

Discussion

A critical defect problem on an etch tool resulted in severe yield loss on production wafers. Particle adders from the etch tool were collected with a Si monitor wafer. Subsequent optical inspection located 105 defects. Compositional defect analysis of 20 defects was performed on a 300mm whole-wafer SMART-Tool instrument which combines high performance Auger capabilities with FIB (Focused Ion Beam) for in-situ cross-sectioning of defects and with EDS (Energy Dispersive X-ray Spectroscopy) for analysis of larger defects and structures. 90% of the detected defects were “flower” defects which showed a central particle surrounded by a thin film contamination, as shown in the SEM image of Figure 1. Auger analysis showed that about 80% of the central particles contained Al and F, with the remainder consisting of Si and Fe-Ni-Cr (stainless steel).

Auger measurements showed that the petal portion of the flower defects were composed of a C and F surface contamination, indicating a thin fluorocarbon residue. The C-based residue was only ~1-2nm thick, as shown in the Auger sputter depth profile of Figure 2. Auger is the only definitive method capable of measuring such a thin surface contaminant because of its unique high spatial resolution and surface sensitivity. EDS measurements were not sensitive to this thin surface residue.

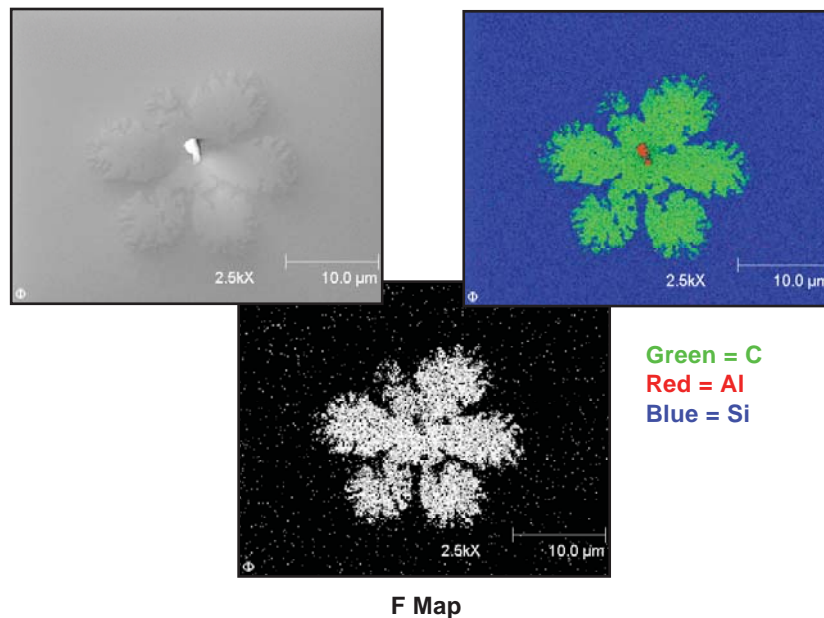


Figure 1. Secondary electron image and Auger maps of flower defect. The Auger maps show the Al central particle and the fluorocarbon petals surrounding the particle.

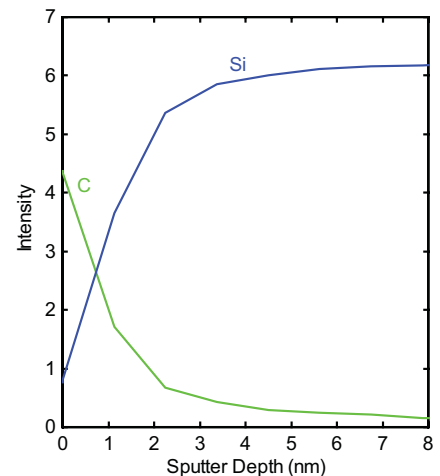


Figure 2. Auger sputter depth profile through fluorocarbon petal of flower defect.

A quick SEM examination of random areas on the full wafer using the SMART-Tool revealed many flower defects without a central particle. Such defects were not detected by the optical inspection tool, resulting in a much higher real defect count than indicated by the optical defect detection tool. The high density of surface contamination resulted in severe yield loss on production wafers. Compositional defect analysis using Auger Electron Spectroscopy on the SMART-Tool identified the contamination as C and F, which was traced to condensed fluorocarbon originating from pump oil in the etch tool wafer pre-pump chamber. The central particles may act as an initiation site for condensation. The presence of numerous flower defects with no central particle is unexplained. However, subsequent wafer handling may have dislodged the particles prior to optical inspection. Auger Electron Spectroscopy was the only analytical method that was able to provide conclusive identification of the flower defect source.

SMART-Tool™ is a registered trademark of Ulvac-PHI.

United States Locations

Tempe, Arizona
 +1 480 239 0602 info.az@eaglabs.com
 +1 602 470 2655 fax

Sunnyvale, California
 810 Kifer Road
 +1 408 530 3500 info.ca@eaglabs.com
 +1 408 530 3501 fax

1135 E Arques Avenue
 +1 408 738 3033
 +1 408 738 3035 fax

785 Lucerne Drive
 +1 408 737 3892
 +1 408 737 3916 fax

Peabody, Massachusetts
 +1 978 278 9500 info.ma@eaglabs.com
 +1 978 278 9501 fax

Chanhassen, Minnesota
 +1 952 828 6411 info.mn@eaglabs.com
 +1 952 828 6449 fax

East Windsor, New Jersey
 +1 609 371 4800 info.nj@eaglabs.com
 +1 609 371 5666 fax

Syracuse, New York
 +1 315 431 9900 info.ny@eaglabs.com
 +1 315 431 9800 fax

Raleigh, North Carolina
 +1 919 829 7041 info.nc@eaglabs.com
 +1 919 829 5518 fax

Round Rock, Texas
 +1 512 671 9500 info.tx@eaglabs.com
 +1 512 671 9501 fax

International Locations

Shanghai, China
 + 86 21 6879 6088 info.cn@eaglabs.com
 + 86 21 6879 9086 fax

Tournefeuille, France
 + 33 5 61 73 15 29 info.fr@eaglabs.com
 + 33 5 61 73 15 67 fax

Frankfurt, Germany
 + 49 (0) 693053213 info.de@eaglabs.com
 + 49 (0) 69307941 fax

Tokyo, Japan
 + 81 3 5396 0531 info.jp@eaglabs.com
 + 81 3 5396 1930 fax

HsinChu, Taiwan
 + 886 3 5632303 info.tw@eaglabs.com
 + 886 3 5632306 fax

Uxbridge, United Kingdom
 + 44 (0) 1895 811194 info.uk@eaglabs.com
 + 44 (0) 1895 810350 fax