References cited herein:

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- U.S. Patent No. 7,147,759 ("'759 Patent")
- U.S. Pat. No. 6,413,382 ("Wang")
- A. A. Kudryavtsev, *et al*, <u>Ionization relaxation in a plasma produced by a pulsed inert-gas</u> <u>discharge</u>, Sov. Phys. Tech. Phys. 28(1), January 1983 ("Kudryavtsev")
- U.S. Pat. No. 5,247,531 ("Muller-Horsche")

Claims 17 and 39	Wang in view of Kudryavtsev and Muller-Horsche
[1pre.] A magnetically enhanced sputtering source comprising:	The combination of Wang with Kudryavtsev discloses a magnetically enhanced sputtering source. Wang at Title ("Pulsed sputtering with a small rotating magnetron.").
[1a.] an anode;	The combination of Wang with Kudryavtsev discloses an anode. '759 Patent at Fig. 1

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Claims 17 and 39	Wang in view of Kudryavtsev and Muller-Horsche
	chamber 104 proximate to the cathode assembly.")
	Wang at Fig. 1
	Wang at 3:66-4:1 ("A grounded shield 24 protects the chamber walls from sputter deposition and also acts as a grounded anode for the cathode of the negatively biased target 14.") (emphasis added).
[1b.] a cathode assembly that is positioned adjacent to the anode, the cathode assembly including a sputtering target;	The combination of Wang with Kudryavtsev discloses a cathode assembly that is positioned adjacent to the anode, the cathode assembly including a sputtering target. '759 Patent at Fig. 1 """""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""""
	Wang at Fig. 1 Wang at 3:66-4:1 ("A grounded shield 24 protects the chamber walls from sputter deposition and also acts as a grounded anode for the cathode of the negatively biased target 14.")
[1c.] an ionization	The combination of Wang with Kudryavtsev discloses an ionization

Claims 17 and 39	Wang in view of Kudryavtsev and Muller-Horsche
source that generates a weakly-ionized plasma proximate to the anode and the cathode assembly;	source that generates a weakly-ionized plasma proximate to the anode and the cathode assembly.
	Wang at Fig. 1.
	Wang at 7:17-31 ("The background power level P_B is chosen to exceed the minimum power necessary to support a plasma [T]he application of the high peak power P_P quickly causes the already existing plasma to spread and increases the density of the plasma.")
	Wang at 7:19-25 ("Preferably, the peak power P_P is at least 10 times the background power P_B and most preferably 1000 times to achieve the greatest effect of the invention. A background power P_B of 1 kW [causes] little if any actual sputter deposition.")
	Wang at 4:23-31 ("A small rotatable magnetron 40 is thus creating a region 42 of a high-density plasma (HDP)")
	Wang at 7:47-49 ("The initial plasma ignition needs to be performed only once and at much lower power levels so that particulates produced by arcing are much reduced.").
[1d.] a magnet that is positioned to generate a magnetic field proximate to the weakly-ionized plasma, the magnetic field substantially trapping electrons in the weakly- ionized plasma proximate to the sputtering target; and	The combination of Wang with Kudryavtsev discloses a magnet that is positioned to generate a magnetic field proximate to the weakly- ionized plasma, the magnetic field substantially trapping electrons in the weakly-ionized plasma proximate to the sputtering target.
	'759 Patent at 3:10-12 ("FIG. 1 shows a cross-sectional view of a known magnetron sputtering apparatus 100" that has a magnet 126.")
	'759 Patent at 4:4-10 [<i>describing the prior art Fig. 1</i>] ("The electrons, which cause ionization, are generally confined by the magnetic fields produced by the magnet 126. The magnetic confinement is strongest in a confinement region 142")
	Wang at Fig. 1.
	Wang at 4:23-27 ("A small rotatable magnetron 40 is disposed in the back of the target 14 to create a magnetic field near the face of the target 14 which traps electrons from the plasma to increase the electron density.")
[1e.] a power supply	The combination of Wang with Kudryavtsev discloses a power

Claims 17 and 39	Wang in view of Kudryavtsev and Muller-Horsche
generating a voltage pulse that produces an electric field between the cathode assembly and the anode, the power supply being configured to generate the voltage pulse with an amplitude and a rise time that increases an excitation rate of ground state atoms that are present in the weakly-ionized plasma to create a multi-step ionization process that generates a strongly- ionized plasma, which comprises ions that sputter target material, from the weakly- ionized plasma, the multi-step ionization process comprising exciting the ground state atoms to generate excited atoms, and then ionizing the excited atoms within the weakly-ionized plasma without forming an arc discharge.	supply generating a voltage pulse that produces an electric field between the cathode assembly and the anode, the power supply being configured to generate the voltage pulse with an amplitude and a rise time that increases an excitation rate of ground state atom that are present in the weakly-ionized plasma to create a multi-step ionization process that generates a strongly-ionized plasma, which comprises ions that sputter target material, from the weakly-ionized plasma, the multi-step ionization process comprising exciting the ground state atoms to generate excited atoms, and then ionizing the excited atoms within the weakly-ionized plasma without forming an arc discharge. *759 Patent at Fig. 5 Wang at Figs. 6, 7. ************************************

Claims 17 and 39	Wang in view of Kudryavtsev and Muller-Horsche
	low-pressure background period since the small rotating SIP magnetron can maintain a plasma at a lower power and lower pressure than can a larger stationary magnetron. However, it is possible to combine highly ionized sputtering during the pulses With significant neutral sputtering during the back ground period.").
	Wang at 7:3-6 ("Plasma ignition, particularly in plasma sputter reactors, has a tendency to generate particles during the initial arcing, which may dislodge large particles from the target or chamber.")
	Wang at 7:47-49 ("The initial plasma ignition needs be performed only once and at much lower power levels so that particulates produced by arcing are much reduced.").
	Wang at 7:13-28 ("Accordingly, it is advantageous to use a target power waveform illustrated in FIG. 6 As a result, once the plasma has been ignited at the beginning of sputtering prior to the illustrated waveform").
	Kudryavtsev at 34, right col, ¶ 4 ("Since the effects studied in this work are characteristic of ionization whenever a field is suddenly applied to a weakly ionized gas, they must be allowed for when studying emission mechanisms in pulsed gas lasers, gas breakdown, laser sparks, etc.")
	Kudryavtsev at Fig. 1
	a $r_{r_{2}}$
	Kudryavtsev at Fig. 6

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