

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau

(43) International Publication Date
24 April 2025 (24.04.2025)



(10) International Publication Number
WO 2025/085863 A1

- (51) **International Patent Classification:**
H10B 12/00 (2023.01) *H10D 30/67* (2025.01)
- (21) **International Application Number:**
PCT/US2024/052136
- (22) **International Filing Date:**
18 October 2024 (18.10.2024)
- (25) **Filing Language:** English
- (26) **Publication Language:** English
- (30) **Priority Data:**
63/591,710 19 October 2023 (19.10.2023) US
- (71) **Applicant:** **APPLIED MATERIALS, INC.** [US/US];
3050 Bowers Avenue, Santa Clara, California 95054 (US).
- (72) **Inventors:** **KIM, WanGee**; 3050 Bowers Avenue, Santa Clara, California 95054 (US). **FREI, Michel**; 3050 Bowers Avenue, Santa Clara, California 95054 (US). **PAKALA, Mahendra**; 3050 Bowers Avenue, Santa Clara, California 95054 (US). **YIEH, Ellie Y.**; 3050 Bowers Avenue, Santa Clara, California 95054 (US).
- (74) **Agent:** **GOREN, David J.**; Fish & Richardson P.C., P.O. 1022, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55440-1022 (US).

(81) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available*): AE, AG, AL, AM, AO, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BH, BN, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CL, CN, CO, CR, CU, CV, CZ, DE, DJ, DK, DM, DO, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, GT, HN, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IQ, IR, IS, IT, JM, JO, JP, KE, KG, KH, KN, KP, KR, KW, KZ, LA, LC, LK, LR, LS, LU, LY, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MU, MW, MX, MY, MZ, NA, NG, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PA, PE, PG, PH, PL, PT, QA, RO, RS, RU, RW, SA, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, ST, SV, SY, TH, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, WS, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) **Designated States** (*unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available*): ARIPO (BW, CV, GH, GM, KE, LR, LS, MW, MZ, NA, RW, SC, SD, SL, ST, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, RU, TJ, TM), European (AL, AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HR, HU, IE, IS, IT, LT, LU, LV, MC, ME, MK, MT, NL, NO, PL, PT, RO, RS, SE, SI, SK, SM, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, KM, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

Declarations under Rule 4.17:

- as to applicant's entitlement to apply for and be granted a patent (Rule 4.17(ii))

(54) **Title:** 3D MEMORY CELL ARRAY WORD LINE CONNECT AREA

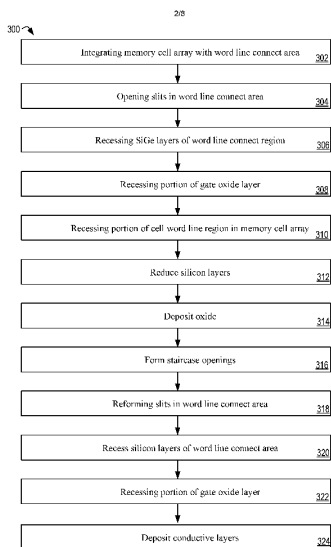


FIG. 3

(57) **Abstract:** This specification describes technologies for creating and coupling word lines of a 3D memory cell array to corresponding word lines of a word line connect area. One aspect is a method that includes positioning a memory cell array on a substrate adjacent to a word line connect area, the word line connect area comprising a plurality of layers, the plurality of layers alternating between a first material and a second material; replacing at least a portion of the layers of the first material with a third material; and replacing at least a portion of the layers of the second material with a fourth material, wherein the fourth material forms word lines within the word line connect area and is electrically coupled to memory cell word lines within the memory cell array.

WO 2025/085863 A1

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Published:

— with international search report (Art. 21(3))