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REPLACED**

**Process and heating device for melting
semiconductor material**

Abstract

The invention relates to a process for melting semiconductor material in a crucible which is located in a container and is enclosed by a fixed heating device. The invention also relates to a heating device which is suitable for carrying out the process. The process is one wherein a heater of a displaceable heating device is lowered from a lock chamber above the container through an open shut-off valve into the container in the direction of the semiconductor material, and the semiconductor material is melted using the fixed heating device and the lowered heater, and the heater is raised back out of the container into the lock chamber after the semiconductor material has been melted.

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