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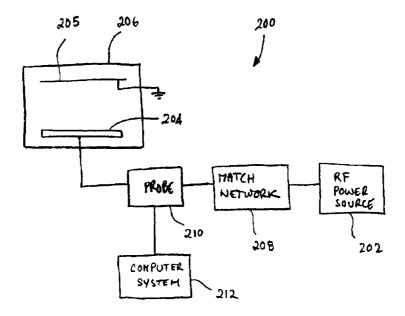
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(54) Title: METHOD FOR TOOLMATCHING AND TROUBLESHOOTING A PLASMA PROCESSING SYSTEM



(57) Abstract: A method tests a plasma processing system having a chamber, an RF power source, and a matching network. An RF power signal is generated from the RF power source to the chamber without igniting any plasma within the chamber. The voltage of the RF power signal, the current of the RF power signal, and the phase of the RF power signal, received by the chamber is measured while holding other parameters affecting the chamber constant. A value representative of an impedance of the chamber is computed based on the voltage, the current, and the phase. The value is then compared with a reference value to determine any defects in the plasma processing system. The reference value is representative of the impedance of a defect-free chamber.



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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 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) IPC 7 H01J 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) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Category ° Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to claim No. X US 5 939 886 A (SPAIN JAMES DOUGLAS ET 1 - 18AL) 17 August 1999 (1999-08-17) column 8, line 57 -column 9, line 59; figures 5,6 column 3, line 45 -column 4, line 16 X EP 0 939 428 A (ENI TECH INC) 1 - 181 September 1999 (1999-09-01) abstract figure 1 X US 5 889 252 A (JEWETT JR RUSSELL F ET 1 - 18AL) 30 March 1999 (1999-03-30) abstract figure 1 -/--Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex. ° Special categories of cited documents: "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 "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "E" earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "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) document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document is combined with one or more other such docu-ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 28 May 2004 04/06/2004 Name and mailing address of the ISA Authorized officer European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Centmayer, F Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

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