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Front Matter: Volume 7520

, "Front Matter: Volume 7520," Proc. SPIE 7520, Lithography Asia 2009, 752001 (31 December 2009); doi: 10.1117/12.855716

SPIE.

Event: SPIE Lithography Asia, 2009, Taipei, Taiwan

PROCEEDINGS OF SPIE

Lithography Asia 2009

Alek C. Chen
Woo-Sung Han
Burn J. Lin
Anthony Yen
Editors

18–19 November 2009
Taipei, Taiwan

Sponsored and Published by
SPIE

Cooperating Organization
TSA—Taiwan Semiconductor Industry Association (Taiwan)

Volume 7520

Proceedings of SPIE, 0277-786X, v. 7520

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 *Lithography Asia 2009*, edited by Alek C. Chen, Woo-Sung Han, Burn J. Lin, Anthony Yen, Proceedings of SPIE Vol. 7520 (SPIE, Bellingham, WA, 2009) Article CID Number.

ISSN 0277-786X

ISBN 9780819479099

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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The CID number appears on each page of the manuscript. The complete citation is used on the first page, and an abbreviated version on subsequent pages. Numbers in the index correspond to the last two digits of the six-digit CID number.

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Introduction

Welcome to the 2009 Lithography Asia conference held in Taipei, Taiwan. This is the second year in a row that we have held a general conference on lithographic science and technology in Asia. This conference demonstrated the continuing increase in research and development activities in lithography in Asia. We are very pleased to have been the chairs of this conference, and in this volume you will find papers describing some very exciting developments in many fields.

2009 was not the best year for the economy. With great uncertainty in world markets, there is no doubt that times are troubled; although, a sign of recovery appears toward the end of the year. In spite of that, we were very pleased to see a fairly robust attendance for this year. This demonstrates an industry wide willingness to continue to pursue research, creativity, and innovation to address manufacturing problems, and it gives great hope for the future of these promising technologies.

We have seen promising development not only in the EUV Lithography but also in parallel e-beam technology. Also, outstanding work was presented on the double patterning/process technology as well as on the source mask optimization to extend the life of water immersion ArF lithography. Of course, we received significant numbers of paper on the continual innovative work on process control including related metrology technology, mask fabrication and especially on lithographic material and process advancement.

We are very impressed by the strength and diversity of the work presented here; we hope you are as well. Of course, this would not be possible without the help of the conference Program Committee, and the SPIE staff. We thank them especially for their contributions in making this conference a success.

Alek C. Chen
Woo-Sung Han
Burn J. Lin
Anthony Yen