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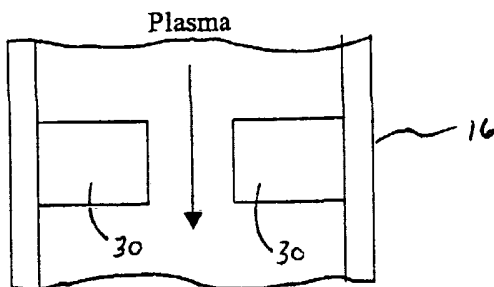
For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

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(54) Title: PLASMA ASHING PROCESS



(57) Abstract: A plasma ashing process and apparatus for selectively ashing photoresist and/or post etch residues from a semiconductor substrate includes generating a reduced ion density plasma in a plasma generation region at a pressure of at least 2 torr greater than the processing chamber pressure; and exposing the wafer surface having the photoresist and/or post etch residues thereon to the reduced ion density plasma to selectively remove the photoresist and/or post etch residues from the surface and leave the surface substantially the same as before exposing the substrate to the reduced ion density plasma.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 H01L21/311 G03F7/42 H01L21/3213 H01L21/00 H01J37/32

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	EP 1 099 779 A (KOMATSU MFG CO LTD) 16 May 2001 (2001-05-16) paragraphs '0011!', '0016!', '0031!', '0032!; figures 1-6, 10-17 ---	1-15
X	US 6 203 657 B1 (VEREB WAYNE W ET AL) 20 March 2001 (2001-03-20) column 2, lines 1-19; column 6, lines 6-9; column 8, line 9 - column 9, line 9; figures 2, 3 --- -/--	1-15

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Patent family members are listed in annex.

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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