

Impact of dry ice cleaning on the enhanced field emission from flat Cu samples

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Enhanced field emission (EFE), resulting in dark currents and electric breakdowns, is one of the main gradient limitations for the CLIC accelerating structures (actual design $E_{acc} = 100$ MV/m, $E_{peak} = 240$ MV/m) [1]. Measurements on diamond-turned, flat ($R_a = 158$ nm) Cu samples showed first EFE at surface fields $E_s = 130$ MV/m [2]. In order to reduce EFE, we have installed a commercial dry ice cleaning (DIC) system in our clean room (class iso 5). As expected, the number density of emitters (N) was significantly decreased from $N = 52$ cm⁻² to $N = 12$ cm⁻² at $E_s = 190$ MV/m after DIC. Furthermore we have tested two diamond-turned and chemically etched (SLAC treatment, $R_a = 150$ nm) Cu samples after DIC resulting in first EFE at 230 MV/m. Locally measured $I(V)$ characteristics of the strongest emitters revealed field enhancement factors $\beta = 10$ –90 on the diamond-turned sample and $\beta = 10$ –85 on the chemically etched samples. SEM and EDX investigations of the located emission sites will be presented at the workshop.

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