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Front Matter: Volume 6921

, "Front Matter: Volume 6921," Proc. SPIE 6921, Emerging Lithographic Technologies XII, 692101 (22 April 2008); doi: 10.1117/12.797112

SPIE.

Event: SPIE Advanced Lithography, 2008, San Jose, California, United States

PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

Emerging Lithographic Technologies XII

Frank M. Schellenberg
Editor

26–28 February 2008
San Jose, California, USA

Sponsored by
SPIE

Cooperating Organization
SEMATECH (USA)

Published by
SPIE

Part One of Two Parts

Volume 6921

Proceedings of SPIE, 0277-786X, v. 6921

SPIE is an international society advancing an interdisciplinary approach to the science and application of light.

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Please use the following format to cite material from this book:

Author(s), "Title of Paper," in *Emerging Lithographic Technologies XII*, edited by Frank M. Schellenberg, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 6921 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2008) Article CID Number.

ISSN 0277-786X

ISBN 9780819471062

Published by

SPIE

P.O. Box 10, Bellingham, Washington 98227-0010 USA

Telephone +1 360 676 3290 (Pacific Time) · Fax +1 360 647 1445

SPIE.org

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Printed in the United States of America.

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Contents

Part One

xix	<i>Symposium Committee</i>
xxi	<i>Conference Committees</i>
xxv	<i>Introduction</i>

SESSION 1 KEYNOTE SESSION

6921 02	Selete's EUV program: progress and challenges (Keynote Paper) [6921-01] I. Mori, O. Suga, H. Tanaka, I. Nishiyama, T. Terasawa, H. Shigemura, T. Taguchi, T. Tanaka, T. Itani, MIRAI-Semiconductor Leading Edge Technologies, Inc. (Japan)
6921 03	Breaking the limits: combination of electron beam lithography and nanoimprint lithography for production of next-generation magnetic media and optical media (Keynote Paper) [6921-02] B. Heidari, M. Beck, Obducat AB (Sweden)

SESSION 2 NANOIMPRINT I

6921 04	Study of nanoimprint lithography for applications toward 22nm node CMOS devices (Invited Paper) [6921-03] I. Yoneda, S. Mikami, T. Ota, T. Koshihara, M. Ito, T. Nakasugi, T. Higashiki, Toshiba Corp. (Japan)
6921 07	Full-field imprinting of sub-40 nm patterns [6921-05] J. Yeo, H. Kim, B. Eynon, Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (South Korea)
6921 08	Fabrication and test of nano crossbar switches/MOSFET hybrid circuits by imprinting lithography [6921-04] Z. Li, X. Li, D. A. A. Ohlberg, J. Straznicky, W. Wu, Z. Yu, J. Borghetti, Hewlett-Packard Labs. (USA); W. Tong, Hewlett-Packard Co. (USA); D. Stewart, R. S. Williams, Hewlett-Packard Labs. (USA)
6921 09	Minimizing linewidth roughness for 22-nm node patterning with step-and-flash imprint lithography [6921-07] G. M. Schmid, N. Khusnatdinov, C. B. Brooks, D. LaBrake, E. Thompson, D. J. Resnick, Molecular Imprints, Inc. (USA)

SESSION 3 NANOIMPRINT II

- 6921 0B **Chemical and mechanical properties of UV-cured nanoimprint resists and release layer interactions** [6921-10]
F. A. Houle, A. Fornof, D. C. Miller, S. Raoux, H. Truong, IBM Almaden Research Ctr. (USA); E. Simonyi, C. Jahnes, S. Rossnagel, IBM T.J. Watson Research Ctr. (USA)
- 6921 0C **Dual damascene BEOL processing using multilevel step and flash imprint lithography** [6921-11]
B. H. Chao, F. Palmieri, W.-L. Jen, D. H. McMichael, C. G. Willson, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA); J. Owens, R. Berger, K. Sotoodeh, B. Wilks, J. Pham, R. Carpio, E. LaBelle, J. Wetzel, ATDF, Inc. (USA)
- 6921 0D **High resolution nanoimprint templates for dual damascene: fabrication and imprint results** [6921-84]
M. Irmscher, J. Butschke, IMS Chips (Germany); R. Carpio, ATDF Inc. (USA); B. Chao, W.-L. Jen, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA); C. Koepernik, L. Nedelmann, IMS Chips (Germany); J. Owens, ATDF Inc. (USA); F. Palmieri, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA); M. Pritschow, C. Reuter, H. Sailer, IMS Chips (Germany); K. Satoodeh, J. Wetzel, B. Wilks, ATDF Inc. (USA); G. Willson, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA)
- 6921 0E **Interfacial adhesion studies for step and flash imprint lithography** [6921-13]
M. W. Lin, D. J. Hellebusch, K. Wu, E. K. Kim, K. Lu, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA); L. Tao, The Univ. of Texas at Dallas (USA); K. M. Liechti, J. G. Ekerdt, P. S. Ho, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA); W. Hu, The Univ. of Texas at Dallas (USA); C. G. Willson, The Univ. of Texas at Austin (USA)
- 6921 0F **Sub-wavelength optical diffraction and photoacoustic metrologies for the characterisation of nanoimprinted structures** [6921-12]
T. Kehoe, Univ. College Cork (Ireland); J. Bryner, ETH Zurich (Switzerland); V. Reboud, N. Kehagias, Univ. College Cork (Ireland); S. Landis, CEA-LETI-Minatec (France); C. Gourgon, LTM-CNRS (France); J. Vollmann, J. Dual, ETH Zurich (Switzerland); C. M. Sotomayor Torres, Univ. College Cork (Ireland), Institute for Research and Advanced Studies, ICREA (Spain), and Catalan Institute of Nanotechnology (Spain)

SESSION 4 EBDW I

- 6921 0H **EBDW technology for EB shuttle at 65nm node and beyond** [6921-16]
T. Maruyama, M. Takakuwa, Y. Kojima, Y. Takahashi, K. Yamada, e-Shuttle Inc. (Japan); J. Kon, Fujitsu Labs. Ltd. (Japan); M. Miyajima, A. Shimizu, Y. Machida, H. Hoshino, H. Takita, Fujitsu Ltd. (Japan); S. Sugatani, H. Tsuchikawa, e-Shuttle Inc. (Japan)
- 6921 0I **E-beam direct write alignment strategies for the next generation node** [6921-91]
H. Alves, P. Hahmann, K.-H. Kliem, U. Weidenmueller, S. Jahr, Vistec Electron Beam GmbH (Germany); C. G. Frase, D. Grieser, H. Bosse, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (Germany); R. Zimmermann, C. Arndt, Qimonda Dresden GmbH & Co. OHG (Germany)

- 6921 OJ **Gate edge roughness in electron beam direct write and its influence to device characteristics** [6921-18]
K.-H. Choi, R. Dittich, M. Goldbach, C. Hohle, Qimonda Dresden GmbH & Co. OHG (Germany); K. Keil, Fraunhofer Ctr. for Nanoelectronic Technologies (Germany); T. Marschner, M. Tesaro, F. Thrum, R. Zimmermann, J. Kretz, Qimonda Dresden GmbH & Co. OHG (Germany)
- 6921 OK **Proton beam writing: a platform technology for nano-integration** [6921-54]
J. A. van Kan, F. Zhang, A. A. Bettiol, F. Watt, National Univ. of Singapore (Singapore)

SESSION 5 EUV SYSTEMS

- 6921 OL **Performance of the full field EUV systems (Invited Paper)** [6921-21]
H. Meiling, E. Boon, N. Buzing, ASML Netherlands B.V. (Netherlands); K. Cummings, ASML (USA); O. Frijns, ASML Netherlands B.V. (Netherlands); J. Galloway, ASML (USA); M. Goethals, IMEC (Belgium); N. Hamed, ASML Wilton (USA); B. Hultermans, R. de Jonge, ASML Netherlands B.V. (Netherlands); B. Kessels, ASML (USA); P. Kürz, Carl Zeiss SMT AG (Germany); S. Lok, ASML Netherlands B.V. (Netherlands); M. Lowisch, Carl Zeiss SMT AG (Germany); J. Mallman, ASML Netherlands B.V. (Netherlands); B. Pierson, ASML (USA); K. Ronse, IMEC (Belgium); J. Ryan, Univ. at Albany (USA); E. Smitt-Weaver, ASML (USA); M. Tittnich, Univ. at Albany (USA); C. Wagner, A. van Dijk, ASML Netherlands B.V. (Netherlands); J. Zimmerman, ASML Wilton (USA)
- 6921 OM **Nikon EUVL development progress update** [6921-22]
T. Miura, K. Murakami, K. Suzuki, Y. Kohama, K. Morita, K. Hada, Y. Ohkubo, H. Kawai, Nikon Corp. (Japan)
- 6921 ON **Canon's development status of EUVL technologies** [6921-23]
S. Uzawa, H. Kubo, Y. Miwa, T. Tsuji, H. Morishima, K. Kajiyama, T. Hasegawa, Canon Inc. (Japan)
- 6921 OO **Imaging performance of the EUV alpha demo tool at IMEC** [6921-24]
G. F. Lorusso, J. Hermans, A. M. Goethals, B. Baudemprez, F. Van Roey, IMEC (Belgium); A. M. Myers, IMEC (Belgium) and Intel Corp. (USA); I. Kim, B. S. Kim, IMEC (Belgium) and Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (South Korea); R. Jonckheere, IMEC (Belgium); A. Niroomand, IMEC (Belgium) and Micron Technology, Inc. (Belgium); S. Lok, A. Van Dijk, ASML (Netherlands); J.-F. de Marneffe, S. Demuyne, D. Goossens, K. Ronse, IMEC (Belgium)
- 6921 OP **The use of EUV lithography to produce demonstration devices** [6921-25]
B. La Fontaine, Y. Deng, R. Kim, H. J. Levinson, S. McGowan, U. Okoroanyanwu, R. Seltmann, C. Tabery, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (USA); A. Tchikoulaeva, AMD Saxony LLC & Co. KG (Germany); T. Wallow, O. Wood, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (USA); J. Arnold, D. Canaperi, M. Colburn, K. Kimmel, C.-S. Koay, E. McLellan, D. Medeiros, S. P. Rao, K. Petrillo, Y. Yin, IBM Corp. (USA); H. Mizuno, Toshiba America Electronics Components (USA); S. Bouten, M. Crouse, A. van Dijk, ASML (USA); Y. van Dommelen, J. Galloway, S.-I. Han, B. Kessels, B. Lee, S. Lok, Toshiba America Electronics Components (USA); B. Niekrewicz, B. Pierson, R. Routh, E. Schmit-Weaver, K. Cummings, ASML (USA); J. Word, Mentor Graphics (USA)

- 6921 0Q **Development status of projection optics and illumination optics for EUV1** [6921-26]
K. Murakami, T. Oshino, H. Kondo, H. Chiba, H. Komatsuda, K. Nomura, H. Iwata, Nikon Corp. (Japan)
- 6921 0R **Smoothing properties of single- and multilayer coatings: a method to smoothen substrates** [6921-27]
A. J. R. van den Boogaard, E. Louis, E. Zoethout, S. Alonso van der Westen, F. Bijkerk, FOM Institute for Plasma Physics Rijnhuizen (Netherlands); S. Müllender, Carl Zeiss SMT AG (Germany)

SESSION 6 EUV SOURCE I

- 6921 0T **CO₂ laser-produced Sn-plasma source for high-volume manufacturing EUV lithography** [6921-29]
A. Endo, H. Hoshino, T. Suganuma, K. Nowak, T. Yanagida, T. Yabu, T. Asayama, Y. Ueno, M. Moriya, M. Nakano, H. Someya, T. Nishisaka, T. Abe, G. Soumagne, H. Komori, H. Mizoguchi, A. Sumitani, K. Toyoda, Extreme Ultraviolet Lithography System Development Association (Japan)
- 6921 0U **Progress on Xe-DPP source development for alpha phase** [6921-30]
M. Yoshioka, D. Bolshukhin, G. Hergenhan, J. Kleinschmidt, V. Korobochko, G. Schriever, M. C. Schürmann, C. D. Tran, C. Ziener, XTREME technologies GmbH (Germany)
- 6921 0V **Sn DPP source-collector modules: status of alpha resources, beta developments, and the scalability to HVM** [6921-31]
M. Corthout, R. Apetz, Philips Extreme UV GmbH (Germany); J. Brudermann, XTREME Technologies GmbH (Germany); M. Damen, Philips Extreme UV GmbH (Germany); G. Derra, Philips Research Labs. (Germany); O. Franken, Fraunhofer Institut für Lasertechnik (Germany); J. Jonkers, Philips Extreme UV GmbH (Germany); J. Klein, F. Küpper, Fraunhofer Institut für Lasertechnik (Germany); A. Mader, Philips Extreme UV GmbH (Germany); W. Neff, Fraunhofer Institut für Lasertechnik (Germany); H. Scheuermann, Philips Extreme UV GmbH (Germany); G. Schriever, M. Schürmann, XTREME Technologies GmbH (Germany); G. Siemons, R. Snijders, D. Vaudrevange, Philips Extreme UV GmbH (Germany); E. Wagenaars, Fraunhofer Institut für Lasertechnik (Germany); P. van de Wel, Philips Extreme UV GmbH (Germany); M. Yoshioka, XTREME Technologies GmbH (Germany); P. Zink, O. Zitzen, Philips Extreme UV GmbH (Germany)
- 6921 0X **Parametric tradeoffs in laser plasma sources for EUV lithography: debris versus radiators** [6921-109]
D. Bleiner, B. Rollinger, R. S. Abhari, ETH Zurich (Switzerland)

SESSION 7 EUV SOURCE II

- 6921 0Y **Advanced laser-produced EUV light source for HVM with conversion efficiency of 5–7% and B-field mitigation of ions (Invited Paper)** [6921-33]
K. Nishihara, A. Sunahara, Osaka Univ. (Japan); A. Sasaki, JAEA (Japan); S. Fujioka, Y. Shimada, M. Nunami, Osaka Univ. (Japan); H. Tanuma, Tokyo Metropolitan Univ. (Japan); M. Murakami, T. Aota, Osaka Univ. (Japan); K. Fujima, Yamanishi Univ. (Japan); H. Furukawa, Osaka Univ. (Japan); T. Nishikawa, Okayama Univ. (Japan); F. Koike, Kitazato Univ. (Japan); R. More, T. Kato, National Institute of Fusion Science (Japan); V. Zhakhovskii, K. Gamata, H. Ueda, H. Nishimura, Y. Yuba, K. Nagai, N. Miyanaga, Y. Izawa, K. Mima, Osaka Univ. (Japan)
- 6921 10 **Characteristics of a minimum-debris optimum conversion efficiency tin-based LPP source** [6921-35]
B. Rollinger, D. Bleiner, N. Chokani, R. S. Abhari, ETH Zurich (Switzerland)
- 6921 12 **Thermal and optical characterization of collectors integrated in a Sn-DPP based SoCoMo** [6921-37]
G. Bianucci, A. Brunton, G. L. Cassol, G. Pirovano, F. Zocchi, Media Lario Technologies (Italy); A. Mader, Philips Extreme UV GmbH (Germany); O. Franken, K. Bergmann, Fraunhofer-Institut für Lasertechnik (Germany); H. Scheuermann, P. Zink, Philips Extreme UV GmbH (Germany)
- 6921 13 **Multidimensional simulation and optimization of hybrid laser and discharge plasma devices for EUV lithography** [6921-38]
A. Hassanein, V. Sizyuk, T. Sizyuk, Purdue Univ. (USA)

SESSION 8 EUV CONTAMINATION

- 6921 14 **Radiation-induced defect formation and reactivity of model TiO₂ capping layers with MMA: a comparison with Ru** [6921-39]
B. V. Yakshinskiy, M. N. Hedhili, S. Zalkind, Rutgers, The State Univ. of New Jersey (USA); M. Chandhok, Intel Corp. (USA); T. E. Madey, Rutgers, The State Univ. of New Jersey (USA)
- 6921 15 **Lifetime of EUVL as a function of degree of carbon contamination and capping materials** [6921-40]
S. Huh, H. Kim, G. Yoon, J. Choi, H.-S. Lee, D. G. Lee, B. Ahn, H.-S. Seo, D. Kim, S. S. Kim, H. K. Cho, Samsung Electronics Co., Ltd. (South Korea); T. Watanabe, H. Kinoshita, Univ. of Hyogo (Japan)
- 6921 16 **Carbon contamination of EUV mask: film characterization, impact on lithographic performance, and cleaning** [6921-41]
Y. Nishiyama, T. Anazawa, H. Oizumi, I. Nishiyama, O. Suga, MIRAI-Semiconductor Leading Edge Technologies, Inc. (Japan); K. Abe, S. Kagata, A. Izumi, Kyushu Institute of Technology (Japan)
- 6921 17 **Accelerated lifetime metrology of EUV multilayer mirrors in hydrocarbon environments** [6921-42]
S. B. Hill, N. S. Faradzhev, C. Tarrio, T. B. Lucatorto, NIST (USA); T. E. Madey, B. V. Yakshinskiy, E. Loginova, Rutgers Univ. (USA); S. Yulin, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Optik und Feinmechanik, Jena (Germany)

- 6921 18 **Mo/Si multilayers with enhanced TiO₂- and RuO₂-capping layers** [6921-43]
S. Yulin, N. Benoit, T. Feigl, N. Kaiser, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Optik und Feinmechanik (Germany); M. Fang, M. Chandhok, Intel Corp. (USA)

SESSION 9 EUV IMAGING

- 6921 19 **Smoothing based fast model for images of isolated buried EUV multilayer defects (Invited Paper)** [6921-44]
C. H. Clifford, A. R. Neureuther, Univ. of California, Berkeley (USA)
- 6921 1A **Aberration budget in extreme ultraviolet lithography** [6921-45]
Y. Nakajima, T. Sato, R. Inanami, T. Nakasugi, T. Higashiki, Toshiba Corp. (Japan)
- 6921 1B **EUV pattern shift compensation strategies** [6921-46]
T. Schmoeller, T. Klimpel, Synopsys, Inc. (Germany); I. Kim, IMEC (Belgium) and Samsung; G. F. Lorusso, IMEC (Belgium) A. Myers, IMEC (Belgium) and Intel Corp. (USA); R. Jonckheere, A. M. Goethals, K. Ronse, IMEC (Belgium)
- 6921 1C **Study of system performance in SFET** [6921-47]
N. Nishimura, G. Takahashi, T. Tsuji, H. Morishima, K. Kaziyama, Canon.Inc (Japan); S. Uzawa, Canon Inc. (Japan)
- 6921 1D **Effects of aberration and flare on lithographic performance of SFET** [6921-132]
Y. Tanaka, H. Aoyama, K. Tawarayama, S. Magoshi, S. Shirai, H. Tanaka, Mirai-Semiconductor Leading Edge Technologies, Inc. (Japan)

SESSION 10 EUV RESISTS: JOINT SESSION WITH CONFERENCE 6923

- 6921 1E **Resolution, LER, and sensitivity limitations of photoresist** [6921-55]
G. M. Gallatin, Applied Math Solutions, LLC (USA); P. Naulleau, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA) and Univ. at Albany (USA); D. Niakoula, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); R. Brainard, E. Hassanein, Univ. at Albany (USA); R. Matyi, J. Thackeray, K. Spear, Rohm and Haas Microelectronics (USA); K. Dean, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA)
- 6921 1F **Evaluation of EUV resist materials for use at the 32 nm half-pitch node** [6921-56]
T. Wallow, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (USA); C. Higgins, R. Brainard, Univ. at Albany (USA); K. Petrillo, IBM Corp. (USA); W. Montgomery, Univ. at Albany (USA); C. Koay, IBM Corp. (USA); G. Denbeaux, Univ. at Albany (USA); O. Wood, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (USA); Y. Wei, Qimonda Corp. (USA)
- 6921 1G **Extreme ultraviolet resist outgassing and its effect on nearby optics** [6921-57]
G. Denbeaux, R. Garg, C. Mbanaso, J. Waterman, L. Yankulin, A. Antohe, Y.-J. Fan, W. Montgomery, Univ. at Albany (USA); K. Dean, K. Orvek, A. Wüest, SEMATECH (USA); Y. Wei, Qimonda (USA); F. Goodwin, SEMATECH (USA) and Qimonda (USA); O. Wood, AMD (USA); C.-S. Koay, IBM (USA); E. Gullikson, A. Aquila, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); C. Tarrio, S. Grantham, NIST (USA); S. Bajt, DESY (Germany)

- 6921 1H **Quantitative measurement of outgas products from EUV photoresists** [6921-58]
C. Tarrio, B. A. Benner, R. E. Vest, S. Grantham, S. B. Hill, T. B. Lucatorto, J. H. Hendricks, P. Abbott, NIST (USA); G. Denbeaux, C. Mbanaso, A. Antohe, Univ. at Albany (USA); K. Orvek, K.-W. Choi, Intel Corp. (USA)
- 6921 1I **Film quantum yields of EUV and ultra-high PAG photoresists** [6921-59]
E. Hassanein, C. Higgins, P. Naulleau, R. Matyi, Univ. at Albany (USA); G. Gallatin, Applied Math Solutions, LLC (USA); G. Denbeaux, A. Antohe, Univ. at Albany (USA); J. Thackeray, K. Spear, C. Szmanda, Rohm and Haas Microelectronics (USA); C. N. Anderson, D. Niakoula, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); M. Malloy, A. Khurshid, C. Montgomery, E. C. Piscani, A. Rudack, J. Byers, A. Ma, K. Dean, SEMATECH (USA); R. Brainard, Univ. at Albany (USA)

SESSION 11 NANOIMPRINT III

- 6921 1K **Etching of 42 nm and 32 nm half-pitch features patterned using Step and Flash imprint lithography** [6921-14]
C. B. Brooks, D. L. LaBrake, N. Khusnatdinov, Molecular Imprints, Inc. (USA)
- 6921 1L **High resolution defect inspection of Step and Flash imprint lithography for 32 nm half-pitch patterning** [6921-86]
I. McMackin, J. Perez, K. Selenidis, J. Maltabes, D. Resnick, S. V. Sreenivasan, Molecular Imprints, Inc. (USA)
- 6921 1M **Porosity characteristics of ultra-low dielectric insulator films directly patterned by nano-imprint lithography** [6921-85]
H. W. Ro, R. L. Jones, NIST (USA); H. Peng, Univ. of Michigan (USA); H.-J. Lee, E. K. Lin, A. Karim, NIST (USA); D. Y. Yoon, Seoul National Univ. (South Korea); D. W. Gidley, Univ. of Michigan (USA); C. L. Soles, NIST (USA)
- 6921 1N **A method for fabricating below 22nm feature patterns in quartz mold** [6921-88]
A. Terasaki, J. Seki, H. Ono, Canon Inc. (Japan)

SESSION 12 PARALLEL E-BEAM SYSTEMS

- 6921 1O **Projection maskless lithography (PML2): proof-of-concept setup and first experimental results (Invited Paper)** [6921-93]
C. Klein, E. Platzgummer, H. Loeschner, G. Gross, IMS Nanofabrication AG (Austria); P. Dolezel, M. Tmej, V. Kolarik, Delong Instruments (Czech Republic); W. Klingler, F. Letzkus, J. Butschke, M. Irmscher, Institut für Mikroelektronik Stuttgart (Germany); M. Witt, W. Pilz, Fraunhofer Institut für Siliziumtechnologie (Germany)
- 6921 1P **Mapper: high throughput maskless lithography** [6921-92]
E. Slot, M. J. Wieland, G. de Boer, MAPPER Lithography B.V. (Netherlands); P. Kruit, Delft Univ. of Technology (Netherlands); G. F. ten Berge, A. M. C. Houkes, R. Jager, T. van de Peut, J. J. M. Peijster, S. W. H. K. Steenbrink, T. F. Teepen, A. H. V. van Veen, B. J. Kampherbeek, MAPPER Lithography B.V. (Netherlands)

- 6921 1R **Patterning fidelity on low-energy multiple-electron-beam direct write lithography** [6921-19]
S. M. Chang, S. J. Lin, C. A. Lin, J. H. Chen, T. S. Gau, B. J. Lin, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. (Taiwan); P. Veltman, R. Hanfoug, E. Slot, M. J. Wieland, B. J. Kampherbeek, MAPPER Lithography B.V. (Netherlands)

SESSION 13 EBDW II

- 6921 1S **Magic: a European program to push the insertion of maskless lithography** [6921-49]
L. Pain, B. Icard, S. Tedesco, CEA-LETI, MINATEC (France); B. Kampherbeek, MAPPER Lithography B. V. (Netherlands); G. Gross, C. Klein, H. Loeschner, E. Platzgummer, IMS Nanofabrication AG (Austria); R. Morgan, Synopsys, Inc. (USA); S. Manakli, STMicroelectronics (France); J. Kretz, C. Holhe, K.-H. Choi, F. Thrum, Qimonda Dresden GmbH & Co. OHG (Germany); E. Kassel, KLA-Tencor Corp. (Israel); W. Pilz, Fraunhofer Institut für Siliziumtechnologie (Germany); K. Keil, Fraunhofer CNT (Germany); J. Butschke, M. Irmscher, F. Letzkus, IMS Chips (Germany); P. Hudek, Vorarlberg Univ. of Applied Sciences (Austria); A. Paraskevopoulos, Fraunhofer Institute for Telecommunications, Heinrich-Hertz-Institute (Germany); P. Ramm, J. Weber, Fraunhofer IZM Munich (Germany)
- 6921 1T **High throughput maskless lithography: low voltage versus high voltage** [6921-20]
S. W. H. K. Steenbrink, B. J. Kampherbeek, M. J. Wieland, MAPPER Lithography B.V. (Netherlands); J. H. Chen, S. M. Chang, Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co. Ltd. (Taiwan); M. Pas, Texas Instruments Inc. (USA); J. Kretz, C. Hohle, Qimonda Dresden GmbH & Co. OHG (Germany); D. van Steenwinckel, NXP Semiconductors (Belgium); S. Manakli, J. Le-Denmat, STMicroelectronics (France); L. Pain, CEA-LETI, Minatec (France)
- 6921 1U **Shot minimization for throughput improvement of character projection electron beam direct writing** [6921-51]
H. Pham Dinh Minh, T. Iizuka, M. Ikeda, K. Asada, The Univ. of Tokyo (Japan)
- 6921 1V **Shaped beam technique using a novel 3rd-order imaging approach** [6921-53]
T. Kotsugi, T. Fuse, H. Kinoshita, Tokyo Electron Ltd. (Japan); N. W. Parker, Multibeam Systems Inc. (USA)

Part Two

SESSION 14 EUV MASK

- 6921 1W **Dependence of EUV mask printing performance on blank architecture (Invited Paper)** [6921-62]
R. Jonckheere, IMEC vzw (Belgium); Y. Hyun, IMEC vzw (Belgium) and Hynix Semiconductor Inc. (North Korea); F. Iwamoto, IMEC vzw (Belgium) and Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd. (Japan); B. Baudempez, J. Hermans, G. F. Lorusso, I. Pollentier, A.-M. Goethals, K. Ronse, IMEC vzw (Belgium)
- 6921 1X **Ion beam deposition for defect-free EUVL mask blanks** [6921-63]
P. Kearney, C. C. Lin, T. Sugiyama, C.-U. Jeon, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA); R. Randive, I. Reiss, R. Rajan, Veeco Instruments Inc. (USA); P. Mirkarimi, E. Spiller, Consultant (USA)

- 6921 1Y **Determining the critical size of EUV mask substrate defects** [6921-65]
H. Han, W. Cho, Samsung Electronics, Inc. (South Korea) and SEMATECH, Inc. (USA);
K. A. Goldberg, E. M. Gullikson, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); C.-U. Jeon,
Samsung Electronics, Inc. (South Korea) and SEMATECH, Inc. (USA); S. Wurm, SEMATECH,
Inc. (USA)
- 6921 1Z **Status of EUV reticle handling solution in meeting 32 nm HP EUV lithography** [6921-66]
L. He, S. Wurm, P. Seidel, K. Orvek, E. Betancourt, J. Underwood, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA)
- 6921 20 **Sub 50 nm cleaning-induced damage in EUV mask blanks** [6921-67]
A. Rastegar, S. Eichenlaub, V. Kapila, A. J. Kadaksham, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA);
P. Marmillion, IBM (USA) and SEMATECH, Inc. (USA)

SESSION 15 EUV METROLOGY

- 6921 21 **EUV source development at Energetiq** [6921-68]
P. A. Blackborow, M. J. Partlow, S. F. Horne, M. M. Besen, D. K. Smith, D. S. Gustafson,
Energetiq Technology, Inc. (USA)
- 6921 23 **EUV mask inspection tool using high NA DUV inspection tool** [6921-70]
Y. Choi, S. Oh, M. Kim, Y. Kim, C. Kim, Hynix Semiconductor (South Korea)

SESSION 16 DIRECTED SELF ASSEMBLY

- 6921 26 **NIL mold manufacturing using self-organized diblock copolymer as patterning template (Invited Paper)** [6921-73]
N. Kihara, H. Hieda, K. Naito, Toshiba Corp. (Japan)
- 6921 27 **Integration of polymer self-assembly for lithographic application** [6921-74]
J. Y. Cheng, D. P. Sanders, H.-C. Kim, L. K. Sundberg, IBM Almaden Research Ctr. (USA)
- 6921 29 **Rapid directed self-assembly of Lamellar microdomains from a block copolymer containing hybrid** [6921-76]
H.-C. Kim, J. Cheng, O.-H. Park, S.-M. Park, IBM Almaden Research Ctr. (USA); R. Ruiz,
Hitachi Global Storage Technologies, Inc. (USA); C. T. Black, Brookhaven National Lab.
(USA); J. Pitera, C. Rettner, M. Flickner, IBM Almaden Research Ctr. (USA)
- 6921 2B **Device-oriented directed self-assembly of Lamellar microdomains from a block copolymer containing hybrid** [6921-78]
H.-C. Kim, J. Cheng, O.-H. Park, S.-M. Park, C. Rettner, IBM Almaden Research Ctr. (USA)

SESSION 17 NEW PATTERNING TECHNOLOGIES

- 6921 2C **Nano patterning with a single high-transmission nano-metal aperture system** [6921-79]
Y. Kim, S. Park, E. Lee, J. W. Hahn, Yonsei Univ. (South Korea)

- 6921 2D **Etch-less UV-NIL process for patterning photonic crystal structure onto OLED substrate** [6921-80]
J. Jeong, Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials (South Korea); S. Jeon, Seoul National Univ. (South Korea); J. Shim, Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials (South Korea); J. R. Youn, H.-D. Park, J.-W. Kang, J.-J. Kim, Seoul National Univ. (South Korea); K. Kim, D. Choi, J. Choi, D.-I. Lee, A. O. Altun, S. Lee, E. Lee, Korea Institute of Machinery and Materials (South Korea); S.-H. Kim, Y.-H. Lee, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (South Korea)
- 6921 2E **A photolithographic process for grossly nonplanar substrates** [6921-81]
G. L. Williams, Univ. of Sheffield (United Kingdom); R. P. McWilliam, Durham Univ. (United Kingdom); J. Toriz-Garcia, Univ. of Sheffield (United Kingdom); R. Curry, Durham Univ. (United Kingdom); A. Maiden, N. L. Seed, Univ. of Sheffield (United Kingdom); A. Purvis, Durham Univ. (United Kingdom); P. A. Ivey, Innotec Ltd. (United Kingdom)
- 6921 2F **Submicron patterning on flexible substrates by reduction optical lithography** [6921-82]
W. J. M. de Laat, ASML Netherlands B.V. (Netherlands); M. Péter, F. Furthner, P. T. M. Giesen, Holst Ctr. (Netherlands); C.-Q. Gui, ASML Netherlands B.V. (Netherlands); E. R. Meinders, Holst Ctr. (Netherlands)

POSTER SESSION: NANOIMPRINT

- 6921 2I **Integration issues in step and repeat UV nanoimprint lithography** [6921-149]
C. Charpin-Nicolle, CEA LETI-Minatec (France); M. Imrscher, M. Pritschow, STMicroelectronics (France); B. Vratzov, IMS Chips (Germany); H. van Hossen, NT&D (Germany); J. Chiaroni, CEA LETI-Minatec (France); J. Massin, Univ. of Twente (Netherlands); P. Gubbinì, Molecular Imprints, Inc. (France)

POSTER SESSION: EBDW

- 6921 2J **Simulation of robustness of a new e-beam column with the 3rd-order imaging technique** [6921-94]
K. Takeya, T. Fuse, H. Kinoshita, Tokyo Electron Ltd. (Japan); N. W. Parker, Multibeam Systems Inc. (USA)
- 6921 2K **Applying photolithography-friendly design to e-beam direct writing in 65-nm node and beyond** [6921-96]
H. Hoshino, K. Ogino, Y. Machida, Fujitsu Ltd. (Japan); M. Miyajima, Fujitsu VLSI Ltd. (Japan); T. Maruyama, Y. Kojima, S. Sugatani, e-Shuttle, Inc. (Japan)

POSTER SESSION: DSA AND NEW PATTERNING TECHNOLOGIES

- 6921 2M **Diblock copolymer directed self-assembly for CMOS device fabrication** [6921-98]
L.-W. Chang, M. A. Caldwell, H.-S. P. Wong, Stanford Univ. (USA)

- 6921 2N **An ultra-narrow FinFET poly-Si gate structure fabricated with 193nm photolithography and in situ PR/BARC and TEOS hard mask etching** [6921-99]
W.-S. Liao, C.-H. Wu, M.-C. Tang, S.-Y. Huang, T. Shih, United Microelectronics Corp. (Taiwan); Y.-G. Liaw, ASint Technology Corp. (USA); K.-M. Chen, National Nano Device Labs. (Taiwan); T.-H. Chen, H.-C. Tsen, L. Chung, United Microelectronics Corp. (Taiwan)
- 6921 2O **Diffraction feature of microlens array with a small aperture size** [6921-100]
S. Park, J. Park, H. Choi, Y.-J. Yun, K. Choi, J. Kim, Dongbu Electronics Co., Ltd. (South Korea)

POSTER SESSION: EUV SYSTEM

- 6921 2Q **Scattering of EUV optics: substrate, coating, and degradation effects** [6921-102]
S. Schröder, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Optik und Feinmechanik (Germany) and Friedrich-Schiller-Univ., Jena (Germany); N. Benoit, T. Feigl, A. Duparré, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Optik und Feinmechanik (Germany); A. Tünnermann, Fraunhofer-Institut für Angewandte Optik und Feinmechanik (Germany) and Friedrich-Schiller-Univ., Jena (Germany)
- 6921 2R **Progress in extreme ultraviolet interferometric lithography at the University of Wisconsin** [6921-103]
A. Isoyan, Y.-C. Cheng, F. Jiang, J. Wallace, M. Efremov, P. Nealey, F. Cerrina, Univ. of Wisconsin, Madison (USA)
- 6921 2S **Advanced diffuser technology helps reduce vent-up times while maintaining wafer integrity on vacuum tools loadlock chambers** [6921-104]
C. Vroman, C. Quartaro, M. Randolph, Entegris, Inc. (USA)
- 6921 2T **Characterization of extreme ultraviolet emission from tin-droplets irradiated with Nd:YAG laser plasmas** [6921-105]
T. Aota, Y. Nakai, S. Fujioka, Osaka Univ. (Japan); E. Fujiwara, Univ. of Hyogo (Japan); M. Shimomura, H. Nishimura, N. Nishihara, N. Miyanaga, Y. Izawa, K. Mima, Osaka Univ. (Japan)
- 6921 2U **EUV wavefront measurement of six-mirror optics using EWMS** [6921-106]
K. Sugisaki, M. Okada, K. Otaki, Y. Zhu, J. Kawakami, K. Murakami, C. Ouchi, M. Hasegawa, S. Kato, T. Hasegawa, H. Yokota, T. Honda, EUVA (Japan); M. Niibe, Univ. of Hyogo (Japan)
- 6921 2V **Evaluation results for Selete's exposure tool: impact of the source performance** [6921-107]
K. Tawarayama, S. Magoshi, H. Aoyama, Y. Tanaka, S. Shirai, H. Tanaka, Mirai-Semiconductor Leading Edge Technologies, Inc. (Japan)

POSTER SESSION: EUV SOURCE

- 6921 2W **Low density targets for laser-produced plasma (LPP) extreme ultraviolet light source with high-CE and toward high-repetition supply** [6921-110]
K. Nagai, Osaka Univ. (Japan); L. Ge, Osaka Univ. (Japan) and Southeast Univ. (China); P. Cai, C. Pan, Z. Gu, Southeast Univ. (China); T. Norimatsu, H. Nishimura, K. Nishihara, N. Miyanaga, Y. Izawa, K. Mima, Osaka Univ. (Japan)

- 6921 2Y **EUV and debris characteristics of a laser-plasma tin dioxide nano-particle colloidal jet target** [6921-112]
M. Kaku, S. Suetake, Y. Senba, M. Katto, S. Kubodera, Univ. of Miyazaki (Japan)
- 6921 2Z **Magnetic debris mitigation of a CO₂ laser-produced Sn plasma** [6921-113]
Y. Ueno, G. Soumagne, M. Moriya, T. Suganuma, T. Abe, H. Komori, A. Endo, A. Sumitani, EUVA (Japan)
- 6921 30 **Sn droplet target development for laser produced plasma EUV light source** [6921-114]
M. Nakano, T. Yabu, H. Someya, T. Abe, G. Soumagne, A. Endo, A. Sumitani, EUVA (Japan)
- 6921 31 **LPP EUV light source employing high-power CO₂ laser** [6921-115]
H. Hoshino, T. Suganuma, T. Asayama, K. Nowak, M. Moriya, T. Abe, A. Endo, A. Sumitani, EUVA (Japan)
- 6921 32 **Plasma Sn cleaning integrated in EUV source system** [6921-116]
H. Shin, R. Raju, D. N. Ruzic, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA)
- 6921 33 **Modeling of EUV emission and conversion efficiency from laser-produced tin plasmas for nanolithography** [6921-117]
S. S. Harilal, J. J. MacFarlane, Hyperion Scientific, Inc. (USA) and Prism Computational Sciences, Inc. (USA); I. E. Golovkin, P. R. Woodruff, P. Wang, Prism Computational Sciences, Inc. (USA)
- 6921 35 **EUV near normal incidence collector development at SAGEM** [6921-148]
R. Mercier Ythier, X. Bozec, R. Geyl, A. Rinchet, SAGEM-REOSC (France); C. Hecquet, M.-F. Ravet-Krill, F. Delmotte, Lab. Charles Fabry de l'Institut d'Optique, Univ. Paris-Sud (France); B. Sassolas, R. Flaminio, J.-M. Mackowski, C. Michel, J.-L. Montorio, N. Morgado, L. Pinard, E. Roméo, Lab. des Matériaux Avancés, Univ. Claude Bernard Lyon I (France)

POSTER SESSION: EUV CONTAMINATION

- 6921 36 **EUV optics contamination studies in presence of selected hydrocarbons** [6921-119]
R. Garg, Univ. at Albany (USA); A. Wüest, SEMATECH (USA); E. Gullikson, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); S. Bajt, DESY (Germany); G. Denbeaux, Univ. at Albany (USA)
- 6921 37 **Ionic debris assessment of various EUVL systems** [6921-120]
C. H. Castano, D. N. Ruzic, S. N. Srivastava, K. C. Thompson, J. Sporre, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA)
- 6921 38 **NEG (non evaporable getter) pumps for organic compounds and water removal in EUVL tools** [6921-121]
A. Conte, P. Manini, S. Raimondi, SAES Getters SpA (Italy)
- 6921 3A **Performance and lifetime of EUV source collectors measured with a full size EUV collector reflectometer** [6921-123]
U. Hinze, B. N. Chichkov, Laser Zentrum Hannover e.V. (Germany); T. Feigl, U. D. Zeitner, C. Damm, Fraunhofer-IOF Jena (Germany); D. Bolshukhin, J. Kleinschmidt, G. Schriever, M.-C. Schürmann, XTREME technologies GmbH (Germany)

- 6921 3B **Phenomenological analysis of carbon deposition rate on the multilayer mirror** [6921-124]
T. Nakayama, H. Takase, S. Terashima, T. Sudo, Y. Watanabe, Y. Fukuda, K. Murakami, S. Kawata, T. Aoki, S. Matsunari, Y. Kakutani, EUVA (Japan); M. Niibe, Univ. of Hyogo (Japan)
- 6921 3C **Protection from surface oxidation of Ru capping layers for EUVL projection optics mirrors by introducing hydrocarbon gas** [6921-125]
K. Koida, Univ. of Hyogo (Japan); M. Niibe, EUVA (Japan); Y. Kakutani, Univ. of Hyogo (Japan) and EUVA (Japan); S. Matsunari, T. Aoki, S. Terashima, T. Nakayama, H. Takase, Y. Fukuda, EUVA (Japan)
- 6921 3D **Lithium debris removal by sputtering and evaporation for EUV optics and applications** [6921-126]
M. J. Neumann, M. J. Cruce, D. N. Ruzic, Univ. of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (USA)
- 6921 3E **Surface phenomena related to degradation of EUV mirrors: interaction of ethyl alcohol with ruthenium surfaces** [6921-127]
B. V. Yakshinskiy, Rutgers, The State Univ. of New Jersey (USA); I. Nishiyama, Association of Super-Advanced Electronics Technologies (Japan); A. Wüest, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA); T. E. Madey, Rutgers, The State Univ. of New Jersey (USA)
- 6921 3F **Gas phase study of the reactivity of optical coating materials with hydrocarbons using a desk-top size EUV laser** [6921-150]
S. Heinbuch, F. Dong, J. J. Rocca, E. R. Bernstein, Colorado State Univ. (USA)

POSTER SESSION: EUV IMAGING

- 6921 3G **Particle-contamination analysis for reticles in carrier inner pods** [6921-128]
J. R. Torczynski, M. A. Gallis, D. J. Rader, Sandia National Labs. (USA)
- 6921 3H **Flare evaluation for 32-nm half pitch using SFET** [6921-129]
H. Aoyama, Y. Tanaka, T. Kamo, N. Iriki, Y. Arisawa, T. Tanaka, Mirai-Semiconductor Leading Edge Technologies, Inc. (Japan)
- 6921 3I **EUV simulation extension study for mask shadowing effect and its correction** [6921-130]
H. Kang, ASML Korea Co., Ltd. (South Korea); S. Hansen, ASML US, Inc. (USA); J. van Schoot, K. van Ingen Schenau, ASML Netherlands B.V. (Netherlands)
- 6921 3J **Model-based pupil-fill optimization for the SEMATECH Berkeley EUV microfield exposure tool** [6921-131]
J. S. Nation, Univ. of Arizona (USA); P. P. Naulleau, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA)

POSTER SESSION: EUV RESIST

- 6921 3K **Vacuum induced photoresist outgassing** [6921-133]
J. Waterman, C. Mbanaso, G. Denbeaux, Univ. at Albany (USA)
- 6921 3L **Investigation of sensitivity of extreme ultraviolet resists to out-of-band radiation** [6921-134]
C. Mbanaso, G. Denbeaux, Univ. at Albany (USA); K. Dean, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA); R. Brainard, S. Kruger, E. Hassanein, Univ. at Albany (USA)

- 6921 3M **Proximity printing using extreme ultraviolet radiation** [6921-135]
R. Garg, P. Naulleau, R. Brainard, G. Denbeaux, Univ. at Albany (USA)
- 6921 3N **Advanced extreme ultraviolet resist testing using the SEMATECH Berkeley 0.3-NA microfield exposure tool** [6921-136]
P. P. Naulleau, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); C. N. Anderson, Univ. of California, Berkeley (USA); J. Chiu, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); K. Dean, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA); P. Denham, K. A. Goldberg, B. Hoef, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); S. Huh, Samsung Electronics (South Korea); G. Jones, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); B. LaFontaine, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (USA); A. Ma, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA); D. Niakoula, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); J. Park, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA); T. Wallow, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (USA)
- 6921 3O **Benchmarking of commercial EUVL resists at SEMATECH** [6921-137]
A. Ma, J. Park, K. Dean, S. Wurm, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA); P. Naulleau, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA)

POSTER SESSION: EUV MASK

- 6921 3P **Evaluation of TiO₂-SiO₂ ultra-low-expansion glass fabricated by the soot method using the line-focus-beam ultrasonic material characterization system** [6921-138]
J. Kushibiki, M. Arakawa, Tohoku Univ. (Japan); T. Ueda, A. Fujinoki, Shin-Etsu Quartz Products Co., Ltd. (Japan)
- 6921 3Q **The study of attenuated PSM structure for extreme ultraviolet lithography with minimized mask shadowing effect** [6921-139]
C. Y. Jeong, B. H. Kim, T. G. Kim, S. Lee, E. J. Kim, H.-K. Oh, I.-S. Park, J. Ahn, Hanyang Univ. (South Korea)
- 6921 3R **Evaluation of EUV scatterometry for CD characterization of EUV masks using rigorous FEM simulation** [6921-140]
F. Scholze, C. Laubis, G. Ulm, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (Germany); U. Dersch, Advanced Mask Technology Ctr. (Germany); J. Pomplun, S. Burger, F. Schmidt, Zuse Institut Berlin (Germany) and JCMwave GmbH (Germany)
- 6921 3S **Experimental evaluation of out-of-plane distortion of electrostatically chucked EUV reticle** [6921-141]
K. Ota, T. Taguchi, M. Amemiya, Y. Nishiyama, T. Kamono, N. Nishimura, T. Takikawa, Y. Usui, O. Suga, Semiconductor Leading Edge Technologies, Inc. (Japan)
- 6921 3T **Particle-free mask handling techniques and a dual-pod carrier** [6921-142]
M. Amemiya, K. Ota, T. Taguchi, T. Kamono, Y. Usui, T. Takikawa, O. Suga, Mirai-Semiconductor Leading Edge Technologies, Inc. (Japan)
- 6921 3U **EUV mask reflectivity measurements with micron-scale spatial resolution** [6921-143]
K. A. Goldberg, S. B. Rekawa, C. D. Kemp, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); A. Barty, Lawrence Livermore National Lab. (USA); E. Anderson, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab. (USA); P. Kearney, H. Han, SEMATECH (USA)

POSTER SESSION: EUV METROLOGY

- 6921 3W **A₁-wavelength reflectometry with a microfocus EUV tube** [6921-145]
A. Egbert, S. Becker, phoenix/euv Systems + Services GmbH (Germany)
- 6921 3Y **Design requirements for a stand alone EUV interferometer** [6921-147]
P. Michallon, C. Constancias, A. Lagrange, B. Dalzotto, CEA-LETI, MINATEC (France)

Author Index

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Kazuaki Suzuki, Nikon Corporation (Japan)
William M. Tong, Hewlett-Packard Company (USA)
Kevin T. Turner, University of Wisconsin, Madison (USA)

Session Chairs

- 1 Keynote Session
Frank M. Schellenberg, Mentor Graphics Corporation (USA)
Bruno M. LaFontaine, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (USA)
- 2 Nanoimprint I
Douglas J. Resnick, Molecular Imprints, Inc. (USA)
Christie R. K. Marrian, Spansion, Inc. (USA)

- 3 Nanoimprint II
William M. Tong, Hewlett-Packard Laboratory (USA)
Lloyd Litt, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (USA) and SEMATECH, Inc. (USA)

- 4 EBDW I
Laurent Pain, STMicroelectronics (France)
Hans Loeschner, IMS Nanofabrication AG (Austria)

- 5 EUV Systems
Shinji Okazaki, Hitachi, Ltd. (Japan)
David T. Attwood, University of California, Berkeley (USA)

- 6 EUV Source I
Vivek Bakshi, EUV Litho, Inc. (USA)
Frank Goodwin, EUV Litho, Inc.

- 7 EUV Source II
Michael Goldstein, Intel Corporation (USA)
Igor Femenkov, Cymer, Inc. (USA)

- 8 EUV Contamination
Michael J. Lercel, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA)
Andrea Wüest, SEMATECH, Inc. (USA)

- 9 EUV Imaging
Benjamin G. Eynon, SAMSUNG, Inc. (USA)
Patrick Naulleau, Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (USA)

- 10 EUV Resists: Joint Session with Conference 6923
Bruno M. LaFontaine, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (USA)
Ernisse S. Putna, Intel Corporation (USA)

- 11 Nanoimprint III
William M. Tong, Hewlett-Packard Laboratories (USA)

- 12 Parallel E-Beam Systems
John G. Hartley, SUNY, University at Albany (USA)
Obert Wood, Advanced Micro Devices, Inc. (USA)

- 13 EBDW II
John G. Hartley, SUNY, University at Albany (USA)
James W. Blatchford, Texas Instruments, Inc. (USA)

- 14 EUV Mask
R. Scott Mackay, Mackay and Associates (USA)
J. H. Peters, Applied Media Technologies Corporation (USA)

- 15 EUV Metrology
Kazuaki Suzuki, Nikon Corporation (Japan)
- 16 Directed Self Assembly
Kevin T. Turner, University of Wisconsin, Madison (USA)
Frank Schellenberg, Mentor Graphics Corporation
- 17 New Patterning Technologies
Frank M. Schellenberg, Mentor Graphics Corporation (USA)
James A. Liddle, National Institute of Standards and Technology (USA)

Introduction

Welcome to the 12th conference on Emerging Lithographic Technologies. In this volume, you will find papers describing exciting developments in several fields.

First, in the EUV Lithography community, we are pleased to present results from the first EUV alpha-tool, installed at Selete, IMEC, and Albany. Not merely first exposures, but also the first full-field wafer results are presented. This first silicon demonstration represents a major milestone in the history of EUV technology, and a necessary step on the route to large volume manufacturing. This step is necessary but not sufficient, as many of the papers here illustrate. There are still many challenges facing EUV, including source power, resist characteristics, and mask defectivity. Significant progress has been made in all areas, and the progress reports are presented here.

Other patterning options are, however, not quite yet ready for retirement. E-Beam lithography, especially arrayed multiple-beam architectures, have also shown significant milestones and may be especially useful for small volume and prototype manufacturing. Nanoimprint technology is finding utility for other areas, most notably patterning media for magnetic storage. With the knowledge developed from these applications, the challenges we face in applying nanoimprint to IC technology may be overcome faster than expected.

The technologies that are explored in this conference, however, do not always “emerge” into mainstream CMOS manufacturing, and some techniques that have “emerged”, such as immersion lithography, were not discussed in this conference. Therefore, the majority of our Program Committee and I have elected to make a change to our name. Next year, look for this conference to be re-titled as “Alternative Lithographic Technologies”.

This conference is “alternative” in several ways. It is, of course, a forum for “alternatives” to optical lithography in manufacturing, such as EUV. However, we also want to embrace patterning for “alternative” technologies, such as the storage, LED, and energy (solar) industries. We hope these sessions will grow as these new applications for nano-patterning develop in their fields.

I think you will be impressed by the strength and diversity of the work presented here. Of course, this would not be possible without the help of my Co-Chair, Bruno LaFontaine of AMD, the conference Program Committee, and of course, the staff of SPIE. I thank them especially for making this conference a success.

Frank Schellenberg