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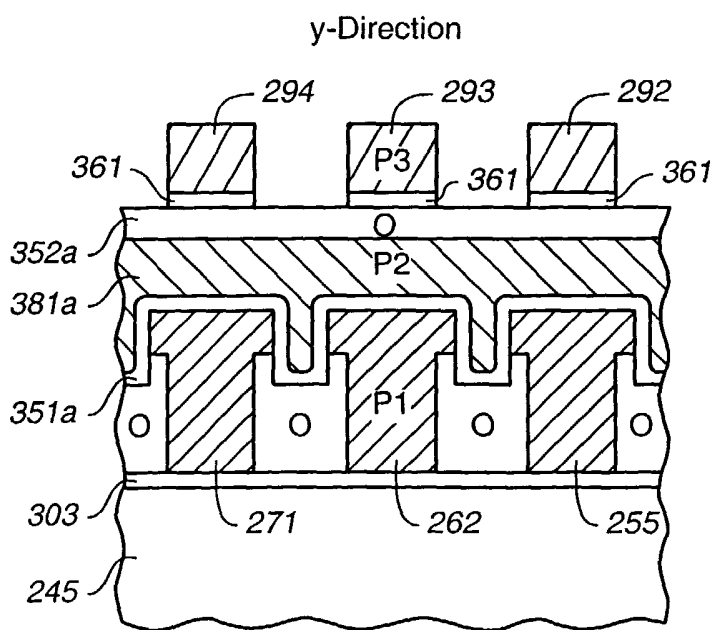
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(54) Title: FLOATING GATE MEMORY ARRAY AND METHODS OF FORMING



(57) Abstract: An integrated non-volatile memory circuit is formed by first growing a thin dielectric layer on a semiconductor substrate surface, followed by depositing a layer of conductive material such as doped polysilicon on this dielectric layer, the conductive material then being separated into rows and columns of individual floating gates. Cell source and drain diffusions in the substrate are continuously elongated across the rows. Field dielectric deposited between the rows of floating gates provides electrical isolation between the rows. Shallow trenches may be included between rows without interrupting the conductivity of the diffusions along their lengths. A deep dielectric filled trench is formed in the substrate between the array and peripheral circuits as electrical isolation. Various techniques are included that increase the field coupling area between the floating gates and a control gate. Other techniques increase the thickness of dielectric between control gates in order to decrease the field coupling between them. Further techniques

use control gates to provide shielding between floating gates.

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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.*

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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<b>A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER</b> IPC 7 H01L27/115 H01L21/8247				
According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC				
<b>B. FIELDS SEARCHED</b>				
Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 H01L				
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				
<b>C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT</b>				
Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.		
X Y  X Y  A  A	US 6 103 573 A (YUAN JACK H ET AL) 15 August 2000 (2000-08-15) the whole document ---- WO 01 41199 A (MIELKE NEAL R ;PARAT KRISHNA (US); STONE REX (US); WADA GLEN (US);) 7 June 2001 (2001-06-07) page 15, line 16 -page 18, line 4; figures 4-8 ---- EP 0 780 902 A (SHARP KK) 25 June 1997 (1997-06-25) page 7, column 12, line 3 - line 55; figures 13-14E ---- US 6 048 768 A (HONG GARY ET AL) 11 April 2000 (2000-04-11) the whole document ---- -/--	1-11, 14-30 11-13  31  11-13  1, 2, 5, 30  1, 5, 9, 15, 30		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. <span style="margin-left: 200px;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Patent family members are listed in annex.</span>				
° Special categories of cited documents :				
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;">                     *A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance                      *E* earlier document 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                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; border: none; vertical-align: top;">                     *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.                      *&amp;* document member of the same patent family                 </td> </tr> </table>			*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document 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
*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance *E* earlier document 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  <p style="text-align: center;">31 March 2003</p>	Date of mailing of the international search report  <p style="text-align: center;">04/04/2003</p>			
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer  <p style="text-align: center;">Albrecht, C</p>			

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No  
PCT/US 02/25025

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	EP 1 104 023 A (ST MICROELECTRONICS SRL) 30 May 2001 (2001-05-30) the whole document -----	11-13, 31

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Information on patent family members

International Application No

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