

## EFFECTS OF ANNEALING GROWTH CONDITIONS OF $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> THIN FILMS FOR SOLAR BLIND UV PHOTODETECTORS BY USING SOL-GEL DIP COATING METHOD

Maizatul Akmam Ab Hamid<sup>1,\*</sup>, Sha Shiong Ng<sup>1</sup>, Zainuriah Hassan<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>*Institute of Nano Optoelectronics Research and Technology (INOR), Universiti Sains Malaysia, 11800 Penang, MALAYSIA.*

*\*Corresponding Author: maizatul33@yahoo.com*

**ABSTRACT-** In this paper, the effects of different annealing growth conditions on the structural, surface morphology and optical properties of the grown  $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin films on *p*-Si(100) substrates via sol-gel dip coating were reported. Field-emission scanning electron microscopy observations shows uniform and densely packed grains as well as decreasing pinholes are formed at annealing temperatures of 900°C. As the annealing temperatures increase from 700°C to 1200°C, the crystallinity of the  $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> (400) peak at 900°C shows improved quality as well as increases crystallite size, *D* and decreasing FWHM value. The root-mean-square (rms) surface roughness of the deposited  $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin films increases from 0.479 nm to 91.0 nm when annealing temperature increased from 700°C to 1200°C and exhibits nanocrystalline structure at 900°C. FTIR measurements demonstrated that the reflectivity spectra of  $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin films increases from 700°C and diminishes above 1000°C. Finally, all the results revealed that 900°C in air ambient was the best annealing growth conditions to deposit  $\beta$ -Ga<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin film and have high potential for deep UV photodetector applications.

**Keywords:** Gallium oxide, Sol-gel, Dip coating, Annealing, Thin film.