SEMICONDUCTOR SUBSTRATES

Integrated circuits (ICs) have become indispensable for electronic devices on so for our daily life. For example, electronic control units (ECUs), sensors and actuators play an increasingly important role in the automotive industry.

For the production of integrated circuits, however, also highly clean substrates are required. These two key properties are not easy to achieve since, for example, polishing of the substrate can result in contamination of the substrate.

Results

Using Thermogravimetry (TG) and simultaneous mass spectroscopy (MS), a contaminated metal substrate (full lines) could be distinguished from a clean substrate (dashed lines): Upon heating to 700°C, the mass of the contaminated sample decreased by 0.004%. This mass loss is most probably due to the evaporation of wax impurities since several organic alkyl and carbonyl molecules and fragments were detected simultaneously. The amount of wax corresponds to a surface layer with a thickness in the micrometer range. For the detection of such small amounts, a high sensitivity and good reproducibility of both the thermobalance and the mass spectrometer are prerequisites.