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(54) Title: AQUEOUS ALKALINE PRE-TREATMENT SOLUTION FOR USE PRIOR TO DEPOSITION OF A PALLADIUM ACTIVATION LAYER, METHOD AND USE THEREOF

$[RCH_2-(RCH)_n-COO^-]_m M^{m+}$ (I)

(57) Abstract: The invention relates to an aqueous alkaline pre-treatment solution for use prior to deposition of a palladium activation layer on a substrate in manufacturing an article with an integrated circuit and a method and use thereof, wherein the solution comprises: - at least one hydroxycarboxylic acid or salt thereof according to the general formula (I) $[RCH_2-(RCH)_n-COO^-]_m M^{m+}$ (I) wherein n is integer from 2 to 4 and m is 1 or 2, R is independently H or OH with proviso that at least one R is OH, and wherein M^{m+} with m: 1 is hydrogen, ammonium or alkali metal; or M^{m+} with m: 2 is earth alkali metal, - at least one polyoxyethylene sorbitan fatty acid ester, - at least one sulphonated fatty acid or a salt thereof.

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