



Multilayer Anti-Reflective Coating Development for PMMA Fresnel Lenses

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Radiation Hard Multilayer Optical Coatings

SBIR Phase II Contract

NNX09CB36C

COTR: Bill Jones

Marshall Space Flight Center

Space ready multi-layer optical coatings

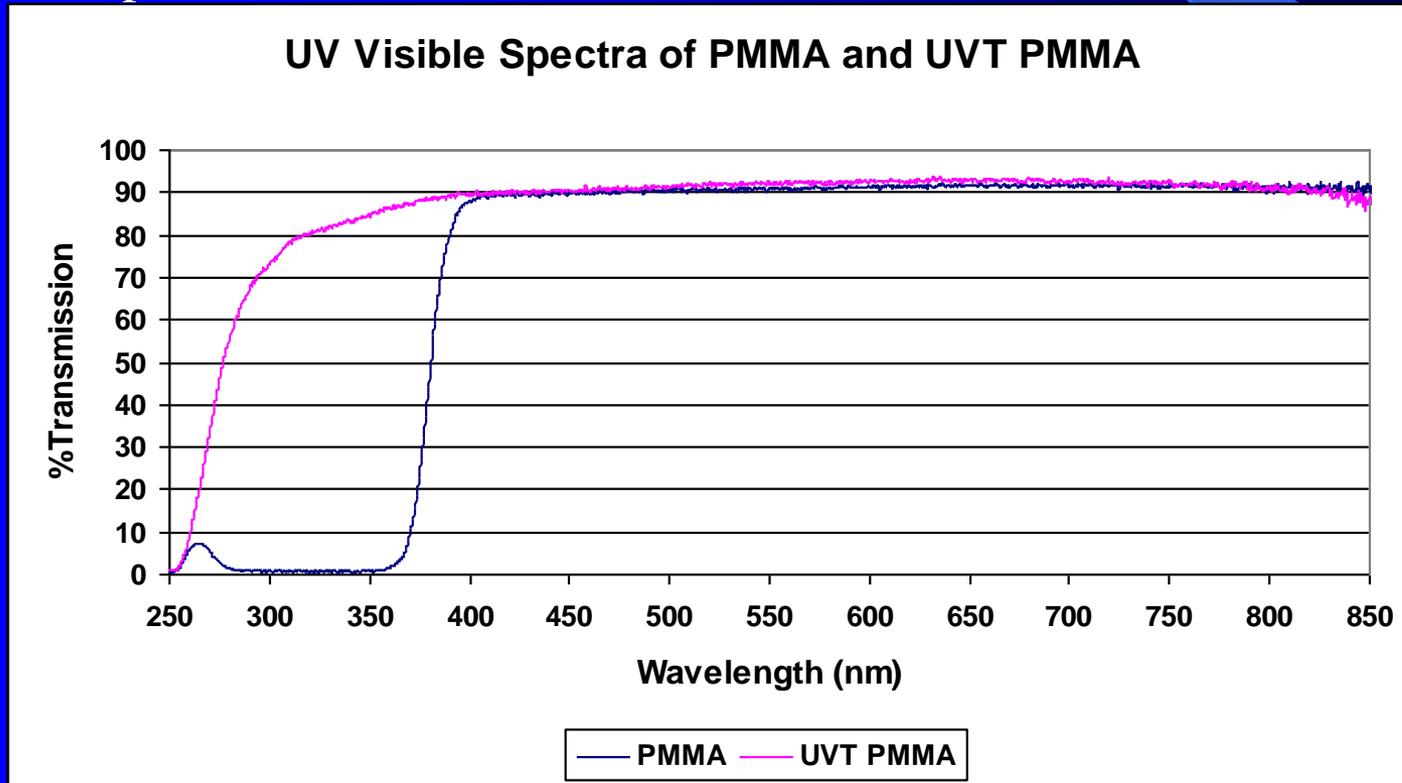
Problem: New optical coatings need to be developed for next generation light weight space base optics for use in programs such as NASA's EUSO observatory

Phase II Goal: Develop a robust anti-reflective coating that can be applied to UVT-PMMA Fresnel lenses

Nanohmics' Approach: Multi-layer amorphous nitrides / oxides as optical coating

Why PMMA?

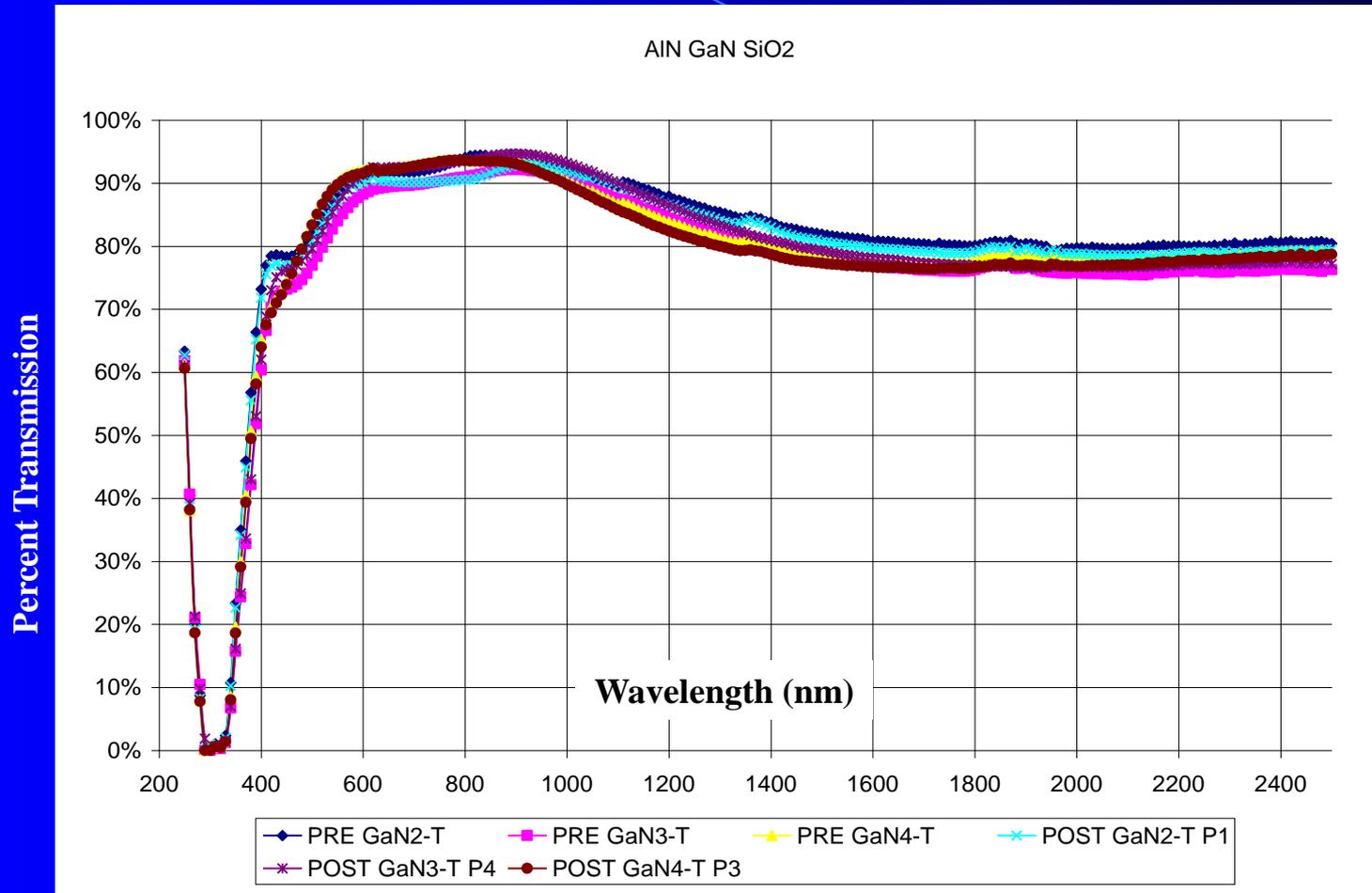
- Light weight
- UV Resistant
- UV Transparent
- Inexpensive



Advantages of Amorphous Oxides and Nitrides

- Proven radiation resistance to darkening
- Can be used to design anti-reflection, reflective, and band pass coatings
- Room temperature deposition
- Adhere well to most materials
- Robust coating

Radiation Hardness

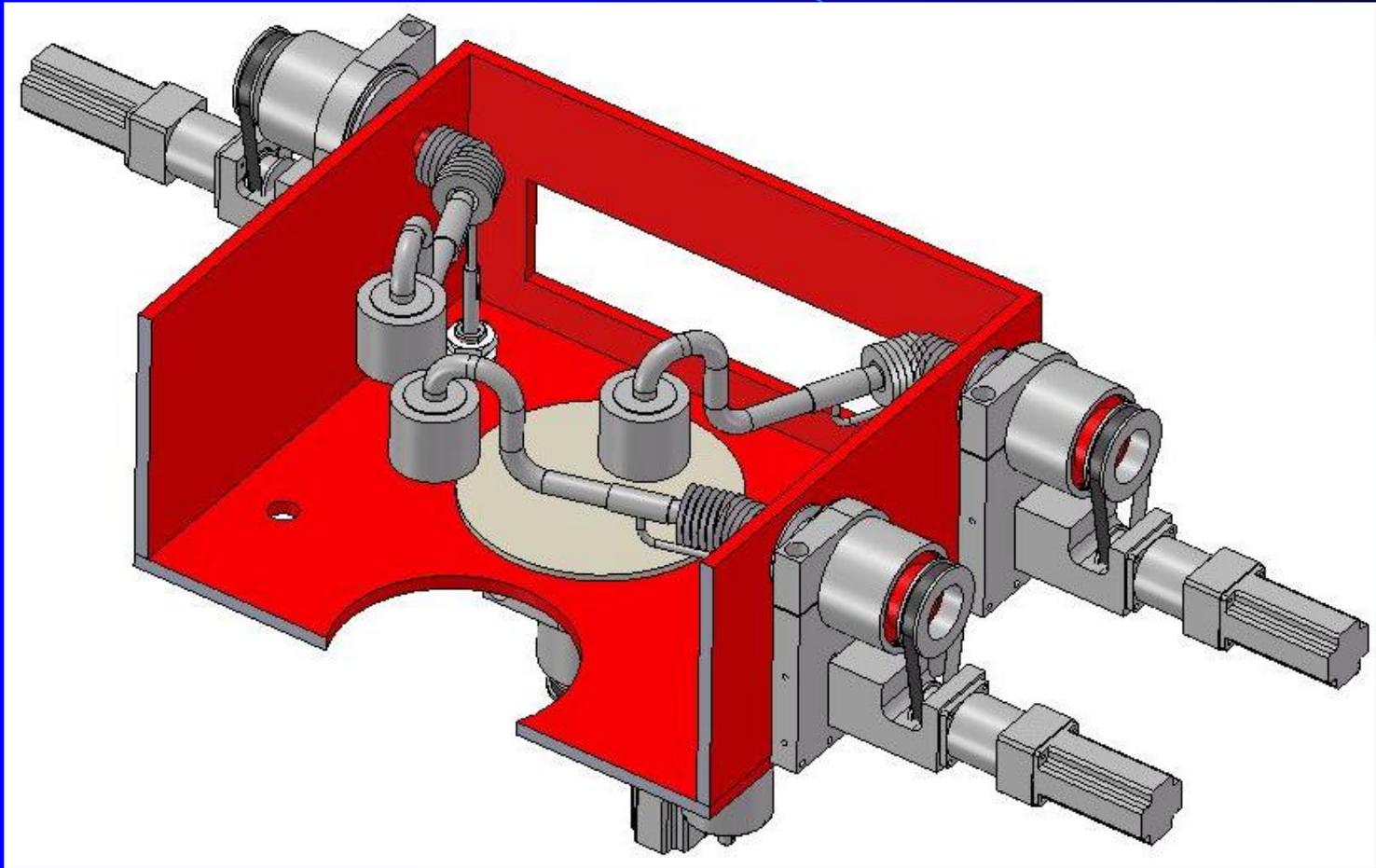


Multi-layer nitride / oxide coating exposed to $\sim 10^{15}$ protons/cc flux at 20 keV, 50 keV, 100 keV and 300 keV

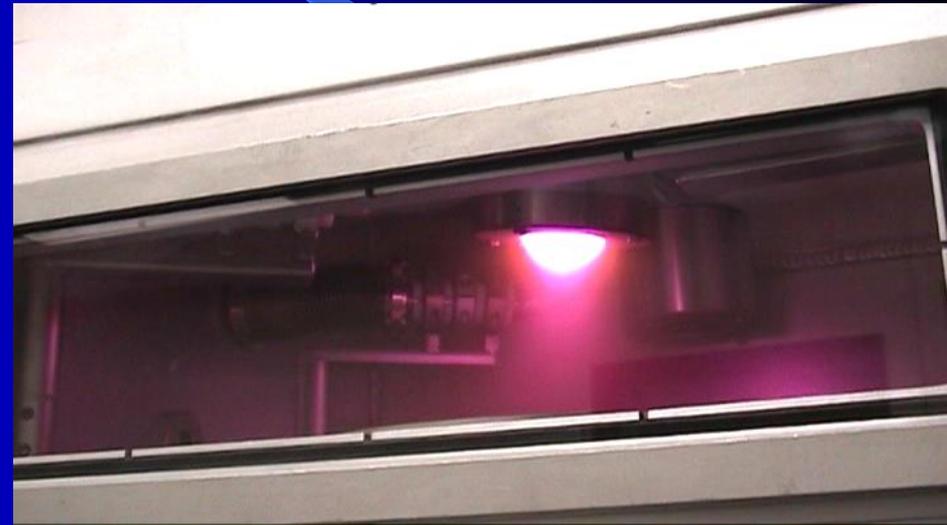
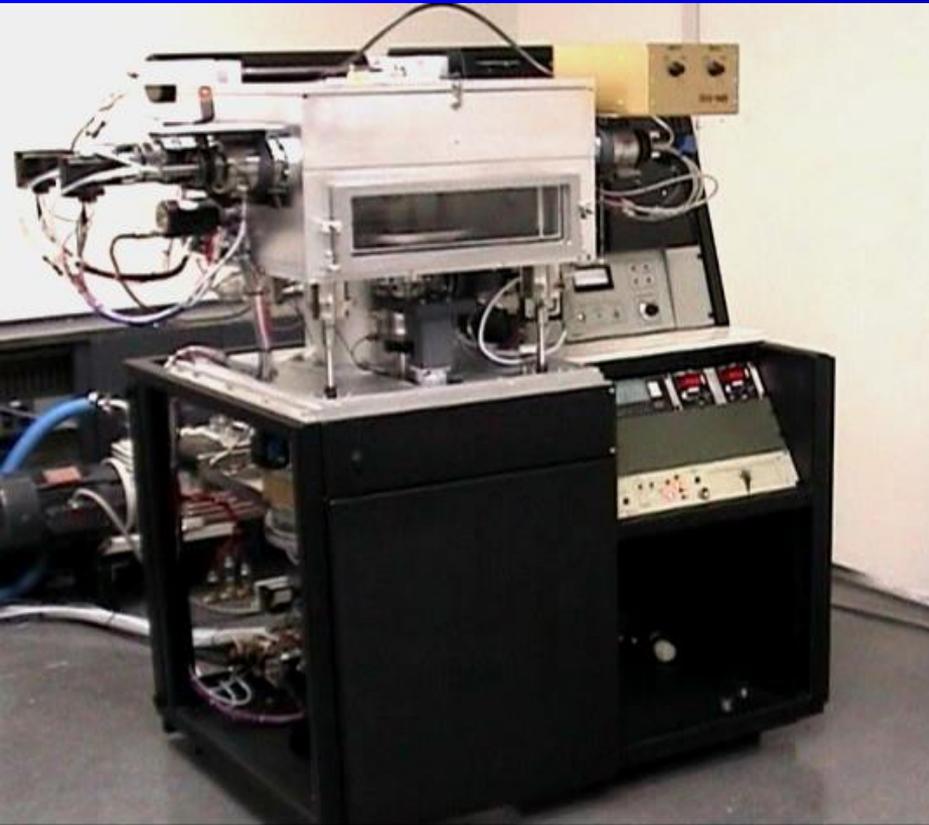
Advantages of Sputter Deposition

- Able to deposit optical quality films
- Reactive growth of nitrides and oxides results in relatively fast deposition rates
- Sputter process results in higher density, better adhesion coatings compared to e-beam deposition
 - Bias sample if increased density desired
- Deposit on cooled substrates
- Large established infrastructure
- Relatively inexpensive process that can handle large substrates (12" dia. in our system)

New Deposition System



Sputter Deposition System



Amorphous Nitride / Oxide Growth

- Coating materials: AlN, ZrO₂, and SiO₂
- All materials grown using reactive sputtering
 - Solid target (Al, Zr, Si)
 - Background gas (Ar:O₂ or Ar:N₂)
- RF power = 200 W
- Growth rates ~1.7-7.7 nm/min
- Thickness measured using optical methods (Filmetrics F20) and profilometry (Dektak)
- No delamination noted after thermal cycling (-55 C to 75 C)

Growth Rate and Adhesion Strength

Growth rate of SiO₂, AlN, and ZrO₂ at 200 W RF power.

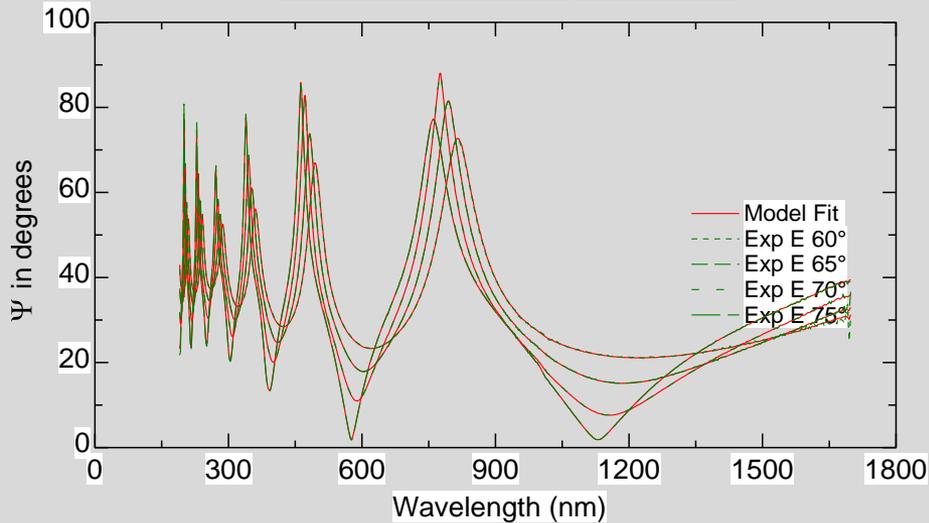
Material	Growth Rate
SiO ₂	7.7 nm/min
AlN	2.4 nm/min
ZrO ₂	1.7 nm/min

Adhesion strength to PMMA

	AlN	SiO ₂	ZrO ₂
Max Adhesion Force (Kg)	4.7	3.0	1.0
Max Adhesion Strength (Kg/cm ²)	83	52	18

Optical Constant Data

Generated and Experimental

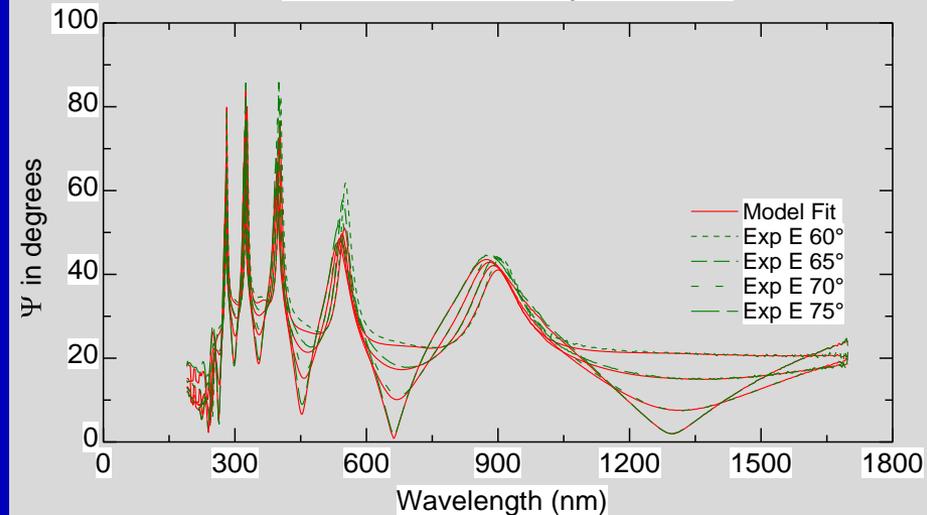


SiO_2

At 500 nm:

- AlN ($n=1.973$, $k=0.0004$)
- ZrO_2 ($n=2.10$, $k=0.0002$)
- SiO_2 ($n=1.47$, $k=0.0007$)

Generated and Experimental



AlN

Stress

AR Coatings at 200 W; 500x magnification

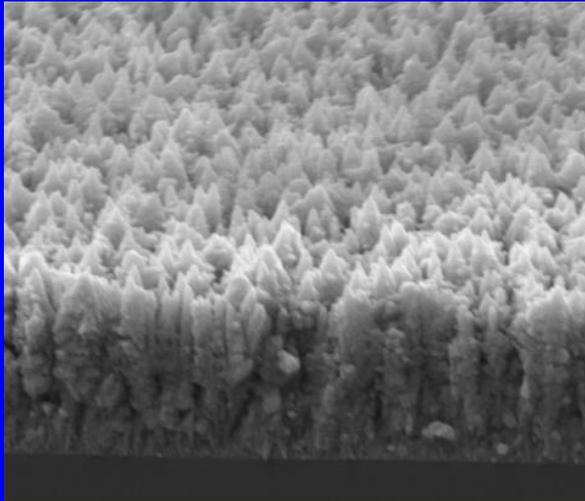


Old System

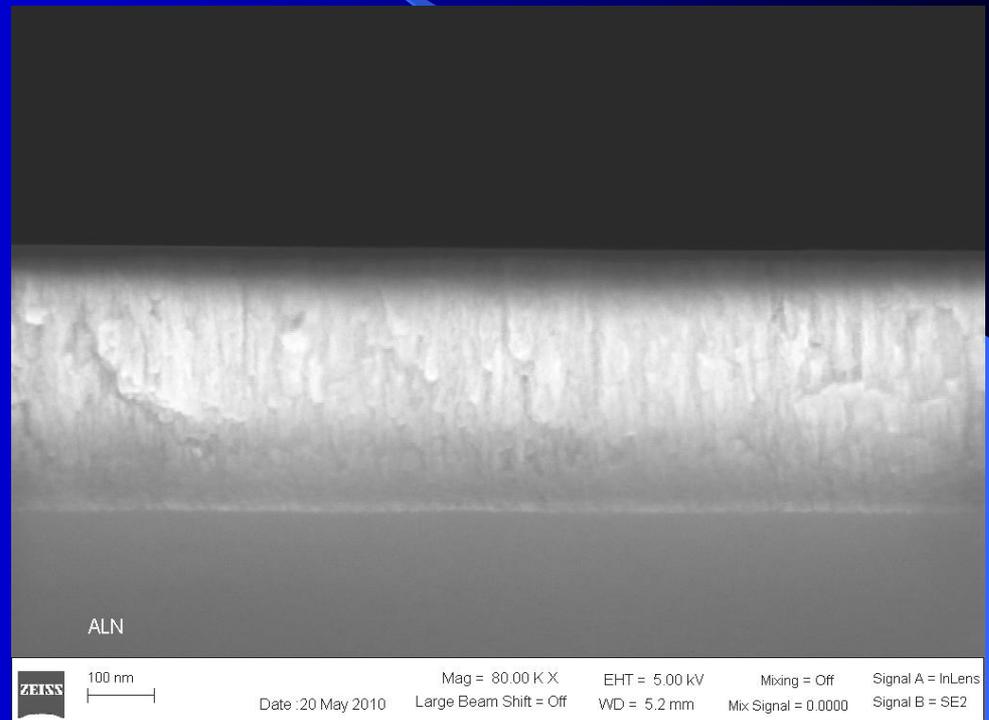


New System

Amorphous Films



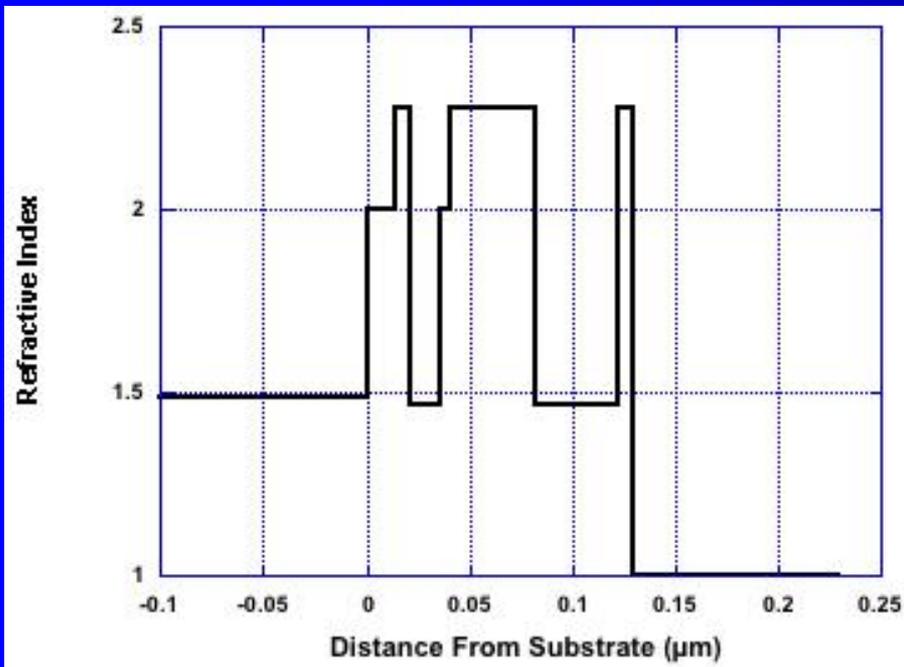
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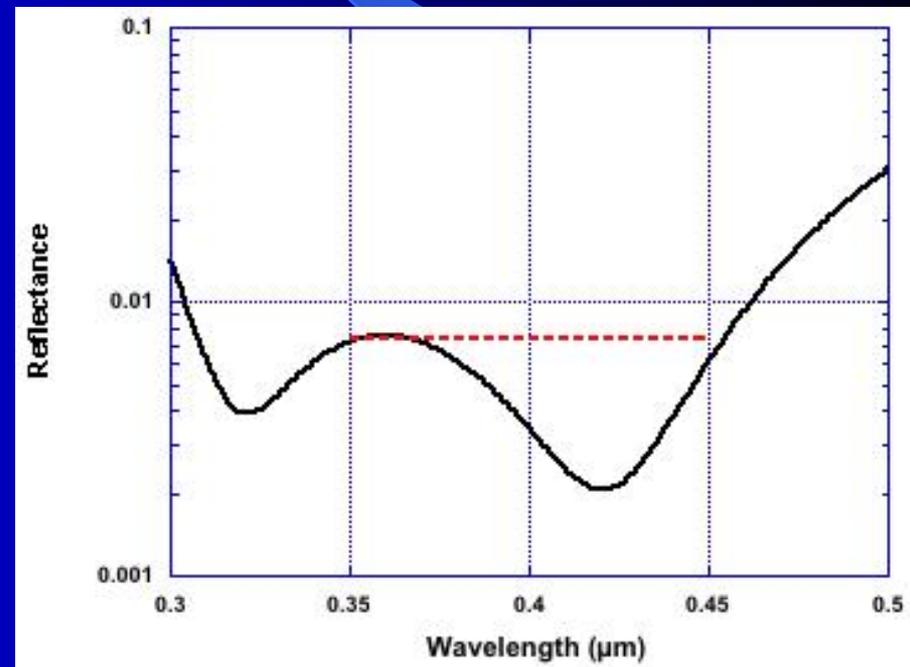
New System

Anti-Reflective Coating Model

SiO₂, AlN, and ZrO₂

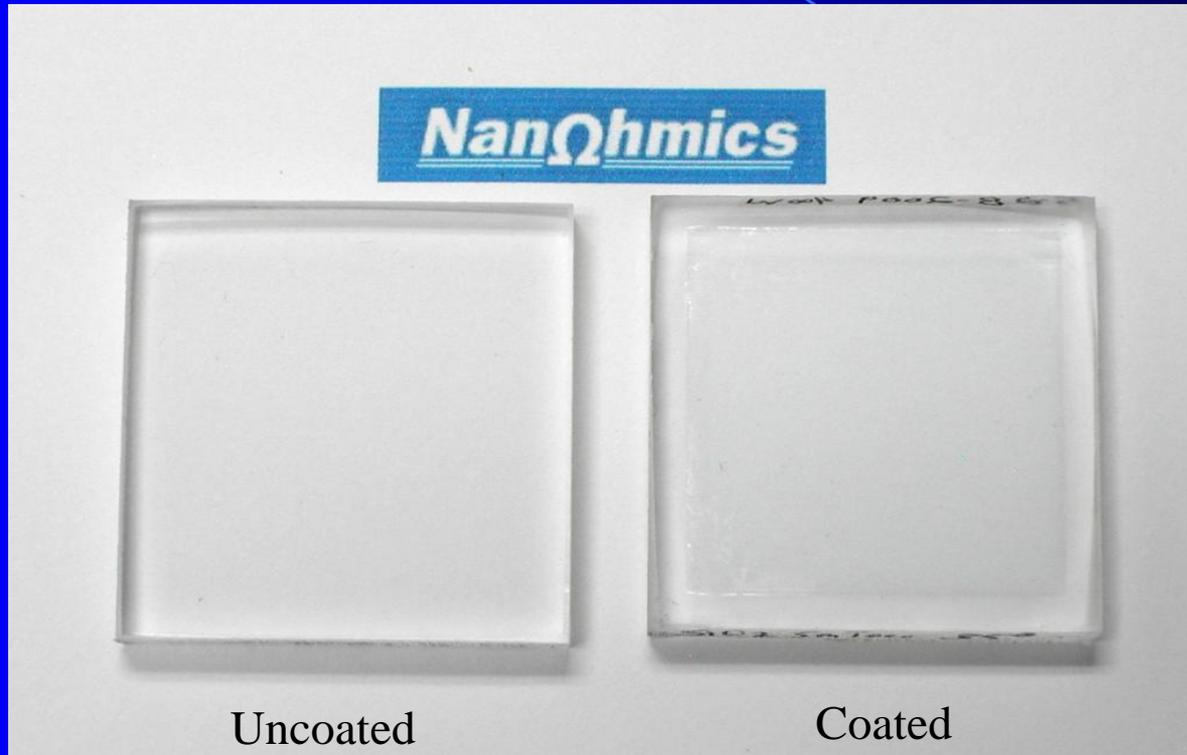


Prescription

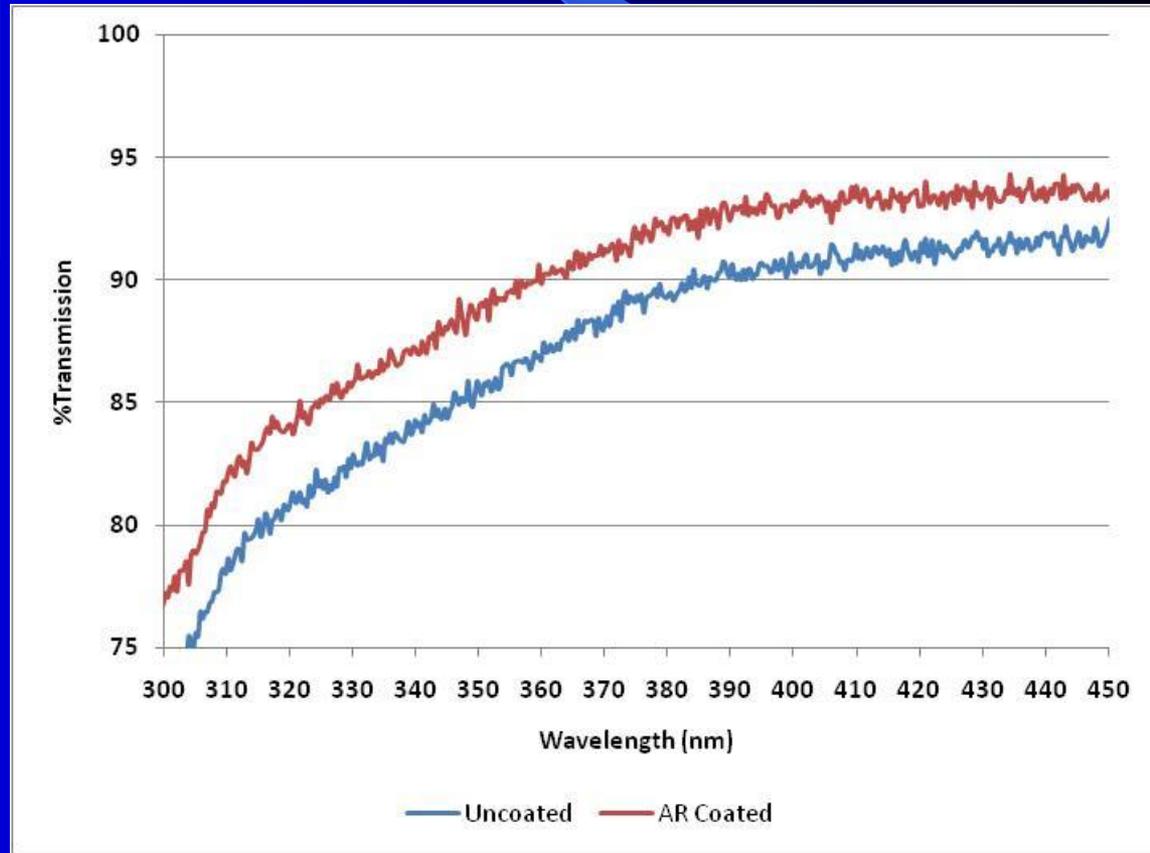
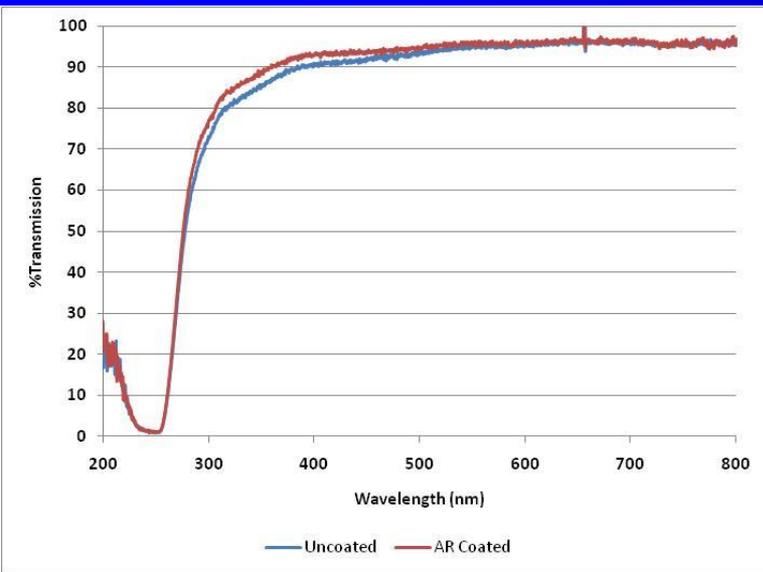


Anticipated Spectrum

AR Coated UVT PMMA

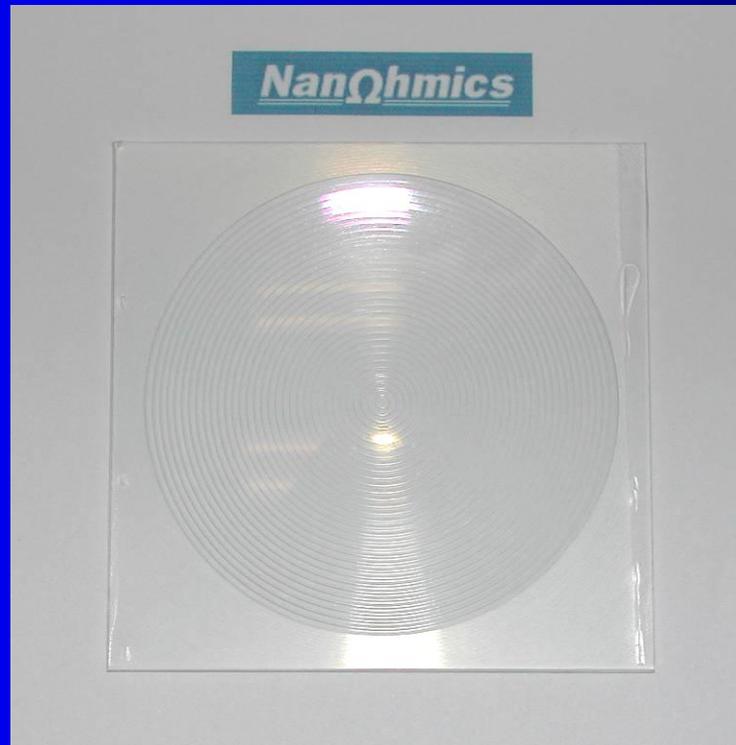


AR Coated UVT PMMA



Current Status / Results

- Designed and implemented new deposition
- Measured n and k for amorphous materials
- Stress eliminated in the films
- Initial AR coatings look promising



Future Work

- Improve models with new data
- Qualify new deposition tool
 - Deposition parameters
 - Coating uniformity (now at 90% uniformity)
- Deposition on Fresnel lenses
- Environmental Testing
 - Humidity
 - Temperature cycling
 - UV exposure

Multilayer Anti-Reflective Coating Development For PMMA Fresnel Lenses

*Nanohmics, Inc.
Austin, TX*

INNOVATION

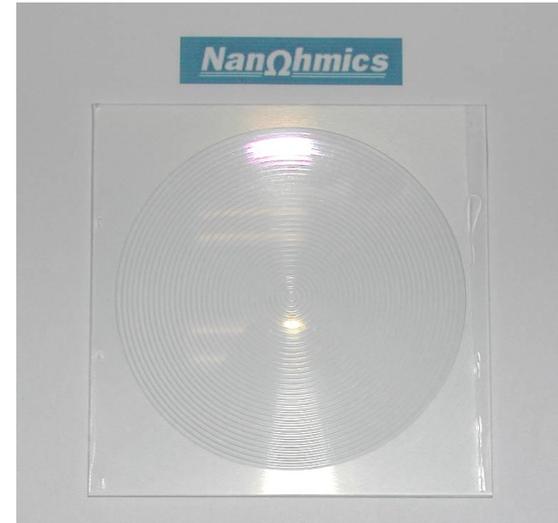
Nanohmics is developing a robust, radiation-hard, anti-reflective coating for use on polymeric Fresnel lenses.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ◆ Novel deposition system designed , fabricated, and implemented
- ◆ Low stress, high quality dielectric materials deposited on a variety of substrates including polymethylmethacrylate (PMMA)
- ◆ Highly amorphous films achieved
- ◆ Excellent adhesion to most materials
- ◆ 90% uniformity achieved

COMMERCIALIZATION

- ◆ Primary markets for the coatings include optics, tooling, and ceramics.
- ◆ Presently using the technology to increase the strength of ceramic drilling materials.
- ◆ Sales from the technology have reached \$12,500. If successful, a revenue stream of 2% gross is expected from our partner.
- ◆ Exploring partnerships with optics manufacturers.



AR Coated PMMA Fresnel Lens

GOVERNMENT/SCIENCE APPLICATIONS

- ◆ Technology being developed for use in the Extreme Universe Space Observatory (EUSO).
- ◆ Coatings still must be fully tested.
- ◆ Technology can be used for any number of robust , hard coatings especially for optical materials.
- ◆ Polymeric lenses will result in a lower launch weight and enhanced savings over using glass lenses.

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