Influence of the hydrogen post-annealing on the electrical properties of metal/alumina/silicon-nitride/silicon-oxide/silicon capacitors for flash memories
Hee Dong Kim, Ho-Myoung An*, Yu Jeong Seo, Yongjie Zhang and Tae Geun Kim
School of Electrical Engineering, Korea University
Department of Electronic Materials Engineering, Kwangwoon University*

Abstract: Recently, Metal/Alumina/Silicon-Nitride/Silicon-Oxide/Silicon (MANOS) structures are one of the most attractive candidates to realize vertical scaling of high-density NAND flash memory [1]. However, as ANO layers are miniaturized, negative and positive bias temperature instability (NBTI/PBTI), such as the flat band voltage shift, $\Delta V_{FB}$, the interfacial trap density increase, $\Delta D_{it}$, the gate leakage current, $\Delta I_0$, and the retention characteristics, in MONOS capacitors, becomes an important issue in terms of reliability. It is well known that tunnel oxide degradation is a result of the oxide and interfacial traps generation during FN (Fowler-Nordheim) stress [2]. Because the bias temperature stress causes an increase of both interfacial-traps and fixed oxide charge could be a factor, which can degrade device reliability during the program and erase operation. However, few studies on NBTI/PBTI have been conducted on improving the reliability of MONOS devices.

In this work, we investigate the effect of post-annealing gas on bias temperature instability (BTI), such as the flat band voltage shift, $\Delta V_{FB}$, the interfacial trap density shift, $\Delta D_{it}$, retention characteristics, and the gate leakage current characteristics of MANOS capacitors. MANOS samples annealed at 950 °C for 30 s by a rapid thermal process were treated via additional annealing in a furnace, using annealing gases $N_2$ and $N_2-H_2$ (2 % hydrogen and 98 % nitrogen mixture gases) at 450 °C for 30 min. MANOS samples annealed in $N_2-H_2$ ambient had the lowest flat band voltage shift, $\Delta V_{FB} = 1.09/0.63$ V at the program/erase state, and the good retention characteristics, 123/84 mV/decade at the program/erase state more than the sample annealed at $N_2$ ambient.

Key Words: MANOS, NBTI/PBTI, flat band voltage shift, retention

Reference