

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSUREDevice and method for drying a photomask

An object of the present invention is a device for drying a photomask comprising:

- a sealed chamber (2) containing at least one photomask (13),
- a pumping unit (3) to set up and maintain vacuum within said chamber (2),
- a support (12) for the photomask (13) placed within said chamber (2),
- infrared radiation means (6) placed within said chamber (2),
- a system (10) for injecting gas into said chamber (2).

characterized in that the infrared radiation means comprise a plurality of infrared radiation sources (6) distributed in a plane parallel to the plane of the photomask (13) in such a way that the distance from the photomask (13) to the IR radiation means is given by the relationship: $D = 1.5 \times d$ wherein D is the distance between the plane containing the infrared radiation sources and the photomask and d is the distance between the center points of two neighboring infrared radiation sources (6), and in that the gas-injection system (10) comprises a plurality of gas injectors (30) distributed in a plane parallel to the plane of the photomask (13) in such a way that the injectors (30) follow a 90° rotational invariance about the center point of the photomask (13).

.Figure to be published : fig.1