

SRC/SEMATECH ERC for Environmentally Benign  
Semiconductor Manufacturing

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# Resist-Free Patterning of Low Dielectric Constant Polymer

December 13, 2007

Nathan J. Trujillo

Karen K. Gleason

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# Structure of This Talk

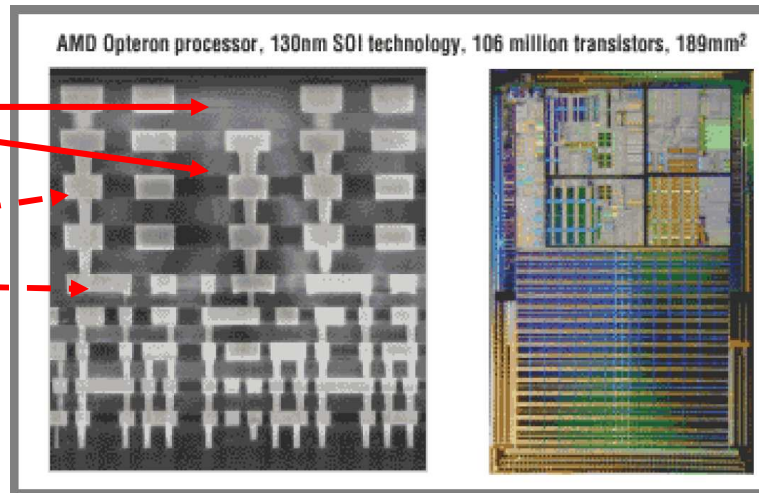
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- **Background on low-k materials**
- **The need for environmentally benign low-k processing**
- **New low-k precursor for iCVD**
- **Resistless patterning of low-k materials**
  - **Microcontact printing for additive polymer patterning**
  - **SAMs for patterned low-k**
  - **Resist-free photolithography**

# Anatomy of an Integrated Circuit

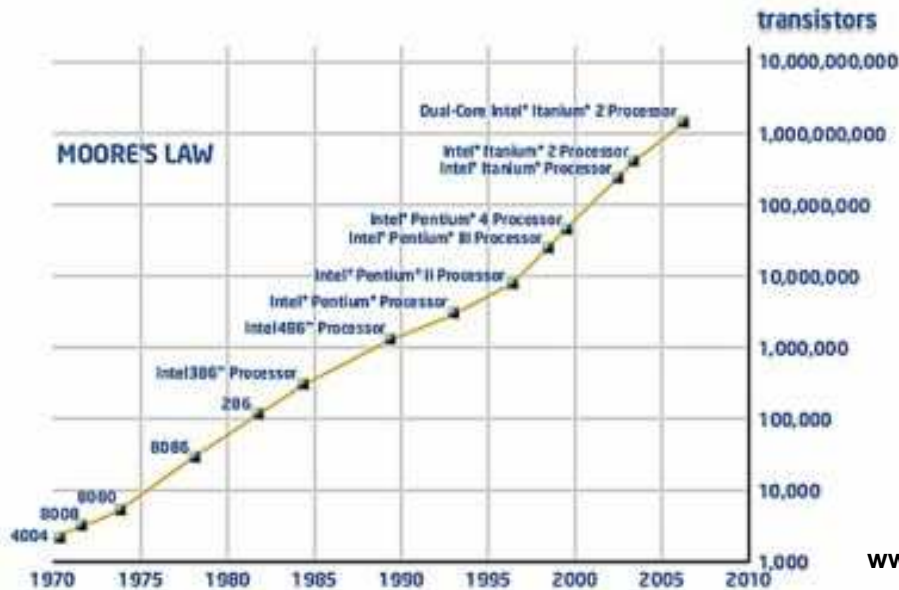
Low-k  
Dielectric  
(ILD)

Cu  
Interconnects



Increasing  
ILD feature  
size

[www.amd.com](http://www.amd.com)

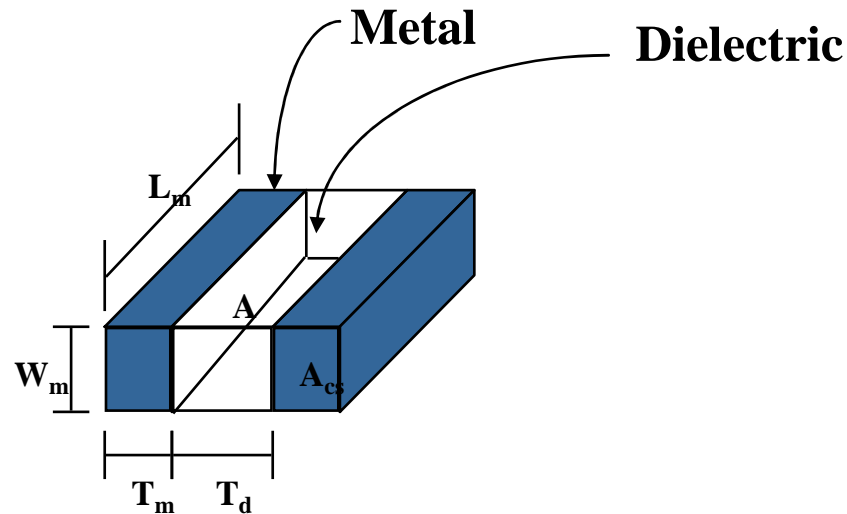


Features are  
getting closer  
together!

[www.intel.com](http://www.intel.com)



# Why low-k?



## REDUCE:

- RC Delay

$$\tau \sim RC \sim \kappa \epsilon_0 \rho L_m^2 / T_m T_d$$

*either metal or dielectric*

- Power Consumption

$$P \sim CV^2f$$

*dielectric only*

- Cross Talk Noise

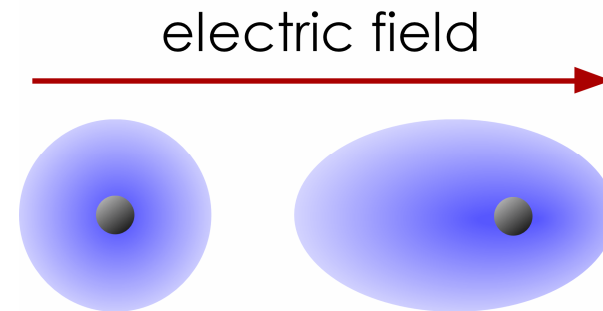
$$N \sim C_{\text{line-to-line}} / C_{\text{total}}$$



# Acquired electric dipole moment per unit volume: Polarization

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electronic polarization  
(induced dipole moment)



$$\mathbf{P} = Zq\mathbf{d}$$

$\mathbf{P}$  = polarization

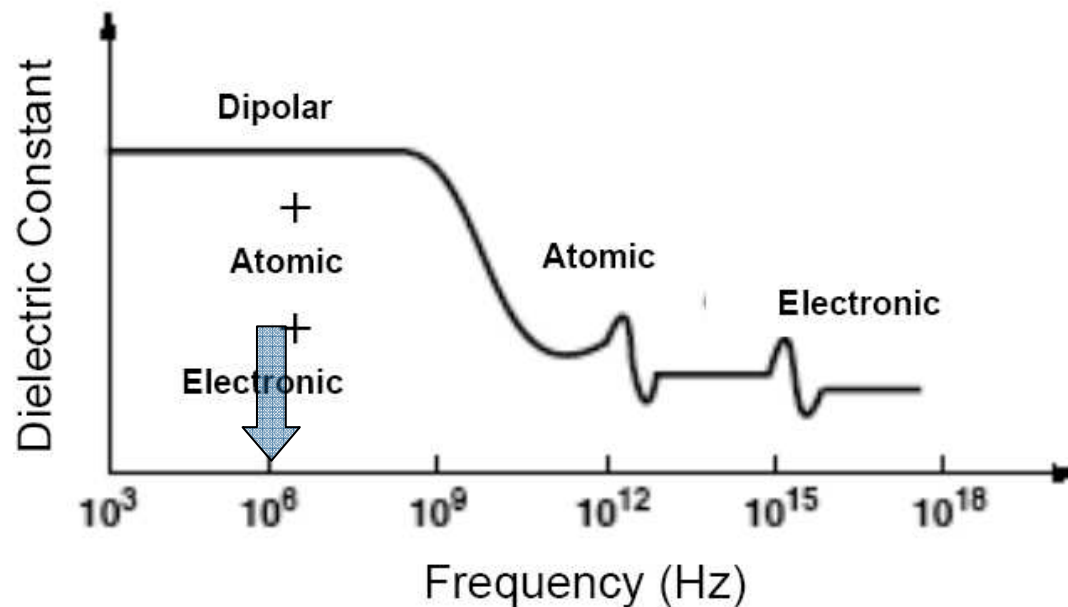
$Z$  = number of charge centers per unit volume

$q$  = electronic charge

$\mathbf{d}$  = displacement

}  $q\mathbf{d}$  = induced dipole moment

# How does P affect k?



relationship of dielectric constant & polarization

$$k = 1 + 4\pi P/E$$

relationship of dielectric constant & index of refraction

at low frequency :  $k > n^2$

at high frequency:  $k = n^2$  (electronic polarization only)

# k: How low can you go?

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Composition	Fully dense k
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SiO <sub>2</sub>	4.0
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Si:O:F (FSG)	3.2–3.7
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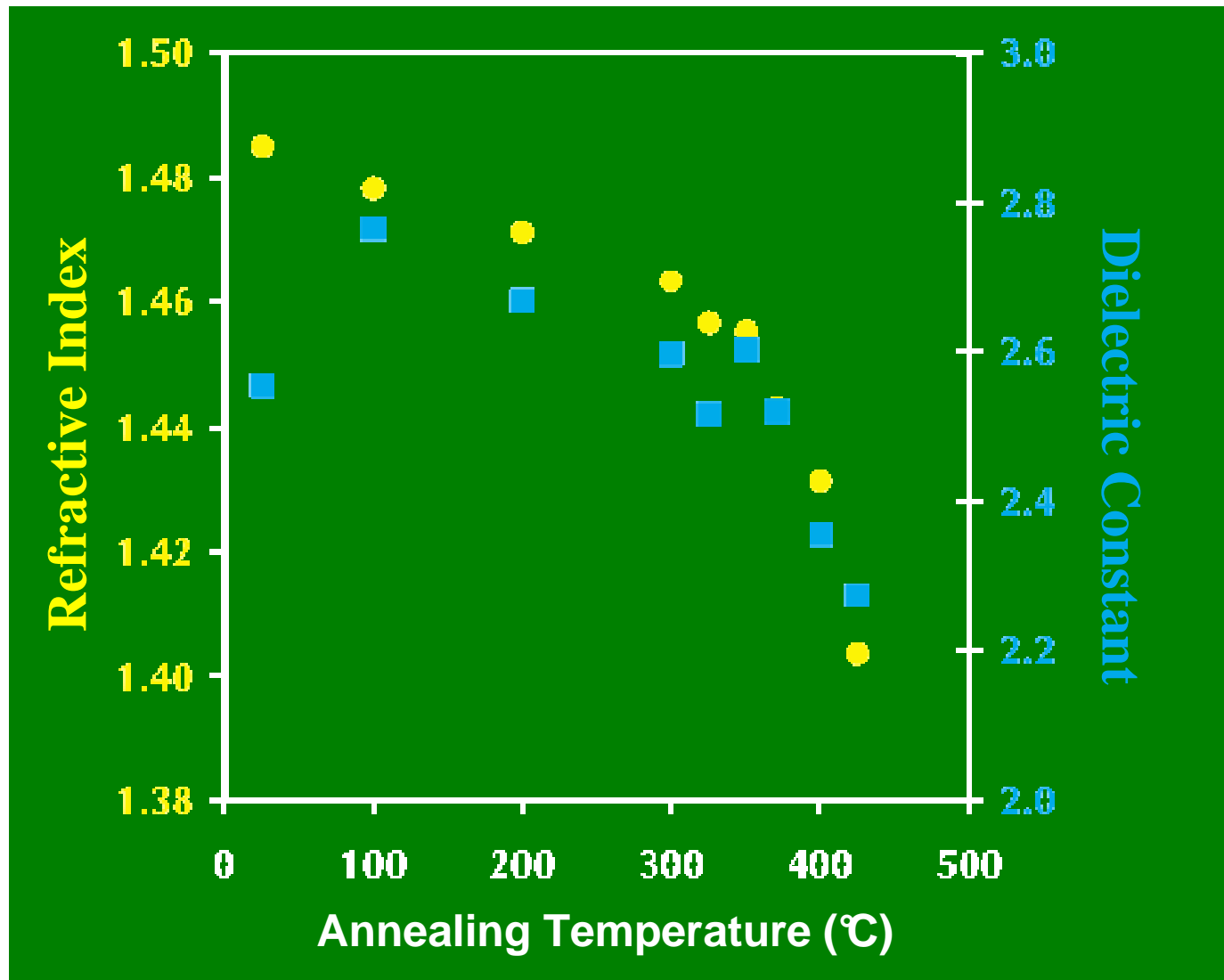
Si:O:C:H (OSG)	2.7–3.0
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C:F	2.0–2.7
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Air

k = 1.0

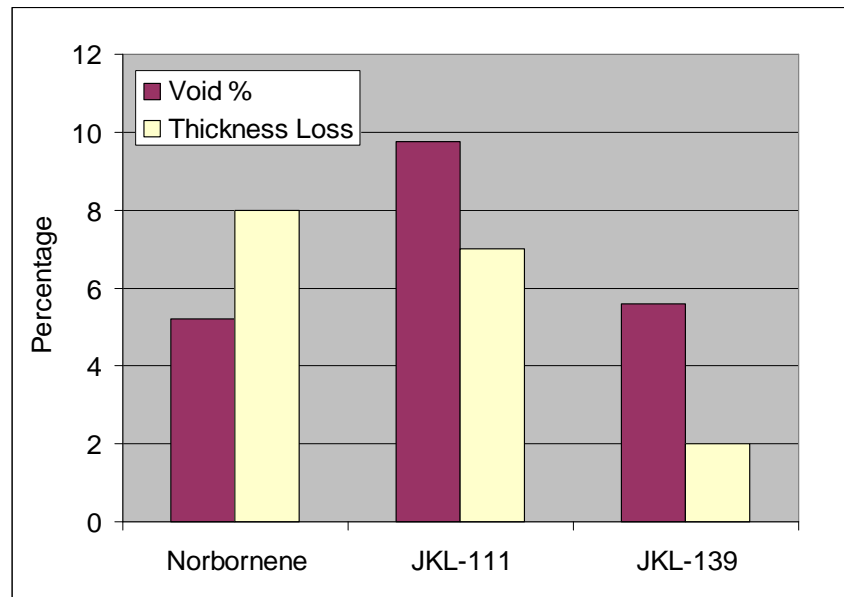
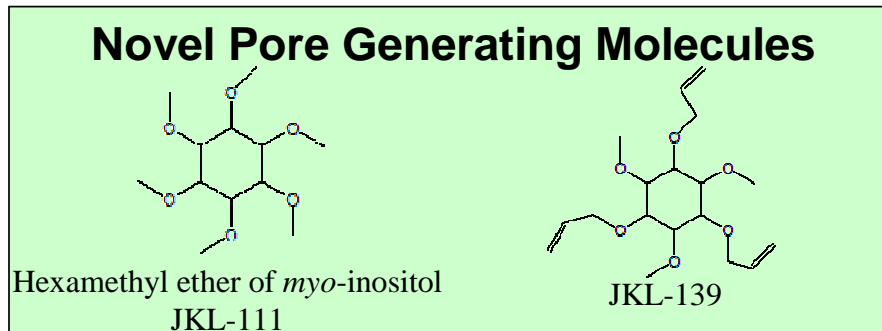
# Air to get us there...



D.D. Burkey , K.K. Gleason, *J. Vac. Sci. Technol. A*, (2004) 22 (1)



# Novel Porogens For Low-k



- Porogens provided by Chris Ober's group at Cornell
- Incorporated into V3D3 film through vinyl group and removed by annealing
- Film retention compares favorably to commercially available porogen, Norborene

# Need For Environmentally Friendly Low-k

		<i>Year of Production</i>	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013
		<b>Technology Node (nm)</b>	80	70	65	57	50	45	40	36	32
<b>WAS</b>	Interlevel metal insulator (minimum expected) – bulk dielectric constant ( $\kappa$ )		$\leq 2.7$	$\leq 2.7$	$\leq 2.4$	$\leq 2.4$	$\leq 2.2$	$\leq 2.2$	$\leq 2.2$	$\leq 2.0$	$\leq 2.0$
<b>IS</b>	Interlevel metal insulator – bulk dielectric constant ( $\kappa$ )		<u>2.6-3.0</u>	<u>2.6-3.0</u>	<u>2.3-2.7</u>	<u>2.3-2.7</u>	<u>2.1-2.4</u>	<u>2.1-2.4</u>	<u>2.1-2.4</u>	<u>1.8-2.1</u>	<u>1.8-2.1</u>
		<i>Low-<math>\kappa</math> materials—spin-on and CVD</i>	Minimum emission/waste processes			75% raw material (chemical) utilization			90% raw material (chemicals) utilization		

[www.itrs.net](http://www.itrs.net) 2006 ITRS Roadmap

In Short: Need  $k=2.1$  by 2012 and 90% chemical utilization by 2011!



# Attractive ILDs Have...

## Electrical

- low  $\kappa$
- low dissipation
- low leakage
- low charge trap
- high breakdown
- high resistivity

## Chemical

- low moisture absorption
- high etch selectivity
- high chemical resistance
- high purity
- no metal corrosion
- low gas permeability

## Mechanical

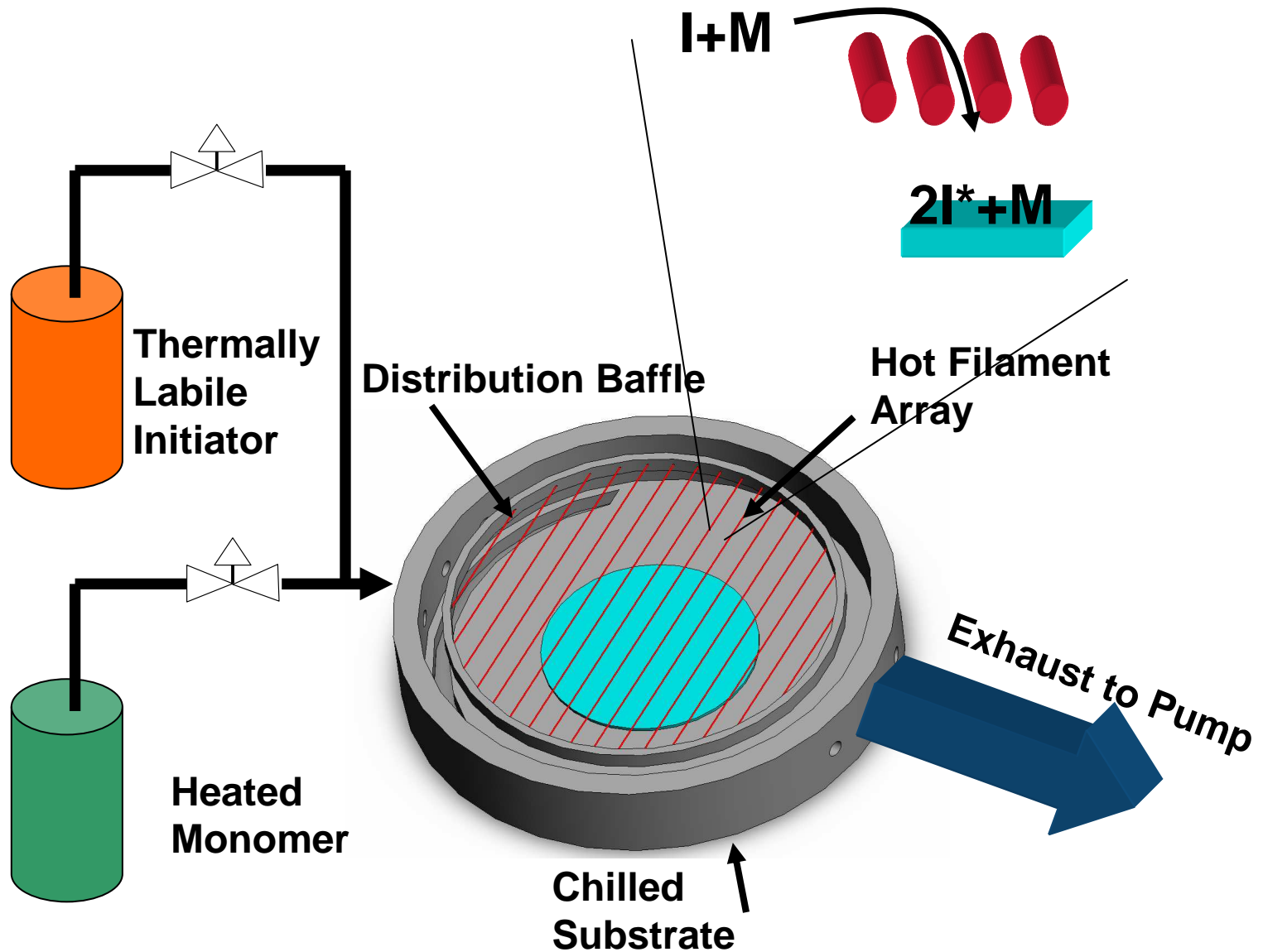
- film uniformity
- adhesion
- low stress
- high tensile modulus
- low shrinkage
- high hardness
- elasticity

## Thermal

- high thermal stability
- high glass transition
- high thermal conductivity
- low thermal shrinkage
- low thermal expansion

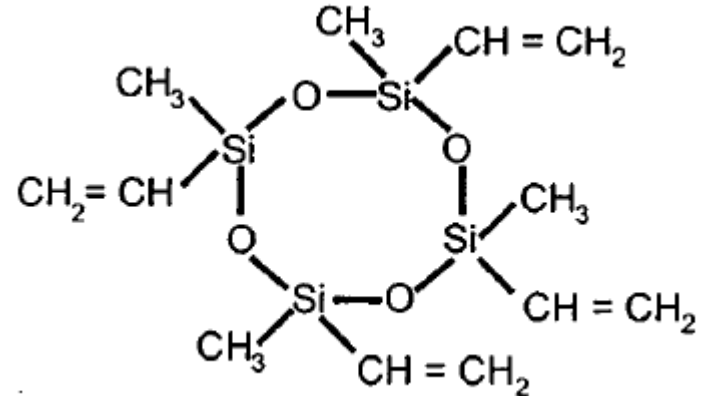
Environmentally  
Friendly  
Processing

# iCVD Summary

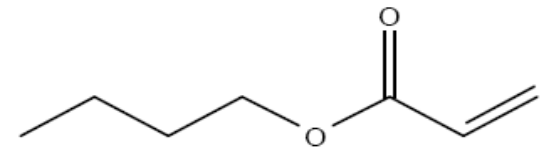


# Low-k iCVD Precursor V4D4

- Open siloxane ring for low-k
- Four vinyl groups make ideal for iCVD
- No need for cross linker
- 3-D network from “puckered” ring
- Plasma polymerization gives k as low as 2.5

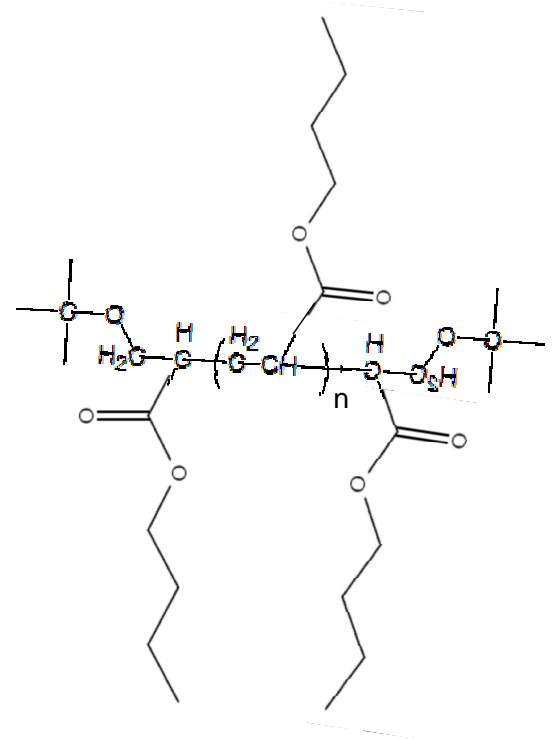
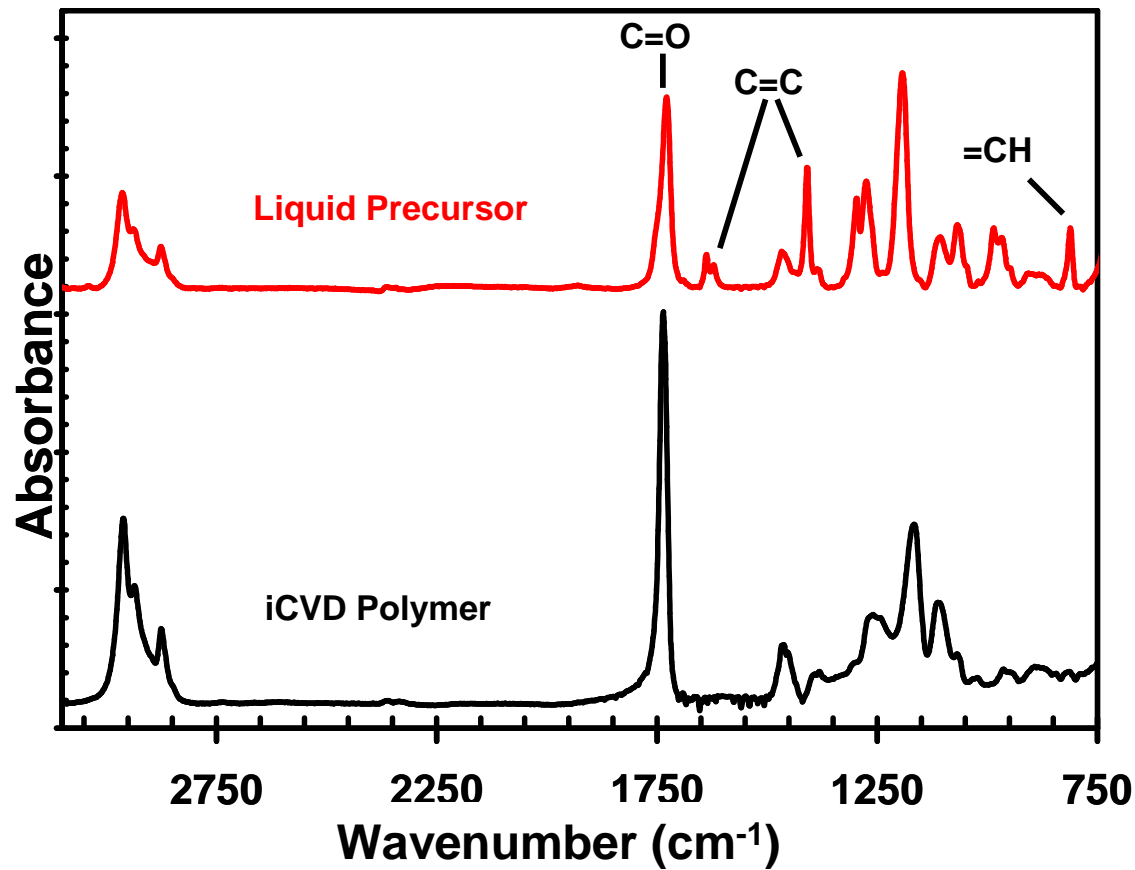


1,3,5,7-TETRAVINYL TETRAMETHYL CYCLOTETRASILOXANE



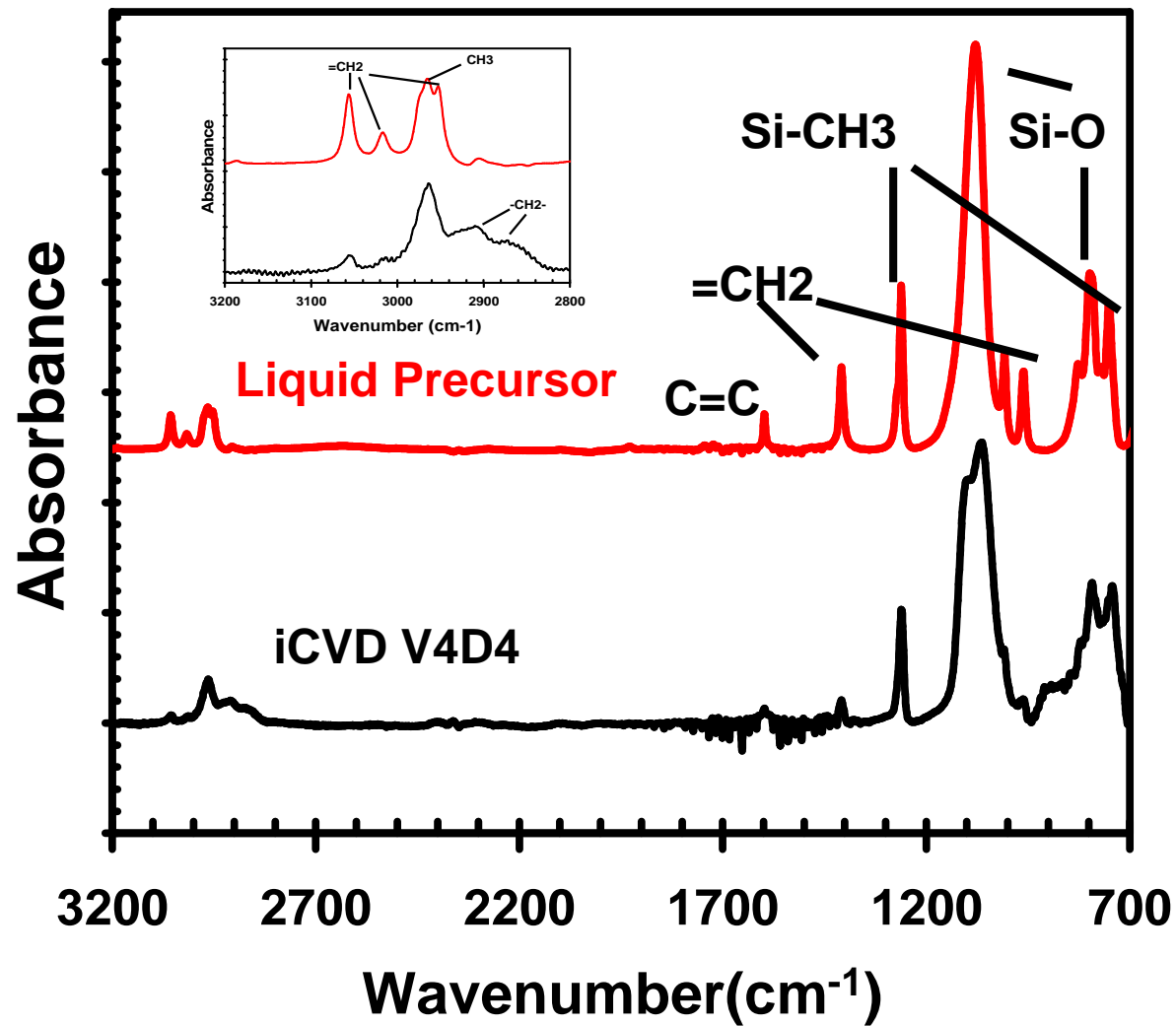
Proxy Monomer  
n-Butyl Acrylate

# Poly(butyl acrylate) With TBP Initiator

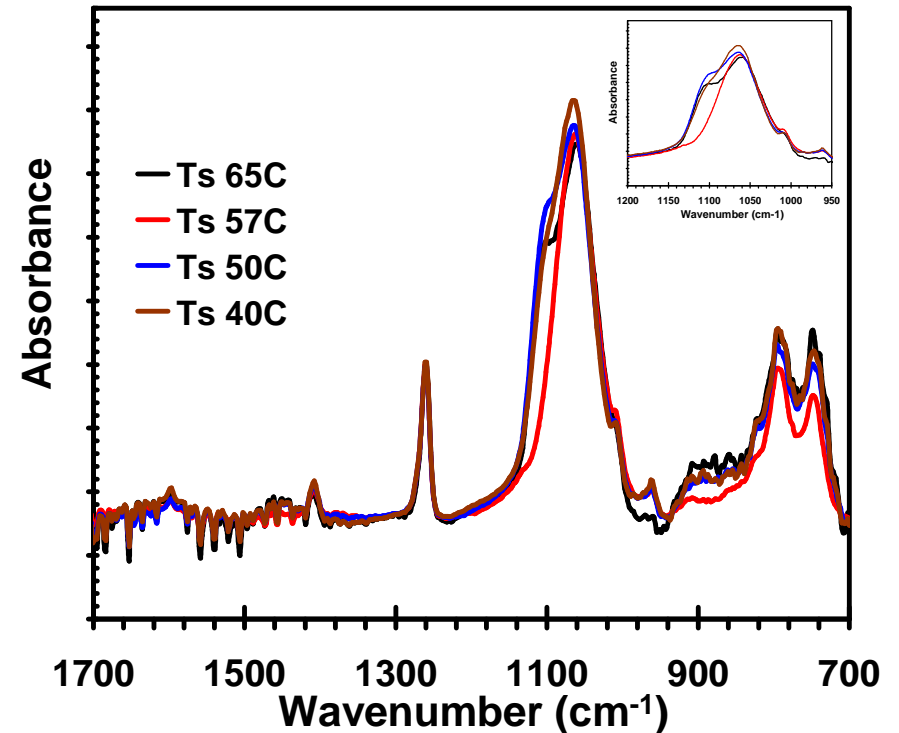
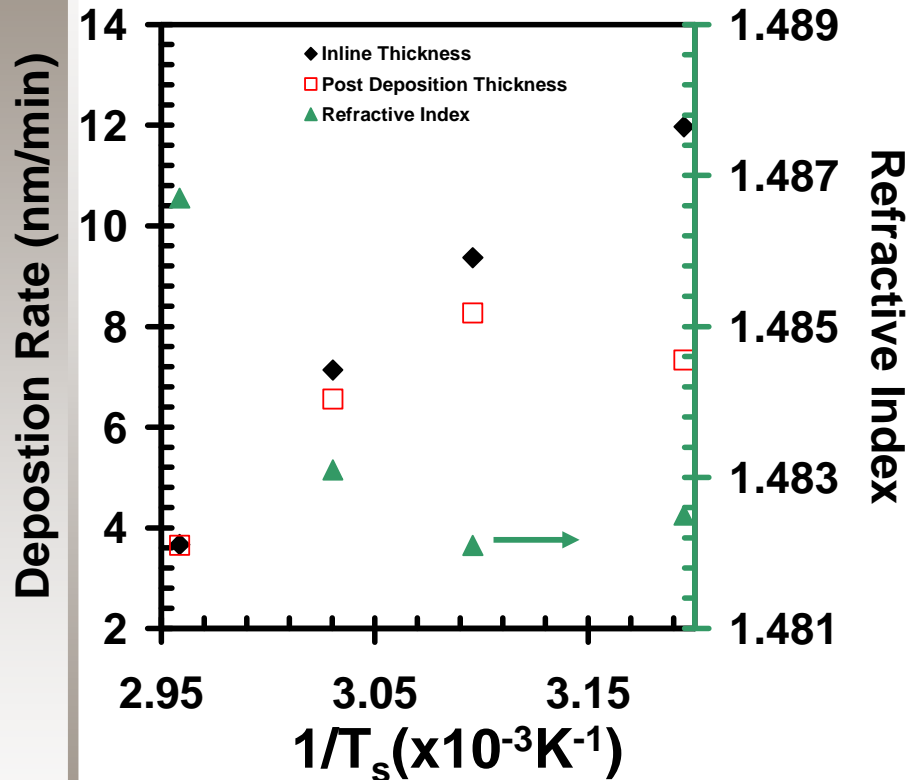


**Deposition rates over 100 nm/min**

# V4D4 Successfully Polymerized Via iCVD



# Substrate Temperature Study



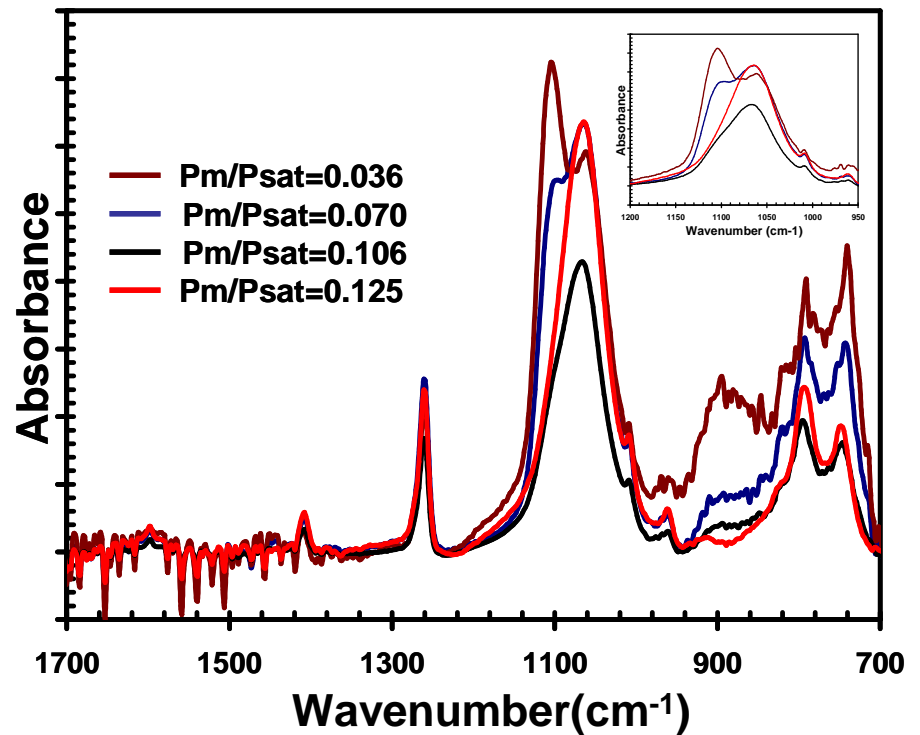
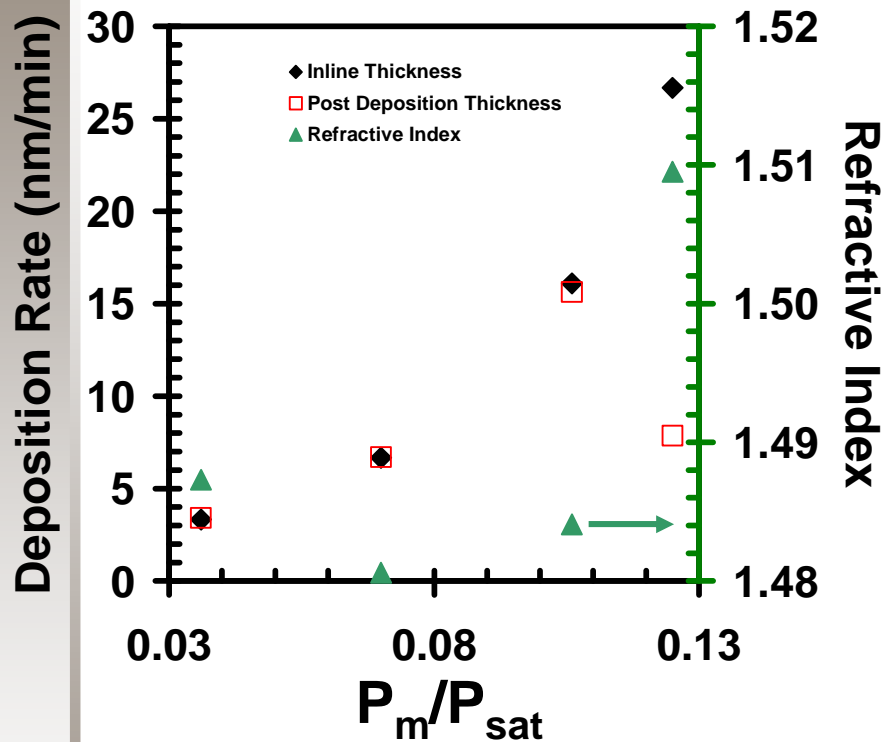
Negative activation energy indicates absorption limited process

Little apparent structural differences between most films





# Pressure Effects on Structure



Same absorption trend indicates > monolayer absorption at high P

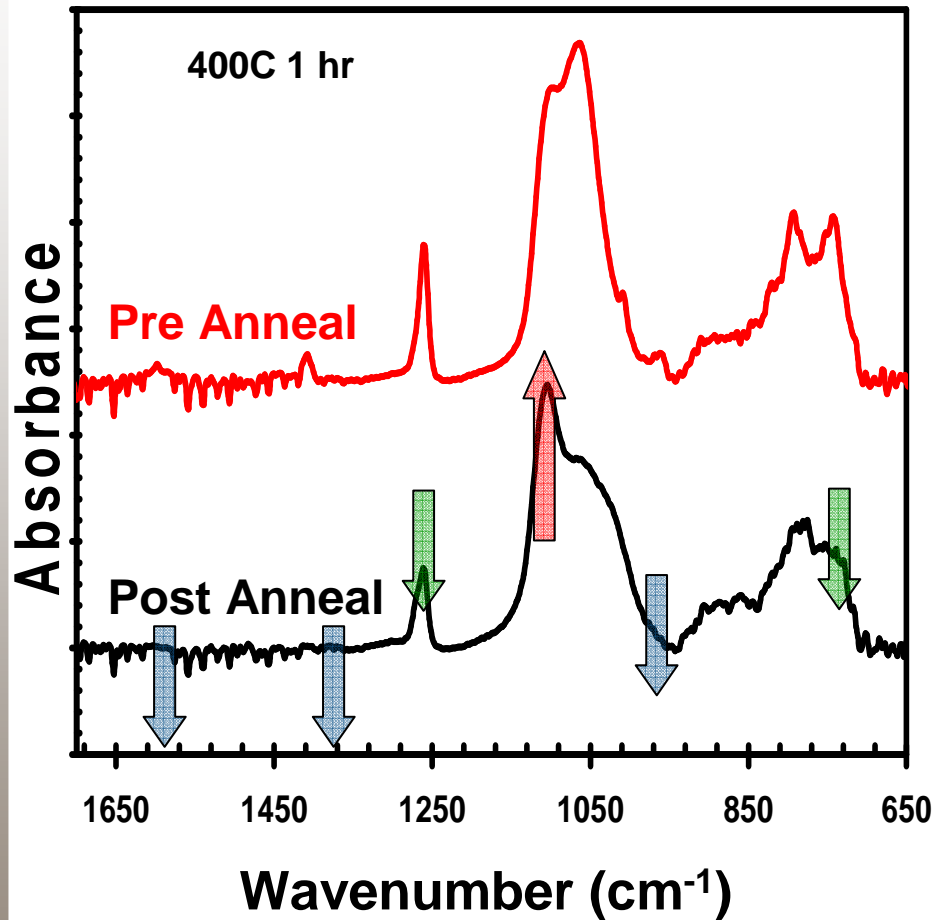
No condensation in reactor.

Significantly more Si-O cage structure at lower pressures.

Corresponds to less dense film



# Thermal Stability: Sample $T_{\text{sub}} = 50^\circ\text{C}$



Thickness Retention

84.7%

Refractive Index

1.481 1.451

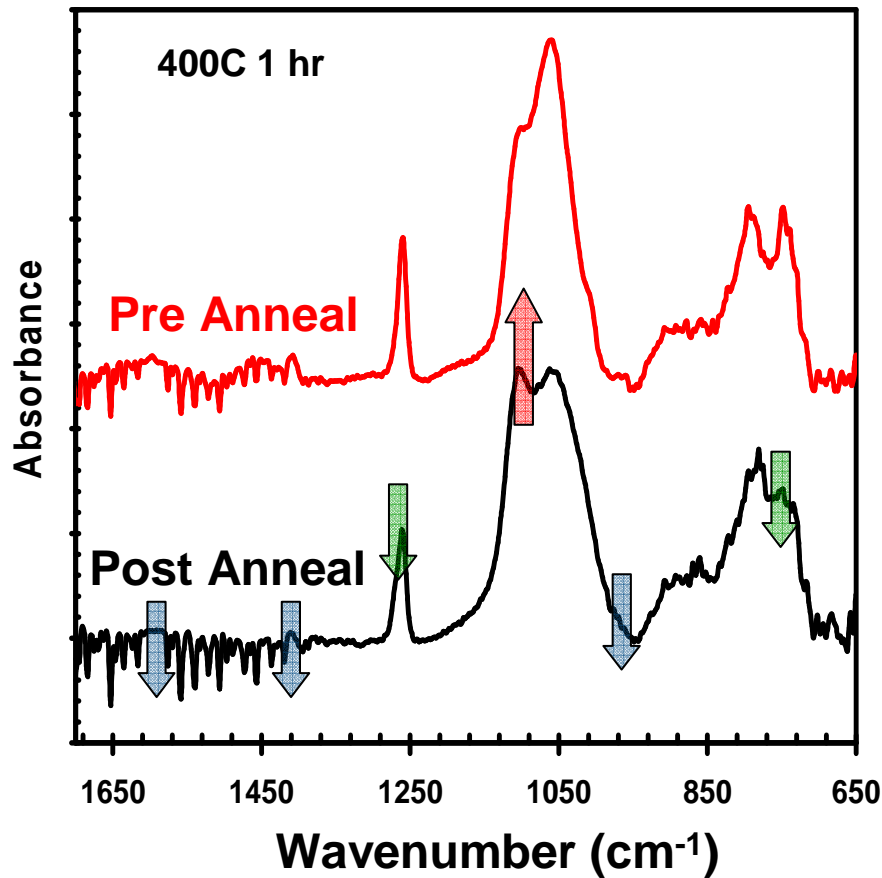
Dielectric Constant\*

2.75 2.55



\*Correlated from Burkey *J. Vac. Sci.* (2004) 22 (1)

# Thermal Stability: Sample $T_{\text{sub}} = 65^\circ\text{C}$



Thickness Retention

93.5%

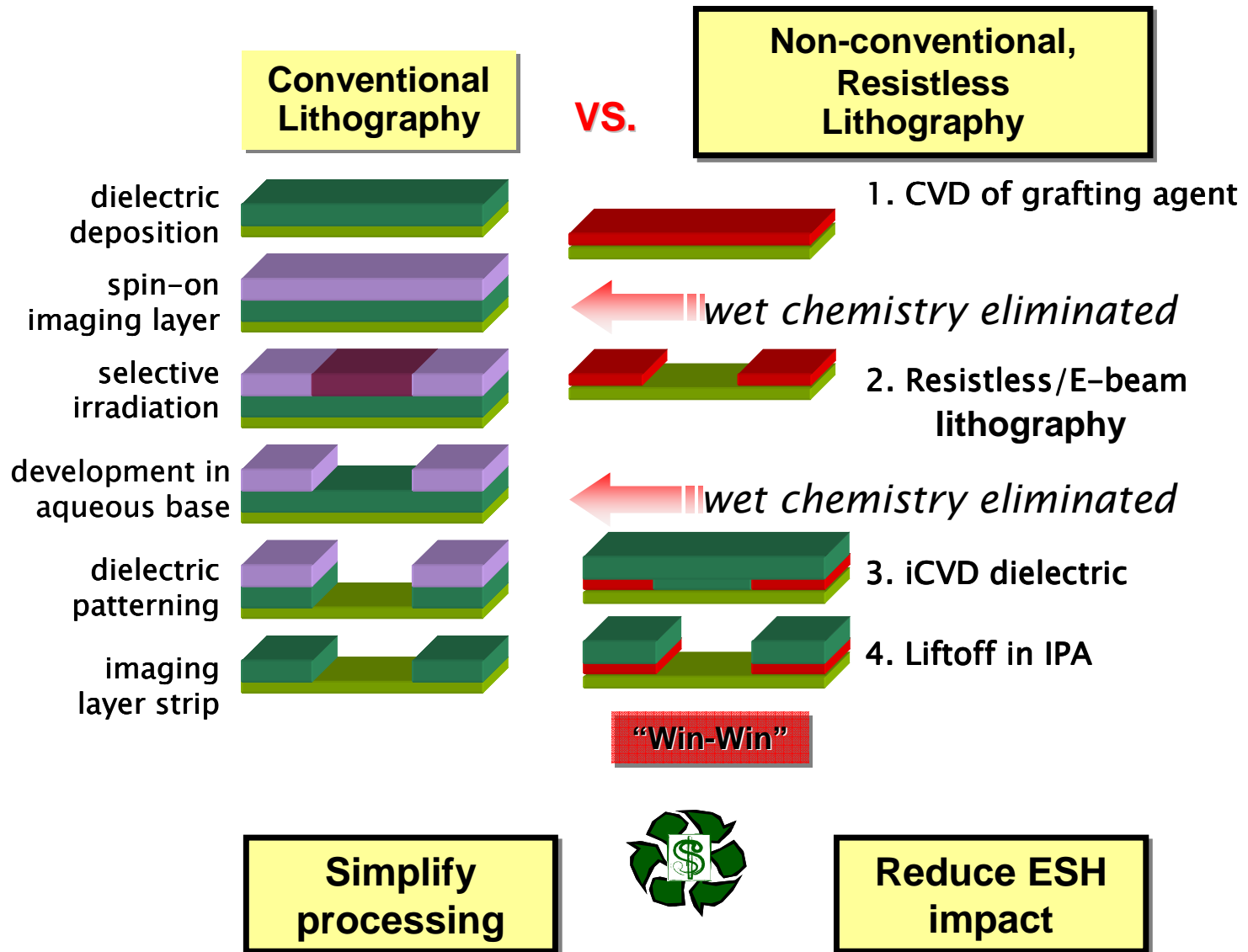
Refractive Index

1.493 1.448

\*For plasma polymerized V4D4  
 $n=1.45$  corresponds to  $k=2.5$ !

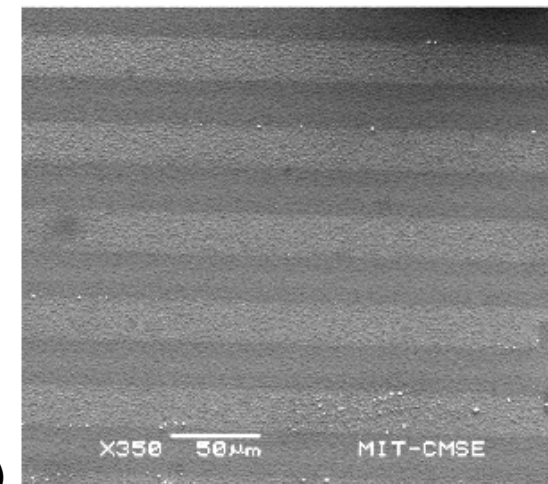
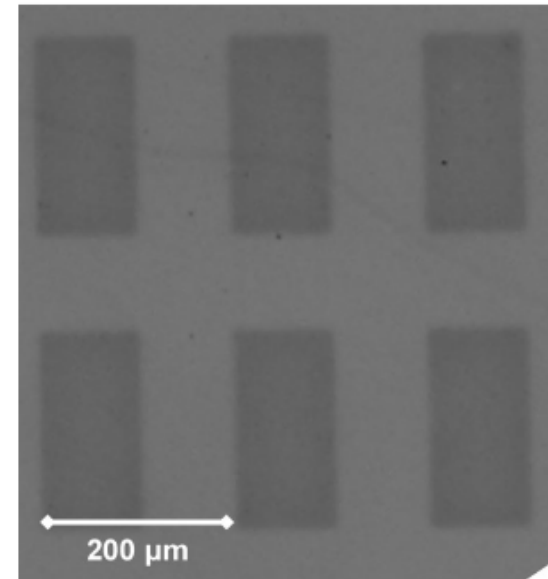


# Resistless Patterning Prevents Waste



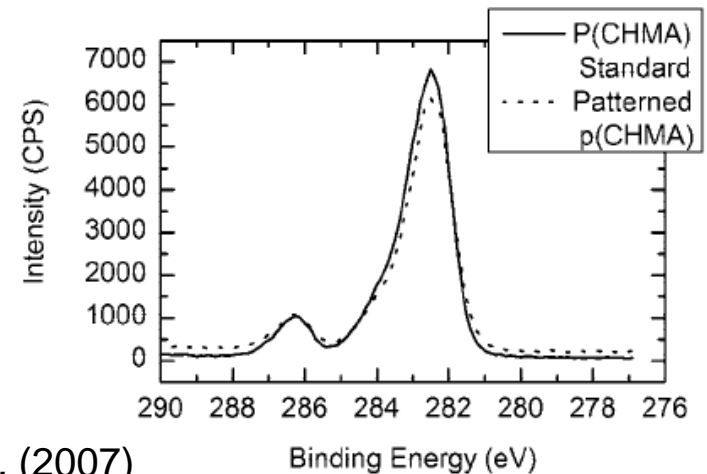
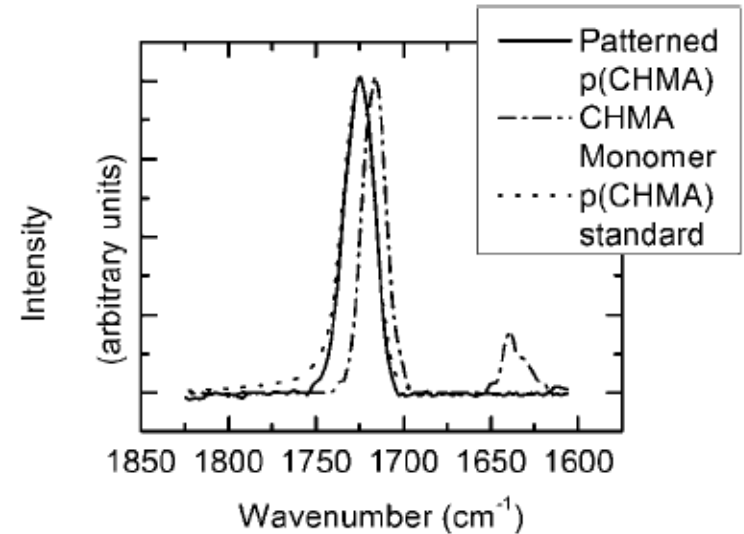
# Additively Patterned p(CHMA) Using piCVD

- Micro contact printing to pattern photoinitiator, Michler's Ketone
- 25 micron features 100nm thick in 45 min
- Room temperature deposition
- No autopolymerization with 365nm light



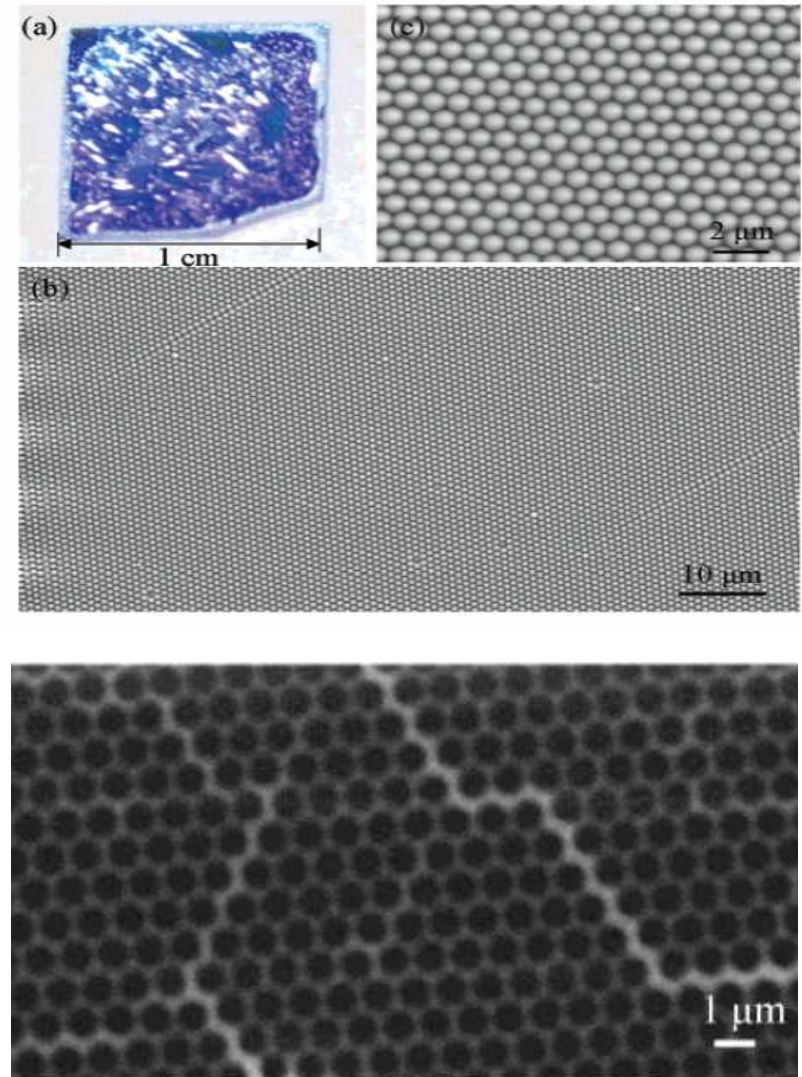
# Additively Patterned p(CHMA) Using piCVD

- FTIR confirms polymerization took place
- C1 s XPS matches carbonyl and methyl peaks
- Resolution determined by PDMS stamp
- No covalent adhesion to substrate



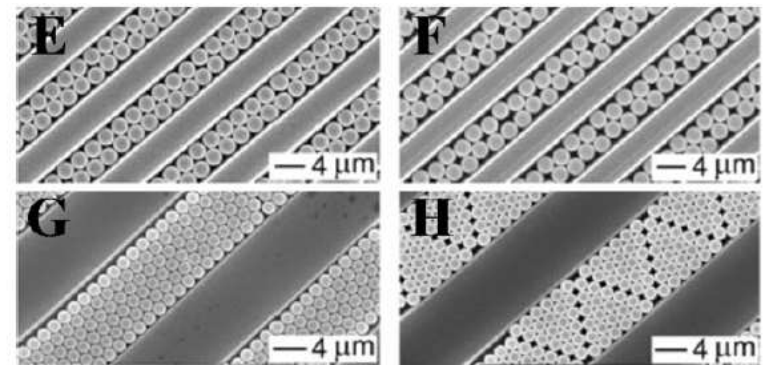
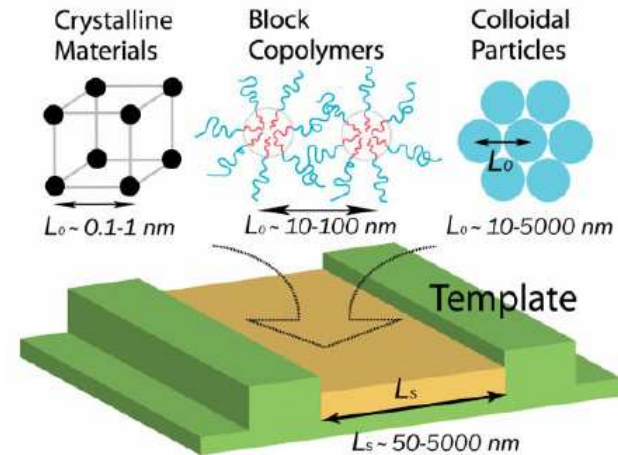
# Self Assembly For Resist-Free Patterning

- PS monolayers self-assemble into HCP configuration
- Many publications report methods for creating SAM
- Sputtering usually used for patterning
- Large well-ordered arrays from inexpensive non-conventional lithography



# Top Down Helping Bottom Up

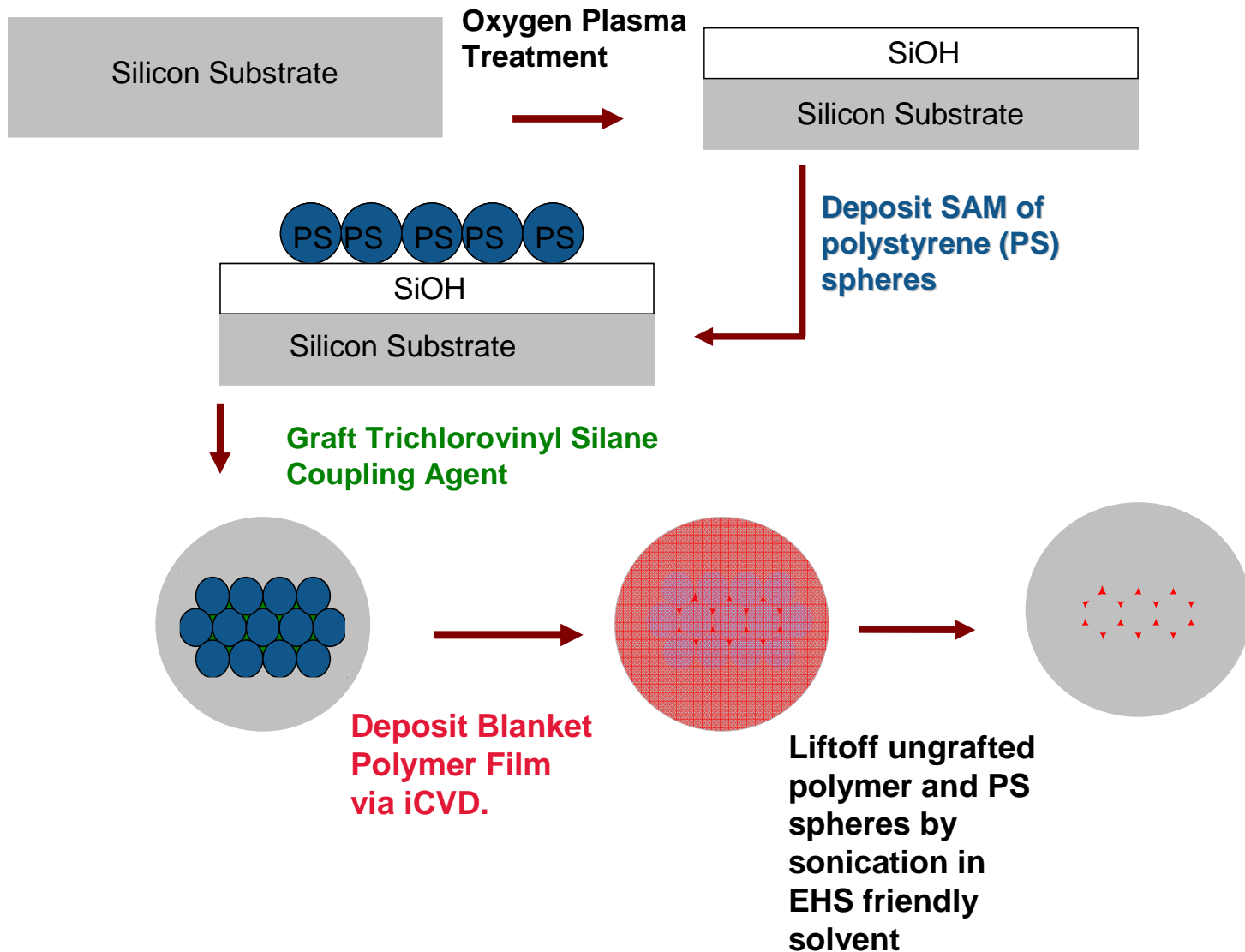
- Use of conventional lithography to create large scale orientation
- Eliminates large scale defects
- Drives rational design for hierarchical structures with periodic features
- Can work with various forms of self-assembly



Cheng et al., *Adv. Mater.* (2006), 18



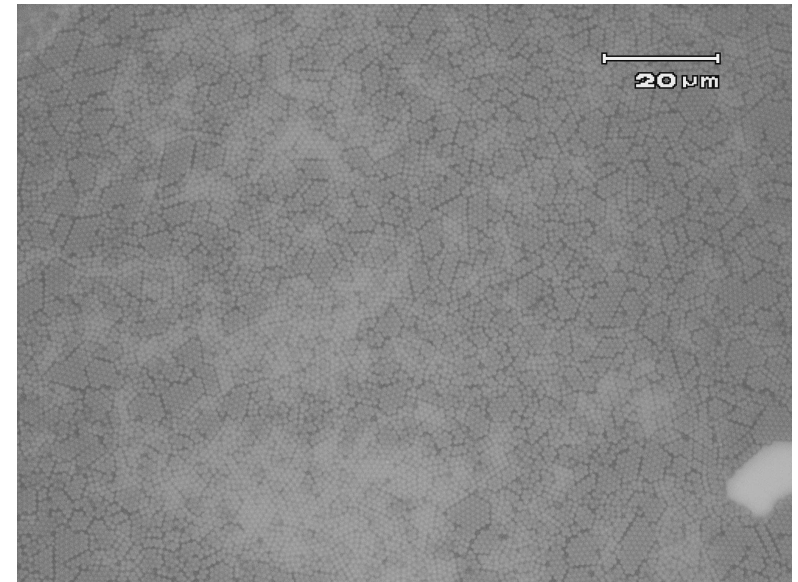
# Additive Polymer Patterning Using Self Assembled Monolayer(SAM) as Mask



# Resistless Patterned poly(butyl acrylate)

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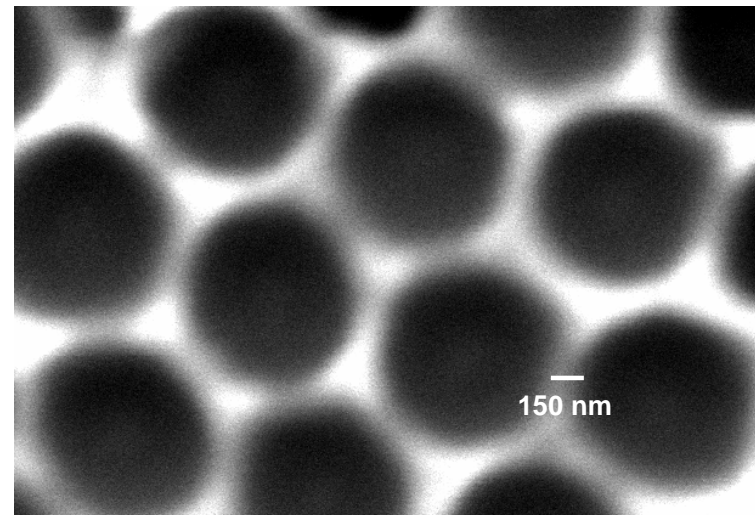
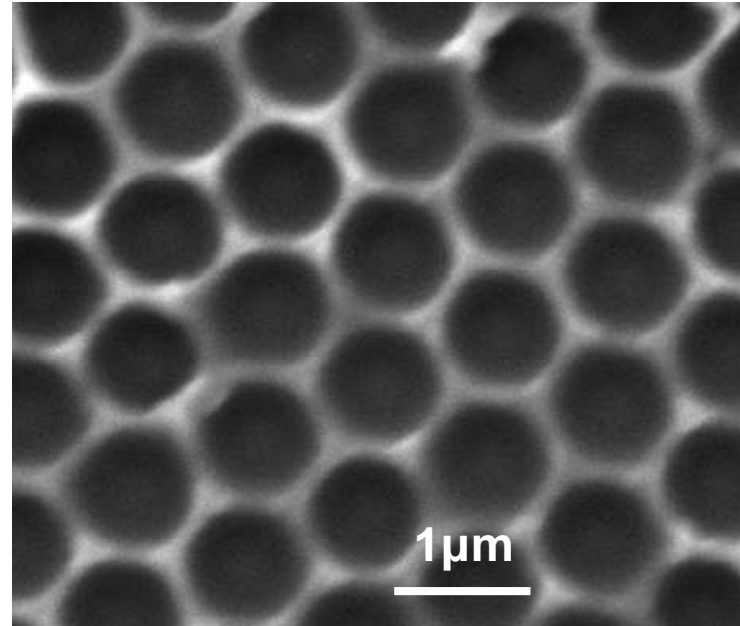
- **Solution cast 1  $\mu\text{m}$  spheres in TritonX/Methanol**
- **Trichlorovinylsilane used as coupling agent**
- **Deposited 1  $\mu\text{m}$  film of poly(butyl acrylate)**
- **Sonication in THF overnight**



## 3...2...1.....Lift-off!

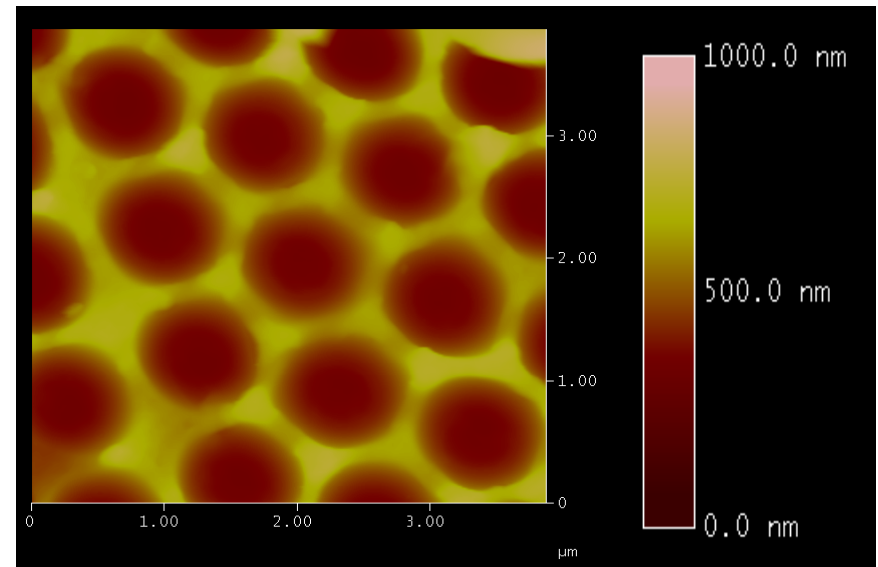
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- SEM images show complete lift-off
- Large honeycomb pattern observed
- Feature sizes as small as 150nm
- Withstand repeated solvent rinse



# AFM Image of Grafted Pattern

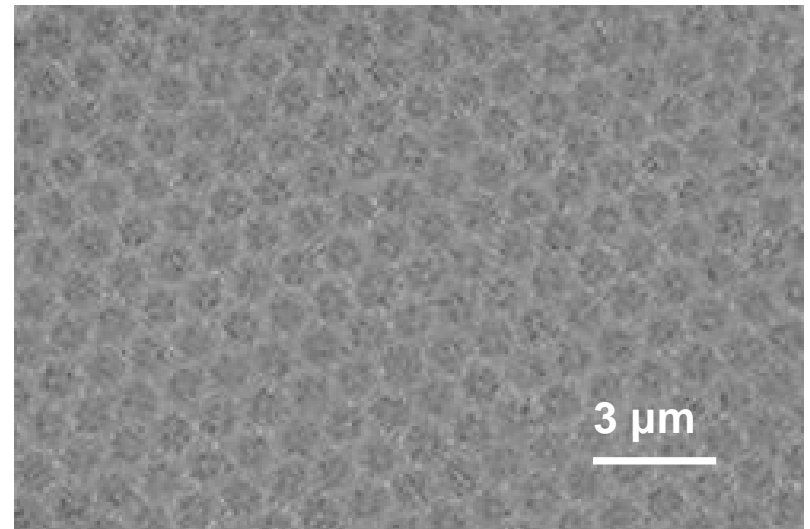
- Very high aspect ratio features
- Height up to 700 nm
- Could not obtain thick grafted film without particles.
- Knudsen diffusion leads to different reaction scheme within SAM domains



# Low-k Lift-Off With IPA

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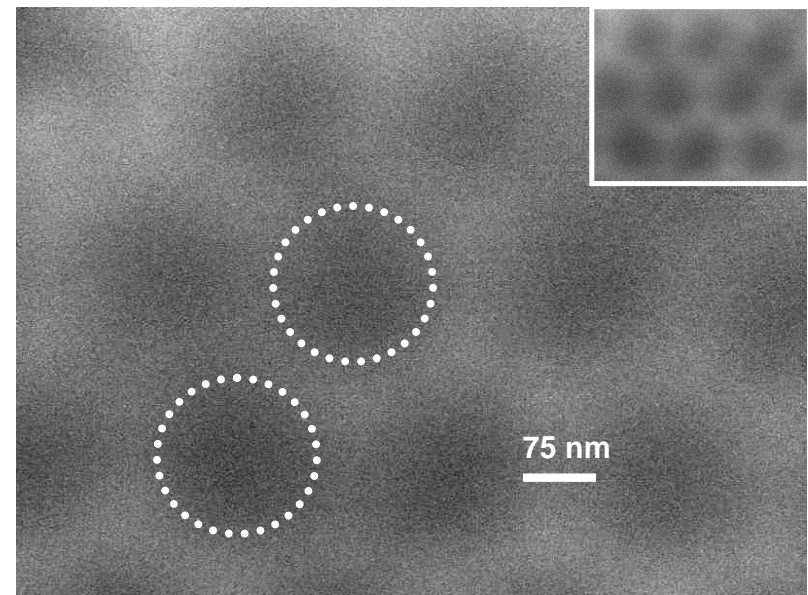
- **V4D4 Pattern with 1  $\mu\text{m}$  spheres**
- **Very well-ordered patterns achieved**
- **Lift-off after sonicating in IPA for 1 hr**
- **Achieved full lift-off with environmentally friendly solvent**



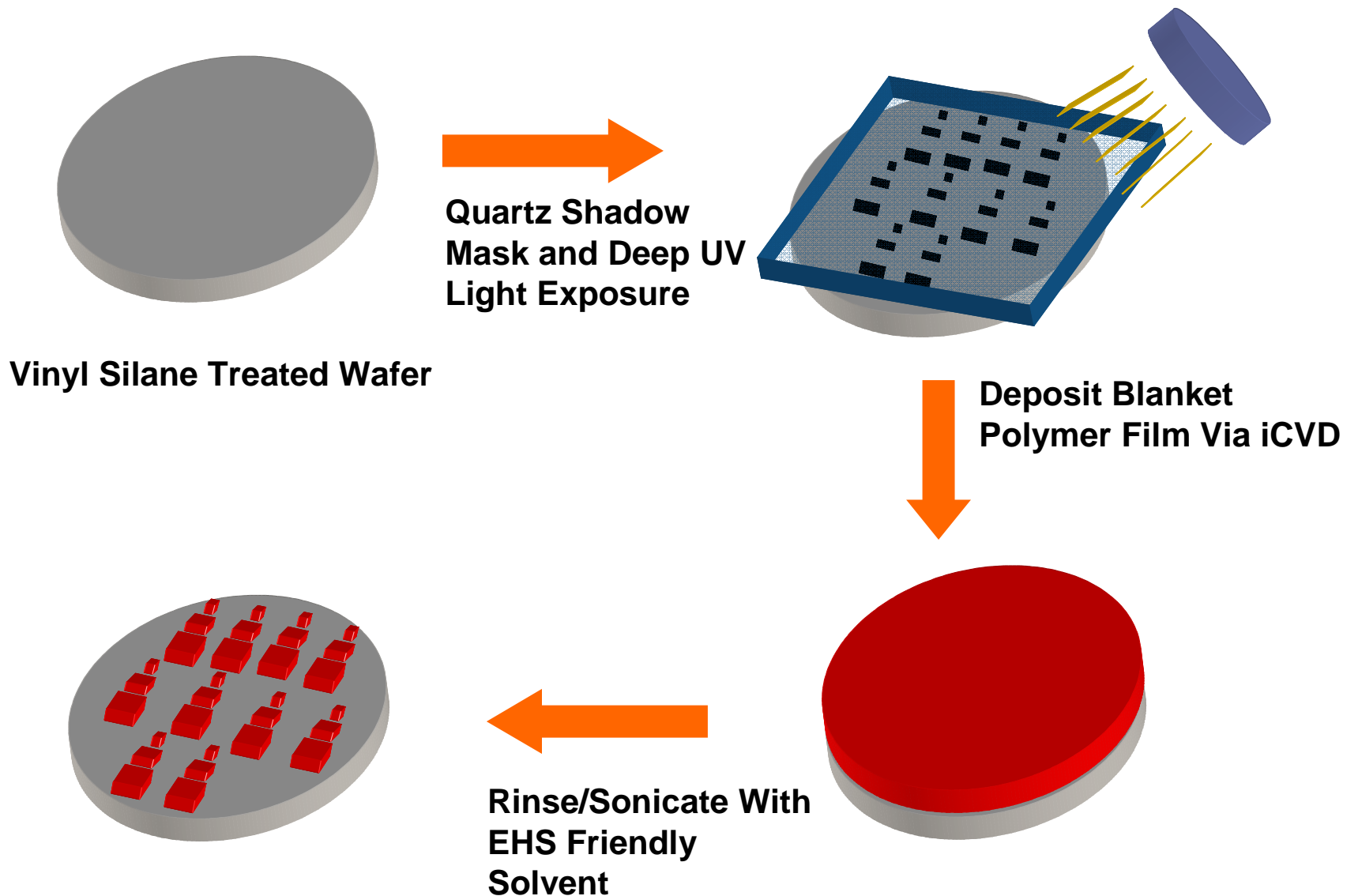
# Environmentally Friendly 75 nm Low-k Pattern

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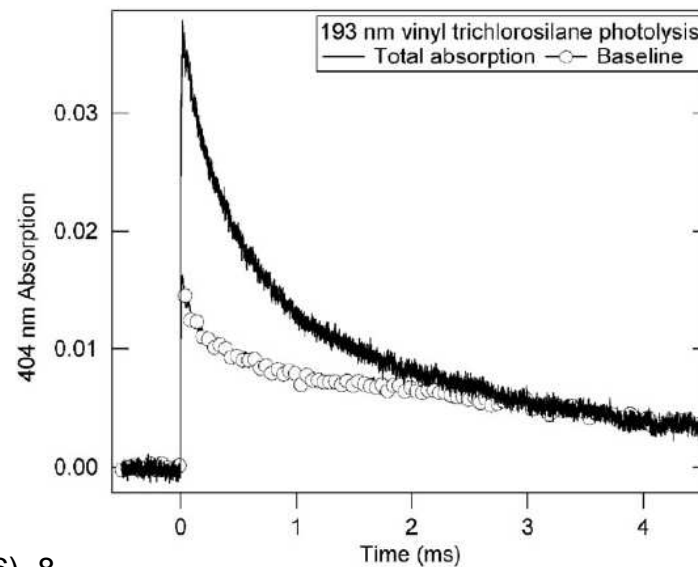
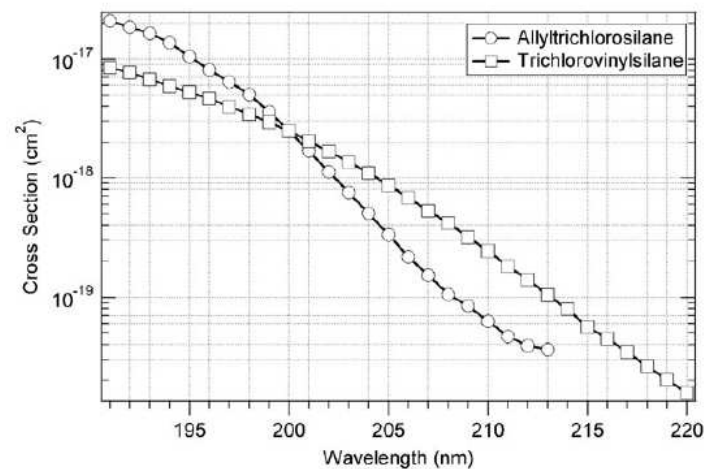
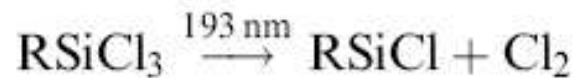
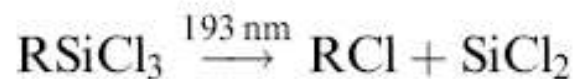
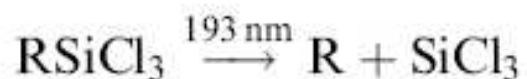
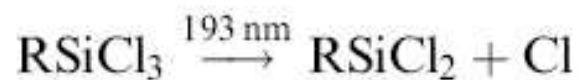
- Used 200nm spheres for pattern
- Very well ordered patterns achieved from IPA lift-off
- Smallest features about 75nm wide and about 100nm in height
- Excellent substrate adhesion: 10 minute sonication in THF



# Resist-Free Photo Lithography

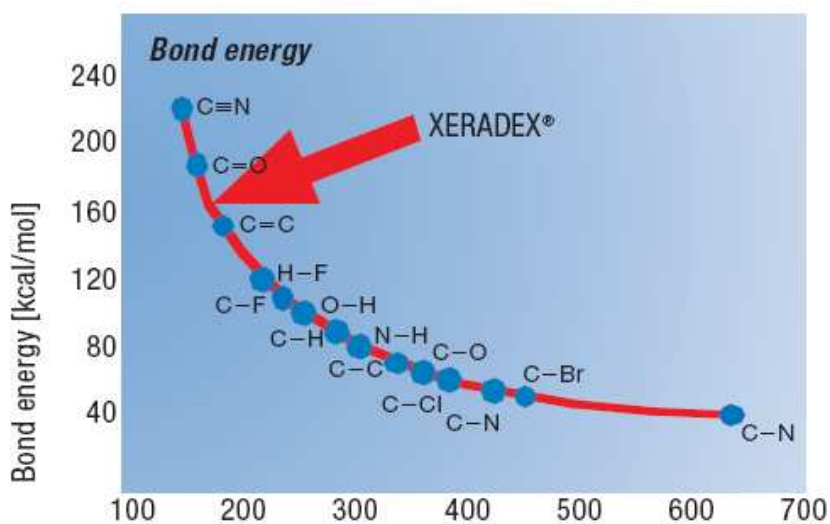


# Photolysis of Trichlorovinylsilane





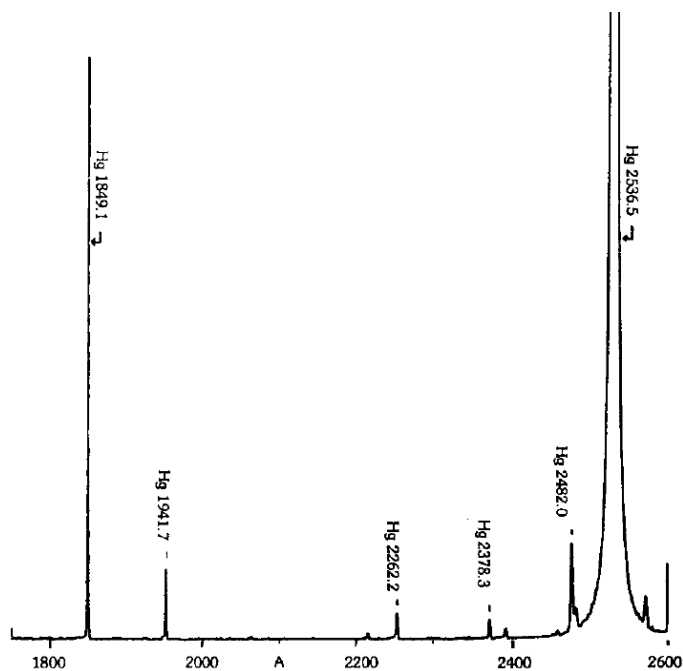
# Hg Lamp: The Cheap Alternative



[www.Hitechlamaps.com](http://www.Hitechlamaps.com)

**\$8,000 for XERADEX®**

**UHV Lamp, 40 W VUV  
radiation**



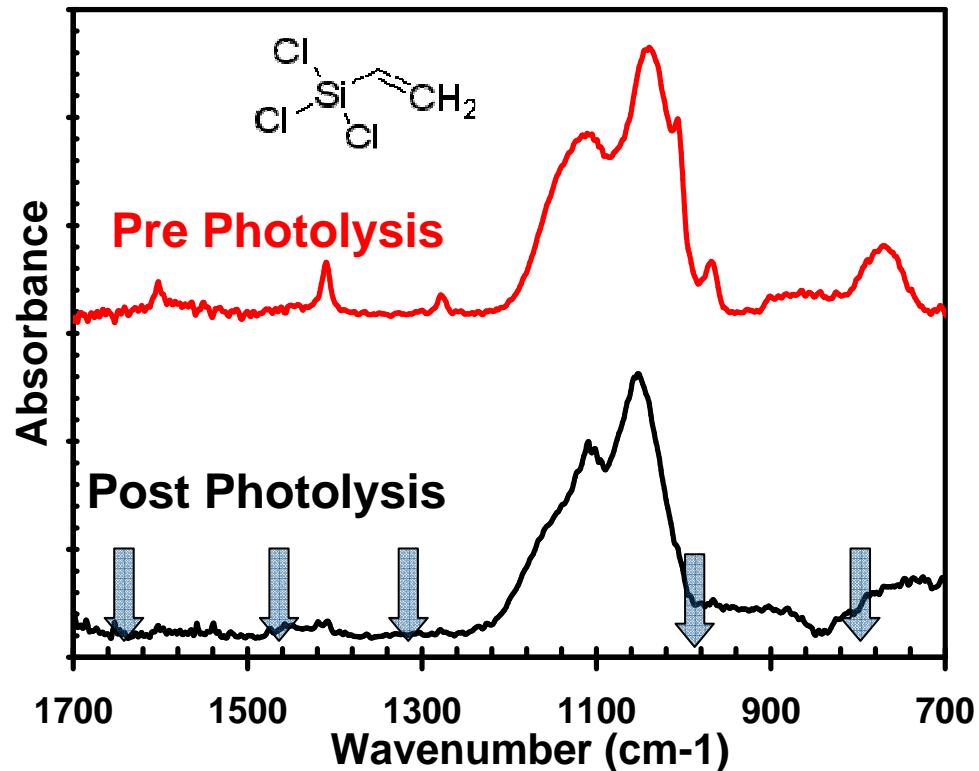
[www.Uvp.com](http://www.Uvp.com)

**Hg lamp in house= Free**

**Less than 1W output in  
range of interest**



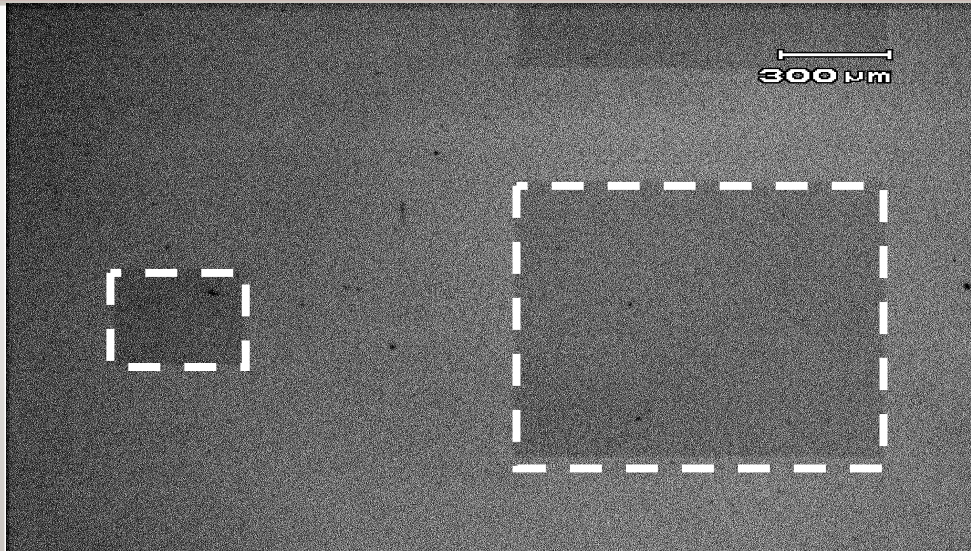
# Grafting and Photolysis



Thickness 28nm	Contact Angle 97°
Thickness 26nm	Contact Angle 50°

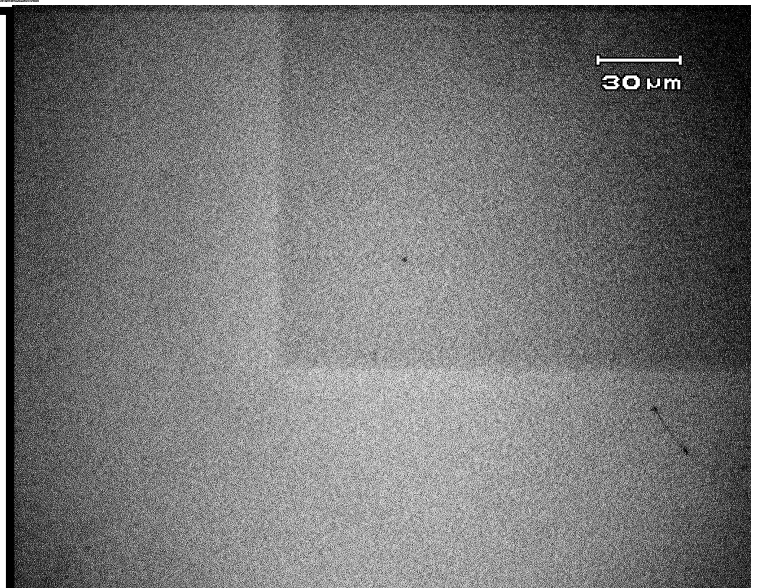
Loss of organic moieties and hydrophilic contact angle indicate destruction of vinyl

# Environmentally Friendly Photolithography of poly(butyl acrylate)



Pre Deposition  
Thickness 35 nm  
Contact Angle 68°

Post Deposition  
Thickness 53 nm  
Contact Angle 105°



# Conclusion

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- **Low-k poly(V4D4) successfully deposited via iCVD**
- **Critical substrate temperature and  $P_m/P_{sat}$  at which deposition rate declines**
- **Low reactor pressure yields highest Si-O cage structure in polymer**
- **V4D4 films are thermally stable at 400°C**
- **Dielectric constant below 2.5 possible without porogen**
- **Additive patterning achieved through microcontact printing**
- **75 nm low-k pattern produced by environmentally friendly process**
- **Resist free photolithography possible using 193 nm light**



# Future Work

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- **Build test structures to measure  $k$**
- **Mechanical Characterization of V4D4 blanket film**
- **Introduce porogens as done with V3D3 in collaboration with Cornell**
- **Resistless photolithography with smaller features**
- **Extend to e-beam patterned wafers from Cornell for high resolution features**
- **Deposit thicker polymer via resistless photolithography patterning (may require crosslinker)**

