As you might know, about 25 faculty members from various departments are involved in microfabrication using the LiGA technique. This technique is based on X-ray lithography using synchrotron radiation from the CAMD storage ring. Faculty members have fabricated over the last several years some rather interesting "micro devices", however, until now there is no real "microsystem" i.e. a complete system with electronic, "intelligence" and a complete adequate packaging. A lack of equipment is without any doubts one of the reasons for this disappointing situation, however what is from my opinion even more important is a lack of faculty members with a research focus in e.g. packaging. Thus, I would propose to hire at least 3 - 4 new faculty who could strengthen the "IT side" of microfabrcation. Suitable research areas could be: Assemby and Packaging, Electrical Measurements and testing of microsystems, VLSI design, Materials for microelectronic and microsystems etc..

I am convinced that building on existing strengths will be much more effective than starting completely new research areas especially in those fields where other universities (and/or regions) are far ahead.