### References cited herein:

- U.S. Patent No. 7,604,716 ("'716 Patent")
- D.V. Mozgrin, *et al*, <u>High-Current Low-Pressure Quasi-Stationary Discharge in a Magnetic Field: Experimental Research</u>, Plasma Physics Reports, Vol. 21, No. 5, 1995 ("Mozgrin")
- A. A. Kudryavtsev, *et al*, <u>Ionization relaxation in a plasma produced by a pulsed inert-gas discharge</u>, Sov. Phys. Tech. Phys. 28(1), January 1983 ("Kudryavtsev")
- U.S. Pat. No. 6,190,512 ("Lantsman")
- Milton Ohring, The Material Science of Thin Films, Academic Press, 1992 ("Ohring")
- Donald L. Smith, Thin-Film Deposition: Principles & Practice, McGraw Hill, 1995 ("Smith")

Claims 19 and 20	Mozgrin in view of Kudryavtsev and Lantsman
14. A method for generating a strongly-ionized plasma, the method comprising:	The combination of Mozgrin with Kudryavtsev discloses a method for generating a strongly-ionized plasma.
	'716 Patent at claim 24 ("wherein the peak plasma density of the strongly-ionized plasma is greater than about 10 <sup>12</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup> ")
	Mozgrin at Fig 1
	Mozgrin at 400, right col, ¶ 4 ("To study the high-current forms of the discharge, we used two types of devices: a planar magnetron and a ystem with specifically shaped hollow electrodes.")
	Mozgrin at 401, right col, $\P2$ ("For pre-ionization the initial plasma density in the $10^9 - 10^{11}$ cm <sup>-3</sup> range.")
	Mozgrin at 409, left col, ¶ 4 ("The implementation of the high-current magnetron discharge (regime 2) in sputtering plasma density (exceeding $2x10^{13}$ cm <sup>-3</sup> ).")
	Mozgrin at 409, left col, ¶5 ("The high-current diffuse discharge (regime 3) is useful for producing large-volume uniform dense plasmas $n_i \approx 1.5 \times 10^{15} \text{cm}^{-3}$ ").
a. ionizing a feed gas	The combination of Mozgrin with Kudryavtsev discloses ionizing a
in a chamber to form a weakly-ionized	feed gas in a chamber to form a weakly-ionized plasma that substantially eliminates the probability of developing an electrical





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plasma that substantially eliminates the probability of developing an electrical breakdown condition in the chamber; and	breakdown condition in the chamber.
	'716 Patent at 5:14-15 ("The weakly-ionized plasma 232 is also referred to as a pre-ionized plasma.")
	'716 Patent at claim 23 ("wherein the peak plasma density of the weakly-ionized plasma is less than about 10 <sup>12</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup> ")
	Mozgrin at Figs. 1, 2, 3, 6, 7
	Mozgrin at 401, left col, ¶ 1 ("The [plasma] discharge had an annular shape and was adjacent to the cathode.")
	Mozgrin at 401, left col, ¶ 4 ("[A]pplying a square voltage pulse to the discharge gap which was filled up with either neutral or pre-ionized gas.")
	Mozgrin at 402, right col, ¶2 ("Figure 3 shows typical voltage and current oscillograms Part I in the voltage oscillogram represents the voltage of the stationary discharge (pre-ionization stage).")
	Mozgrin at 401, right col, $\P2$ ("[f]or pre-ionization, we used a stationary magnetron discharge; provided the initial plasma density in the $10^9 - 10^{11}$ cm <sup>-3</sup> range.")
	Mozgrin at 400, right col, $\P$ 3 ("We investigated the discharge regimes in various gas mixtures at $10^{-3} - 10$ torr")
	Mozgrin at 402, ¶ spanning left and right cols ("We studied the high-current discharge in wide ranges of discharge currentand operating pressureusing various gases (Ar, N <sub>2</sub> , SF <sub>6</sub> , and H <sub>2</sub> ) or their mixtures of various composition")
b. supplying an electrical pulse across the weakly-ionized plasma that excites atoms in the weakly-ionized plasma, thereby generating a strongly-ionized plasma without	The combination of Mozgrin with Kudryavtsev discloses supplying an electrical pulse across the weakly-ionized plasma that excites atoms in the weakly-ionized plasma, thereby generating a strongly-ionized plasma without developing an electrical breakdown condition in the chamber.
	'716 Patent at claim 23 ("wherein the peak plasma density of the weakly-ionized plasma is less than about 10 <sup>12</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup> ")
developing an electrical breakdown	'716 Patent at claim 24 ("wherein the peak plasma density of the strongly-ionized plasma is greater than about 10 <sup>12</sup> cm <sup>-3</sup> ")



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condition in the chamber.	Mozgrin at Fig. 1
	Fig. 1. Discharge device configurations: (a) planar magnetron; (b) shaped-electrode configuration. (1) Cathode; (2) anode; (3) magnetic system.
	Mozgrin at Fig. 2
	High-voltage supply unit  C  C  C  C  C  C  C  C  C  C  C  C  C
	Fig. 2. Discharge supply unit.
	Mozgrin at Fig. 3

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	(a)  1 2a 2b 3
	(b)     (c)   (c)
	1 2a 2b 3
	Fig. 3. Oscillograms of (a) current and (b) voltage of the quasi-stationary discharge (50 $\mu$ s per div., 180 A per div., 180 V per div.).
	Mozgrin at 402, right col, ¶ 2 ("Part 1 in the voltage oscillogram represents the voltage of the stationary discharge (pre-ionization stage).")
	Mozgrin at 401, right col, $\P2$ ("For pre-ionization the initial plasma density in the $10^9 - 10^{11}$ cm <sup>-3</sup> range.")
	Mozgrin at 401, right col, $\P$ 1 ("Thus, the supply unit was made providing square voltage and current pulses with [rise] times (leading edge) of $5-60~\mu s$ ").
	Mozgrin 403, right col, ¶4 ("Regime 2 was characterized by intense cathode sputtering") (emphasis added).
	Mozgrin at 409, left col, ¶ 4 ("The implementation of the high-current magnetron discharge (regime 2) in sputtering plasma density (exceeding $2x10^{13}$ cm <sup>-3</sup> ).").
	Mozgrin at 409, left col, ¶5 ("The high-current diffuse discharge (regime 3) is useful for producing large-volume uniform dense plasmas $n_i \approx 1.5 \times 10^{15} \text{cm}^{-3}$ ")
	Mozgrin at 400, left col, ¶ 3 ("Some experiments on magnetron systems of various geometry showed that discharge regimes which do not transit to arcs can be obtained even at high currents.")
	Mozgrin at 400, right col, ¶ 1 ("A further increase in the discharge



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	currents caused the discharges to transit to the arc regimes").
	Mozgrin at 404, left col, ¶ 3 ("The parameters of the shaped-electrode dischargetransit to arc regime 4, could be well determined The point of the planar-magnetron discharge transit to the arc regime was determined by discharge voltage and structure changes").
	Mozgrin at 404, left col, $\P$ 4 ("If the current was raised above 1.8 kA or the pulse duration was increase to $2-10$ ms, an instability development and discharge contraction was observed.").
	Mozgrin at Fig. 4
	U, V 500 - XXXX 400 - 2
	300 - ×1
	200 -
	100 - ×× 3 ×××
	0.1 1 10 100 1000 <i>I</i> , A
	Fig. 4. Current-voltage characteristic of the quasi-stationary discharge with shaped electrodes in argon, $p = 0.1$ torr; $B = 0.4$ kG.
	Mozgrin at Fig. 7
	500 - 1000 2
	70 - 170
	15 - 45
	0 15 - 225 1000 - 1800 <i>I</i> , A
	Fig. 7. Generalized ampere-voltaic characteristic CVC of quasi-stationary discharge.
	Mozgrin at 401, ¶ spanning left and right columns ("Designing the [pulsed supply] unit, we took into account the dependences which had been obtained in [Kudryavtsev] of ionization relaxation on pre-



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