

Preface

This book presents a collection of papers that were presented at the **International Conference on Polycrystalline Semiconductors - Physics, Chemistry and Technology** (Polyse '95). This conference was held at Gargnano in Villa Feltrinelli, situated ashore of Lake Garda in Italy, from September 9 to 14, 1995. Like its predecessors, Polyse '95 covered many aspects of semiconductors in a wide structural range from nano- to multicrystalline. Scientists working on a chemical variety of polycrystalline semiconductors attended and represented fundamental research, technology and application. Twelve speakers, widely recognized in their fields, gave invited talks. Oral papers and posters complemented the broad field of topics. The authors of poster contributions could highlight their results in three minutes' oral summaries. This combination of various ways to present opinions and results caused very lively discussions not only in the conference room and in the breaks, but also during the joint lunches and at further social events.

These discussions instructively showed the growing importance of the polycrystalline state especially in thin film technology and it was decided at the conference to install a respective homepage on the internet (<http://www.cilea.it/polynet/>).

We would like to thank all conference participants for their commitment. The high standard of this conference is in addition, of course, due to many persons and institutions. First of all we have to extend sincere thanks to the invited speakers for their presentations of the current state of their fields, but also for their refereeing of many submitted papers. These speakers are

A. Cavallini	J. Nijs	D.A. Smith
F. Ferrazza	G. Patriarche	J.W. Steeds
G. Fortunato	B. Pichaud	S. Veprck
D.M. Gruen	K.D. Schierbaum	E.B. Yakimov

We further thank all authors of oral and poster contributions for their concise papers. Many of these attendants helped us also in the refereeing work and supported us by chairing sessions. A great deal of work had to be performed before the conference. During this time we received very valuable suggestions and support from the members of the advisory board. We are very grateful to them and also to the sponsors whose sizable contributions helped us very much in conducting this conference. Finally we have to express our sincere thanks to our staffs for their indispensable help before, during and after the conference.

We hope this book represents a valuable source for all interested in the field of polycrystalline semiconductors and will contribute to improve the knowledge transfer between fundamentally and technologically directed research work.

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S. Pizzini, H.P. Strunk, J.H. Werner

