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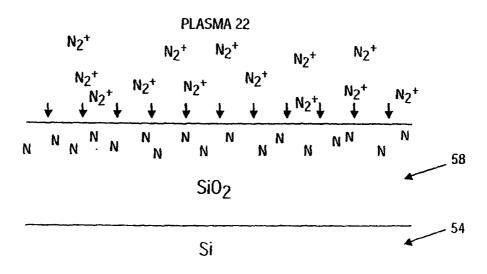
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(54) Title: PLASMA APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROCESSING A SUBSTRATE



(57) Abstract: Embodiments of the invention generally provide a method of forming a nitride gate dielectric layer. The method includes generating a nitrogen-containing plasma in a processing chamber via introduction of a nitrogen-containing processing gas into the processing chamber and the application of an ionizing energy to the processing gas, and pulsing the ionizing energy to maintain a mean temperature of electrons in the nitrogen-containing plasma of less than about 0.7 eV.

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

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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)

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| "A" docume consid "E" earlier of filing d "L" docume which citation "O" docume other r | runent defining the general state of the art which is not sidered to be of particular relevance er document but published on or after the international g date strength of the strength of the art which is not sidered to be of particular relevance er document but published on or after the international g date strength of the strength of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such document published prior to the international filing date but a first 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 cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents is combined with one or more other such documents. Such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. "S" 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. | | the application but leavy underlying the claimed invention to be considered to coument is taken alone claimed invention liventive step when the ore other such docupius to a person skilled |
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| Name and n | nailing 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 Aguilar, M. | - |
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