

SPACE-EFFICIENT CONTAINMENT DEVICES AND METHOD OF MAKING SAME

Cross-Reference to Related Applications

5 This application claims benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/527,482, filed August 25, 2011. This application is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Background

 The present disclosure relate generally to containment devices, including but not limited to medical devices, such as implantable medical devices, having containment
10 reservoirs for confining substance or subcomponents for later exposure or release. In particular, the present disclosure relates to improved containment devices and methods of manufacture thereof, including but not limited to space-efficient device assemblies, as well as improved methods for making microchip containment device elements.

 Typical implantable medical devices such as pacemakers and implantable cardioverter
15 defibrillators are designed with two or more housing components or shells that contain the control electronics, power source and other device specific components. A header is also used to provide electrical connections into and out of the device. The housing and header or feedthrough are designed to be hermetic to prevent liquid or gas exchange between the internal components, which are typically not biocompatible, and body fluids. It is noted,
20 however, that certain implants with epoxy based headers that do not achieve long term hermeticity. Design and manufacturing methods of implantable devices have evolved with the goal of ensuring hermeticity.

 MicroCHIPS Inc. designs and manufactures implantable devices based on microchips which include reservoir arrays containing biosensors or drugs. **FIG. 1** shows a possible
25 conventional approach for assembly of components in an implantable medical device **10**, which includes a microchip assembly **12**. The microchip assembly **12**, which is also referred to as a microchip element, includes microreservoirs, each of which may contain a drug for controlled delivery *in vivo* or a sensor for controlled exposure *in vivo*. The microchip assembly **12** is attached to a feedthrough **16** that is welded to the housing **14**. Such microchip
30 assemblies or elements are described, for example, in U.S. Patent 7,510,551 to Uhland et al. and U.S. Patent 7,604,628 to Santini Jr. et al. The feedthrough **16** contains electrically conductive pins that are metallurgically brazed to metallized surfaces on and through an alumina disc. A typical pin count exceeds 100, and in more complex designs, can be over 400. The consequence of such designs is that each pin connection can be a leak point.

In addition, each feedthrough pin is electrically connected to an electronic component inside the housing. Some designs utilize a wire from the pin to the circuit, while the illustrated design attaches the feedthrough **16** directly to a conventional plastic circuit board **18**. These electrical connections require testing to ensure continuity. As a result, the pin count impacts the cost of the feedthrough, and that cost increases as the number of feedthrough pins increases in the implantable device. Consequently, due to this complex design requirement, the resulting manufacturing, and the required acceptance tests, the feedthrough is an expensive component.

Another disadvantage of conventional implantable device designs based on a feedthrough or header attached to housing components is that the overall volume of the resulting device is larger than desired, because several discrete components make up the assembly.

Furthermore, electronic-based implantable devices that use radio frequency to wirelessly transfer information in and out of the body require an antenna. Radio frequency waves are significantly attenuated when the antenna is placed in a conventional metallic housing, and therefore, the antenna typically is placed on the surface of the housing, utilizing the existing feedthrough or another feedthrough dedicated for this application.

It therefore would be desirable to eliminate or mitigate any or all of the foregoing disadvantages associated with conventional designs of implantable medical devices. In one particular need, it would be desirable to provide improved housing hermeticity (e.g., fewer potential leak paths), simpler construction, and a smaller overall device volume.

In another aspect, in making microchip-based reservoir devices, such as taught in U.S. Patent 7,604,628 to Santini Jr. et al., it would be desirable to provide greater reservoir volumes using precision manufacturing methods that are easier and more cost effective to use. For example, it would be useful to reduce or eliminate the need to use DRIE (deep reactive ion etching) processes to form the walls defining the micro-reservoirs in the microchip element.

Summary

In a first aspect, a containment device is provided that includes a first microchip element, which comprises a containment reservoir that can be electrically activated to open, and a first electronic printed circuit board (PCB) which comprises a biocompatible substrate. The first PCB may have a first side on which one or more electronic components are fixed and an opposed second side on which the at least one microchip element is fixed in electrical connection to the one or more electronic components. The device may further comprises a

second electronic printed circuit board (PCB), which comprises a biocompatible substrate, and a housing ring securing the first PCB together with the second PCB. The second PCB may have a first side on which one or more electronic components are fixed and an opposed second side, and the first side of the first PCB may be oriented in a facing relationship toward the first side of the second PCB. In a preferred embodiment, the first microchip element includes a plurality of containment reservoirs. The containment reservoirs may be microreservoirs, and in a preferred embodiment contain a drug formulation or a sensor element.

In another aspect, a microchip device element is provided which includes (i) a silicon substrate having a first side, an opposed second side, and at least one aperture extending therethrough, wherein the first side comprises an electrically conductive reservoir cap which closes off the at least one aperture; (ii) a primary substrate which is formed of a polymer or a glass or other ceramic material, wherein the primary substrate has at least one reservoir which is defined by a closed end wall, an open end, and at least one sidewall extending between the closed end wall and the open end; and (iii) reservoir contents positioned within the at least one reservoir, wherein the second side of the silicon substrate is hermetically bonded to the primary substrate, such that the open end of the reservoir is in fluid communication with the at least one aperture for controlled release or exposure of reservoir contents. In one embodiment, the second side of the silicon substrate has at least one ring structure formed thereon and the primary substrate has at least one groove structure, wherein the at least one ring structure and the at least one groove structure together forming a hermetic bond, such as by compression cold welding.

In still another aspect, a method is provided for making a microchip device element. In embodiments, this method includes (i) microfabricating a silicon substrate having a first side, an opposed second side, and at least one aperture extending therethrough, wherein the first side comprises an electrically conductive reservoir cap which closes off the at least one aperture; (ii) casting or molding a polymer or a glass or other ceramic material to form a primary substrate having at least one reservoir which is defined by a closed end wall, an open end, and at least one sidewall extending between the closed end wall and the open end; (iii) providing reservoir contents within the at least one reservoir; and (iv) bonding the silicon substrate to the primary substrate such that the open end of the reservoir is in fluid communication with the at least one aperture.

In yet another aspect, a method of assembling a containment device is provided. In embodiments, the method includes (i) providing a first microchip element which comprises a

containment reservoir that can be electrically activated to open; (ii) fixing the first microchip element to a first side of a first electronic printed circuit board (PCB) which comprises a biocompatible substrate; and (iii) electrically connecting the first microchip element to one or more electronic components which are fixed on a second side of the first PCB. In one embodiment, the method may further include providing a second electronic printed circuit board (PCB) which comprises a biocompatible substrate, wherein the second PCB has a first side on which one or more electronic components are fixed and an opposed second side; and securing a housing ring to the first PCB and to the second PCB with the first side of the first PCB oriented facing toward the first side of the second PCB.

Brief Description of the Drawings

FIG. 1 is an exploded perspective view of a prior art containment device including a microchip assembly.

FIG. 2A is a cross-sectional view of an assembled containment device including a microchip assembly according to an embodiment.

FIG. 2B is an exploded cross-sectional view of a portion of the containment device shown in **FIG. 2A**.

FIG. 3 is an exploded perspective view including the containment device illustrated in FIG. 2A.

FIG. 4 is a close-up, cross-sectional view of a portion of a containment device according to an embodiment.

FIG. 5A is a cross-sectional view of a microchip element assembly according to an embodiment.

FIG. 5B is an exploded cross-sectional view of the microchip element assembly shown in **FIG. 5A**.

FIG. 6 is a cross-sectional close-up view of a portion of an assembled containment device including a microchip assembly according to an embodiment.

Detailed Description

The containment devices and assemblies described herein provide, among other advantages, significantly improved space efficiency of the assembled devices. In particular embodiments, the devices and methods advantageously eliminate the need for a costly and complex feedthrough, provide a thinner implant due to the elimination of the feedthrough and the metal housings, provide improved reliability by eliminating numerous feedthrough pins and electrical connections, provide improved reliability by reducing the number of hermetic interfaces, simplify tests to confirm functionality, and provide a simpler assembly. This can

be particularly important in embodiments in which the containment device is an implantable medical device intended for long term implantation in a human or animal subject.

The containment devices provided herein may be further understood with reference to the following exemplary embodiments, including the containment device **110** illustrated in **FIGS. 2A** and **2B**. The device includes a first microchip element **112** which comprises a containment reservoir (not shown) that can be electrically activated to open; a first electronic printed circuit board (PCB) **114**; and a second PCB **116**. The first PCB **114** comprises a biocompatible substrate and has a first side on which one or more electronic components **118** are fixed and an opposed second side on which the at least one microchip element **112** is fixed in electrical connection to the one or more electronic components **118**. The second PCB **116** comprises a biocompatible substrate and has a first side on which one or more electronic components **118** are fixed. The opposed second side of the second PCB **116** optionally may comprise an antenna or one or more additional microchip elements (not illustrated).

The "electronic printed circuit board" (PCB) refers to a substrate that mechanically supports and electrically connects electronic components using conductive pathways, tracks or signal traces as known in the art. In a preferred embodiment, the PCB includes a biocompatible and hermetic substrate material. Suitable such materials include ceramics, such as alumina and silicon nitride. Multi-layer alumina PCBs have been successfully designed and manufactured. See, for example, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0034564. These laminations may be the result of combining conductive layers, dielectric layers, and aluminum oxide (Al_2O_3 , alumina) in a low temperature co-fired process. The alumina is referred to as low temperature co-fired ceramic (LTCC). These biocompatible ceramics also function as a hermetic barrier, eliminating the need for conventional metallic housing elements.

The term "biocompatible" as used herein generally refers to materials of construction that are suitable for long-term implantation into a human or animal subject, e.g., a patient. Such materials of constructions are known in the art of implantable medical devices.

As used herein, the term "hermetic seal" refers to preventing undesirable ingress or egress of chemicals (e.g., water vapor, water, oxygen, etc.) into or from one or more compartments of the device, such as the device reservoirs, over the useful life of the device. For purposes herein, a material/seal that transmits helium (He) at a rate less than 1×10^{-9} atm*cc/sec is termed hermetic.

The first and second PCBs **114**, **116** may be secured together by a housing ring **120** formed of a biocompatible metal that hermetically seals the electronic components **118** of the first and second PCBs **114**, **116** within the housing ring **120**. The housing ring **120** may be made of a biocompatible metal or alloy, such as titanium or a stainless steel. The housing ring structure is configured to surround the periphery of the PCBs and to secure the PCBs together in a desired configuration. Desirably, the housing ring and at least the outward facing surfaces of the first and second PCBs are formed of a biocompatible material. The interface of the housing ring with the PCBs, in a preferred embodiment, form a hermetic seal to isolate the electronic components of the first and second PCBs within the housing ring and between the first and second PCBs. The housing ring may be welded to the first and second PCBs. A biocompatible resin **122** (e.g., an epoxy resin) may be disposed over a portion of the first microchip element **112** and the first PCB **114**. In embodiments, the containment device **110** may include other suitable electronic or electrical components **124** disposed therein.

In one embodiment, the containment device has a single PCB, which includes a biocompatible ceramic material. In such an embodiment, the side of the PCB distal to the microchip element may be covered with a biocompatible epoxy coating or other biocompatible coating material. This coating would cover the electronic components, including but not limited to an antenna, a battery (if included), etc. This coating may be multilayered, and it may include a hermetic material so long the material does not interfere with the operation of any of the electronic components.

It is understood that the containment device may include any suitable number of microchip elements (e.g., from 1 to 6) and that each microchip element may include a plurality of discrete reservoirs (e.g., from 10 to 750 reservoirs). More microchip elements, and fewer or more reservoirs, per device are also envisioned.

An embodiment of a containment device having two microchip elements is illustrated in **FIG. 3**. The device **200** includes two microchip elements **212**, a first PCB **214**, and a second PCB **216**. Electronic components **218** are fixed on a first side of the first PCB **214**, and the microchip elements **212** are fixed onto an opposed second side of the first PCB **214**. Electronic components **218** are also fixed onto a first side of second PCB **216**. An antenna or more microchip elements may be fixed on the opposed second side of the second PCB **216**. A housing ring **220** is used to secure the first PCB **214** and second PCB **216** together and to hermetically seal the electronic components **218** inside between the first and second PCBs and the housing ring **220**. In this assembly, the exposed sides of the PCBs, which preferably

comprise a biocompatible hermetic material, doubling as the device housing, eliminating the need for, and bulk of, an additional housing for the PCBs and internal electronics. As will be explained below with reference to FIG. 4, the electronic components **218** on the first sides of the first and second PCBs **214**, **216** are in electrical (operable) communication with the
5 microchip elements **212**.

The electronic components **118** and **124** provide any of a number of functions for the containment device. Examples include but are not limited to a controller (e.g., microprocessor) and power source (e.g., battery or capacitor) for electrically activating the reservoir to cause it to become opened and/to communicate with a sensor, for example,
10 located within the reservoir or with another device remotely located from the containment device. Other electronic components may include, for example, telemetry hardware, capacitors, transistors, and diodes, as well as the control means for actuating the reservoir caps. The control means may include an input source, a microprocessor, a timer, a demultiplexer (or multiplexer). In an embodiment, the electronic components include
15 components for wirelessly receiving energy for charging an on-board storage capacitor, which may further reduce the space requirements for the electronic components on-board the containment device.

The containment reservoir of the microchip element **112** may be configured to open/activate in a variety of ways, which may be known in the art. In one embodiment, the
20 containment reservoir is structured and configured to be electrically activated to open as described in U.S. Patent No. 7, 510,551 and U.S. Patent No. 7,604,628, which are incorporated herein by reference.

One embodiment of the electrical connection between a PCB/electronic components and a microchip element is illustrated in FIG. 4. The figure shows part of the microchip
25 element **312** including two containment reservoirs **344**. Each reservoir **344** has an opening closed off a reservoir cap **348**. The reservoir **344**, which is formed at least in part in a substrate **343**, has a closed end opposed to the opening and a sidewall therebetween. The microchip element **312** is secured to a first side of PCB **314**, and electronic component **318** is secured on the opposed side of PCB **314**. The PCB **314** includes a via **330** which electrically
30 connects electronic component **318** to the microchip element **312**. Via **330** is mechanically and electrically connected to metallized conductive surfaces **332A**, **332B** on the PCB **314**, and microchip element **312** is wirebonded **334** to the metallized conductive surface **332A**. A biocompatible coating substance **336** is applied over the wire bond to secure and protect the connection, and typically will coat part of the surface of the PCB **314** and part of the

microchip element 312 but not the reservoir caps 348. The coating substance 336 may be a polymer, such as an epoxy or other resin.

In one embodiment, the reservoir caps are structured and configured to be electrically activated to open as described in U.S. Patent No. 7, 510,551 and U.S. Patent No. 7,604,628, which are incorporated herein by reference. The reservoir caps may be formed of a metal film, which may comprise a single layer or a laminate structure. For example, the reservoir cap may comprise gold, platinum, titanium, or a combination thereof. In other embodiments, the reservoir cap can be configured to be activated or opened by a mechanical or electrochemical mechanisms.

The containment reservoir of the microchip element may be a "microreservoir" which generally refers to a reservoir having a volume equal to or less than 500 μL (e.g., less than 250 μL , less than 100 μL , less than 50 μL , less than 25 μL , less than 10 μL , etc.). In another embodiment, the containment reservoirs is a "macroreservoir" which generally refers to a reservoir having a volume greater than 500 μL (e.g., greater than 600 μL , greater than 750 μL , greater than 900 μL , greater than 1 mL, etc.) and less than 5 mL (e.g., less than 4 mL, less than 3 mL, less than 2 mL, less than 1 mL, etc.). The terms "reservoir" and "containment reservoir" are intended to encompass both microreservoirs and macroreservoirs unless explicitly indicated to be limited to either one or the other.

In a second aspect, improved microchip elements and methods for their manufacture are provided. In a preferred embodiment, the microchip device element includes a relatively thin silicon substrate bonded to a relatively thicker primary substrate formed of a polymer or a glass or other ceramic material. Advantageously, by defining the reservoirs in the primary substrate rather than the silicon substrate, the reservoirs may be formed using processes other than dry reactive ion etching (DRIE). This is important, not just because DRIE processes are expensive, but also because under the conventional process, the DRIE processes occurred after deposition of the reservoir cap film, unnecessarily exposing the reservoir cap film to subsequent processing, which can negatively impact the yield of acceptable (e.g., hermetic) reservoir caps.

In addition, by adding the positive sealing features (e.g., gold sealing rings) to the silicon substrate, this keeps all of the high tolerance microfeatures to only the silicon substrate, which in turn frees up the primary substrate to be made by other, potentially lower tolerance, manufacturing processes. In this way, the reservoir can be made much deeper and thereby increase the unit reservoir payload. In one embodiment, the primary substrate is made by a casting or molding process using ceramic or polymeric materials that allows for

formation of reservoirs that are deeper than conventional reservoirs and having smoother side walls than would be readily possible using DRIE. This cast or molded substrate then may be gold plated in and about sealing grooves formed therein for bonding with the positive sealing features on the silicon substrate.

5 An exemplary embodiment of the microchip element is illustrated in **FIG. 5A** and **FIG. 5B**. The microchip element **412** includes a primary substrate **440** and a silicon substrate **442**, which are bonded together. The silicon substrate **442** has a first side, an opposed second side, and apertures **446** extending therethrough. Three apertures **446** are shown for each reservoir **444**. The first side of the silicon substrate **442** includes reservoir caps **448** which
10 close off the apertures until the reservoir needs to be opened. In a preferred embodiment, the reservoir caps **448** are electrically conductive. For example, the reservoir caps may be in the form of a metal film. The silicon substrate, apertures, and reservoir caps can be made using microfabrication techniques known in the art. For example, the photolithography, etching, and deposition techniques described in U.S. Patent No. 7,604,628 may be used to form the
15 apertures in a polysilicon substrate closed off by metal reservoir caps.

 The primary substrate **440** includes two reservoirs **444** in this illustration. Each reservoir is defined by a closed end wall, an open end, and at least one sidewall extending between the closed end wall and the open end. As mentioned above, the primary substrate **444** is formed of a polymer or a glass or other ceramic material by any suitable process,
20 including but not limited to molding, casting, micromachining, and build-up or lamination techniques known in the art. In one embodiment, the primary substrate is made of/by low temperature co-fired ceramics (LTCC). It may further include a coating layer on all or a portion of the substrate, for example to provide or improve hermeticity, biocompatibility, bonding, and/or reservoir content compatibility, stability, or release. Depending on the
25 purpose of the coating layer, it may be applied inside the reservoirs, outside of the reservoirs, or both. Examples of possible coating materials include biocompatible metals, such as gold, and polymers, such as parylene.

 The primary substrate **440** and the silicon substrate **442** are bonded together using any suitable method, to hermetically seal the reservoirs **444**. In this way, the open end of the
30 reservoir **444** is in fluid communication with the apertures **446** for controlled release or exposure of reservoir contents. In a preferred embodiment, the substrates are hermetically sealed together using a compression cold welding process, such as described in U.S. Patent No. 8,191,756, which is incorporated herein by reference. As shown in FIGS. 5A and 5B, the second side of

the silicon substrate **442** includes ring structures **452** formed thereon, and the first side of the primary substrate **440** includes grooves **450**. These bonding features are compressed together to form a cold weld bond, a hermetic seal, surrounding the individual reservoirs. The ring structures **452** may be formed by a depositing gold or another metal layer on the silicon substrate. The grooves **450** may be etched in the silicon and then coated with a metallized layer of the same material as the metal ring. Variations of this embodiment are envisioned, for example, where other positive and negative bonding features are provided in/on either or both interfacing surfaces of the silicon substrate and the primary substrate.

The primary substrate is generally relatively thicker than silicon substrate, and all or at least a majority (greater than 50%) of the reservoir sidewall height (or depth) is define by the primary substrate. In an embodiment, the silicon substrate has thickness that is between 5% and 50% of the thickness of the primary substrate at the bonded interfaces of the substrates.

Although not shown in the FIG. 4 or FIG. 5A, the reservoirs **344** and **444**, respectively, include reservoir contents positioned therewithin. The containment reservoirs can be configured to store essentially any substance or device component in need hermetic containment and subsequent release or exposure at a selected time. The reservoir content may be, for example, a chemical reagent, a drug formulation, or sensor or component thereof, such as an electrode. In an embodiment, a single device includes at least one containment reservoir containing a biosensor and at least one reservoir containing a drug formulation. Examples of various reservoir contents are described for example in U.S. Patent No. 7,510,551; U.S. Patent No. 7,497,855; U.S. Patent No. 7,604,628; U.S. Patent No. 7,488,316; and PCT WO 2012/027137.

An exemplary embodiment of a containment device **600** including a microchip element **612** is illustrated in FIG. 6. The containment device **600** includes a ceramic PCB **614** which has via **630** electrically connecting electronic component **618** to the microchip element **612**. The electronic component **618** is secured on a first side of the ceramic PCB **614**, and the microchip element **612** is secured on the opposing second side of the first PCB **614**. The via **630** electrically connects to a metallized conductive surface **632** on the first side of the first PCB **614**. The electrical circuitry **635** of the microchip element **612** is electrically connected to the metallized surface **632** by wirebond **634**, and an epoxy **633** coats the wirebond **634**. The second side of the ceramic PCB **614** also includes a metallized conductive surface **637**, which is electrically connected to the electronic component **618**.

Although not shown in this illustration, the containment device **600** may include multiple PCBs, as well as multiple vias, electronic components, and wirebonds.

The microchip element **612** includes a primary substrate **640** and a silicon substrate **642**. The primary substrate **640** and silicon substrate **642** are bonded together by
5 compression cold welding at/adjacent the interface of a ring structure and groove structure tongue **650/652**. Reservoirs **644** are defined in the primary substrate **640** with the open end in fluid communication with apertures **646** defined through the silicon substrate **612**. Electrically conductive reservoir caps **648** sealingly cover the apertures **646** and reservoirs **644**.

10 This containment device **600** may further include a second ceramic PCB and a metal housing ring, similar to the assemblies shown in **FIG 2A** and **FIG. 3**.

Modifications and variations of the methods and devices described herein will be obvious to those skilled in the art from the foregoing detailed description. Such modifications and variations are intended to come within the scope of the appended claims.

I claim:

1. A containment device comprising:
 - a first microchip element which comprises a containment reservoir that can be electrically activated to open; and
 - a first electronic printed circuit board (PCB) which comprises a biocompatible substrate, wherein the first PCB has a first side on which one or more electronic components are fixed and an opposed second side on which the at least one microchip element is fixed in electrical connection to the one or more electronic components.
2. The containment device of claim 1, wherein the biocompatible substrate of the first PCB is a ceramic.
3. The containment device of claim 2, wherein the ceramic is alumina.
4. The containment device of claim 1, wherein the first PCB comprises at least one via electrically connecting at least one of the one or more electronic components to the first microchip element.
5. The containment device of claim 4, wherein the at least one via is electrically connected to a metallized conductive surface on the second side of the first PCB, and the metallized conductive surface is wirebonded to the first microchip element.
6. The containment device of any one of claims 1 to 5, wherein the containment reservoir is a microreservoir which contains a drug formulation or a sensor element.
7. The containment device of claim 1, further comprising:
 - a second electronic printed circuit board (PCB) which comprises a biocompatible substrate, wherein the second PCB has a first side on which one or more electronic components are fixed and an opposed second side; and
 - a housing ring securing the first PCB together with the second PCB, wherein the first side of the first PCB is oriented in a facing relationship toward the first side of the second PCB.
8. The containment device of claim 7, wherein the biocompatible substrates of the first and second PCBs form the outer surfaces of the second sides of the first and second PCBs, respectively.

9. The containment device of claim 8, wherein the housing ring is formed of a biocompatible metal and hermetically seals the electronic components of the first and second PCBs within the housing ring.
10. The containment device of claim 9, wherein the biocompatible substrate of each of the first and second PCBs is ceramic.
11. The containment device of claim 10, wherein the ceramic is alumina.
12. The containment device of claim 7, wherein second side of the second PCB comprises an antenna.
13. The containment device of claim 7, wherein second side of the second PCB comprises a second microchip element which comprises a containment reservoir that can be electrically activated to open.
14. The containment device of any one of claims 7 to 13, wherein the containment reservoir of the first microchip element is a microreservoir which contains a drug formulation or a sensor element.
15. A microchip device element comprising:
 - a silicon substrate having a first side, an opposed second side, and at least one aperture extending therethrough, wherein the first side comprises an electrically conductive reservoir cap which closes off the at least one aperture;
 - a primary substrate which is formed of a polymer or a glass or other ceramic material, wherein the primary substrate has at least one reservoir which is defined by a closed end wall, an open end, and at least one sidewall extending between the closed end wall and the open end; and
 - reservoir contents positioned within the at least one reservoir,
 - wherein the second side of the silicon substrate is hermetically bonded to the primary substrate, such that the open end of the reservoir is in fluid communication with the at least one aperture for controlled release or exposure of reservoir contents.
16. The device of claim 15, wherein the primary substrate comprises a metal coating over at least a part of the polymer, glass or other ceramic material of the primary substrate.

17. The device of claim 16, wherein the metal coating coats the at least one sidewall and/or the closed end wall of the at least one reservoir.
18. The device of claim 15, wherein the second side of the silicon substrate comprises at least one ring structure formed thereon.
19. The device of claim 18, wherein the at least one ring structure comprises gold or another metal.
20. The device of claim 16, wherein the primary substrate comprises at least one groove structure, the at least one ring structure and the at least one groove structure together forming a hermetic bond.
21. The device of claim 20, wherein the surface of the primary substrate in and/or adjacent to the at least one groove structure comprises a metal coating.
22. The device of claim 21, wherein the metal coating comprises gold.
23. A method of making a microchip device element comprising:
 - microfabricating a silicon substrate having a first side, an opposed second side, and at least one aperture extending therethrough, wherein the first side comprises an electrically conductive reservoir cap which closes off the at least one aperture;
 - casting or molding a polymer or a glass or other ceramic material to form a primary substrate having at least one reservoir which is defined by a closed end wall, an open end, and at least one sidewall extending between the closed end wall and the open end;
 - providing reservoir contents within the at least one reservoir; and
 - bonding the silicon substrate to the primary substrate such that the open end of the reservoir is in fluid communication with the at least one aperture.
24. The method of claim 23, wherein the microfabricating step further includes forming at least one ring structure on the second side of the silicon substrate.
25. The method of claim 24, wherein the primary substrate comprises at least one groove structure and the step of bonding comprises compression cold welding the at least one ring structure together with the at least one groove structure.

26. A method of assembling a containment device comprising:
- providing a first microchip element which comprises a containment reservoir that can be electrically activated to open;
 - fixing the first microchip element to a first side of a first electronic printed circuit board (PCB) which comprises a biocompatible substrate; and
 - electrically connecting the first microchip element to one or more electronic components which are fixed on a second side of the first PCB.
27. The method of claim 26, wherein the step of electrically connecting comprises wirebonding.
28. The method of claim 26, wherein the biocompatible substrate of the first PCB is a ceramic.
29. The method of claim 28, wherein the ceramic is alumina.
30. The method of claim 26, wherein the first PCB comprises at least one via electrically connecting at least one of the one or more electronic components to the first microchip element.
31. The method of claim 26, wherein the at least one via is electrically connected to a metallized conductive surface on the second side of the first PCB, and the metallized conductive surface is wirebonded to the first microchip element.
32. The method of any one of claims 26 to 31, further comprising:
- providing a second electronic printed circuit board (PCB) which comprises a biocompatible substrate, wherein the second PCB has a first side on which one or more electronic components are fixed and an opposed second side; and
 - securing a housing ring to the first PCB and to the second PCB with the first side of the first PCB oriented facing toward the first side of the second PCB.
33. The method of claim 32, wherein the containment reservoir is a microreservoir which contains a drug formulation or a sensor element.