Manipulation and control of spatial ALD layers for flexible devices

2016-05-31; Edward Clerkx
Meyer Burger Netherlands

Equipment manufacturer

- Based in Eindhoven, the Netherlands
- Part of world-wide Meyer Burger group

Functional inkjet printing

PECVD and ALD Thin film coating

- 100 people
- Founded in 1987
Applications and Products
Focus on Electronic Markets

OLED & Displays
Photo Voltaic & Battery
Printed Electronics & Semiconductors

Thin Film Plasma and ALD tools
Inkjet Printers
Multi Process Tools
Equipment Portfolio
From Research to Production

Inkjet

PiXDRO
LP50
IP410
JETx

Engineering
Versatile

Pilot Production
Flexible

Mass Production
Efficient

Thin Film

FLEX
FLEX LT
FLEX XL
FLEX PR
Sheet to sheet, Large area and Roll to roll
- Foil, (thin) glass, wafer, etc. substrates
- Integrated Pre- and Post-processing
- Inert environment
# Masking Inks

| Applications | Plating and etching masks (replacement of photo resist)  
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Protective masks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Layer thickness</strong></td>
<td>5 – 20 µm</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **Ink types** | Hotmelt  
|             | UV-curable  
|             | Polyimide |
| **Feature size** | > 50 µm (cover)  
|             | > 20 µm (space) |
| **Properties** | Etch resistant (acid, alkaline) |
| **Post treatments** | Drying  
|             | UV curing |
## Conductive Inks

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applications</th>
<th>Printed electronics, Antennas Photovoltaics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Silver nano-particle</strong></td>
<td>Dispersion in solvent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Up to 40% solid content</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Layer thickness</strong></td>
<td>100 nm up to several µm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Conductivity</strong></td>
<td>Up to 50% of bulk silver</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Feature size</strong></td>
<td>&gt; 25 µm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Silver particle size</strong></td>
<td>&lt; ~1 µm (5% of nozzle size)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Post treatments</strong></td>
<td>Drying</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sintering (thermal, photonic, laser)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# Dielectric Inks

| Applications          | Electrical isolation  
|-----------------------|-----------------------
|                       | Protection and sealing
|                       | Stress buffer         
|                       | Solder mask           |

| Layer thickness       | 5 – 30 µm |

| Ink types             | Polyimide (solvent-based)  
|-----------------------|---------------------------
|                       | Acrylates, epoxies        |

| Feature size          | > 30 µm |

| Properties            | Solder mask < 290 °C  
|-----------------------|-----------------------
|                       | Pencil Hardness up to 4H
|                       | Resistivity up to $10^{16}$ Ω.cm |

| Post treatments       | Baking  
|-----------------------|---------
|                       | Drying  
|                       | UV curing |

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Wafer scribeline filling
# Adhesive Inks

| Applications                      | Die bonding  
|                                  | Image sensor assembly  
|                                  | Glass bonding  

| Layer thickness | 5 – 80 µm |

| Ink types            | Acrylate  
|                     | Epoxy (solvent-based)  

| Feature size | > 30 µm |

| Adhesion            | Silicon  
|                     | Glass  
|                     | PET/PEN foil  
|                     | Metals  

| Post treatments | Baking  
|                | Drying  
|                | UV curing  

**Die attach on foil**

**Die attach on leadframe**
Thin Film Barriers

- Improved reliability
- Thinner
- Flexible
- Design freedom
- Scalable for Volume
- Low Cost
Barrier Goals and Challenges

- **Goal**
  - WVTR up to $< 1 \times 10^{-6}$ g/m²/day
  - Flexible

- **Challenges**
  - Deal with particles
  - Conformal coating
  - Low temperature
CONx for Encapsulation

**JETx Inkjet printing**
- Decouple pinholes
- Embed particles
- Add barrier functionality
- Protect inorganic coating
- No masking required

**FLEEx LT PECVD**
- Very Gentle MW PECVD
- Low temperature
- Good barrier performance
- Deposition and etching
Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD) **principle**

- ALD is cyclic exposure of different precursors separated by purge cycles
- No pinholes
- Thickness control on atomic scale
- Very good conformality
- High potential in flexible electronics

*For high volume production higher grow speeds are necessary!*
Spatial Atomic Layer Deposition

principle

- Grow rates > 1 nm/s
- No parasitic deposition
- Atmospheric pressure
- No contact to web
- Multiple precursors possible
- Materials deposited R&D
  - Al$_2$O$_3$, TiO$_2$, SiO$_2$, HfO$_2$, In$_2$O$_3$, ZnO, ZnO:Al, ZnO:In, IGZO, ZnSnO$_x$, Zn(O,S), silver, Alucone
- Materials deposited Roll to Roll
  - Al$_2$O$_3$, TiO$_2$, Zn(O,S), ZnO, ZnO:Al
Ensuring contactless ALD

- Parameters
  - Temperature
  - Web height
    - Trade off between gas separation and no web contact
  - Web to Drum speed
    - Trade off between gas separation and output
Gas Separation - Parameters

- Bearing pressure
- Exhaust pressure
- Web tension
- Speed
Gas separation – Modeling 1

Web displacement (micron)

Pressure distribution

Distance rotational direction (mm)

Distance radial direction (mm)

Distance rotational direction (mm)

Distance rotational direction (mm)
Gas separation – Modeling 2

Concentration $H_2O$

Distance radial direction (mm)

Distance rotational direction (mm)

Injection $H_2O$

exhaust

Injection TMA

exhaust

N2 gas bearing

Concentration TMA

Distance radial direction (mm)

Distance rotational direction (mm)

Injection $H_2O$

exhaust

Injection TMA

exhaust

N2 gas bearing
Gas separation

Helium Leak rate

- FLEX R2R T1
- Pilot T2
- Pilot T3

relative speed in mm/s
Barrier Performance

- 20nm Al₂O₃ on 125μm PET foil

**Laser absorption spectrometry**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Result</th>
<th>Measurement 5. Diffusion</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>WVTR</td>
<td>6.2E-5 g/(m²·d)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Permeance</td>
<td>6.04E-6 g/(m²·d·mmHg)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Equivalent permeability of homogeneous material</td>
<td>4.83E-5 mm·g/(m²·d·mmHg)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Calcium test**

Overall WVTR 2*10⁻⁵ g/m²/day
Calcium test @ 20°C/50% RH (ISO_DIS_15106-7)

0 days  12 days  21 days
S-ALD Barrier Performance
Optical Properties

Transmittance, reflection and absorption measured with spectrophotometry

- PET with 20nm Al₂O₃ coating
- No absorption by Al₂O₃
- Transmittance is determined by PET

![Graph showing transmittance, reflectance, and absorption spectra.](image)
FLEX R2R Spatial-ALD System
Features and Applications

- Spatial-ALD drum
  - No web contact at deposition side
  - Precise web movement control
  - Multiple precursor slots

- Optional modules
  - Wet coating
  - UV or temperature curing
  - Plasma treatment
  - Particle cleaning

- Applications
  - Barrier coatings
  - Optical coatings
  - Buffer layers
FLEX R2R Spatial-ALD System
Features and Benefits

- Atmospheric process, no vacuum
- Thickness control at atomic scale
- Barrier WVTR of $2 \times 10^{-5}$ [g/m²/day] with 20nm Al₂O₃
- Barrier WVTR $<<10^{-6}$ in stack
- Fast growth rate of $>1$nm/s
- No pinholes
- Perfect coating conformity
- No parasitic deposition
- Up to 1600 mm web width
- Supports various foil types
- Compact footprint
- Low maintenance, high uptime
Industrial inkjet, ALD and PECVD equipment

Dedicated to the electronic industries

From engineering to mass production

Extensive knowledge network

Working with customers on whole solutions
High-end solutions for high-tech industries

Meyer Burger (Netherlands) B.V.
Luchthavenweg 10
5657 EB Eindhoven
Netherlands
T: +31 40 25 81 581
M: info-eindhoven@meyerburger.com
www.meyerburger.com