

Characterization of  $\text{Hf}_{1-x}\text{Zr}_x\text{O}_2$  Gate Dielectrics with  $0 \leq x \leq 1$  Prepared  
by Atomic Layer Deposition for Metal Oxide Semiconductor Field Effect  
Transistor Applications

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Abstract

In this work, we investigated the influence of incorporating zirconia ( $\text{ZrO}_2$ ) in  $\text{HfO}_2$  gate dielectric on the electrical properties and reliability of n-channel metal oxide semiconductor field effect transistors (nMOSFETs). Detailed film physical, chemical and optical properties of  $\text{Hf}_{1-x}\text{Zr}_x\text{O}_2$  as a function of Zr content were studied using high resolution transmission electron microscopy (HR-TEM), angle resolved X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (AR-XPS), and spectroscopic ellipsometer (SE). Compared to  $\text{HfO}_2$ ,  $\text{Hf}_{1-x}\text{Zr}_x\text{O}_2$  provides not only higher k values for further equivalent oxide thickness (EOT) scaling but also lower capacitance-voltage (C-V) hysteresis, lower threshold voltage ( $V_t$ ) shift ( $\Delta V_t$ ), and higher time-to-failure (TTF) lifetimes. Improved TTF lifetime of as high as three orders of magnitude and 35% lower  $V_t$  shift were achieved from the  $\text{Hf}_{1-x}\text{Zr}_x\text{O}_2$  gate stack with  $x \in [0, 0.8]$ . The improved reliability of the  $\text{Hf}_{1-x}\text{Zr}_x\text{O}_2$  gate dielectric is attributed to the reduced charge trapping in the  $\text{Hf}_{1-x}\text{Zr}_x\text{O}_2$  gate dielectric caused by the  $\text{ZrO}_2$  incorporation.

Keyword :  $\text{ZrO}_2$ ,  $\text{HfO}_2$ , ALD