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Declaration under Rule 4.17:

— as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii)) for the following designations AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG)

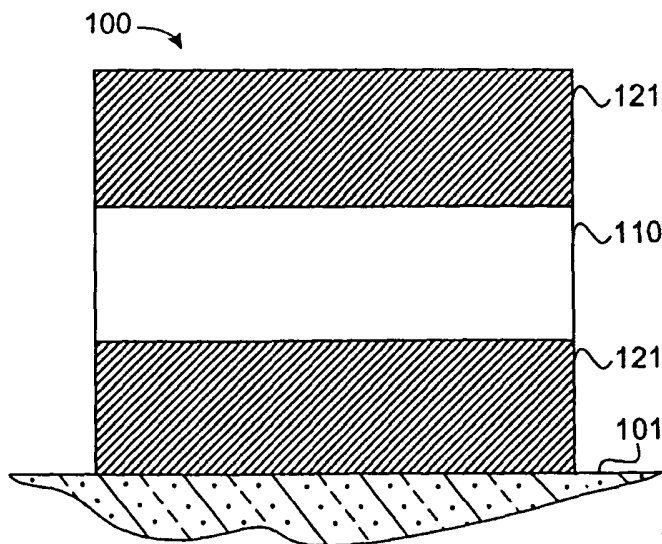
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13 May 2004

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: IN-SITU FORMATION OF METAL INSULATOR METAL CAPACITORS



(57) Abstract: The invention describes an in-situ method of fabricating a metal insulator metal (MIM) capacitor and products formed by the same. The method utilizes atomic layer deposition (ALD) or metal-organic chemical vapor deposition (MOCVD). In the method, a metal precursor is sequentially reacted with a nitrogen source, oxidant, and then a nitrogen source again. Reaction with the nitrogen source generates the outermost conductive metal nitride (MN) layers (121). Reaction with the oxidant generates an inner dielectric metal oxide (MO_x) layer (110). Alternatively, or in addition, the metal precursor can be reacted with a mixture of oxidant and nitrogen source to generate inner dielectric layer(s) (231, 232, 310) of metal oxynitride (MO_xN_y). Because the same metal is used throughout the capacitor, the layers in the MIM capacitor exhibits excellent compatibility and stability.



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.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/22385

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : H01L 21/20

US CL : 438/396

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)

U.S. : 438/396, 393,239,240,785,250

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 practicable, search terms used)
WEST 2.3, INSPEC and IEEEXplor (MIM adj5 capacitor) and ((metal adj nitride) adj5 electrode)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 6,573,150 B1(URDAHL et al) 3 JUNE 2003 (03.06.2003) column 4, line 50 - column 5, line 64)	1-15
A	US 2002/0074584 A1 (MICRON TECH. INC.) 20 June 2002 (20.06.02) paragraphs [0012]-[0041]	1-15

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:

"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

"E" earlier application or patent published on or after the international filing date

"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

"T"

later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

"X"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

"Y"

document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art

"&"

document member of the same patent family

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US03/22385

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of Item 1 of first sheet)

This international report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claim Nos.: 16
because they relate to parts of the international application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful international search can be carried out, specifically:
Please See Continuation Sheet
3. ☐ Claim Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of Item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☐ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this international search report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this international search report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

☐
☐

The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.

No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/US03/22385

Continuation of Box I Reason2:

Claim 16 refers to a substrate formed by previous steps, however, all of the other claims are drawn to a method for making an active MIM device. Furthermore, claim 1, on which all claims directly or indirectly depend, mentions the substrate in the preamble as if it were already provided for forming the capacitor(s) thereon. There are no substrate forming steps in the claims that provide a basis for searching claim 16.