UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

BEFORE THE PATENT TRIAL AND APPEAL BOARD

ASML NETHERLANDS B.V., EXCELITAS TECHNOLOGIES CORP., AND QIOPTIQ PHOTONICS GMBH & CO. KG,

Petitioners

V.

ENERGETIQ TECHNOLOGY, INC., Patent Owner

Cases IPR2015-1277 U.S. Patent No. 8,309,943

PATENT OWNER'S RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 42.120



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I. INTRODUCTION

This case is about a light source that is so much brighter than what preceded it, that it has essentially replaced the arc lamps previously used in semiconductor wafer inspection, lithography, and metrology tools.

The challenged claims are directed to a light source comprising: a chamber; an ignition source for ionizing a medium within the chamber; a laser for providing energy to the ionized medium within the chamber to produce a light; and a blocker suspended along a path the energy travels and blocking the energy provided to the ionized medium that is not absorbed by the ionized medium.

Petitioners allege that the challenged claims are rendered obvious based on an incomplete system described in a 20 year old patent application (Gärtner). However, Gärtner fails to include or render obvious elements of the challenged claims, namely the claimed blocker, which, properly construed, must be outside the chamber.

Energetiq did not file a preliminary response in this proceeding. Because Petitioners have not met their burden of proof, the claims must be confirmed.¹

¹ This response is supported by the Declaration of Dr. Donald K. Smith.



II. STATE OF THE ART

A. Arc Lamp Technology

For at least a decade prior to the invention, the semiconductor industry used xenon or mercury arc lamps to produce a light for use in wafer inspection and metrology systems. (*See* Smith Declaration at ¶ 8 (Ex. 2016); '943 patent (Ex. 1001), 1:31-33 ("The state of the art in, for example, wafer inspection systems involves the use of xenon or mercury arc lamps to produce light.").)

Arc lamps use an anode and cathode to provide an electrical discharge to a gas within the lamp that excites the gas, causing it to emit light. (*See* '943 patent (Ex. 1001), 1:20-35.) However, they suffer from a number of shortcomings that constrain the accuracy and efficiency of the equipment that uses them. These problems include instability of the arc, undesirable time to failure, and limits on how bright such sources can get (the spectral brightness of arc lamps is limited by the maximum current density—if too high, it would melt the arc lamps' electrodes). (*See, e.g.*, '943 patent (Ex. 1001), 1:38-47; Smith Decl. at ¶ 8 (Ex. 2016).)

Over time, the industry demanded improvements in the brightness level of light sources beyond that which could be met by traditional xenon and mercury arc lamps (ordinarily in the range of about 1 to 9 mW/mm²-sr-nm). (Smith Decl. at



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