Photocrosslinking of Metal Oxo-Clusters: A versatile route towards functional metal oxide micro-nanopatterns

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Abstract

Metal oxo-cluster (MOC) prepared from Zr, Ti or Hf precursors were synthetized and used as photocrosslinkable hybrid building blocks for direct write lithography. Deep-UV irradiation (DUV - λ <250 nm) was used to generate micro-nanopatterns by DUV-induced condensation of the MOC. Photocrosslinking of Ti, Zr and Hf oxo-clusters was proved and investigated by means of in situ FTIR and spectroscopic ellipsometry. In the case of Ti-oxo clusters, we demonstrated that the material can be fully mineralized into TiO₂ by DUV irradiation. Finally, we used DUV interferometric lithography to illustrate nanopatterning based on these photoresists. Resolution like 50 nm was achievable. These inorganic photoresists open new doors towards room temperature preparation of high-resolution inorganic nanostructures with strong interest for practical applications in electronics, optics, photonics or biology since they can be used in other lithographic setup and they can be easily doped to other properties.

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