### (12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization

International Bureau





(10) International Publication Number WO 2012/060983 A3

- (43) International Publication Date 10 May 2012 (10.05.2012)
- (51) International Patent Classification: *H01L 21/205* (2006.01)
- (21) International Application Number:

PCT/US2011/055926

(22) International Filing Date:

12 October 2011 (12.10.2011)

(25) Filing Language:

English

(26) Publication Language:

English

(30) Priority Data:

12/911,585 25 October 2010 (25.10,2010)

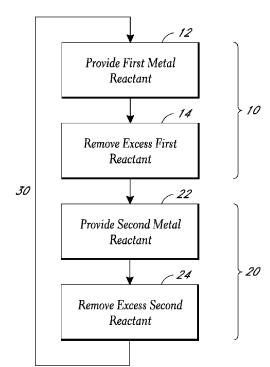
US

(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): ASM AMERICA, INC. [US/US]; 3440 East University Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85034-7200 (US).

- (72) Inventors: MILLIGAN, Robert, B.; 4657 S. Rufino Lane, Golden Canyon, CA 85218 (US). LI, Dong; 4657 E. Summerhaven Drive, Phoenix, AZ 85044 (US). MAR-CUS, Steven; 1142 E. Vinedo Lane, Tempe, AZ 85284 (US).
- (74) Agent: CHRISTENSEN, Michael, R.; Knobbe, Martens, Olson & Bear, LLP, 2040 Main Street, 14th Floor, Irvine, CA 92614 (US).
- (81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KM, KN, KP, KR, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LY, MA, MD, ME, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

[Continued on next page]

#### (54) Title: TERNARY METAL ALLOYS WITH TUNABLE STOICHIOMETRIES



(57) Abstract: Methods and equipment for forming ternary metal alloys are provided. In some embodiments, TaCN thin films are deposited by exposing a substrate to alternating pulses of an organometallic tantalum precursor comprising nitrogen and carbon and hydrogen plasma. The stoichiometry of the film is tuned from carbon rich to nitrogen rich by adjusting the plasma parameters, particularly the plasma intensity. In this way, films with varied characteristics can be formed from the same precursor. For example, both n-type and p-type materials can be deposited in the same module using the same precursor.

# 

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every Published: kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

#### **Declarations under Rule 4.17:**

as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

- with international search report (Art. 21(3))
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments (Rule 48.2(h))
- (88) Date of publication of the international search report:

21 June 2012

International application No. PCT/US2011/055926

#### CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

#### H01L 21/205(2006.01)i

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

### FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

H01L 21/205; H05H 1/24; H01L 29/78; C23C 26/00; C23C 16/44; H01L 21/44; H01L 21/285; C23C 16/00

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Korean utility models and applications for utility models

Japanese utility models and applications for utility models

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used) eKOMPASS(KIPO internal) & Keywords: deposit, reaction, condition, work-function, cycle, metal, carbide, plasma, hydrogen, exposing.

### DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
А	US 7064066 B1 (MATTHEW V. METZ et al.) 20 June 2006 See abstract, column 5, line 43-column 6, line 56, claims 1,7,15,17 and figures 2h,2i.	1-42
A	US 2009-0315093 A1 (DONG LI et al.) 24 December 2009 See abstract, paragraphs [0044]-[0051], claims 1-9,13,19-22 and figure 1.	1-42
A	US 2008-0113110 A1 (KAI-ERIK ELERS et al.) 15 May 2008 See abstract, claims 1,6,14,16,29,30,32 and figure 1.	1-42
А	US 2009-0280267 A1 (DONG LI et al.) 12 November 2009 See abstract, claims 1,3,5,9,24,30,31 and figures 4,5.	1-42

See patent family annex.

- Special categories of cited documents:
- document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- earlier application or patent but published on or after the international filing date
- document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of citation or other special reason (as specified)
- document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other
- 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
- 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

Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 04 MAY 2012 (04.05.2012)

07 MAY 2012 (07.05.2012)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR



Korean Intellectual Property Office Government Complex-Daejeon, 189 Cheongsa-ro, Seo-gu, Daejeon 302-701, Republic of Korea

Facsimile No. 82-42-472-7140

Authorized officer

KIM, Jung Jin

Telephone No. 82-42-481-5962



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

# PCT/US2011/055926

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 7064066 B1	20.06.2006	US 2006-0121668 A1 US 2006-0121727 A1 US 7317231 B2	08.06.2006 08.06.2006 08.01.2008
US 2009-0315093 A1	24.12.2009	JP 2011-520251 A KR 10-2010-0134676 A TW 201000667 A WO 2009-129332 A2 WO 2009-129332 A3	14.07.2011 23.12.2010 01.01.2010 22.10.2009 22.10.2009
US 2008-0113110 A1	15.05.2008	TW 200821405 A WO 2008-051851 A1	16.05.2008 02.05.2008
US 2009-0280267 A1	12.11.2009	US 7666474 B2	23.02.2010