



E.O. PATON ELECTRIC WELDING INSTITUTE

# **The Third Central European Symposium on Plasma Chemistry**

August 23 – 27, 2009

Kyiv

UKRAINE

## **Book of Abstracts**

**National Taras Shevchenko University of Kyiv  
Radio Physics Faculty  
Kyiv, UKRAINE**



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## Table of Contents

<i>Invited lectures</i>	11
<b>Inv.1 J.-S. Chang, V. Lakhian, D. Brocilo, G.D. Harvel, D. W. Ewing, M. Watanabe, H. Matsubara, H. Hirata, S. Matsumoto, P. Fanson</b> FUEL REFORMING CHARACTERISTICS OF ELECTROHYDRODYNAMIC ATOMIZATION- FLOW STABILIZED PULSED CORONA DISCHARGE RADICAL SHOWER SYSTEMS	13
<b>Inv.2 P. Bruggeman, D.C. Schram, M.Á. González, Y. Aranda Gonzalvo, F. Iza, M.G. Kong, C. Leys</b> OPTICAL EMISSION SPECTROSCOPY OF PLASMAS IN AND IN CONTACT WITH LIQUIDS	15
<b>Inv.3 M. Aints, M. Kiisk, M. Laan, P. Paris</b> LASER INDUCED BREAKDOWN SPECTROSCOPY FOR SURFACE STUDIES	17
<b>Inv.4 M. Bai, W. Chen, Z. Zhang, X. Bai</b> PLASMA CONVERSION OF CH <sub>4</sub> INTO LIQUID PRODUCTS, H <sub>2</sub> AND NH <sub>3</sub> BASED ON STRONG ELECTRIC-FIELD IONIZATION DISCHARGE AT ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY CONDITION	19
<b>Inv.5 M. Černák, D. Kováčik, A. Zahoranová, J. Kubincová</b> IN-LINE PLASMA TREATMENT OF TEXTILE MATERIALS	21
<b>Inv.6 Yu.Akischev, M.Grushin, N.Dyatko, A.Napartovich, N.Trushkin</b> PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY OF NON-THERMEL PLASMA RELEVANT TO POLYMER SURFACE TREATMENT AT ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE	23
<b>Inv.7 N. Gherardi, L. Maëchler, I. Enache, N. Naudé, H. Caquineau, F. Massines</b> SiO <sub>x</sub> CONTAINING LAYERS DEPOSITED BY ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE TOWNSEND DISCHARGE AND ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE GLOW DISCHARGE	25
<b>Inv.8 F. Krčma, I. Bocková, V. Mazánková, A. Hrdlička, V. Kanický, P. Krásenský</b> INFLUENCE OF METALLIC VAPORS ON THE NITROGEN POST-DISCHARGE	27
<b>Inv.9 M. Dors</b> DESTRUCTION OF FREONS USING ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE MICROWAVE PLASMA SOURCES	29
<b>Inv.10 E. Marotta, M.Schiorlin, M. Rea, C. Paradisi</b> ADVANCED OXIDATION OF ORGANIC POLLUTANTS INDUCED BY ATMOSPHERIC PLASMAS IN AIR	31
<b>Inv.11 A. Brablec, G. Neagoe, J. Rahel, P. Slavicek, M. Zahoran</b> UNDERWATER DIAPHRAGM DISCHARGE FOR TEXTILE TREATMENT	33
<b>Inv.12 L.V. Simonchik</b> GENERATION OF NON-THERMAL HIGH-PRESSURE PLASMAS USING GLOW DISCHARGES IN THREE-ELECTRODE CONFIGURATION	35
<i>Oral Presentations</i>	37
<b>O1 J. Diatczyk, G. Komarzyniec, H.D. Stryczewska</b> POWER CONSUMPTION OF GLIDING ARC DISCHARGE PLASMA REACTOR	39

<b>O2</b>	<b>V.F.Boretskij, K.Yu. Catsalap, E.A. Ershov-Pavlov, L.K. Stanchits, K.L. Stepanov, A.N. Veklich</b> SELF-REVERSED EMISSION LINES OF NEUTRAL COPPER AS A TOOL FOR DIAGNOSTICS OF DC ARC PLASMA	41
<b>O3</b>	<b>Z. Machala, M. Janda, V. Martišovits</b> TEMPORALLY RESOLVED EMISSION SPECTROSCOPY OF TRANSIENT SPARK DISCHARGES	43
<b>O4</b>	<b>S. V. Goryachev, V. N. Senchenko, V. F. Chinnov, V. V. Shcherbakov</b> MEASURING SYSTEM FOR INVESTIGATION OF HETEROGENEOUS PLASMA DURING PLASMA SPRAYING	44
<b>O5</b>	<b>V.A. Bityurin, E.A. Filimonova</b> MODELING OF LOW TEMPERATURE INFLAMMATION INITIATED BY DISCHARGE IN HYDROCARBON-AIR MIXTURES	47
<b>O6</b>	<b>I.V. Khvedchyn, D. S. Skamarokhau, A. L. Mosse, V. V. Sauchyn</b> PLASMA PROCESSING OF LIQUID HYDROCARBONS WITH TECHNICAL HYDROGEN AND ACETYLENE PRODUCING	49
<b>O7</b>	<b>A.A. Tropina</b> NUMERICAL SIMULATION OF SPARK IGNITION PROCESS	51
<b>O8</b>	<b>V. Prysiaznyi, M. Cernak, J. Havel</b> ATR-FTIR AND TOF LDI MS STUDY OF ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE PLASMA ACTIVATED ALUMINIUM SURFACE	53
<b>O9</b>	<b>A.A.Goncharov, A.N.Evsyukov, E.G. Kostin</b> PLASMAOPTICAL MAGNETRON: NEW RESULTS AND APPLICATION	55
<b>O10</b>	<b>Y. Sun, A.G. Chmielewski, S. Bulka, Z. Zimek</b> TOLUENE DECOMPOSITION IN AN AIR MIXTURE IN AN ELECTRON BEAM GENERATED NON-THERMAL PLASMA REACTOR AND ITS BY-PRODUCTS IDENTIFICATION	57
<b>O11</b>	<b>N.R. Minkova</b> MODELING OF CLASSICAL COULOMB SYSTEMS UNDER CONSIDERATION OF FINITE INSTRUMENTAL RESOLUTION SCALES	59
<b>O12</b>	<b>V.A. Zhovtyansky, Yu.I. Lelyukh, Ya.V. Tkachenko</b> CRITERION OF ELECTRIC ARC PLASMA NONEQUILIBRIUM DUE TO RADIATION EFFECTS	61
<b>O13</b>	<b>V.V. Tsiolko, V.Yu. Bazhenov, V.A. Khomich</b> FEATURES OF THE <i>BAC. SUBTILIS</i> SPORES INACTIVATION BY UV RADIATION OF COLD HOLLOW CATHODE DISCHARGE PLASMA	63
<b>O14</b>	<b>I.P. Smyaglikov</b> TIME-SPATIAL STRUCTURE AND PARAMETERS OF A CARBON ARC PLASMA AT LOWERED PRESSURE	65
<b>O15</b>	<b>A.I. Shchedrin, D.S. Levko, V.Ya. Chernyak, V.V. Yukhimenko, V.V. Naumov</b> PLASMA KINETICS IN ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE IN MIXTURE OF ETHANOL WITH AIR IN PLASMA CHEMICAL REACTOR IN REGIME WITH ONE SOLID ELECTRODE	67
<b>O16</b>	<b>V. F. Virko, V. M. Slobodyan, Yu. V. Virko and K. P. Shamrai</b> CONTROL OF METHANE PLASMA OUTFLOW FROM A MAGNETIC FIELD ENHANCED INDUCTIVELY COUPLED PLASMA	69
<b>O17</b>	<b>A.N. Bandura, O.V. Byrka, V.V. Chebotarev, I.E. Garkusha, V.A. Makhlay, V.I. Tereshin, T.S. Skoblo, S.G. Pugach</b> ALLOYING AND MODIFICATION OF STRUCTURAL MATERIALS UNDER PULSED PLASMA TREATMENT	71

<b>Poster Presentations</b>	73
<b>P1 V.A. Zhovtyansky, Yu.I. Lelyuh, O.V. Anisimova</b> DETERMINATION OF PARAMETERS OF STATIONARY SPHERICAL GLOW DISCHARGE	75
<b>P2 S. Leshkov, P. Kudrna, M. Chichina, J. Kluson, M. Tichy</b> LANGMUIR PROBE DIAGNOSTICS OF HOLLOW CATHODE PLASMA JET SYSTEM: RADIAL DISTRIBUTION OF PLASMA PARAMETERS	77
<b>P3 I.P. Smyaglikov, N.I. Chubrik, L.E. Krat'ko, S.V. Goncharik, N.M. Chekan</b> DIAGNOSTICS OF THE CATHODIC-ARC EROSION PLASMA DURING DEPOSITION OF DIAMOND-LIKE CARBON FILMS	79
<b>P4 L. Poláchová, F. Krčma, J. Čáslavský</b> ANALYSIS OF THE PRODUCTS OF THE REACTION BETWEEN NITROGEN AND METHANE GENERATED IN THE GLIDING ARC DISCHARGE	81
<b>P5 V. V. Gorin, V. Ya. Chernyak</b> SIMPLEST MATHEMATICAL MODEL OF CURRENT-VOLTAGE CHARACTERISTIC FOR NORMAL GLOW DISCHARGE	83
<b>P6 V. V. Gorin</b> NON-LOCAL EQUATION FOR THE SOURCE OF IONIZATION IN GLOW DISCHARGE AND HOLLOW CATHODE DISCHARGE	85
<b>P7 V. V. Gorin</b> ELECTRO-MECHANICAL RESONANCE IN THE MONO-DISPERSED DROPPED FLOW	87
<b>P8 A.I. Shchedrin, D.S. Levko, V.Ya. Chernyak, V.V. Yukhimenko, V.V. Naumov</b> PLASMA KINETICS IN ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE IN MIXTURE OF ETHANOL WITH AIR IN PLASMA CHEMICAL REACTOR IN REGIME WITH BOTH SOLID ELECTRODES	89
<b>P9 O.Yu. Kravchenko, O.V. Pyankova</b> THE INFLUENCE OF THE ELECTRON EMISSION ON CATHODE LAYER IN LOW PRESSURE GLOW DISCHARGE	90
<b>P10 S.S. Sidoruk, V.Ya. Chernyak, S.V. Olszewski</b> PULSED DISCHARGE IN A GAS CHANNEL WITH LIQUID WALL	92
<b>P11 Iu.P. Veremii, V.Ya. Chernyak, Eu.K. Safonov, L.L. Kyslytsya</b> SPECTRA OF PLASMA SECONDARY DISCHARGE SUPPORTED BY THE TRANSVERSE ARC IN A MIXTURE OF ARGON+ETHANOL	94
<b>P12 I.V. Prysiazhnevych, O.I. Lomonos, V.Ya. Chernyak, V.V. Yukhymenko, S.V. Olzewski</b> PLASMA PARAMETERS OF THE ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE DISCHARGE IN AIR CHANNEL WITH WATER WALL	96
<b>P13 V.V. Yukhymenko, V.Ya. Chernyak, M.O. Verovchuk</b> REFORMING OF ETHANOL IN PLASMA - LIQUID SYSTEM WITH DISCHARGE IN GAS CHANNEL WITH LIQUID WALL	98
<b>P14 S. Olszewski, Ol. Solomenko, V. Yukhymenko, V. Chernyak</b> COMBINED AFFECTING OF ULTRASONIC FIELD AND PLASMA DISCHARGE IN A GAS CHANNEL WITH A LIQUID WALL TO THE WATER-PHENOL SOLUTIONS	100
<b>P15 S. Olszewski, O. Solomenko, I. Prysiazhnevych, V. Chernyak</b> COMBINED AFFECTING OF ULTRASONIC FIELD AND PLASMA DISCHARGE IN A GAS CHANNEL WITH A LIQUID WALL TO THE DISTILLED WATER	102



<b>P16</b>	<b>I.V. Prysiazhnevych, Ok.V. Solomenko, V.Ya. Chernyak, V.V. Naumov, J. Diatczyk, H.D. Stryczewska</b> OPTICAL DIAGNOSTICS OF PLASMA IN GLIDING ARC WITH STAINLESS STEEL ELECTRODES	104
<b>P17</b>	<b>Ok.V. Solomenko, V.Ya. Chernyak, I.V. Prysiazhnevych</b> FEATURES OF PROCESSING OF METALS EMISSION SPECTRA WITH LOW RESOLVED MULTIPLY STRUCTURES FOR PLASMA DIAGNOSTICS	106
<b>P18</b>	<b>V.V. Yukhymenko, M.O. Verovchuk, V.Ya. Chernyak, I.V. Prysiazhnevych, V.V. Naumov</b> PROPERTIES OF THE TRANSVERSAL ARC PLASMA IN AIR + ETHANOL MIXTURE	108
<b>P19</b>	<b>O.V. Samchuk, O.I. Kelnyk</b> EXCIMER IONS' GENERATION IN THE NE-XE PULSE MICRODISCHARGE INSIDE THE DIELECTRIC CELL	110
<b>P20</b>	<b>M. Bryjak, I. Gancarz, K. Smolińska, J. Kunicki</b> DIELECTRIC BARRIER DISCHARGE PLASMA IN MODIFICATION OF POROUS POLYMER MEMBRANES	112
<b>P21</b>	<b>I. Gancarz, K. Malecha, L. J. Golonka</b> PLASMA BONDING OF PDMS TO GLASS/LTCC FOR MICROFLUIDIC APPLICATION	114
<b>P22</b>	<b>E.Kuvaldina, V.Rybkin</b> PROCESSES OF SURFACE OXIDATION AND DESTRUCTION OF POLY(PROPYLENE) AT ACTION OF WATER VAPOR PLASMA AND ITS FLOWING AFTERGLOW	116
<b>P23</b>	<b>S.V. Petrov, V.N. Korzhyk, G.S. Marynsky, N.P. Lutic, A.I. Demjanov</b> PLASMA-ARC UNIT FOR TREATMENT OF LIQUID WASTE AND ORGANIC CONTAINING WATER EMULSION	118
<b>P24</b>	<b>F. S. Lonbar, A. H. Colagar, S. Mirzanejad, A. V. Omran</b> BACTERIAL BROAD-SPECTRUM STERILIZATION USING AFTERGLOW OF A NON-THERMAL PLASMA AT ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE	120
<b>P25</b>	<b>R.V. Bogdanov</b> THE COMPARISON OF THE PLASMA ENHANCED METHODS OF SINGLE-WALLED CARBON NANOTUBES FABRICATION	122
<b>P26</b>	<b>O.V. Yaroshchuk, R.M. Kravchuk, V.V. Tsiolko, S.S. Pogulyai, A.I. Shchedrin, A.G. Kalyuzhnaya</b> POLYIMIDE TREATMENT BY DIELECTRIC BARRIER DISCHARGE FOR ALIGNMENT OF LIQUID CRYSTALS	124
<b>P27</b>	<b>S. J. Rubio, M. C. Quintero, A. Rodero</b> DESTRUCTION OF VOCs BY A HELIUM ARGON AND AIR MICROWAVE PLASMA TORCH	126
<b>P28</b>	<b>L.V. Shmeleva, A.D. Suprun, S.M. Yezhov</b> DETERMINATION OF DESTRUCTION THRESHOLDS OF THE SURFACE BY LASER IRRADIATION	128
<b>P29</b>	<b>V. Sázavská, F. Krčma</b> CLEANING OF CORROSION LAYERS FORM IRON BY RF LOW PRESSURE HYDROGEN PLASMA	130
<b>P30</b>	<b>P. Dineff, D. Gospodinova, I. Avramova</b> INVESTIGATION ON DIELECTRIC BARRIER DISCHARGE SURFACE ACTIVATION EFFECTS	132

<b>P31</b>	<b>N.V. Tarasenko, A.A. Nevar, M.I.Nedelko, E.I. Mosunov, A.I. Ancharov, T.F.Grigoryeva</b> ELECTRICAL DISCHARGE PLASMA ASSISTED SYNTHESIS AND MODIFICATION OF COMPOSITE NANOPARTICLES IN LIQUIDS	134
<b>P32</b>	<b>S.J. Rubio, A. Rodero, M.C. Quintero, R. Álvaez, L.L. Alves</b> EXPERIMENTAL VERIFICATION OF A 2-D MODEL FOR AXIAL INJECTION TORCH	136
<b>P33</b>	<b>I.I. Filatova, V.V. Azharonok, L.N. Mel'nikova, O.E. Shedikova</b> DECONTAMINATION OF SURFACES BY LOW-PRESSURE RF PLASMA	138
<b>P34</b>	<b>O.A. Nedybaliuk, V.Ya. Chernyak, S.V. Olzewski</b> BUTT COPPER ARC IN HYDROGEN	140
<b>P35</b>	<b>V. F. Semenyuk, I. V. Korotash, E. M. Rudenko, V. F. Virko, V. M. Slobodyan, K. P. Shamrai</b> MULTIFUNCTIONAL DISCHARGE SYSTEM FOR PRECISE PLASMA- CHEMICAL PROCESSING OF MICRO AND NANO ELECTRONICS MATERIALS	142
<b>P36</b>	<b>L. Bónová, V. Medvecká, A. Zahoranová, T. Plecenik, J. Greguš, M. Černák</b> MODIFICATION OF ALUMINIUM SURFACE BY DIELECTRIC COPLANAR SURFACE BARRIER DISCHARGE	144
<b>P37</b>	<b>O.D. Volpian, A.I. Kuzmichev, Yu.A. Obod, P.P. Yakovlev</b> OPTICAL NANOGRADIENT COATING DEPOSITION BY REACTIVE PULSE MAGNETRON SPUTTERING	146
<b>P38</b>	<b>Iu.P. Veremii, V.Ya. Chernyak, S.A. Filatov, S.V. Olszewski, Eu.K. Safonov, S.M. Sidoruk</b> GENERATION OF CNM IN THE PLASMA OF SECONDARY DISCHARGE	148
<b>P39</b>	<b>I.L. Babich, V.F. Boretskij, A.N. Veklich, R.V. Minakova</b> INFLUENCE OF ELECTRIC ARC DISCHARGE PLASMA ON ELECTRODE SURFACE PROCESSES. I. COMPOSITE ELECTRODES ON COPPER BASE	150
<b>P40</b>	<b>I.L. Babich, V.F. Boretskij, A.N. Veklich</b> PLASMA OF ELECTRIC ARC DISCHARGE PLASMA IN A GAS FLOW	152
<b>P41</b>	<b>R.V. Semenishyn, I.L. Babich, V.F. Boretskij, A.N. Veklich, L.A. Kryachko</b> INFLUENCE OF ELECTRIC ARC DISCHARGE PLASMA ON ELECTRODE SURFACE PROCESSES. II. COMPOSITE ELECTRODES ON SILVER BASE	154
<b>P42</b>	<b>E.V. Martysh, V.E. Martysh</b> SOME PROBLEMS OF PLASMA-ENHANCED IGNITION MODELING	156
<b>P43</b>	<b>Yu.S. Borisov, I.V. Krivtsun, S.G. Voinarovich, A.N. Kislitsa, E.K. Kuzmich-Yanchuk</b> HYBRID LASER-PLASMA COATING PROCESS	158
<b>P44</b>	<b>O.V.Chernets, V.M.Korzhyk, G.S.Marynsky, S.V.Petrov, V.A.Zhovtyansky</b> MEDICINE WASTE PROCESSING	160
<b>P45</b>	<b>Yu.V. Lavrookevich, V.Ya. Chernyak, T.E. Lisitchenko</b> PROPERTIES OF DUSTY PLASMA OF THE DISCHARGE WITH THE HOLLOW CATHODE	162
<b>P46</b>	<b>M. Dors, J. Mizeraczyk</b> DE-NO <sub>x</sub> PROCESS IN CORONA DISCHARGE-CATALYST REACTOR	164
<b>P47</b>	<b>E.K. Safonov, V.Ya.Chernyak, S.V. Olzewski, I.V. Prysiazhnevych</b> PLASMA-LIQUID SYSTEMS WITH GAS-DYNAMICS QUENCHING	166
<b>P48</b>	<b>V.S. Taran, V.V. Krasnyj, A.V. Klosovskij, R.M. Muratov, O.T. Semenova, V.I. Tereshin</b> INACTIVATION OF MICROORGANISMS USING COMBINATION OF OZONE AND ULTRASOUND	168

<b>P49</b>	<b>V.S. Taran, V.V. Krasnyj, S.P. Gubarev, R.M. Muratov, G.P. Opaleva, M.I. Zolototrubova</b> OZONE GENERATION CHARACTERISTICS OF SUPERIMPOSED DISCHARGE WITH SURFACE AND DBD	169
<b>P50</b>	<b>T. Homola, A. Zahoranová, T. Plecenik, R. Krumpolec, M. Černák</b> GLASS SURFACE MODIFICATION USING NON-EQUILIBRIUM PLASMA GENERATED BY DCSBD AT ATMOSPHERIC PRESSURE	170
<b>P51</b>	<b>S.V.Dudin, D.V.Rafalskyi</b> TWO MODES OF ION EXTRACTION IN SINGLE-GRID ION SOURCE	172
<b>P52</b>	<b>V.A. Lisovskiy, N.D. Kharchenko, V.D. Yegorenkov</b> RADIAL STRUCTURE OF THE LONGITUDINAL COMBINED DISCHARGE IN SF <sub>6</sub>	174
<b>P53</b>	<b>B. P. Dojčinović, D. Manojlović, G.M. Roglić, B. M. Obradović, M. M. Kuraica, J. Purić</b> DECOLORIZATION OF THE AZO DYE REACTIVE BLACK 5 USING COAXIAL DBD REACTOR	176
<b>P54</b>	<b>B. M. Obradović, M. M. Kuraica, J. Purić</b> SPECTRAL CHARACTERISTICS OF FALLING FILM DBD IN NITROGEN	178
<b>P55</b>	<b>A.F. Bardamid, V.N. Bondarenko, J. Davis, V.S. Voitsenya</b> MODIFICATION OF METAL MIRROR SURFACES UNDER IMPACT OF HYDROGEN PLASMAS CONTAMINATED WITH OXYGEN OR CARBON	180
<b>P56</b>	<b>V. Chyhin, P. Gorun</b> OXYGEN ALLOTROPIC FORMS IN CORONA IN N <sub>2</sub> -O <sub>2</sub> MIXTURES	182
<b>P57</b>	<b>Yu. V. Virko, V. F. Virko, V. M. Slobodyan, K. P. Shamrai</b> COMPACT HELICON PLASMA SOURCE WITH A FERRITE MAGNETIC SYSTEM FOR MATERIALS PROCESSING APPLICATIONS	184
<b>P58</b>	<b>V. M. Slobodyan, V. F. Virko, Yu. V. Virko, K. P. Shamrai</b> INDUCTIVELY COUPLED MAGNETIZED PLASMA SOURCE WITH PERMANENT MAGNETS FOR MATERIALS PROCESSING	186
<b>Author Index</b>		188
<b>List of Participants</b>		192

## **INVITED LECTURES**

## INVESTIGATION ON DIELECTRIC BARRIER DISCHARGE SURFACE ACTIVATION EFFECTS

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### 1. INTRODUCTION

The plasma aided flame retardation of wood, wooden products and cellulosic fibrous materials has been conceived and developed as a result of a new plasma aided process of capillary impregnation. The plasma-chemical surface pre-treatment of wood modifies the chemical activity of its surface as well as the capillary activity of wood and improves such technological characteristics of the capillary impregnation process as the penetration depth, speed of solution spreading and adsorption, and specific quantity of adsorbed solution per unit of area. This allows using the plasma aided retardation as a finishing process and applying it in situ. A system of plasma device and applicators has been created to produce cold technological plasma through barrier electrical discharge (DBD) at atmospheric pressure and room temperature [1, 2].

### 2. DIELECTRIC BARRIER DISCHARGE SURFACE ACTIVATION EFFECTS

#### 2.1. XPS – a surface analysis technique used to study the surface reorganization after plasma pre-treatment

X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy (XPS) is a very powerful non-destructive surface analytical technique which provides valuable data on chemical surface composition and surface reorganization after plasma-chemical pre-treatment. XPS is a surface chemical analysis technique that can be used successfully to analyze the surface chemistry of a material in its "as received" state, or after some treatment such as cold plasma pre-treatment. The binding energy is a characteristic of the atoms, which can be used for elemental identification. XPS analysis for this work was carried out using a photoelectron spectrometer VGS ESCALAB Mk II with Al K radiation (FWHM = 0.5 eV). The angle between the directions of the incident X-ray and that of the observations (fixed by analyzer entrance slit) was 50. XPS spectra are obtained by irradiating a material with a beam of X-rays while simultaneously measuring the kinetic energy and number of electrons that escape from the top 1 to 10 nm of the material being analyzed. XPS detects all elements with an atomic number ( $Z$ ) of 3 (lithium) and above. This limitation means that it cannot detect hydrogen ( $Z=1$ ) or helium ( $Z=2$ ). Detection limits for most of the elements are in the parts per thousand (ppm) range.

The interpretation of the curve fit of the carbon C1s peak after *Kazayawoko* (1998) was used to interpret the changes of wood surface chemistry after plasma pre-treatment: binding energy of  $285.00 \pm 0.4$  eV corresponds to C-C and C-H kind of chemical bonds;  $286.5 \pm 0.4$  eV – to C-O, C-OH, and H-C-OH;  $288.0 \pm 0.4$  eV – to C=O and O-C-O;  $289.5 \pm 0.4$  eV – O-C=O. This study was developed as part of a large investigation on plasma-chemically activated and flame retarded wood surface.

#### 2.2. Surface activation effects after DBD pre-treatment

Wood inactivation is a surface phenomenon affecting just a thin outer layer of wood. An inactivated wood surface does not absorb capillary well an impregnating solution containing phosphorous

compound as flame retardant. Plasma-chemical surface activation (functionalization) with an effective participation of ionic surfactants and silicone spreaders eliminates the inactivation-impregnating problem creating a protective flame retardant layer on the wood surface.

**Table 1:** XPS-measurement results - elemental composition across the top the softwood surface.

<i>Kind of Wood: Density, kg/m<sup>3</sup></i>	<i>Samples</i>		<i>Carbon Peaks</i>	<i>Chemical Surface Composition, at. %</i>				
				<b>C</b>	<b>O</b>	<b>N</b>	<b>O/C</b>	<b>N/C</b>
Heart Douglas Fir wood ( <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i> , Canada): 678 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	K (Non-Treated)		Voltage	77.69	21.79	0.52	0.28	0.0067
	DBD Pre-treated	SO	10 kV (50 Hz)	68.30	31.70	0.00	0.46	0.0000
		SN	15 kV(50 Hz)	69.10	29.90	1.00	0.43	0.0145
		SHF	10 kV (10 kHz)	74.00	25.50	0.50	0.34	0.0068
Heart Pine Wood ( <i>Pinus Sylvestris</i> , Bulgaria): 371 kg/m <sup>3</sup>	K (Non-Treated)		Voltage	74.80	24.40	0.70	0.32	0.0094
	DBD Pre-treated	SO	10 kV (50 Hz)	70.10	28.50	0.60	0.41	0.0086
		SN	15 kV(50 Hz)	70.40	29.00	0.60	0.41	0.0058
		SHF	10 kV (10 kHz)	73.50	26.10	0.40	0.36	0.0049

XPS-measurement results, Table 1, and carbon and oxygen peaks analysis led to the conclusion that the air plasma-chemical treatment at atmospheric pressure by DBD was a useful and effective method for surface chemical activation of inactivated wood (douglas fir, pine) by oxidation of lignin, resin and extractive materials.

### 2.3. Surface effects after DBD –aided capillary impregnation

XPS-measurement results and phosphor peak analysis showed the improvement of the capillary impregnation process – less phosphor in the chemical surface composition after DBD plasma pre-treatment and capillary impregnation – the surface layer (thickness less than 5 nm) holds less phosphor compound after plasma-aided impregnation – it goes in the depth of the wood.

## CONCLUSION

The investigations on plasma-aided capillary impregnation carry out by XPS surface analysis technique hold out new opportunities for improvement of the impregnation flame retardency of wood and wood products.

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