

Rapid Nanofabrication with Maskless Multi-Electron Beam Direct Write System

Marcus Emanuel, Hongbin Choi, Matthew Maniscalco, Todor Bliznakov, Toni Moore, Denis Shamiryan, Jordan Vos, Lex Keen, Nicholas May, Sina Shahbazmohamadi*, Pouya Tavousi*

University of Connecticut, Storrs, CT, USA
SecureFoundry, Inc, Fort Worth, TX, USA

The rapid evolution of semiconductor technology demands equally agile manufacturing solutions. This paper introduces a groundbreaking tool in semiconductor fabrication: a high-throughput, maskless electron beam (e-beam) direct write system designed to meet the industry's dynamic needs. By utilizing multiple e-beams operating in parallel, this system not only enhances fabrication processes but also revolutionizes them, offering an unparalleled capability for rapid prototyping and low-volume production.

Unlike conventional mask-based lithography, our tool employs direct write capabilities that eliminate the need for traditional photomasks. This significant advancement reduces both the lead times and costs associated with mask production, providing a substantial competitive edge in custom and secure semiconductor device manufacturing. The agility afforded by our system allows for rapid adaptation to changing market demands and technological advancements, critical for maintaining relevance in a fast-paced industry.

The system's design flexibility and production efficiency are among its core strengths. Capable of handling complex, multi-layered designs, it offers precise control over critical fabrication parameters that directly influence device performance. This capability ensures high fidelity in the creation of intricate and miniaturized features essential for next-generation electronics, including applications in flexible/wearable electronics, quantum computing, and personalized healthcare devices.

Furthermore, the direct write approach of our tool allows for enhanced security features in semiconductor devices, which is paramount in today's landscape of increasing cyber threats. By facilitating the integration of unique identifiers or cryptographic elements directly during the fabrication process, our system enhances the security of the final products.

Additionally, the environmental impact of traditional lithography processes, which involve significant amounts of chemicals and materials, is mitigated by our maskless system. This advancement not only reduces waste but also aligns with the industry's growing commitment to sustainability. The adoption of our technology could lead to more environmentally friendly production practices across the semiconductor industry.

References

[1] Van der Mast, C. et al. "MAPPER: High-throughput maskless lithography for integrated circuit fabrication." *Microelectronic Engineering* 87, 993–998 (2010).