CLAIMS:

1. A system for forming an ingot from a melt, the system comprising:

a crucible assembly defining a cavity for receiving the melt, wherein the cavity is separated into an inner zone, an outer zone, and a transition zone, wherein the inner zone defines a growth area for the ingot, and wherein the crucible assembly includes a first crucible and a second crucible forming the outer zone, the second crucible including a passageway therethrough to allow the melt located within the outer zone to move toward the inner zone;

a feeder system to deliver solid feedstock material into the cavity, wherein the solid feedstock material is arranged to form the melt; and

bodies positioned in the outer zone of the cavity, wherein the bodies are arranged to contact the melt and the solid feedstock material and reduce the number of micro-voids in the melt.

2. The system of claim 1, wherein the bodies are positioned throughout the outer zone from the first crucible to the second crucible at a melt line defined by a surface of the melt such that the melt contacts the bodies as the solid feedstock material melts.

3. The system of claim 2, wherein the bodies are further arranged to extend above the melt line.

4. The system of claim 2, wherein the bodies are further arranged to extend below the melt line.

5. The system of any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the crucible assembly includes a third crucible forming the inner zone, the transition zone being formed by the third crucible and the second crucible.

6. A system for forming an ingot from a melt, the system comprising:

a crucible assembly defining a cavity for receiving the melt, wherein the cavity is separated into an inner zone, an outer zone, and a transition zone, wherein the inner zone defines a growth area for the ingot, and wherein the crucible assembly includes weirs separating the outer zone, the transition zone, and the inner zone, the weirs including passageways therethrough to allow the melt located within the outer zone to move into the inner zone;

a feeder system to deliver solid feedstock material into the cavity, wherein the solid feedstock material is arranged to form the melt; and

bodies positioned in the outer zone of the cavity, wherein the bodies are arranged to contact the melt and the solid feedstock material and reduce the number of micro-voids in the melt.

7. The system of any one of claims 1 to 6, wherein the bodies include quartz to prevent contamination of the melt.

8. The system of any one of claims 1 to 7, further comprising spacers positioned in the outer zone and arranged to support the bodies within the outer zone.

9. The system of any one of claims 1 to 8, wherein the bodies include at least one of the following

shapes: cuboid, conical, cylindrical, spherical, prismatic, and pyramidal.

10. The system of any one of claims 1 to 9, wherein the bodies have non-uniform shapes.

11. A method for pulling a crystal ingot from a melt in a crystal pulling system, the system including a crucible defining a cavity, the method comprising:

placing feedstock material into the cavity;

placing quartz bodies within the cavity; and

melting the feedstock material to form the melt, a melt line being defined by a surface of the melt, wherein the bodies are arranged at the melt line to contact the melt and reduce the number of micro-voids in the melt, and

wherein the bodies are placed into the cavity while melting the feedstock material.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein placing the bodies within the cavity comprises placing the bodies within the cavity throughout an outer zone defined between a first barrier and the crucible.

13. The method of claim 11 or 12, further comprising arranging the bodies such that the bodies extend beyond the melt line of the melt.