

CARBON GUN

The Manufacturing Solution For Ultrathin Carbon Overcoats

- PECVD process for wear and corrosion protection with layer thicknesses below 5 nm
- Thickness uniformity $\pm 5\%$
- Carbon deposition rate up to 2.5nm/s proportional to acetylene flow
- Fully integrated in-situ oxygen plasma cleaning to prevent particle generation
- Available for CIRCULUS M12 and M14 systems



Process Information

- n Coupled capacitor RF discharge at 27MHz
- n Carbon deposition by using Acetylene (C_2H_2) as process gas
- n Inherent homogeneous neutralization of beam (substrate not part of RF circuit)
- n Ion acceleration by RF self bias (approx. 100 eV per C-atom)
- n Magnetically enhanced discharge at operating pressure of 8×10^{-4} to 4×10^{-3} mbar

Film Properties

- n Thickness uniformity $\pm 5\%$ (FF95 disk)
- n sp^3 content 55 - 60 %
- n Hydrogen content 25 - 30 %
- n Density 2.4 g/cm³ (RT)
2.1 g/cm³ (200°C)
- n Roughness ≈ 0.12 nm
- n AFM Scratch resistance 2.7 times higher than CNx films

Integrated Oxygen Cleaning

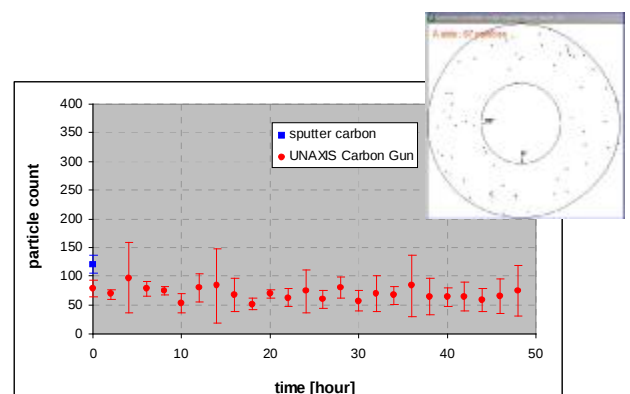
- n In-situ oxygen plasma cleaning (ashing) prevents particle generation throughout the system
- n Isolated Carbon Gun cleaning cycle prevents oxygen contamination throughout the system



Carbon deposition

Oxygen cleaning

Removed shielding



Candela particle measurement during 48h long run test (24 480 cycles)
(courtesy Ming Yang, HGST)