High-qualityCobalt Thin Film deposited by using Very High Frequency Plasma-Enhanced AtomicLayer Deposition

Won-kyun YEOM <sup>1</sup> and Geun-young YEOM <sup>1</sup>
<sup>1</sup>Sungkyunkwan Univ., Korea, Republic of

Although the conventional PE-ALD has a lot of benefitsin the deposition, the plasma source such as energetic radicals and ions maynegatively influence on the substrate due to the bombardment onto the films.For overcoming this weakness, we use Very High Frequency (VHF) – 60 MHz; plasmaenhanced-atomic layer deposition (PE-ALD) with cobaltocene (Co(Cp)<sub>2</sub>)precursors and NH<sub>3</sub> reactants gas. VHF plasma has higher plasmadensity and lower electron temperature than conventional PE-ALD, it lessaffects onto the substrate surface. For showing this, the growth characteristics ofplasma and the properties ofdeposited films are investigated. Above all, we compare the thin films` qualityof PE-ALD (13.56 MHz) with PE-ALD (60 MHz). While low resistivity Co thin filmsare deposited by both frequencies, even much better high-quality thin films areobserved for PE-ALD (60 MHz). We observe the Co film with SEM (ScanningElectron Microscopy), analyze the plasma properties with a Langmuir probe, andmeasure the surface morphology with AFM (Atomic Force Microscopy). The puritycontents in PE-ALD Co film is shown by using X-ray photoelectron spectroscopyanalysis. In this study, VHF PE-ALD is superior physical and electricalcharacteristics to conventional PE-ALD, it will be a good process to decreasethe plasma side effect.