm
- Factory programmable Vctrl bandwidth: 5 kHz to 40 kHz

# Temperature Stability: $\pm 100$ ppb up to 110°C



Specification	MEMS TCXO	Quartz TCXO
Frequency Stability	$\pm 100$ ppb	$\pm 100$ ppb
Temperature range	-40°C to +105°C	-40°C to +85°C
Max temperature ramp rate	10°C/min	1°C/min

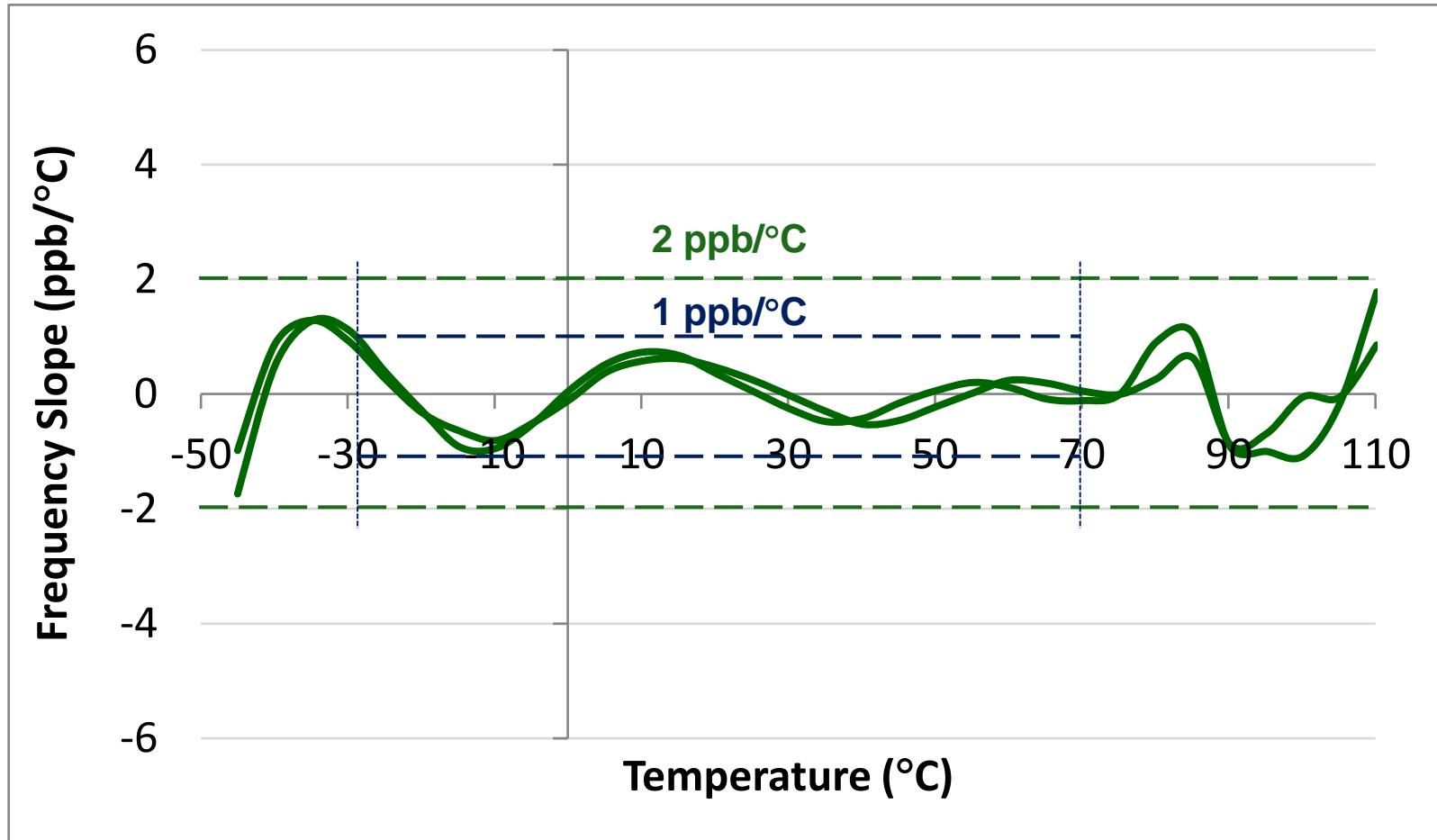
## MEMS-Based TCXO Frequency Stability – Measured



# Frequency Slope vs. Temperature for IEEE 1588

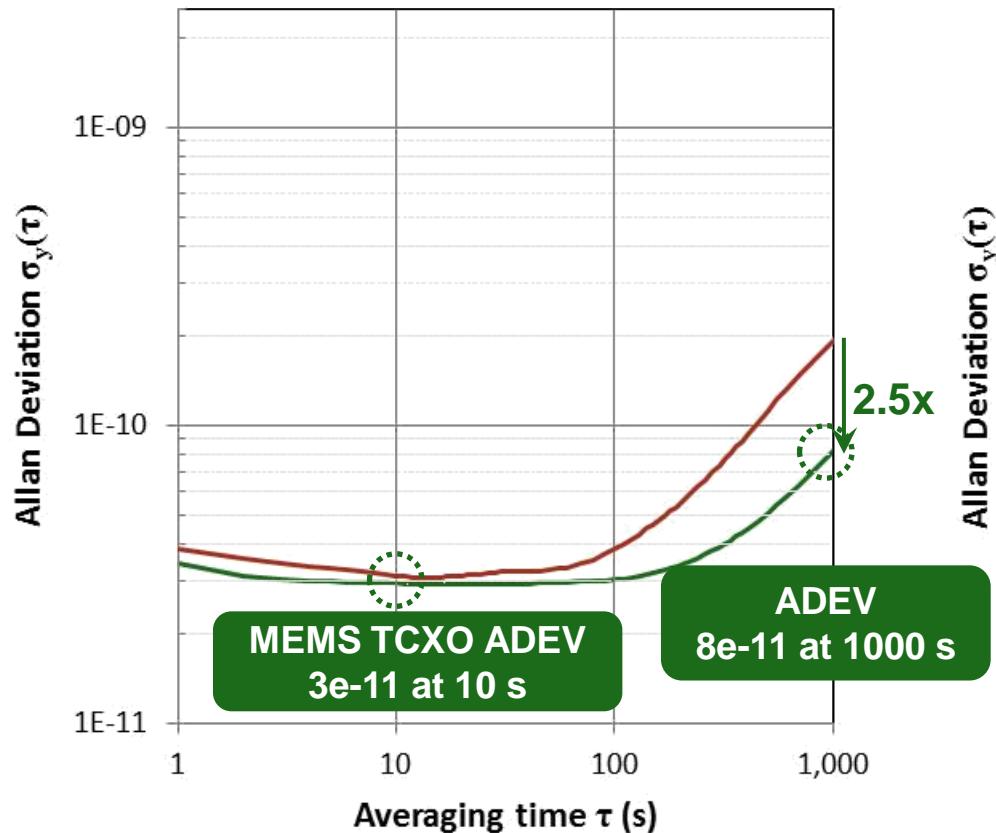


## MEMS-Based TCXO Freq. vs Temperature slope – Measured Results

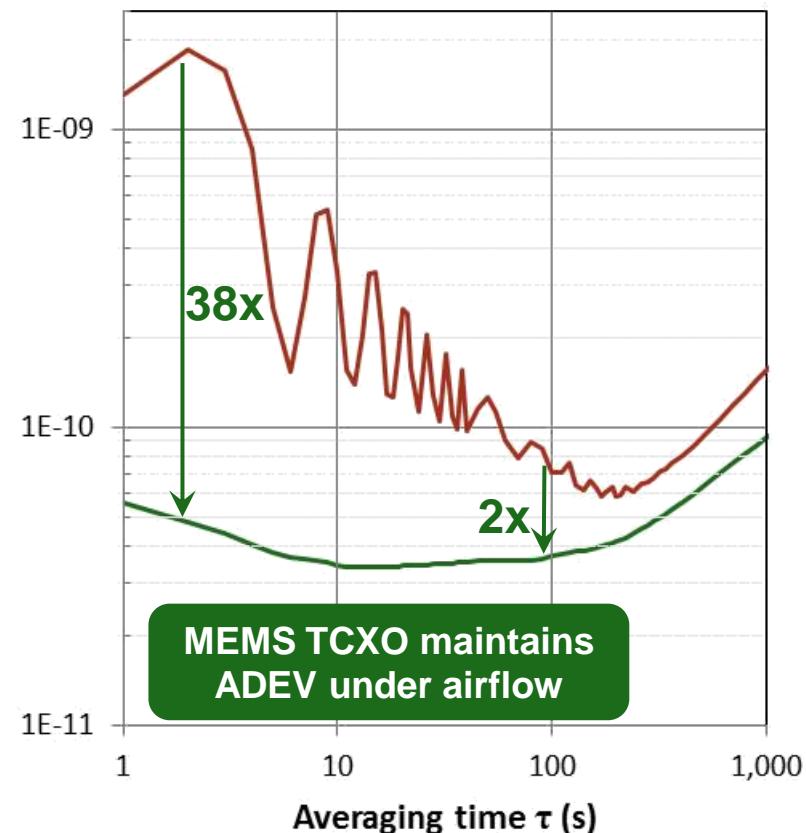


# ADEV in Airflow Conditions

ADEV in Still Air, 25°C



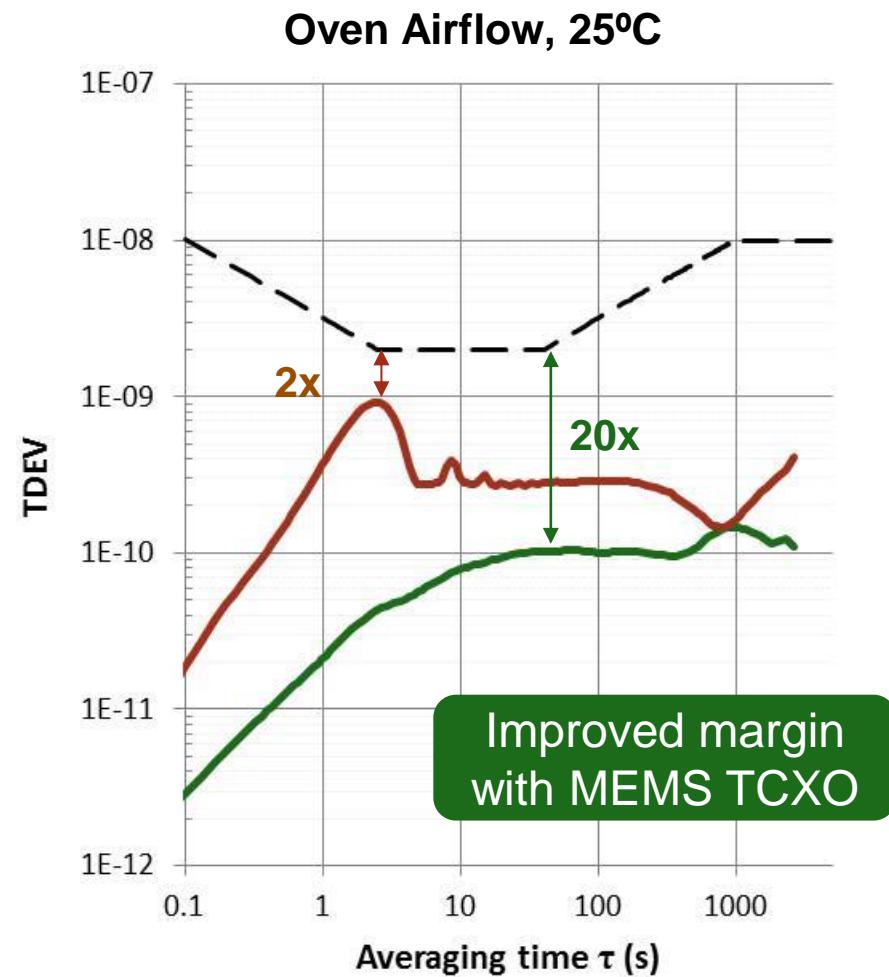
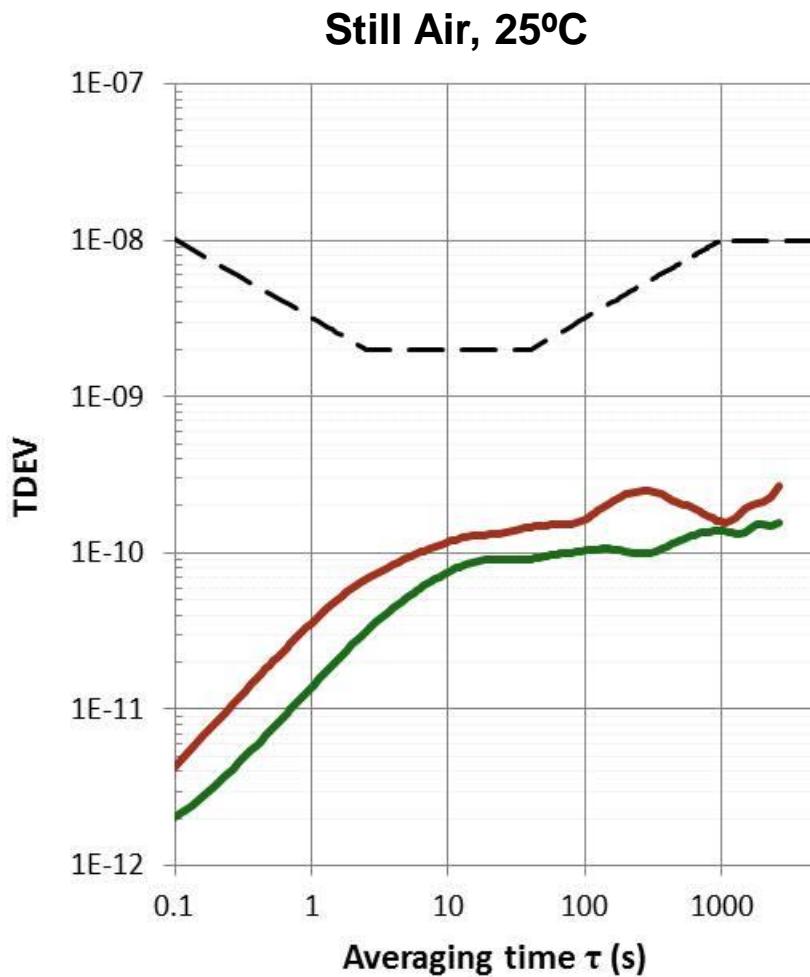
ADEV with Oven Airflow, 25°C



- MEMS-Based TCXO: 20 MHz,  $\pm 100$  ppb, -40°C to 85°C
- Quartz TCXO: 10 MHz,  $\pm 50$  ppb, -5°C to 70°C

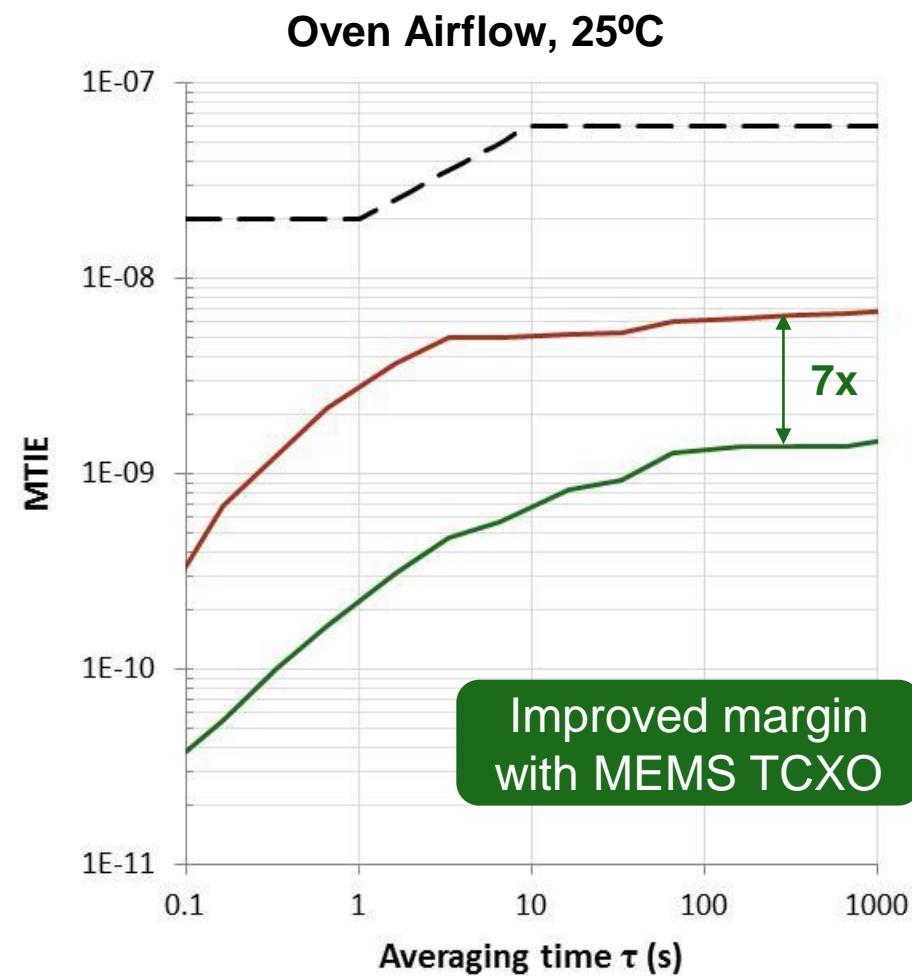
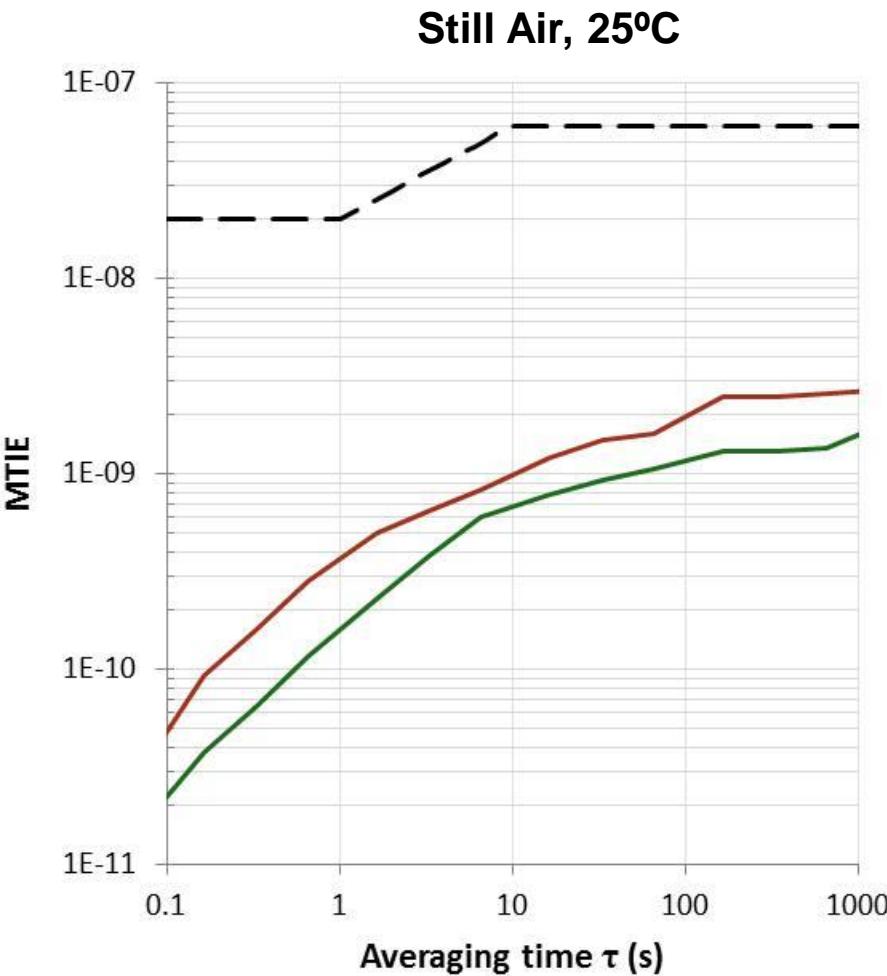
# ITU-T G.8262-Compliant TDEV Under Still Air and Airflow Conditions

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Measured on SiLabs demo board Si5328-EVB  
with 88 mHz PLL setting

# ITU-T G.8262-Compliant MTIE Under Still Air and Airflow Conditions

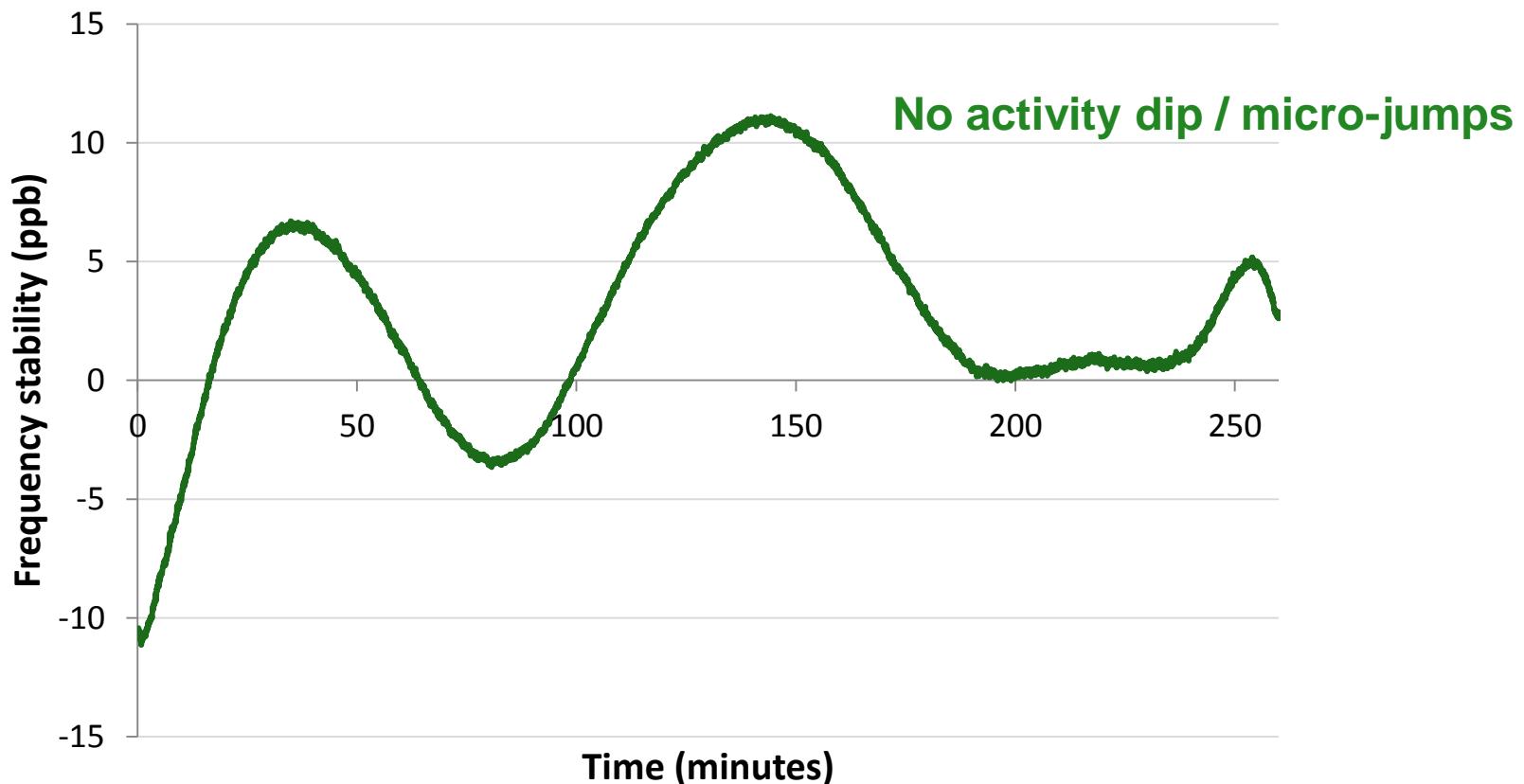


- MEMS-Based TCXO: 20 MHz,  $\pm 100$  ppb, -40°C to 85°C
- Quartz TCXO, 40 MHz

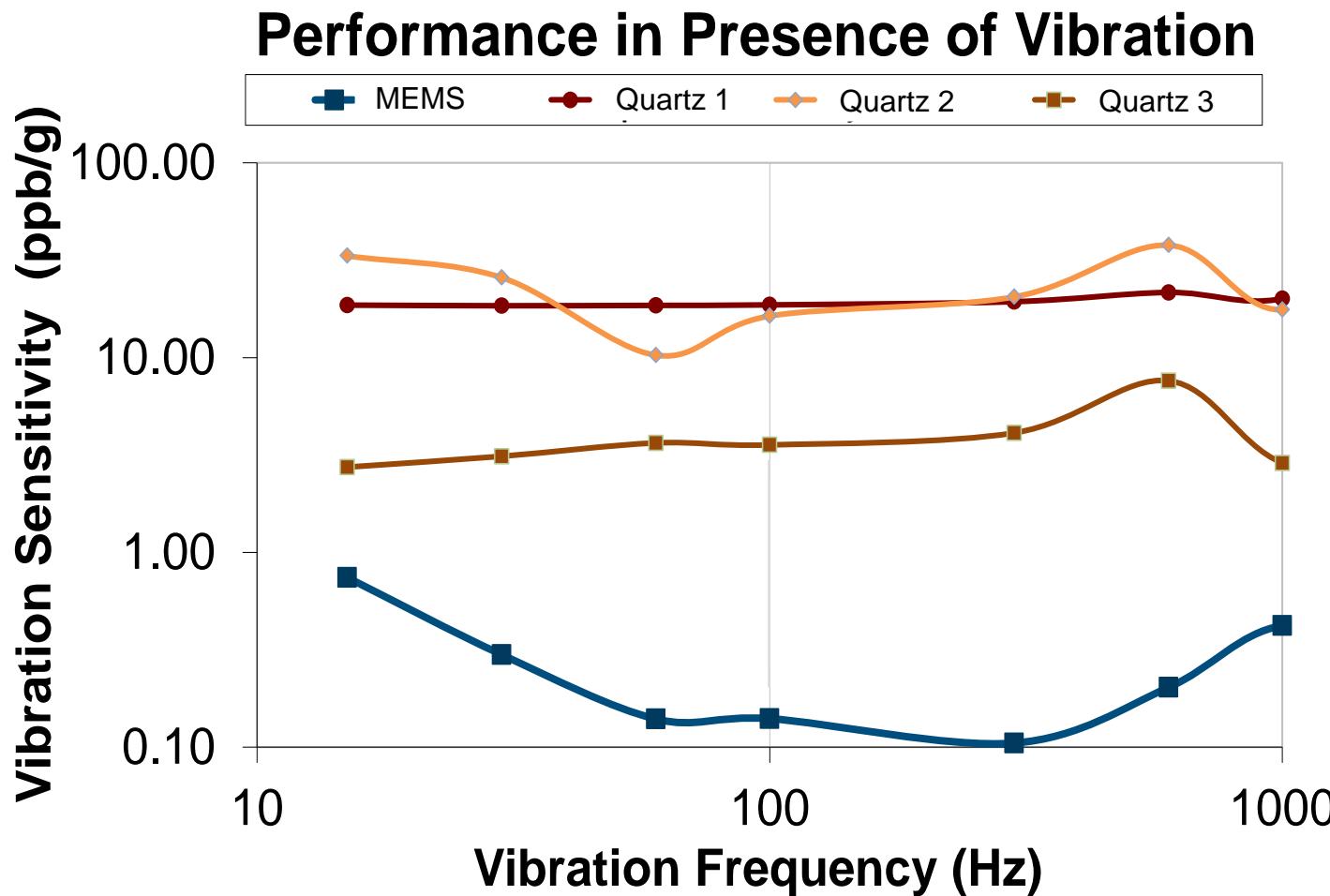
# Activity Dips / Micro Jumps



Temperature: Swept from -40<sup>o</sup>C to 85<sup>o</sup>C

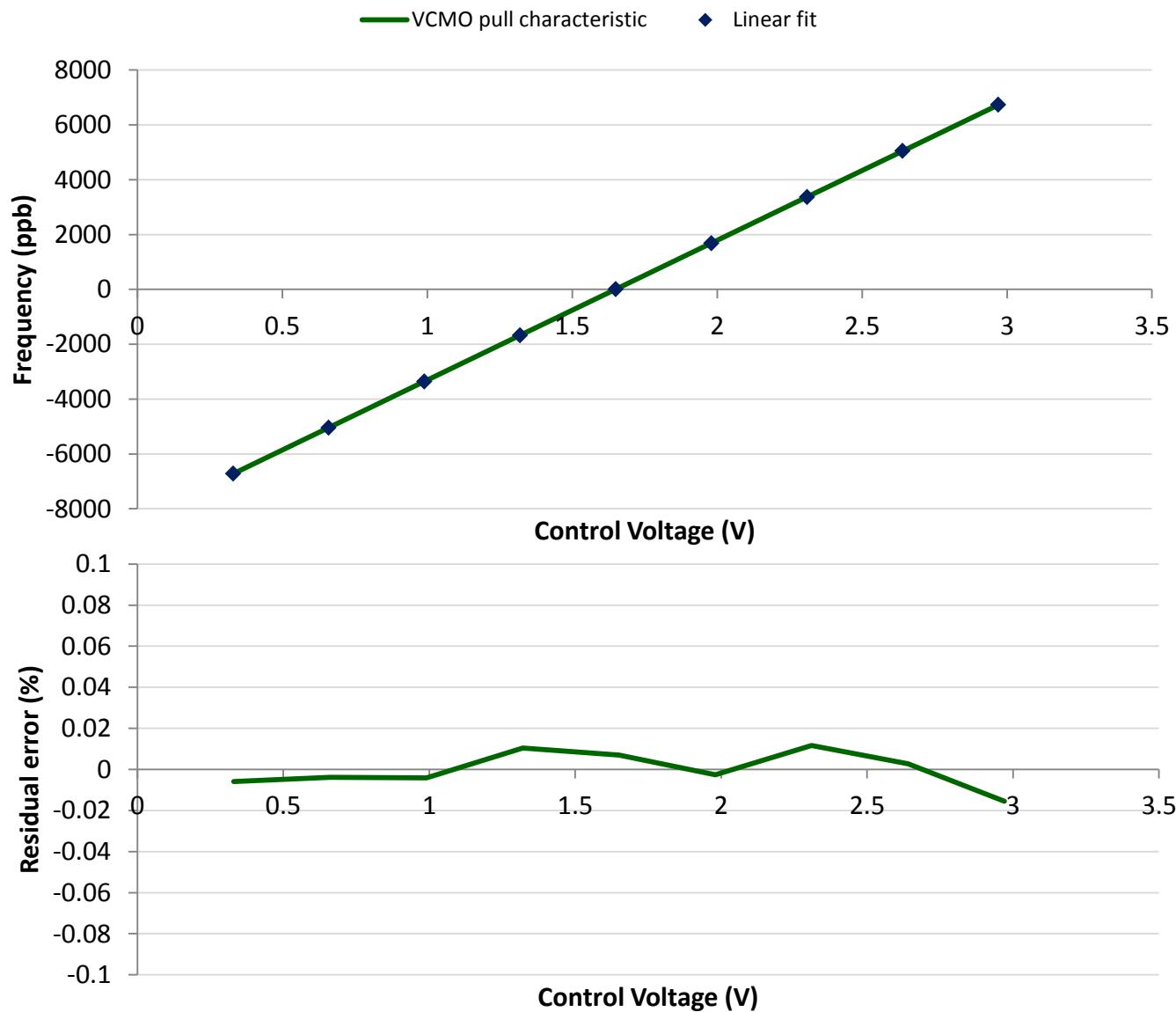


# MEMS Resonators Deliver Vibration Immunity

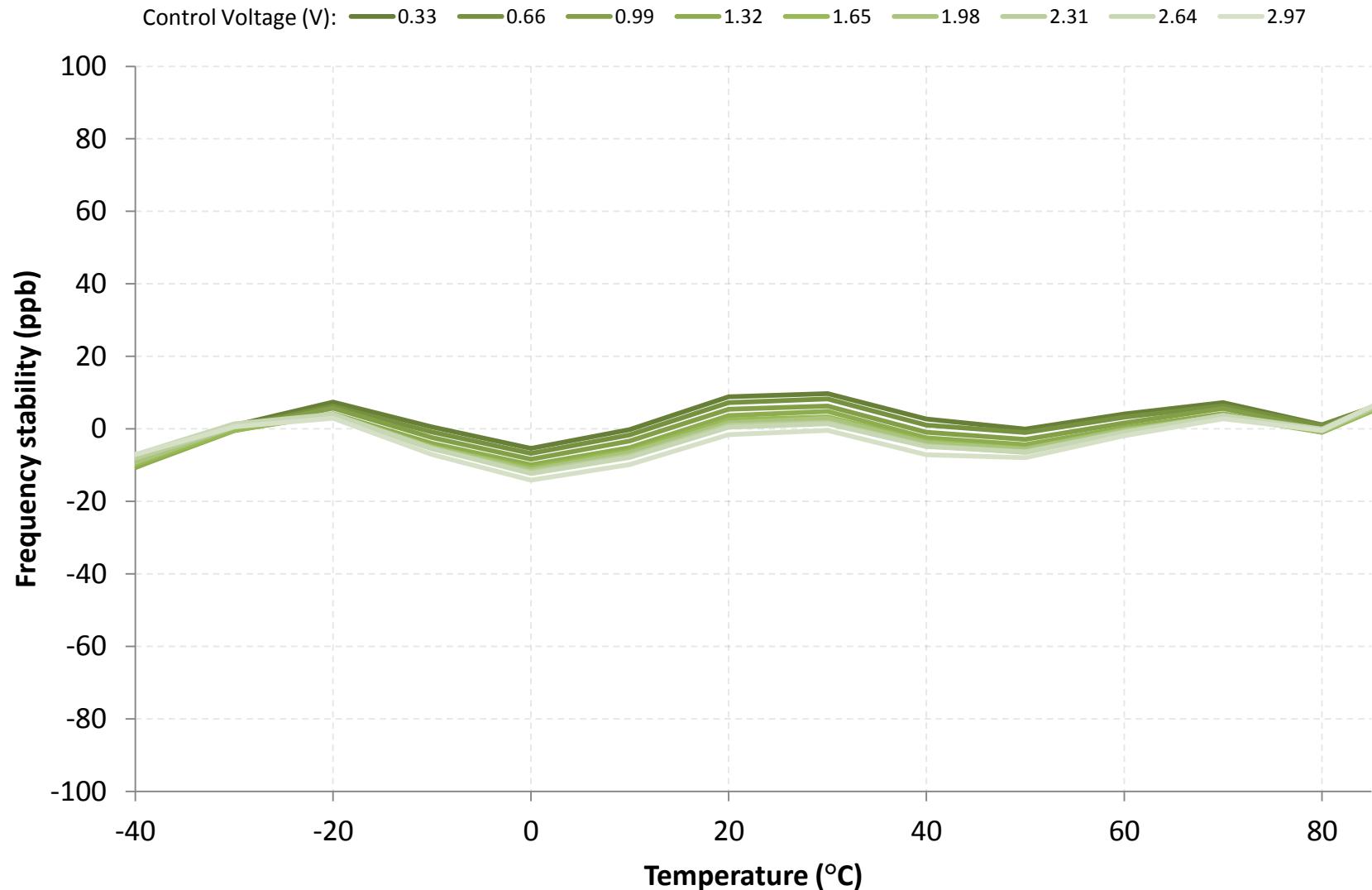


# MEMS-Based VC-TCXO Freq-vs-Vctrl Linearity

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# MEMS-Based VC-TCXO: Vctrl Tuning Skew



# Extended Frequency Control Features



Specification	MEMS-Based TCXO	Quartz TCXO
Frequency Range	SE: 1 - 220 MHz DE: 10 - 720 MHz Programmable	SE: 10 - 52 MHz DE: 10 – 200 MHz Fixed frequencies
Outputs	LVPECL / LVDS / HCSL / LVC MOS / Clipped-Sine	LVPECL
Temperature Readout	Yes	No
High Resolution Digital Frequency control (DCXO)	< 0.1ppb resolution at 10kupdate/s	NA

# Conclusions



- Novel Dual MEMS resonator + PLL MEMS-based TCXO architecture enables new class of precision oscillators
  - ±100 ppb over -40°C to +110°C
- Enable applications in harsh environmental conditions
  - Wide temperature support up to 105C
  - High temperature ramp rate or airflow
  - Shock and Vibration robustness
  - No activity dips