Nanostructured Materials and Nanotechnology VI

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Nanostructured Materials and Nanotechnology VI

A Collection of Papers Presented at the 36th International Conference on Advanced Ceramics and Composites January 22–27, 2012 Daytona Beach, Florida

> Sanjay Mathur Suprakas Sinha Ray







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Nanostructured Materials and Nanotechnology VI

Preface

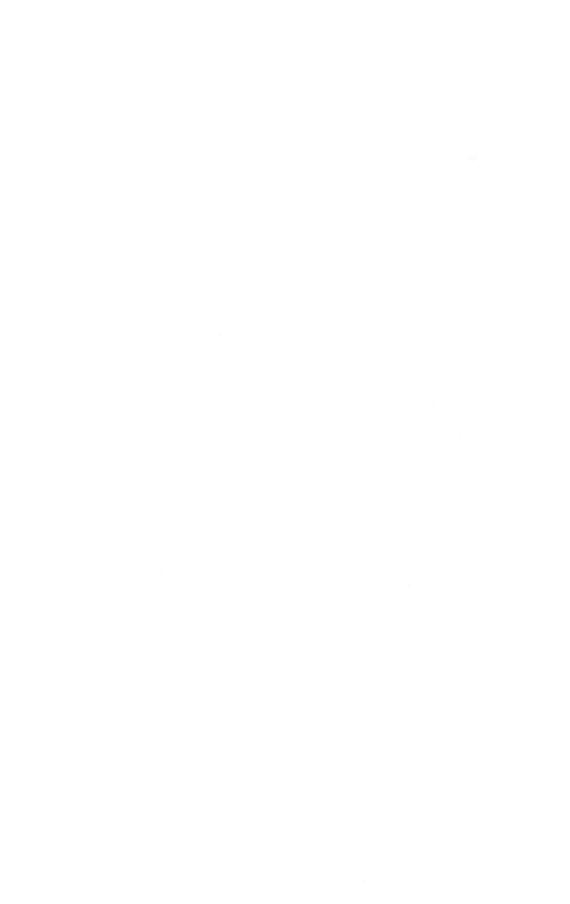
The 6th International Symposium on Nanostructured Materials and Nanotechnology was held during the 36th International Conference and Exposition on Advanced Ceramics and Composites, in Daytona Beach, Florida during January 22-27, 2012. This symposium provided, for the sixth consecutive year, an international forum for scientists, engineers, and technologists to discuss new developments in the field of nanotechnology. The symposium covered a broad perspective including synthesis, processing, modeling and structure-property correlations in nanomaterials and nanocomposites. Over 60 contributions (invited talks, oral presentations, and posters) were presented by participants from universities, research institutions, and industry, which offered interdisciplinary discussions indicating strong scientific and technological interest in the field of nanostructured systems. This issue contains 14 peer-reviewed papers cover various aspects and the latest developments related to processing of nanoscaled materials.

The editor wish to extend their gratitude and appreciation to all the authors for their cooperation and contributions, to all the participants and session chairs for their time and efforts, and to all the reviewers for their valuable comments and suggestions. Financial support from the Engineering Ceramic Division of The American Ceramic Society (ACerS) is gratefully acknowledged. The invaluable assistance of the ACerS staff of the meetings and publication departments, instrumental in the success of the symposium, is gratefully acknowledged,

We believe that this issue will serve as a useful reference for the researchers and technologists interested in science and technology of nanostructured materials and devices.

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Introduction

This issue of the Ceramic Engineering and Science Proceedings (CESP) is one of nine issues that has been published based on content presented during the 36th International Conference on Advanced Ceramics and Composites (ICACC), held January 22–27, 2012 in Daytona Beach, Florida. ICACC is the most prominent international meeting in the area of advanced structural, functional, and nanoscopic ceramics, composites, and other emerging ceramic materials and technologies. This prestigious conference has been organized by The American Ceramic Society's (ACerS) Engineering Ceramics Division (ECD) since 1977.

The 36th ICACC hosted more than 1,000 attendees from 38 countries and had over 780 presentations. The topics ranged from ceramic nanomaterials to structural reliability of ceramic components which demonstrated the linkage between materials science developments at the atomic level and macro level structural applications. Papers addressed material, model, and component development and investigated the interrelations between the processing, properties, and microstructure of ceramic materials.

The conference was organized into the following symposia and focused sessions:

Symposium 1	Mechanical Behavior and Performance of Ceramics and
	Composites
Symposium 2	Advanced Ceramic Coatings for Structural, Environmental, and Functional Applications
Symposium 3	9th International Symposium on Solid Oxide Fuel Cells (SOFC): Materials, Science, and Technology
Symposium 4	Armor Ceramics
Symposium 5	Next Generation Bioceramics

Symposium 6	International Symposium on Ceramics for Electric Energy Generation, Storage, and Distribution
Symposium 7	6th International Symposium on Nanostructured Materials and Nanocomposites: Development and Applications
Symposium 8	6th International Symposium on Advanced Processing & Manufacturing Technologies (APMT) for Structural & Multifunctional Materials and Systems
Symposium 9	Porous Ceramics: Novel Developments and Applications
Symposium 10	Thermal Management Materials and Technologies
Symposium 11	Nanomaterials for Sensing Applications: From Fundamentals to Device Integration
Symposium 12	Materials for Extreme Environments: Ultrahigh Tempera- ture Ceramics (UHTCs) and Nanolaminated Ternary Car- bides and Nitrides (MAX Phases)
Symposium 13	Advanced Ceramics and Composites for Nuclear Applications
Symposium 14	Advanced Materials and Technologies for Rechargeable Batteries
Focused Session 1	Geopolymers, Inorganic Polymers, Hybrid Organic-Inorganic Polymer Materials
Focused Session 2	Computational Design, Modeling, Simulation and Characterization of Ceramics and Composites
Focused Session 3	Next Generation Technologies for Innovative Surface Coatings
Focused Session 4	Advanced (Ceramic) Materials and Processing for Photonics and Energy
Special Session	European Union – USA Engineering Ceramics Summit
Special Session	Global Young Investigators Forum

The proceedings papers from this conference will appear in nine issues of the 2012 Ceramic Engineering & Science Proceedings (CESP); Volume 33, Issues 2-10, 2012 as listed below.

- Mechanical Properties and Performance of Engineering Ceramics and Composites VII, CESP Volume 33, Issue 2 (includes papers from Symposium 1)
- Advanced Ceramic Coatings and Materials for Extreme Environments II, CESP Volume 33, Issue 3 (includes papers from Symposia 2 and 12 and Focused Session 3)
- Advances in Solid Oxide Fuel Cells VIII, CESP Volume 33, Issue 4 (includes papers from Symposium 3)
- Advances in Ceramic Armor VIII, CESP Volume 33, Issue 5 (includes papers from Symposium 4)

- Advances in Bioceramics and Porous Ceramics V, CESP Volume 33, Issue 6 (includes papers from Symposia 5 and 9)
- Nanostructured Materials and Nanotechnology VI, CESP Volume 33, Issue 7 (includes papers from Symposium 7)
- · Advanced Processing and Manufacturing Technologies for Structural and Multifunctional Materials VI, CESP Volume 33, Issue 8 (includes papers from Symposium 8)
- Ceramic Materials for Energy Applications II, CESP Volume 33, Issue 9 (includes papers from Symposia 6, 13, and 14)
- Developments in Strategic Materials and Computational Design III, CESP Volume 33, Issue 10 (includes papers from Symposium 10 and from Focused Sessions 1, 2, and 4)

The organization of the Daytona Beach meeting and the publication of these proceedings were possible thanks to the professional staff of ACerS and the tireless dedication of many ECD members. We would especially like to express our sincere thanks to the symposia organizers, session chairs, presenters and conference attendees, for their efforts and enthusiastic participation in the vibrant and cutting-edge conference.

ACerS and the ECD invite you to attend the 37th International Conference on Advanced Ceramics and Composites (http://www.ceramics.org/daytona2013) January 27 to February 1, 2013 in Daytona Beach, Florida.

MICHAEL HALBIG AND SANJAY MATHUR Volume Editors July 2012

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NANOSTRUCTURED COATINGS BY CLUSTER BEAM DEPOSITION: METHOD AND APPLICATIONS

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ABSTRACT

One of the key issues to be addressed in order to exploit nanomaterial peculiar properties is the way devices, and surfaces in general, can be functionalized by nanomaterials. To allow the jump beyond lab-scale, deposition techniques are asked to fulfill requirements such as reliability and repeatability, batch deposition, scalability, compatibility with micromachining techniques.

Here we show how supersonic cluster beam deposition, based on pulsed microplasma cluster source, may answer these requests, while offering at the same time a wide library of available nanomaterials, including carbon, oxides, and noble metals. The growth of nanostructured functional coating takes place directly onto whatever surface exposed in front of the cluster beam. Cluster soft-assembling generates nanoporosity and, as a consequence, coatings with large specific surface, which are particularly suited for applications where interaction with liquid solutions or gas-phase atmospheres has to be favored.

Results on the integration of nanostructured coatings into devices with applicative purposes in sensing field and in biotech field, will be reported. They include gas sensing, stretch sensing, protein adsorption, cell adhesion, and selective capture of peptides, as examples of functions that may be added to devices by cluster beam deposition of nanomaterials.

INTRODUCTION

One of the most important ways to exploit the peculiar properties of nanomaterials is their integration into devices or generally onto surfaces, in form of functional coatings. For example, devices with applications in the field of energy storage/production, such as supercapacitors, fuel cells, or electrochemical photovoltaic cells, may enhance their performances by using high specific surface nanostructured coatings deposited onto their electrodes, in order to favor the interaction with the liquid or gas phases.¹⁻⁴ Usually, the synthesis of the precursors of the nanostructured coatings and the integration in devices are two well-separated production steps, whose characteristics may frequently limit the range of the applications of the nanomaterials from a given synthesis route. For example, the use of nanomaterials from wet-chemistry synthesis routes as active sensing layer into micromachined gas sensing platforms, is hampered on one side by the mechanical delicacy of micromachined parts, and on the other side by the presence of solvents in precursor material. 5-6 Moreover, nanomaterials from synthesis routes that require high temperature calcination step are incompatible with thermolable substrates, such as polymers. Finally, the functionalization of devices in batch requires patterned deposition with suitable lateral resolution, in order to deposit nanomaterials onto the proper functional area, within each single device. Although photolithography is the common approach to fulfill this task, it raises non-trivial issues in the case of micromachined devices. Hence, a demand does exist of alternative methods for the production of nano-enhanced systems, where nanoparticle synthesis, manipulation, and integration steps are synergic parts of a unique process, overcoming most of the limitations of current approaches.

Here we describe a gas-phase method, based on supersonic cluster beams, for the functionalization of surfaces and devices with nanomaterials that may offer interesting opportunities with respect to nanomaterial integration issue. The first part of the paper will report on the deposition technique, with particular emphasis on cluster source. Results of morphological and structural characterization of cluster-assembled materials by means of electron microscopy and scanning probe

techniques will be also reported. The second part of the paper will show some relevant examples of applications of nanostructured materials by supersonic cluster beam deposition within various applicative fields in sensing and biotech, such as chemical and mechanical sensing, protein adsorption, cell adhesion, and peptide selective capture.

EXPERIMENTAL

Supersonic Cluster Beam Deposition (SCBD)

As shown in figure I, SCBD apparatus basically consists of two vacuum chambers, each having its own pumping system. The cluster source is connected to the first chamber, which is named expansion chamber. Driven by pressure difference between source inner and expansion chamber, a supersonic expansion of a inert gas (typically Argon), takes place through the source nozzle, carrying clusters out from production region (source inner), towards deposition region. At odd with respect to effusive sources, supersonic expansion causes the cluster beam to concentrate within a divergence of few degrees, ensuring that a large fraction of the material produced into the source is directed towards deposition region.

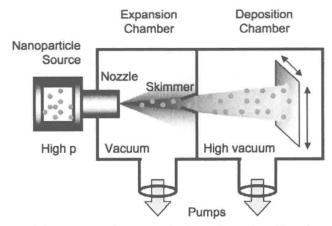


Figure 1. Scheme of the apparatus for supersonic cluster beam deposition. Arrows in deposition chamber indicate substrate rastering for large area depositions.

The second chamber is separated from the expansion chamber by means of a collimator with aerodynamic shape (skimmer), which removes most of the gas load due to cluster carrier, allowing only the central portion of the cluster beam to reach deposition region. In the case that the growth of cluster-assembled material should be performed in ultra-high-vacuum (UHV) conditions, as in Surface Science experiments, the number of vacuum chambers may be increased (according to the so-called differential vacuum approach) since beam collimation anyway provides for an adequate material collection.

If the coverage of areas exceeding the size of the cluster beam spot, which is typically few cm², is needed, substrate rastering may be adopted: exploiting motorized sample holder, substrate scanning in front of the cluster beam is operated, so that areas extending up to few hundreds of cm² can be processed.

Pulsed Microplasma Cluster Source (PMCS)

Although various cluster sources adopt supersonic expansion for the production of their cluster beam, such as Laser Vaporization Sources or Pulsed Arc Sources, we will focus here on Pulsed Microplasma Cluster Source (PMCS). PMCS is a rather recent system that we engineered and scaledup in the last decade, and used to explore various applications of nanostructured coatings, as described in Sensing and Biotech Results section.

As first described in and successively in -9, PMCS consists of a cylindrical ceramic element, hosting a suitable reaction cavity. A solenoid pulsed valve for the injection of the inert carrier gas closes the back side of the cavity, while a nozzle closes the front side. The solenoid valve is typically backed with a 50 bar gas line, and operates at an opening time of about two hundreds of microseconds. A channel perpendicular to cavity axis holds the metal rod-shaped target, which is used for clusters production. In presence of the inert gas pulse from solenoid valve, the metal target is negatively pulsed by means of a high-voltage, high-current dedicated power supply. An electric discharge from grounded nozzle to negatively-pulsed target takes place, generating a plasma of the inert gas. Plasma jet impinges on target surface and vaporizes part of it. Then, ablated atoms thermalize and condense to form clusters.

The pressure difference between the source cavity and the vacuum chamber where the source is faced (expansion chamber) causes the expansion across the source nozzle of the clusters-inert gas mixture, generating the supersonic clusters beam. The supersonic expansion accelerates clusters at a kinetic energy of few tenths of eV per atom, thus promoting an adequate adhesion of the resulting cluster-assembled coating while preserving the cluster original structure and avoiding any significant damage or heating of the substrate.

If supersonic expansion is forced through aerodynamic lenses¹⁰, it is possible to obtain a highly collimated (divergence <1 deg) and intense cluster beam (aerodynamic focusing). By exploiting this property, patterned deposition of nanostructured coatings with sub-micrometric lateral resolution can be produced by non-contact stencil mask. 11 This feature marks a fundamental difference with respect to other gas-phase deposition techniques, since it allows for the easy integration of nanomaterials in functional areas of micro electro mechanical systems (MEMS) and micromachined platforms in general, avoiding photolithographic approach (see Gas sensing section below).

COATING CHARACTERIZATION

Atomic Force Microscopy

Surface morphology of cluster-assembled coatings has been studied by atomic force microscopy (AFM). Four examples are reported in figure 2, where the surface morphology of Ti, Hf, Zr, Fe nanostructured oxides is shown. Similar morphological features are observed in almost every nanostructured coating obtained by SCBD-PMCS. Therefore, we suppose that they can be ascribed to the deposition process in itself, and in particular to the low kinetic energy and limited diffusion of nanoparticles at the impact with the substrate, determining ballistic regime growth^{7,12}, which is characterized by nanoscale porosity, poorly-connected and non-compact structures with lower density respect to bulk and a surface roughness increasing with thickness.

AFM has been also adopted to evaluate the size distribution of coating precursors. To this purpose, very low coverage samples, with isolated nanoparticles, were deposited. Careful substrate preparation before deposition, as well as reference samples not exposed to the cluster beam, were adopted to favor artifacts identification/elimination in AFM images. Statistic of in-plane diameters was compared with statistic of heights, in order to identify the nanoparticle subset characterized by the height-diameter relation of spheroidal objects, and rule out non-spheroidal ones. In addition, size overestimation due to AFM tip radius was avoided by limiting the counts of final size distribution to the heights of spheroidal objects subset. Size distributions were found to be lognormal, as expected for

nanoparticles growth by gas-phase monomer aggregation into PMCS, as reported in in the case of gold nanoparticles.

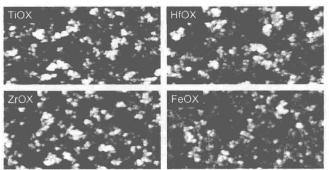


Figure 2. AFM images showing the surface morphology of four nanostructured oxides, with thicknesses around 200 nm. Each image has a size of $1\times2~\mu\text{m}^2$. It clearly appears that surface morphologies are very similar among the different oxides, a feature that is ascribable to growth dynamics of deposition process in itself.

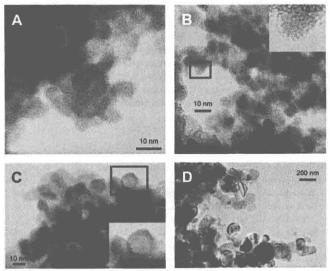


Figure 3. TEM images showing the nanostructure of as-deposited WO₃ film (A) and its evolution after thermal treatments at 200, 400, and 800 °C (B, C, D, respectively). Absence of lattice fringes inside nanoparticles of as-deposited film (A) indicates an amorphous structure. Annealing causes the evolution of nanoparticle structure toward crystalline order, which is almost completely reached after 400 °C. A progressive increase of crystal size is also observed, however nanoporous structure is preserved up to 800 °C. Reprinted with permission from ¹⁴.

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