

fabricated on nearly any substrate and is cheap to manufacture. The resultant product is a reliable, portable power source with steady output over extended periods or rain or shine, night or day, warm or cold.

[0257] According to the present invention, solid-state processes are used to cofabricate direct energy conversion materials and energy storage on the same substrate. This is possible by using the low-temperature processes for solid-state batteries described above.

[0258] FIG. 24B shows a block diagram of a battery-layer-deposition system 2460. In some embodiments, system 2460 includes a supply reel 2461, a deposition chamber 2462 that deposits one or more layers of battery 2320 onto a substrate 2410 as described above, and a takeup reel 2463. Typically, deposition chamber 2462 is a vacuum chamber that encloses supply reel 2461 and takeup reel 2463, and successively deposits a plurality of layers, wherein each of one or more of the layers is immediately treated (e.g., by ion assist, laser surface anneal, heat surface anneal, or kinetic treatment), according to the present invention, to impart a high-quality surface structure to that layer or those layers before subsequent layers are deposited, and without substantial heating of the underlying layer(s) or substrate. For layers that need to be thicker, a longer deposition station is provided than the station for thinner layers. In some embodiments, the lower contact layer 2322 is deposited onto a starting substrate film, fabric, or foil 2410, then the cathode, electrolyte, anode, and anode-contact layers are deposited, wherein the cathode layer and/or the electrolyte layer are treated (e.g., by an ion-assist beam) before subsequent layers are deposited.

[0259] FIG. 24C shows the resulting item 2464, which is a continuous sheet of substrate material 2410 having batteries 2320 deposited on it. This partially built item 2464 is then used as the supply reel 2466 of layer-deposition system 2465 of FIG. 24D. FIG. 24D shows a block diagram of an energy-conversion-layer-deposition system 2465. In some embodiments, system 2565 deposits layers that form a photovoltaic cell 2430 onto battery 2320 of FIG. 24A. In some embodiments, system 2460 and system 2465 are merged into a single system having a single supply reel 2461 and a single takeup reel 2468, and having layers of the battery 2320 and of the photovoltaic cell 2430 successively deposited. In other embodiments, other types of devices 2430 are deposited such as capacitors, antennae, circuitry, transducers, sensors, magneto-resistors (e.g., of the giant magneto-resistor type), etc.

[0260] FIG. 24E shows a perspective view of a processed sheet 2469 that is the result of processing by system 2460 and system 2465. Sheet 2469 is then cut or diced into individual devices 2400. FIG. 24F shows a perspective view of three diced final devices 2400. In other embodiments, sheet 2469 is cut into any desired number of devices 2400.

[0261] In other embodiments, system 2460 and system 2465 deposit a battery 2320 and a photovoltaic cell 2330 side-by-side on one face of substrate 2310, such as shown in FIG. 22G and FIG. 22H. In some such embodiments, one or more of the layers deposited for battery 2320 are also deposited for photovoltaic cell 2330 simultaneously of the same deposition material, thus saving process steps but making a wider device than if stacked as in FIG. 24A.

[0262] FIG. 25A shows a perspective view of an embodiment 2500 of the present invention having an integrated

circuit 2510 overlaid with a battery 2320. In some embodiments, integrated circuit 2510 includes a top insulator layer 2511 having a plurality of vias or openings 2512 to the active surface of the integrated circuit 2510 (the side with devices and connectors). Two of these vias are used as contacts 2514 and 2515 between integrated circuit 2510 and battery 2320. Battery 2320 is deposited as described for FIG. 23. In some embodiments, battery 2320 is deposited on an integrated circuit wafer before integrated circuit 2510 is diced apart from the other integrated circuits. In some embodiments, battery 2320 is deposited onto integrated circuit 2510 after integrated circuit 2510 is diced apart from the other integrated circuits. Some embodiments further include a passivation layer over the top and sides of battery 2320 such as layer 2331 of FIG. 23.

[0263] In other embodiments, a circuit such as circuit 2330 of FIG. 23 is used in place of integrated circuit 2510 of FIG. 25A. Thus, a pattern of vias and/or other devices or circuitry is deposited on a substrate, and battery 2320 is deposited on the top of the predefined circuitry/substrate, as in FIG. 25A. In some embodiments, a photovoltaic cell is used as such a circuit device/substrate, and battery 2320 is deposited directly on the premanufactured photovoltaic cell. In some embodiments, an integrated circuit such as 2440 of FIG. 24A is wired to the battery 2320 and the premanufactured photovoltaic cell to control charging of the battery from the cell and/or to control using power for other devices (such as a light source or hearing aid) from the photocell during periods of high amounts of light and power available from the photovoltaic cell, and using power from the battery during periods of little or no light and power available from the photovoltaic cell.

[0264] Virtually all electronics require energy to operate and perform the designed functions. This energy typically comes from either an AC source such as a home wall electrical outlet or a battery mounted in the packaging of the electronic device. Until the last few years, this approach has proved to be acceptable even though the inefficiencies caused waste of both energy and natural resources in that the device housing had to be made large enough to incorporate the energy package or conversion electronics. As electronic complexity increases, the wasted real estate and energy begin to become an issue as the demands of operator interface begin to compete with the energy source for area on the device. The application of the solid-state battery process of the present invention allows the cofabricating of electronics and the associated power source together on chip.

[0265] Solid-state processes are used to cofabricate electronics and solid-state rechargeable battery on a common substrate such as silicon used for IC processing. This is possible by using the low-temperature processes for solid-state batteries described above.

[0266] Referring to FIG. 25A, in some embodiments, the integrated circuit (IC) 2510 in wafer form is processed normally through final passivation including bond-pad etch. All thermal processing necessary for the electronics is performed conventionally. The IC in wafer form is sent to backend energy processing. In some embodiments, the design of the IC includes electronics for control of recharge for the solid-state energy source; contact vias for connecting the cathode plate and anode plate to the circuit. Using