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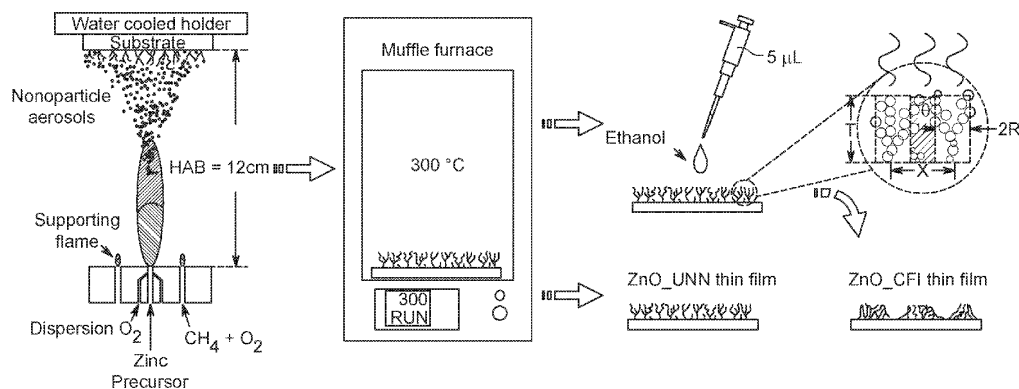


FIG. 1

(57) Abstract: A process is described for forming a nanostructured metal oxide micro-cluster. The process comprises the steps of obtaining a thin film of metal oxide attached to an underlying surface. The thin film has a peripheral edge. A droplet of volatile solvent is added adjacent to the peripheral edge of the thin film. The droplet of volatile solvent wets the thin film of metal oxide and subsequently evaporates, thereby allowing capillary force induced self-assembly to change the thin film structure.

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