



## Supersonic Missiles To Go

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One of the largest US manufactures of tactical missiles approached API with a request to build a sensor for a new project. The application was for an optical proximity fuse for a tactical missile that was to be supersonic, light weight, quick reaction, as well as, fire and forget. The customer did not have detailed specifications at the time; however, with the help of API's design engineers we were able to help outline what the customer needed and participate in the design stage for the optical detector.

API's engineers teamed up with the customer's engineering team to define the specifications, screening, and test criteria for this sensor. Through a joint effort we created a part which met all the customers' application needs. During initial testing of the missile system the proximity fuse worked perfectly and met the mission readiness requirements as outlined by the US Navy. Consequently, the customer was awarded a multi year, multi million dollar contract for the missile system. Currently, the missile system is used by the US Navy, as well as Germany, South Korea and Greece. With over 150 flight tests to date and enjoys a >95% success rate.

API's effort included a custom photomask design, with a proprietary opaque polyimide coating, and a hybrid printed circuit board including the electronic circuitry. All milestones for the program were met on time and API remains the sole source supplier on the program.