Natural Gas Sensor



AS-MLK

Whether for air quality, safety or control, sensor applications have one common requirement: a reliable sensor component. AppliedSensor's ability to micro-machine sensor chips using standard silicon wafer technology allows to produce consistently reliable sensors in high volumes for mass market applications.

Unique micro machined, low power sensor design

AppliedSensor's high-performance ML sensor components offer reduced power consumption and increased packaging flexibility. The sensors are produced by combining the benefits of thick film, thin film and patents pending technologies on silicon substrate. Heater and interdigital electrode structures are positioned on a 1 µm-thin membrane on top of which is deposited a tin dioxide sensitive layer that creates gas concentration-dependent conductivity.

The sensor component has high sensitivity and selectivity to natural gas and is packaged in a standard TO-39 (solid TO-5), 4-pin header. For further cost efficiency, the low heat-generating micro-machined chip may be adhered directly to a printed circuit board (Chip on Board packaging).

With an optimized operation mode, the MLK sensor is highly selective to natural gas with minimal cross-sensitivity from other chemical compounds and humidity. AppliedSensor offers comprehensive application development including complete electronics and firmware integration.

Key Benefits

- High sensitivity to CH₄
 (0.01 to 4%)
- Very low power consumption
- Long lifetime
- Low cross sensitivity
- Long term stability

Typical Applications

 Natural gas monitoring and leakage detection

Features

Chip size	2x2 mm
ncluding header	Ø: 10 mm, height: 11 mm
Operational Conditions	
Operation temperature range	300°C - 350°C
ypical operation temperature	320°C
Environmental Conditions	
Ambient temperature range	-40°C - 120°C (lower than op. temp.)
mbient humidity	0 - 95% RH
lectrical Characteristics	
Power consumption	41 mW at 320°C
ypical sensor resistance during	
operation in air (50% RH)	1 M Ω range
ypical sensor resistance during	
peration in 0,5% CH4 (50% RH)	100 k Ω range
ignal output component	Resistance
leater	
ypical heater voltage	~2.7 V for 320°C
Temperature coefficient	TC≈1700 ppm/K
pical heater resistance at RT	95 Ω
Sensing Properties	
Concentration range	Can withstand 10% CH_4 in air
	(explosion proof version)
Sensitivity range	0.01 to 4%
ypical response / recovery time	Seconds
xpected lifetime	Years
Cross sensitivity	Limited cross sensitivity to humidity,
	hydrogen and hydrocarbons
Packaging Options	
Standard TO-39 (solid TO-5) packag	e with protection membrane.
Pre-mould packages.	

Chip on board solutions.

Restrictions

Contact of the sensitive layer with liquids shall be avoided.

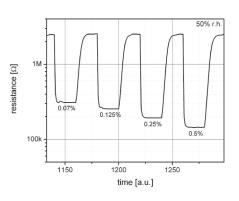
Do not operate gas sensors in the vicinity of silicone and polysiloxanes.

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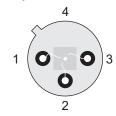
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Typical Sensor Response



Pin Layout



Top view AS-MLK Sensor Component

Pin Function

- 1 Sensor electrode 1
- 2 Heater power
- **3** Sensor electrode 2
- 4 Heater ground

Basic Measuring Circuit (Exemplified and Simplified)

