



- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
C11D 3/00 (2006.01) *C11D 3/39* (2006.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/US2013/073096
- (22) **International Filing Date:**
4 December 2013 (04.12.2013)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
61/733,726 5 December 2012 (05.12.2012) US
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(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, BN, 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, IR, IS, JP, KE, KG, 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, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SM, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every 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, 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, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))

(54) **Title:** COMPOSITIONS FOR CLEANING III-V SEMICONDUCTOR MATERIALS AND METHODS OF USING SAME

(57) **Abstract:** Liquid compositions useful for the cleaning of residue and contaminants from a III-V microelectronic device material, such as InGaAs, without substantially removing the III-V material. The liquid compositions are improvements of the SC1 and SC2 formulations.



COMPOSITIONS FOR CLEANING III-V SEMICONDUCTOR MATERIALS AND METHODS OF USING SAME

FIELD

[0001] The present invention generally relates to a composition and method for cleaning the surface of a III-V microelectronic surface, and more particularly, to such a process utilizing the composition incorporated in a microelectronic device manufacturing process.

DESCRIPTION OF THE RELATED ART

[0002] Over the past several years, numerous materials have been introduced for use in advanced CMOS processes to continue scaling and increase device performance. Among these materials are high-electron-mobility III-V compounds, which can be used as substrates for CMOS technology and/or as channel material for metal-oxide-semiconductor devices. When used as substrates for high performance devices, the III-V materials have to be compliant with the strict metal contamination specifications or requirements of a semiconductor manufacturing facility. Meeting these specifications or requirements is a challenge for the cleaning and the etching techniques employed, especially because the surface roughness of the cleaned substrate should not be affected.

[0003] In order to clean bulk III-V material, a thick layer of III-V material surface needs to be removed, e.g., by etching, without metal re-plating occurring on the bare, e.g., etched, surface afterwards. Re-plating is a phenomenon that may occur because noble metals like Cu and Au have high oxidation potentials and are able to oxidize the III-V material. As a result, re-deposition of these noble metals from the cleaning solutions onto the III-V material, also known as re-plating, can occur through a redox reaction. This behavior makes the noble metals very hard to remove with standard chemistries.

[0004] The prior art relating to the cleaning of III-V material deals with bulk etching (micron scale), however, little is known about how to efficaciously clean III-V materials having only nanometer thickness. Preferably, a composition should clean the thin III-V materials such that residues, particles and trace metals are removed, as well as native oxides and bulk organic materials (e.g., resist). Further, the composition should not substantially etch the thin III-V material and there should be no substantial change in the stoichiometry of the III-V material. Accordingly, there are continuing efforts to find a composition and method for that effectively cleans the thin III-V material consistent with these performance goals. It would be further desirable if such a method were readily integratable into existing semiconductor processing designs. It would also be desired for the method to utilize a wet chemistry and be lower in cost

than existing cleaning technologies such as annealing.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

[0005] The present invention generally relates to a composition and method for cleaning III-V microelectronic device material, and more particularly, to such a process utilizing the composition incorporated in a microelectronic device manufacturing process. The surface of the III-V material is preferably cleaned of residue, e.g., post-ash residue, and other contaminants, such as particles, trace metals, and bulk organics, without substantial removal of the III-V material.

[0006] In one aspect, a liquid composition for cleaning the surface of a III-V microelectronic device material is described, said composition comprising at least one acid, at least one oxidizing agent, and water, with the proviso that (a) the at least one oxidizing agent comprises an oxidant that is milder than hydrogen peroxide, (b) the liquid composition further comprises at least one corrosion inhibitor, or (c) both (a) and (b).

[0007] In another aspect, a liquid composition for cleaning the surface of a III-V microelectronic device material is described, said composition comprising at least one base, at least one oxidizing agent, and water, with the proviso that (a) the at least one oxidizing agent comprises an oxidant that is milder than hydrogen peroxide, (b) the liquid composition comprises a base other than ammonium hydroxide, or (c) both (a) and (b).

[0008] In still another aspect, a method of cleaning a surface of a III-V microelectronic device material is described, said method comprising contacting the surface with a liquid composition comprising at least one acid, at least one oxidizing agent, and water, with the proviso that (a) the at least one oxidizing agent comprises an oxidant that is milder than hydrogen peroxide, (b) the liquid composition further comprises at least one corrosion inhibitor, or (c) both (a) and (b).

[0009] In yet another aspect, a method of cleaning a surface of a III-V microelectronic device material is described, said method comprising contacting the surface with a liquid composition for cleaning the surface of a III-V microelectronic device material is described, said composition comprising at least one base, at least one oxidizing agent, and water, with the proviso that (a) the at least one oxidizing agent comprises an oxidant that is milder than hydrogen peroxide, (b) the liquid composition comprises a base other than ammonium hydroxide, or (c) both (a) and (b).

[0010] Other aspects, features and embodiments of the invention will be more fully apparent from the ensuing disclosure and appended claims.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION, AND PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS THEREOF

[0011] In general, the present invention relates to compositions and processes for cleaning the surface of a III-V material during microelectronic device manufacturing. Preferably, the liquid compositions described herein substantially remove post-ash residue material and contaminants from the surface of the III-V materials without substantially removing the III-V materials. For example, preferably the etch rate of the III-V material is less than about 25 Å, more preferably less than 10 Å, and most preferably less than 1 Å.

[0012] For ease of reference, “microelectronic device” corresponds to semiconductor substrates, flat panel displays, phase change memory devices, solar panels and other products including solar cell devices, photovoltaics, and microelectromechanical systems (MEMS), manufactured for use in microelectronic, integrated circuit, energy collection, or computer chip applications. It is to be understood that the terms “microelectronic device,” “microelectronic substrate” and “microelectronic device structure” are not meant to be limiting in any way and include any substrate or structure that will eventually become a microelectronic device or microelectronic assembly. The microelectronic device can be patterned, blanketed, a control and/or a test device.

[0013] The “III-V materials” include, but are not limited to, InP, InAs, GaAs, AsP, InGaAs, InGaAsP, GaP, GaSb, InSb, AlAs, AlGaAs, InAlAs, InAlGaAs, InAlGaP, and InGaP. They may be present as a substrate or a layer, e.g., channel material, on the microelectronic device.

[0014] As used herein, “about” is intended to correspond to $\pm 5\%$ of the stated value.

[0015] “Substantially devoid” is defined herein as less than 2 wt. %, preferably less than 1 wt. %, more preferably less than 0.5 wt. %, even more preferably less than 0.1 wt. %, and most preferably 0 wt. %.

[0016] As defined herein, “post-ash residue,” as used herein, corresponds to material remaining following oxidative or reductive plasma ashing to remove hardened photoresist and/or bottom anti-reflective coating (BARC) materials. The post-ash residue may be organic, organometallic, organosilicic, or inorganic in nature.

[0017] As is known by the person skilled in the chemical arts, ammonia (NH₃) and ammonium hydroxide (NH₄OH) are synonymous.

[0018] As used herein, “suitability” for cleaning the III-V material corresponds to at least partial removal of residue and contaminants from the surface of the III-V material, while not substantially removing the III-V material. Preferably, at least about 90 wt% of residue and contaminants, more preferably at least 95 wt% of residue and contaminants, and most preferably at least 99 wt% of residue and contaminants to be removed are removed from the surface of the III-V material while the etch rate of the III-V material is less than about 25 Å, more preferably less than 10 Å, and most preferably less than 1 Å.

[0019] Compositions of the invention may be embodied in a wide variety of specific formulations, as hereinafter more fully described.

[0020] In all such compositions, wherein specific components of the composition are discussed in reference to weight percentage ranges including a zero lower limit, it will be understood that such components may be present or absent in various specific embodiments of the composition, and that in instances where such components are present, they may be present at concentrations as low as 0.001 weight percent, based on the total weight of the composition in which such components are employed.

[0021] The standard clean solutions, such as SC1 and SC2, have been used to clean III-V materials with limited success. Disadvantageously, when using a standard SC1 or SC2 composition, metals present in residue are re-plated onto the III-V surface at the conclusion of the cleaning process. Further, the III-V material is removed in bulk by these clean solutions, which is not acceptable when the III-V material is only nanometers thick. In addition, the oxidizing agent in the standard clean solutions changes the stoichiometry of the III-V material. Improvements to the standard clean solutions are proposed herein, with the purpose of cleaning the III-V surface while minimizing or eliminating metal re-plating thus ensuring that the III-V surface is ready for subsequent deposition.

[0022] Conventionally, SC2 includes hydrochloric acid (HCl), hydrogen peroxide, and water. The improvement disclosed herein includes (a) the use of an oxidizing agent that is milder than hydrogen peroxide, and/or (b) the inclusion of corrosion inhibitors in the SC2 solution. As understood by the person skilled in the art, an oxidizing agent that is milder than hydrogen peroxide that etches metal at a rate slower than hydrogen peroxide does.

[0023] Accordingly, in a first aspect, a liquid composition for cleaning the surface of a III-V material is described, said composition including at least one acid, at least one oxidizing agent, and water. In one embodiment, the liquid composition comprises, consists of, or consists essentially of HCl, at least one oxidizing agent that is a milder oxidant than hydrogen peroxide, and water. In another embodiment, the liquid composition comprises, consists of, or consists essentially of HCl, at least one oxidizing agent that is a milder oxidant than hydrogen peroxide, at least one metal corrosion inhibitor, and water. In still another embodiment, the liquid composition comprises, consists of, or consists essentially of HCl, hydrogen peroxide, at least one metal corrosion inhibitor, and water. When the liquid composition of the first aspect includes a milder oxidant than hydrogen peroxide, the composition is substantially devoid of hydrogen peroxide. Preferably, the liquid compositions described herein substantially remove post-ash residue material and other contaminants while not substantially removing the III-V material from the microelectronic device.

[0024] The compositions described herein are substantially devoid of mineral abrasive

materials, fluoride sources, polymeric materials, amines (primary amines, secondary amines, tertiary amines, amine-N-oxides) and combinations thereof. These compositions have pH value in a range from about 0 to about 4.

[0025] Oxidizing agents that are weaker oxidants than hydrogen peroxide and contemplated herein include, but are not limited to, nitric acid, perchloric acid, peroxyacetic acid, FeCl_3 , oxone ($2\text{KHSO}_5 \cdot \text{KHSO}_4 \cdot \text{K}_2\text{SO}_4$), periodic acid, iodic acid, ammonium peroxomonosulfate, ammonium chlorite, ammonium chlorate, ammonium iodate, ammonium nitrate, ammonium perborate, ammonium perchlorate, ammonium periodate, ammonium persulfate, ammonium hypochlorite, sodium persulfate, sodium hypochlorite, potassium iodate, potassium permanganate, potassium persulfate, potassium persulfate, potassium hypochlorite, tetramethylammonium chlorite, tetramethylammonium chlorate, tetramethylammonium iodate, tetramethylammonium perborate, tetramethylammonium perchlorate, tetramethylammonium periodate, tetramethylammonium persulfate, tetrabutylammonium peroxomonosulfate, peroxomonosulfuric acid, ferric nitrate, urea hydrogen peroxide, peracetic acid, 1,4-benzoquinone, toluquinone, dimethyl-1,4-benzoquinone, chloranil, alloxan, N-methylmorpholine N-oxide (NMMO), trimethylamine N-oxide, pyridine-N-oxide, t-butyl-hydroperoxide, and combinations thereof. Most preferably, the oxidizing agents that are weaker oxidants than hydrogen peroxide include nitric acid, perchloric acid, and peracetic acid.

[0026] Metal corrosion inhibitors are added to minimize the oxidation of any exposed III-V layers or otherwise passivate the III-V material surface from oxidizing. Preferred metal corrosion inhibitors include sulfur-containing compounds and azole compounds such as triazole and derivatives thereof. Metal corrosion inhibitors contemplated herein include, but are not limited to, 1,2,4-triazole (TAZ), benzotriazole (BTA), tolyltriazole, 5-methyl-benzotriazole, 5-phenyl-benzotriazole, 5-nitro-benzotriazole, benzotriazole carboxylic acid, 3-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole, 1-amino-1,2,4-triazole, hydroxybenzotriazole, 2-(5-amino-pentyl)-benzotriazole, 1-amino-1,2,3-triazole, 4-phenyl-1,2,3-triazole, 1-amino-5-methyl-1,2,3-triazole, 3-amino-1,2,4-triazole, 3-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole, 3-isopropyl-1,2,4-triazole, 5-phenylthiol-benzotriazole, halo-benzotriazoles (halo = F, Cl, Br or I), naphthotriazole, imidazole, 2-mercaptobenzimidazole (MBI), 4-methyl-2-phenylimidazole, 5-amino-1,3,4-thiadiazole-2-thiol (ATDT), 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, 2-mercaptothiazoline, 5-mercapto-4H-[1,2,4]triazol-3-ol, 4-ethyl-5-mercapto-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-ol, 4-ethyl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-thiol, 5-ethyl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-thiol, (3-mercapto-5-propyl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)acetic acid, 4-(5-sulfany-1H-tetraazol-1-yl)benzoic acid, 5-aminotetrazole, pentylenetetrazole, 5-phenyl-1H-tetrazole, 5-benzyl-1H-tetrazole, Ablumine O (Taiwan Surfactant), 2-benzylpyridine, succinimide, 2,4-diamino-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazine, thiazole, triazine, methyltetrazole, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone, 1,5-pentamethylenetetrazole, 1-phenyl-5-mercaptotetrazole, diaminomethyltriazine, imidazoline thione, 4-methyl-4H-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiol, benzothiazole,

indiazole, adenosine, carbazole, saccharin, benzoin oxime, DL-dithiothreitol (DTT), cystaminum dichloride, di-n-propyldisulfide, ammonium sulfide, ethyl thioglycolate, 2-mercaptoethanol, 1,2-ethanedithiol, cysteine, methionine, dibenzothiophene, S-adenosylmethionine, taurine, glutathione, thiolactic acid, mercaptosuccinic acid, thiosalicylic acid, 4-mercaptobenzoic acid, 2,2'-thiodiacetic acid, 3,3'-thiodipropionic acid, thioglycolic acid, dithiodiglycolic acid, 2,2'-(ethylenedithio)diacetic acid, ethyl 2-mercaptoacetate, 3-methoxybutyl thioglycolate, methyl thioglycolate, phosphonic acid, dodecylphosphonic acid (DDPA), benzylphosphonic acid, phenylphosphonic acid, and combinations thereof. Most preferably, the metal corrosion inhibitors comprise 2,2'-thiodiacetic acid, 3,3'-thiodipropionic acid, thioglycolic acid, dithiodiglycolic acid, 2,2'-(ethylenedithio)diacetic acid, ethyl 2-mercaptoacetate, 3-methoxybutyl thioglycolate, methyl thioglycolate, phosphonic acid, benzylphosphonic acid, phenylphosphonic acid, and combinations thereof.

[0027] The compositions of the first aspect are formulated in parts or weight percent ratios whereby the wt% of acid:wt% of oxidizing agent:wt% of water is 0.01-10:0.01-10:4-3000, more preferably 0.5-1.5:0.5-1.5:4-400, and most preferably 1:1:6-300. It should be appreciated that the liquid compositions can be made as a concentrate and diluted with additional water at the fab just prior to use. For example, the liquid compositions can be mixed to have a 1:1:5 acid:oxidizing agent:water ratio and mixed with additional water at the fab to yield a 1:1:300 acid:oxidizing agent:water ratio for cleaning. When corrosion inhibitor(s) are present, the wt% of acid:wt% of oxidizing agent:wt% of corrosion inhibitor:wt% of water is 0.01-10:0.01-10:0.01-10:4-3000, more preferably 0.5-1.5:0.5-1.5:0.5-1.5:4-400, and most preferably 1:1:1:6-300. It should be appreciated that the liquid compositions can be made as a concentrate and diluted with additional water at the fab just prior to use.

[0028] The cleaning of integrated circuit (IC) substrates, such as silicon wafers, with metal-free alkaline solutions to remove organic and metal contamination is widely practiced. One commonly used alkaline solution of this type is known as SC-1 or RCA-1, which comprises an aqueous mixture of ammonium hydroxide, hydrogen peroxide, and water (e.g., 1:1:5 of 30% H₂O₂, 28% NH₄OH and H₂O). Various cleaning tasks can be accomplished with SC-1, among these, the cleaning of silicon wafers immediately after their fabrication, the cleaning of such wafers immediately prior to gate oxide growth, the removal of oxide etch residues later in the IC processing sequence, and selective etching and resist particulate removal. The purpose of the hydrogen peroxide is to protect the silicon metal from exposure to strong acids or bases by continuously forming a protective oxide layer in order to prevent etching or roughening of the silicon surface. Disadvantageously, hydrogen peroxide may corrode a metal on the surface of the substrate due to the metal reacting with oxygen of the hydrogen peroxide. The improvement disclosed herein includes (a) the use of an oxidizing agent that is milder than hydrogen peroxide, and/or (b) a base other than ammonium hydroxide in the SC1 solution.

[0029] Accordingly, in a second aspect, a liquid composition for cleaning the surface of a III-V material is described, said composition including at least one base, at least one oxidizing agent, and water. In one embodiment, the liquid composition comprises, consists of, or consists essentially of at least one base, at least one oxidizing agent that is a milder oxidant than hydrogen peroxide, and water. In another embodiment, the liquid composition comprises, consists of, or consists essentially of a base other than NH_4OH , at least one oxidizing agent that is a milder oxidant than hydrogen peroxide, and water. In yet another embodiment, the liquid composition comprises, consists of, or consists essentially of a base other than NH_4OH , at least one oxidizing agent, and water. In still another embodiment, the liquid composition comprises, consists of, or consists essentially of at least one base, at least one oxidizing agent that is a milder oxidant than hydrogen peroxide, at least one metal corrosion inhibitor, and water. In another embodiment, the liquid composition comprises, consists of, or consists essentially of a base other than NH_4OH , at least one oxidizing agent that is a milder oxidant than hydrogen peroxide, at least one metal corrosion inhibitor, and water. In yet another embodiment, the liquid composition comprises, consists of, or consists essentially of a base other than NH_4OH , at least one oxidizing agent, at least one metal corrosion inhibitor, and water. When the liquid composition of the second aspect includes a milder oxidant than hydrogen peroxide, the composition is substantially devoid of hydrogen peroxide. Preferably, the liquid compositions described herein substantially remove post-ash residue material and other contaminants while not substantially removing the III-V material from the microelectronic device.

[0030] The compositions of the second aspect described herein are substantially devoid of mineral abrasive materials, fluoride sources, polymeric materials, and combinations thereof. These compositions of the second aspect have pH value in a range from about 9 to about 14.

[0031] The at least one base other than NH_4OH includes, but is not limited to, alkanolamines and quaternary ammonium hydroxides having the formula $\text{R}_1\text{R}_2\text{R}_3\text{R}_4\text{NOH}$ where R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are the same as or different from one another and are hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 alkyl groups (e.g., methyl, ethyl, propyl, butyl, pentyl or hexyl) and substituted or unsubstituted C_6 - C_{10} aryl groups (e.g., benzyl). For example, the at least one base can include at least one species selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine (MEA), diethanolamine, triethanolamine, dimethylaminoethanol, diethylaminoethanol, 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol, N-(aminoethyl)ethanolamine, N,N-dimethyl-2-aminoethanol, 2-(2-aminoethoxy)ethanol, tetramethylammonium hydroxide (TMAH), tetraethylammonium hydroxide (TEAH), tetrapropylammonium hydroxide (TPAH), tetrabutylammonium hydroxide (TBAH), tributylmethylammonium hydroxide (TBMAH), benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide (BTMAH), hydroxylamine, trimethylethylammonium hydroxide, diethyldimethylammonium hydroxide, and combinations thereof. Alternatively, or in addition to, the other bases can

include choline hydroxide, tetrabutylphosphonium hydroxide, guanidine acetate, 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine, guanidine carbonate, arginine, and combinations thereof.

[0032] Oxidizing agents that are weaker oxidants than hydrogen peroxide and contemplated herein include, but are not limited to, nitric acid, perchloric acid, peroxyacetic acid, FeCl_3 , oxone ($2\text{KHSO}_5 \cdot \text{KHSO}_4 \cdot \text{K}_2\text{SO}_4$), periodic acid, iodic acid, ammonium peroxomonosulfate, ammonium chlorite, ammonium chlorate, ammonium iodate, ammonium nitrate, ammonium perborate, ammonium perchlorate, ammonium periodate, ammonium persulfate, ammonium hypochlorite, sodium persulfate, sodium hypochlorite, potassium iodate, potassium permanganate, potassium persulfate, potassium persulfate, potassium hypochlorite, tetramethylammonium chlorite, tetramethylammonium chlorate, tetramethylammonium iodate, tetramethylammonium perborate, tetramethylammonium perchlorate, tetramethylammonium periodate, tetramethylammonium persulfate, tetrabutylammonium peroxomonosulfate, peroxomonosulfuric acid, ferric nitrate, urea hydrogen peroxide, peracetic acid, 1,4-benzoquinone, toluquinone, dimethyl-1,4-benzoquinone, chloranil, alloxan, N-methylmorpholine N-oxide (NMMO), trimethylamine N-oxide, pyridine-N-oxide, t-butyl-hydroperoxide, and combinations thereof. Preferably, the oxidizing agents that are weaker oxidants than hydrogen peroxide include NMMO, ammonium persulfate, pyridine-N-oxide, tert-butyl-hydroperoxide, and combinations thereof.

[0033] The at least one metal corrosion inhibitors are defined hereinabove in the first aspect of the invention.

[0034] The compositions of the second aspect are formulated in parts or weight percent ratios whereby the wt% of base:wt% of oxidizing agent:wt% of water is 0.01-10:0.01-10:4-3000, preferably 0.5-1.5:0.5-1.5:4-400, and most preferably 1:1:6-300. It should be appreciated that the liquid compositions can be made as a concentrate and diluted with additional water at the fab just prior to use. For example, the liquid compositions can be mixed to have a 1:1:5 base:oxidizing agent:water ratio and mixed with additional water at the fab to yield a 1:1:300 base:oxidizing agent:water ratio for cleaning. When corrosion inhibitor(s) are present, the wt% of base:wt% of oxidizing agent:wt% of corrosion inhibitor:wt% of water is 0.01-10:0.01-10:0.01-10:4-3000, more preferably 0.5-1.5:0.5-1.5:0.5-1.5:4-400, and most preferably 1:1:1:6-300. It should be appreciated that the liquid compositions can be made as a concentrate and diluted with additional water at the fab just prior to use.

[0035] The compositions described herein are easily formulated by simple addition of the respective ingredients and mixing to homogeneous condition. Furthermore, the compositions may be readily formulated as single-package formulations or multi-part formulations that are mixed at or before the point of use, preferably multi-part formulations. The individual parts of the multi-part formulation may be mixed at the tool or in a mixing region/area such as an inline

mixer or in a storage tank upstream of the tool. It is contemplated that the various parts of the multi-part formulation may contain any combination of ingredients/constituents that when mixed together form the desired composition. The concentrations of the respective ingredients may be widely varied in specific multiples of the composition, i.e., more dilute or more concentrated, and it will be appreciated that the compositions can variously and alternatively comprise, consist or consist essentially of any combination of ingredients consistent with the disclosure herein.

[0036] Accordingly, a third aspect relates to a kit including, in one or more containers, one or more components adapted to form the compositions described herein. The containers of the kit must be suitable for storing and shipping said liquid composition components, for example, NOWPak® containers (Advanced Technology Materials, Inc., Danbury, Conn., USA). The one or more containers which contain the components of the composition preferably include means for bringing the components in said one or more containers in fluid communication for blending and dispense. For example, referring to the NOWPak® containers, gas pressure may be applied to the outside of a liner in said one or more containers to cause at least a portion of the contents of the liner to be discharged and hence enable fluid communication for blending and dispense. Alternatively, gas pressure may be applied to the head space of a conventional pressurizable container or a pump may be used to enable fluid communication. In addition, the system preferably includes a dispensing port for dispensing the blended composition to a process tool.

[0037] Substantially chemically inert, impurity-free, flexible and resilient polymeric film materials, such as high density polyethylene, are preferably used to fabricate the liners for said one or more containers. Desirable liner materials are processed without requiring co-extrusion or barrier layers, and without any pigments, UV inhibitors, or processing agents that may adversely affect the purity requirements for components to be disposed in the liner. A listing of desirable liner materials include films comprising virgin (additive-free) polyethylene, virgin polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE), polypropylene, polyurethane, polyvinylidene chloride, polyvinylchloride, polyacetal, polystyrene, polyacrylonitrile, polybutylene, and so on. Preferred thicknesses of such liner materials are in a range from about 5 mils (0.005 inch) to about 30 mils (0.030 inch), as for example a thickness of 20 mils (0.020 inch).

[0038] Regarding the containers for the kits, the disclosures of the following patents and patent applications are hereby incorporated herein by reference in their respective entireties: U.S. Patent No. 7,188,644 entitled "APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR MINIMIZING THE GENERATION OF PARTICLES IN ULTRAPURE LIQUIDS;" U.S. Patent No. 6,698,619 entitled "RETURNABLE AND REUSABLE, BAG-IN-DRUM FLUID STORAGE AND DISPENSING CONTAINER SYSTEM;" and PCT/US08/63276 entitled "SYSTEMS AND

METHODS FOR MATERIAL BLENDING AND DISTRIBUTION” filed on May 9, 2008.

[0039] In a fourth aspect, the invention relates to methods of cleaning the surface of a III-V material using one of the liquid compositions described herein. For example, post-ash residue and other contaminants may be removed without substantially damaging the III-V material, most preferably with negligible re-plating. For example, the III-V material can comprise InGaAs.

[0040] In cleaning applications, the liquid composition is applied in any suitable manner to the surface of the microelectronic device having the III-V material thereon, e.g., by spraying the liquid composition on the surface of the device, by dipping (in a static or dynamic volume of the liquid composition) of the device including the III-V material, by contacting the device with another material, e.g., a pad, or fibrous sorbent applicator element, that has the liquid composition absorbed thereon, by contacting the device including the III-V material with a circulating liquid composition, or by any other suitable means, manner or technique, by which the liquid composition is brought into contact with the III-V material. The application may be in a batch or single wafer apparatus, for dynamic or static cleaning. Advantageously, the liquid composition described herein cleans the III-V material of post-ash residue and other contaminants in a highly efficient and highly selective manner without substantially removing the III-V material.

[0041] In use of the liquid compositions for cleaning the III-V materials, the liquid composition typically is contacted with the device structure in a tool for a sufficient time of from about 0.3 minute to about 30 minutes, preferably about 1 minute to about 10 minutes, at temperature in a range of from about 20°C to about 100°C, preferably about 20°C to about 60°C. Such contacting times and temperatures are illustrative, and any other suitable time and temperature conditions may be employed that are efficacious to at least partially clean the device structure comprising the III-V material without substantially removing the III-V material. The method can be practiced in a single wafer or a multi-wafer tool.

[0042] Following the achievement of the desired etching action, the composition can be readily removed from the microelectronic device to which it has previously been applied, e.g., by rinse, wash, or other removal step(s), as may be desired and efficacious in a given end use application of the compositions described herein. For example, the device may be rinsed with a rinse solution including deionized water and/or dried (e.g., spin-dry, N₂, vapor-dry etc.).

[0043] A fifth aspect of the invention relates to the improved microelectronic devices made according to the methods described herein and to products containing such microelectronic devices.

[0044] A sixth aspect relates to methods of manufacturing an article comprising a microelectronic device, said method comprising contacting the microelectronic device with a

liquid composition for sufficient time to clean III-V material present on the microelectronic device, and incorporating said microelectronic device into said article, wherein the composition is either the composition of the first aspect or the second aspect, as described herein.

[0045] A seventh aspect of the invention relates to an article of manufacture comprising, consisting of or consisting essentially of a microelectronic device substrate comprising a surface of III-V material, and a liquid composition as described herein.

[0046] The features and advantages of the invention are more fully shown by the illustrative examples discussed below.

Example 1

[0047] The etch rate of InGaAs was tested using modified SC2 formulations. The InGaAs coupons were pretreated by immersion in acetone/IPA for 10 min, followed by immersion in 10% HCl for 10 min, followed by immersion in each of formulations A-D for 5 min at room temperature.

Table 1: Improved SC2 formulations. Each contained 1:1:300 HCl:oxidizing agent:water unless indicated otherwise.

Formulation	oxidizing agent	etch rate/ $\text{\AA min}^{-1}$	E°/V
A	H ₂ O ₂	147	1.78
B	peroxyacetic acid	101.206	1.76
C	conc. nitric acid	2.68	0.95
D	perchloric acid	2.006	1.37
E	50% NMMO (1:2:300)	1.085	
F	ammonium persulfate	3.879	
G	pyridine-N-oxide	1.225	

[0048] It can be seen that the use of the oxidants weaker than hydrogen peroxide resulted in a much lower InGaAs etch rate.

Example 2

[0049] The etch rate of InGaAs was tested using modified SC2 formulations. The InGaAs coupons were pretreated by immersion in acetone/IPA for 10 min, followed by immersion in 10% HCl for 10 min, followed by immersion in each of formulations A and H-X at room temperature.

Table 2: Improved SC2 formulations. Each contained 1:1:300 HCl:H₂O₂:water plus corrosion inhibitor

Formulation	corrosion inhibitor	Conc. corrosion inhibitor	etch rate/ $\text{\AA min}^{-1}$
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A	-		>50
H	1,2,4-triazole	10%	6.021
I	1,2,4-triazole	10%	7.553
J	imidazole	10%	3.971
K	DTT	10%	1.702
L	di-n-propyldisulfide	10%	0.847
M	cystaminum dichloride	10%	8.418
N	2,2'-thiodiacetic acid	1.5%	1.96
O	3,3'-thiodipropionic acid	1.5%	3.17
P	thioglycolic acid	1.0%	1.65
Q	dithiodiglycolic acid	1.5%	2.871
R	2,2'-(ethylenedithio)diacetic acid	1.5%	2.31
S	ethyl 2-mercaptoacetate	1.0%	2.136
T	3-methoxybutyl thioglycolate	1.5%	1.908
U	methyl thioglycolate	1.0%	1.638
V	dodecylphosphonic acid	1.0%	0.56
W	benzylphosphonic acid	1.5%	4.248
X	phenylphosphonic acid	1.5%	1.916

[0050] It can be seen that compounds that contain -N, -P or -S could act as III-V material inhibitors and effectively reduce the InGaAs etch rate.

Example 3

[0051] The etch rate of InGaAs was tested using modified SC1 formulations. The InGaAs coupons were pretreated by immersion in acetone/IPA for 10 min, followed by immersion in 10% HCl for 10 min, followed by immersion in each of formulations AA-DD at room temperature.

Table 3: Improved SC1 formulations. Each contained 1:1:300 NH₄OH:oxidizing agent:water unless indicated otherwise.

Formulation	oxidizing agent	etch rate/Å min ⁻¹
AA	50% NMMO (1:2:300)	1.556
BB	ammonium persulfate	6.451
CC	pyridine-N-oxide	3.229
DD	t-butyl-hydroperoxide	2.871

[0052] It can be seen that the use of the oxidants weaker than hydrogen peroxide resulted in a much lower InGaAs etch rate.

Example 4

[0053] The etch rate of InGaAs was tested using modified SC1 formulations. The InGaAs coupons were pretreated by immersion in acetone/IPA for 10 min, followed by immersion in 10% HCl for 10 min, followed by immersion in each of formulations EE-LL at room

temperature.

Table 4: Improved SC1 formulations. Each contained 1:1:10 base:H₂O₂:water unless indicated otherwise.

Formulation	base	etch rate/Å min ⁻¹
EE	triethanolamine	1.556
FF	25% TMAH	6.451
GG	hydroxylamine	3.229
HH	40% BTMAH	2.871
II	2-(2-aminoethoxy)ethanol	2.115
JJ	40% TBAH	0.799
KK	1:1:5 40% TBAH	2.232
LL	40% TEAH	0.061
	1:1:5 40% TEAH	2.245
MM	40% TPAH	2.167
	1:1:5 40% TPAH	2.42

[0054] It can be seen that the use of the bases other than ammonium hydroxide even though much more concentrated relative to formulation A in Examples 1 and 2 resulted in a much lower InGaAs etch rate.

Example 5

[0055] InGaAs coupons were cleaned with HCl to remove native oxides, followed by a 20 minute immersion in 10 wt% BTA in ethanol or 1.5 wt% 3,3'-thiodipropionic acid in water. Thereafter, the coupons were removed and rinsed and X-ray Photoelectron Spectroscopy (XPS) of the coupons at 0 hr and 24 hr post-immersion in the metal corrosion inhibitors was performed. It was determined that the even 24 hours post-immersion, the coupon having exposure to the 3,3'-thiodipropionic acid still substantially suppressed the formation of the oxide on the surface.

* * *

[0056] While the invention has been described herein in reference to specific aspects, features and illustrative embodiments of the invention, it will be appreciated that the utility of the invention is not thus limited, but rather extends to and encompasses numerous other variations, modifications and alternative embodiments, as will suggest themselves to those of ordinary skill in the field of the present invention, based on the disclosure herein. Correspondingly, the invention as hereinafter claimed is intended to be broadly construed and interpreted, as including all such variations, modifications and alternative embodiments, within its spirit and scope.

THE CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A liquid composition for cleaning the surface of a III-V microelectronic device material, said composition comprising at least one acid, at least one oxidizing agent, and water, with the proviso that (a) the at least one oxidizing agent comprises an oxidant that is milder than hydrogen peroxide, (b) the liquid composition further comprises at least one corrosion inhibitor, or (c) both (a) and (b).
2. The liquid composition of claim 1, wherein the at least one acid comprises hydrochloric acid.
3. The liquid composition of claims 1 or 2, wherein the liquid composition is substantially devoid of hydrogen peroxide and the at least one oxidizing agent that is milder than hydrogen peroxide comprises a species selected from the group consisting of nitric acid, perchloric acid, peroxyacetic acid, FeCl_3 , oxone, periodic acid, iodic acid, ammonium peroxomonosulfate, ammonium chlorite, ammonium chlorate, ammonium iodate, ammonium nitrate, ammonium perborate, ammonium perchlorate, ammonium periodate, ammonium persulfate, ammonium hypochlorite, sodium persulfate, sodium hypochlorite, potassium iodate, potassium permanganate, potassium persulfate, potassium persulfate, potassium hypochlorite, tetramethylammonium chlorite, tetramethylammonium chlorate, tetramethylammonium iodate, tetramethylammonium perborate, tetramethylammonium perchlorate, tetramethylammonium periodate, tetramethylammonium persulfate, tetrabutylammonium peroxomonosulfate, peroxomonosulfuric acid, ferric nitrate, urea hydrogen peroxide, peracetic acid, 1,4-benzoquinone, toluquinone, dimethyl-1,4-benzoquinone, chloranil, alloxan, N-methylmorpholine N-oxide, trimethylamine N-oxide, pyridine-N-oxide, t-butyl-hydroperoxide, and combinations thereof, preferably nitric acid, perchloric acid, peracetic acid, and combinations thereof.
4. The liquid composition of claim 3, comprising at least one metal corrosion inhibitor.
5. The liquid composition of claim 4, wherein the at least one metal corrosion inhibitor comprises at least one species selected from the group consisting of 1,2,4-triazole (TAZ), benzotriazole (BTA), tolyltriazole, 5-methyl-benzotriazole, 5-phenyl-benzotriazole, 5-nitro-benzotriazole, benzotriazole carboxylic acid, 3-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole, 1-amino-1,2,4-triazole, hydroxybenzotriazole, 2-(5-amino-pentyl)-benzotriazole, 1-amino-1,2,3-triazole,

4-phenyl-1,2,3-triazole, 1-amino-5-methyl-1,2,3-triazole, 3-amino-1,2,4-triazole, 3-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole, 3-isopropyl-1,2,4-triazole, 5-phenylthiol-benzotriazole, halo-benzotriazoles (halo = F, Cl, Br or I), naphthotriazole, imidazole, 2-mercaptobenzimidazole (MBI), 4-methyl-2-phenylimidazole, 5-amino-1,3,4-thiadiazole-2-thiol (ATDT), 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, 2-mercaptothiazoline, 5-mercapto-4H-[1,2,4]triazol-3-ol, 4-ethyl-5-mercapto-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-ol, 4-ethyl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-thiol, 5-ethyl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-thiol, (3-mercapto-5-propyl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)acetic acid, 4-(5-sulfanyl-1H-tetraazol-1-yl)benzoic acid, 5-aminotetrazole, pentylenetetrazole, 5-phenyl-1H-tetrazole, 5-benzyl-1H-tetrazole, Ablumine O (Taiwan Surfactant), 2-benzylpyridine, succinimide, 2,4-diamino-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazine, thiazole, triazine, methyltetrazole, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone, 1,5-pentamethylenetetrazole, 1-phenyl-5-mercaptotetrazole, diaminomethyltriazine, imidazoline thione, 4-methyl-4H-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiol, benzothiazole, indiazole, adenosine, carbazole, saccharin, benzoin oxime, DL-dithiothreitol (DTT), cystaminum dichloride, di-n-propyldisulfide, ammonium sulfide, ethyl thioglycolate, 2-mercaptoethanol, 1,2-ethanedithiol, cysteine, methionine, dibenzothiophene, S-adenosylmethionine, taurine, glutathione, thiolactic acid, mercaptosuccinic acid, thiosalicylic acid, 4-mercaptobenzoic acid, 2,2'-thiodiacetic acid, 3,3'-thiodipropionic acid, thioglycolic acid, dithiodiglycolic acid, 2,2'-(ethylenedithio)diacetic acid, ethyl 2-mercaptoacetate, 3-methoxybutyl thioglycolate, methyl thioglycolate, phosphonic acid, dodecylphosphonic acid (DDPA), benzylphosphonic acid, phenylphosphonic acid, and combinations thereof, preferably 2,2'-thiodiacetic acid, 3,3'-thiodipropionic acid, thioglycolic acid, dithiodiglycolic acid, 2,2'-(ethylenedithio)diacetic acid, ethyl 2-mercaptoacetate, 3-methoxybutyl thioglycolate, methyl thioglycolate, phosphonic acid, benzylphosphonic acid, phenylphosphonic acid, and combinations thereof.

6. The liquid composition of claims 1 or 2, wherein the oxidizing agent comprises hydrogen peroxide and the liquid composition comprises at least one corrosion inhibitor selected from the group consisting of 1,2,4-triazole (TAZ), benzotriazole (BTA), tolyltriazole, 5-methyl-benzotriazole, 5-phenyl-benzotriazole, 5-nitro-benzotriazole, benzotriazole carboxylic acid, 3-amino-5-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole, 1-amino-1,2,4-triazole, hydroxybenzotriazole, 2-(5-amino-pentyl)-benzotriazole, 1-amino-1,2,3-triazole, 4-phenyl-1,2,3-triazole, 1-amino-5-methyl-1,2,3-triazole, 3-amino-1,2,4-triazole, 3-mercapto-1,2,4-triazole, 3-isopropyl-1,2,4-triazole, 5-phenylthiol-benzotriazole, halo-benzotriazoles (halo = F, Cl, Br or I), naphthotriazole, imidazole, 2-mercaptobenzimidazole (MBI), 4-methyl-2-phenylimidazole, 5-amino-1,3,4-thiadiazole-2-thiol (ATDT), 2-mercaptobenzothiazole, 2-mercaptothiazoline, 5-mercapto-4H-[1,2,4]triazol-3-ol, 4-ethyl-5-mercapto-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-ol, 4-ethyl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-thiol, 5-ethyl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-3-thiol, (3-mercapto-5-propyl-4H-1,2,4-triazol-4-yl)acetic acid, 4-(5-sulfanyl-1H-tetraazol-1-yl)benzoic acid, 5-aminotetrazole, pentylenetetrazole, 5-phenyl-1H-

tetrazole, 5-benzyl-1H-tetrazole, Ablumine O (Taiwan Surfactant), 2-benzylpyridine, succinimide, 2,4-diamino-6-methyl-1,3,5-triazine, thiazole, triazine, methyltetrazole, 1,3-dimethyl-2-imidazolidinone, 1,5-pentamethylenetetrazole, 1-phenyl-5-mercaptotetrazole, diaminomethyltriazine, imidazoline thione, 4-methyl-4H-1,2,4-triazole-3-thiol, benzothiazole, indiazole, adenosine, carbazole, saccharin, benzoin oxime, DL-dithiothreitol (DTT), cystaminum dichloride, di-n-propyldisulfide, ammonium sulfide, ethyl thioglycolate, 2-mercaptoethanol, 1,2-ethanedithiol, cysteine, methionine, dibenzothiophene, S-adenosylmethionine, taurine, glutathione, thiolactic acid, mercaptosuccinic acid, thiosalicylic acid, 4-mercaptobenzoic acid, 2,2'-thiodiacetic acid, 3,3'-thiodipropionic acid, thioglycolic acid, dithiodiglycolic acid, 2,2'-(ethylenedithio)diacetic acid, ethyl 2-mercaptoacetate, 3-methoxybutyl thioglycolate, methyl thioglycolate, phosphonic acid, dodecylphosphonic acid (DDPA), benzylphosphonic acid, phenylphosphonic acid, and combinations thereof, preferably 2,2'-thiodiacetic acid, 3,3'-thiodipropionic acid, thioglycolic acid, dithiodiglycolic acid, 2,2'-(ethylenedithio)diacetic acid, ethyl 2-mercaptoacetate, 3-methoxybutyl thioglycolate, methyl thioglycolate, phosphonic acid, benzylphosphonic acid, phenylphosphonic acid, and combinations thereof.

7. A liquid composition for cleaning the surface of a III-V microelectronic device material, said composition comprising at least one base, at least one oxidizing agent, and water, with the proviso that (a) the at least one oxidizing agent comprises an oxidant that is milder than hydrogen peroxide, (b) the liquid composition comprises a base other than ammonium hydroxide, or (c) both (a) and (b).

8. The liquid composition of claim 7, wherein the liquid composition is substantially devoid of hydrogen peroxide and the at least one oxidizing agent that is milder than hydrogen peroxide comprises a species selected from the group consisting of nitric acid, perchloric acid, peroxyacetic acid, FeCl_3 , oxone, periodic acid, iodic acid, ammonium peroxomonosulfate, ammonium chlorite, ammonium chlorate, ammonium iodate, ammonium nitrate, ammonium perborate, ammonium perchlorate, ammonium periodate, ammonium persulfate, ammonium hypochlorite, sodium persulfate, sodium hypochlorite, potassium iodate, potassium permanganate, potassium persulfate, potassium persulfate, potassium hypochlorite, tetramethylammonium chlorite, tetramethylammonium chlorate, tetramethylammonium iodate, tetramethylammonium perborate, tetramethylammonium perchlorate, tetramethylammonium periodate, tetramethylammonium persulfate, tetrabutylammonium peroxomonosulfate, peroxomonosulfuric acid, ferric nitrate, urea hydrogen peroxide, peracetic acid, 1,4-benzoquinone, toluquinone, dimethyl-1,4-benzoquinone, chloranil, alloxan, N-methylmorpholine N-oxide, trimethylamine N-oxide, pyridine-N-oxide, t-butyl-hydroperoxide,

and combinations thereof, preferably NMMO, ammonium persulfate, pyridine-N-oxide, tert-butyl-hydroperoxide, and combinations thereof.

9. The liquid composition of claim 8, wherein the at least one base is not ammonium hydroxide.

10. The liquid composition of claim 9, wherein the at least one base comprises a species selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine (MEA), diethanolamine, triethanolamine, dimethylaminoethanol, diethylaminoethanol, 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol, N-(aminoethyl)ethanolamine, N,N-dimethyl-2-aminoethanol, 2-(2-aminoethoxy)ethanol, tetramethylammonium hydroxide (TMAH), tetraethylammonium hydroxide (TEAH), tetrapropylammonium hydroxide (TPAH), tetrabutylammonium hydroxide (TBAH), tributylmethylammonium hydroxide (TBMAH), benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide (BTMAH), hydroxylamine, trimethylethylammonium hydroxide, diethyldimethylammonium hydroxide, choline hydroxide, tetrabutylphosphonium hydroxide, guanidine acetate, 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine, guanidine carbonate, arginine, and combinations thereof.

11. The liquid composition of claim 7, wherein the at least one oxidizing agent comprises hydrogen peroxide and the at least one base comprises a species selected from the group consisting of monoethanolamine (MEA), diethanolamine, triethanolamine, dimethylaminoethanol, diethylaminoethanol, 2-amino-2-methyl-1-propanol, N-(aminoethyl)ethanolamine, N,N-dimethyl-2-aminoethanol, 2-(2-aminoethoxy)ethanol, tetramethylammonium hydroxide (TMAH), tetraethylammonium hydroxide (TEAH), tetrapropylammonium hydroxide (TPAH), tetrabutylammonium hydroxide (TBAH), tributylmethylammonium hydroxide (TBMAH), benzyltrimethylammonium hydroxide (BTMAH), hydroxylamine, trimethylethylammonium hydroxide, diethyldimethylammonium hydroxide, choline hydroxide, tetrabutylphosphonium hydroxide, guanidine acetate, 1,1,3,3-tetramethylguanidine, guanidine carbonate, arginine, and combinations thereof.

12. The liquid composition of any of claims 7-11, wherein the composition further comprises at least one corrosion inhibitor.

13. A method of cleaning a surface of a III-V microelectronic device material, said method comprising contacting the surface with a liquid composition of any of claims 1-12.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the III-V microelectronic device material comprises a species selected from the group consisting of InP, InAs, GaAs, AsP, InGaAs, InGaAsP, GaP,

GaSb, InSb, AlAs, AlGaAs, InAlAs, InAlGaAs, InAlGaP, and InGaP.

15. The method of claims 13 or 14, wherein residue and contaminants are cleaned from the surface of the III-V microelectronic device material without substantial removal of the III-V material of a substantial change in the stoichiometry of the III-V material.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US2013/073096**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER****C11D 3/00(2006.01)i, C11D 3/39(2006.01)i**

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)

C11D 3/00; C11D 1/00; B08B 3/14; H01L 21/304; C11D 7/32; C11D 7/60; C11D 1/62; C11D 7/34; C11D 7/36; C11D 3/39

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: clean, etch, semiconductor, acid, base, oxidant, water, corrosion

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2005-0176603 A1 (CHIEN-PIN SHERMAN HSU) 11 August 2005 See abstract; claims 22, 30; paragraphs [0015], [0021], [0024], [0053]; table 6.	1-6
A		7-12
X	WO 2012-051380 A2 (ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY MATERIALS, INC.) 19 April 2012 See abstract; claims 1, 2, 4, 6.	7-12
A		1-6
A	US 2012-0083436 A1 (LEE, WAI MUN) 05 April 2012 See abstract; claims 1, 4, 8.	1-12
A	US 2012-0283163 A1 (BARNES, JEFFREY A. et al.) 08 November 2012 See abstract; claims 1, 21.	1-12
A	WO 2008-144501 A2 (ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY MATERIALS, INC.) 27 November 2008 See abstract; claims 1, 6.	1-12



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 but 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

Date of the actual completion of the international search

25 March 2014 (25.03.2014)

Date of mailing of the international search report

26 March 2014 (26.03.2014)

Name and mailing address of the ISA/KR

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US2013/073096**Box No. II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)**

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

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☒ Claims Nos.: 14
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:
Claim 14 is unclear because it refers to multiple dependent claim 13 which does not comply with PCT Rule 6.4(a).
3. ☒ Claims Nos.: 13 and 15
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box No. III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 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 fees, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fees.
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 and, where applicable, the payment of a protest fee.
- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest but the applicable protest fee was not paid within the time limit specified in the invitation.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2013/073096

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International application No.

PCT/US2013/073096

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