We Claim:

1. A method of detecting existence of a condition, said method comprising:

introducing a transducer into an environment where said analyte might be present, said tranducer comprising:

a barrier layer;

an active sensing layer in contact with at least two electrodes; and

a dielectric layer between said active and barrier layers and having first and second sides, said at least two electrodes both being adjacent said dielectric layer second side; and

observing whether said transducer indicates the existence of the condition, wherein said existence is indicated by a change in resistance, said transducer having a response time of less than about 50 msec and a fall time of less than about 100 msec under atmospheric conditions.