

UNIVERSITY OF WEST BOHEMIA  
FACULTY OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING  
DEPARTMENT OF MATERIAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

# **Ph.D. Thesis**

To acquire academical degree Doctor of Philosophy  
in Material Science and Technology

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## **DEVELOPMENT OF TRANSPARENT CONDUCTIVE OXIDES FOR PHOTOVOLTAIC APPLICATIONS**

Supervisor: doc. RNDr. Pavol Šutta, Ph.D.  
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## Declaration

The author hereby declares that her Ph.D. thesis is entirely her own work and has not been submitted in any other form for another degree or diploma at any university or other institution. The information obtained from the published or unpublished work of other authors has been acknowledged in the text and in the list of references.

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# Aim and outline of this work

This work is motivated by applications of ZnO thin films as a top electrode and back reflector in thin-film solar cells and the need of the light scattering improvement to increase the thin-film solar cells performance. The research presented in this thesis has been particularly focused to investigate in detail the behaviour of doped zinc oxide films in dependence on conditions of both, deposition by magnetron sputtering and post-deposition treatment.

Aims of the thesis are addressed to:

- Obtaining new knowledge and deeper understanding of the influence of chosen technological process parameters on the structure, electrical and optical properties of doped ZnO thin films.
- Estimation of difference among various doping of ZnO (Al, Ga, Sc).
- Comparison between static rf diode sputtering and dynamic rf magnetron sputtering.
- Development of post-deposition treatment to achieve effective light trapping and electrical conductivity
- Verification the application of developed ZnO films with different dopants in the pilot thin-film solar cells.

In chapter 1 you just went through the brief introduction to the problematics. In chapter 2 resent knowledge about transparent conductive oxides, specially zinc oxide is described. The chapter is focused on description of electrical and optical behaviour of ZnO important for solar cells applications. There are also some information about structure and doping of ZnO. Chapter 3 describes the brief overview of deposition techniques used for the TCO fabrication. The attention is mostly paid to sputtering process and description of phase of thin films formation. The detailed description of analytical method used for evaluation of structure, optical and electrical properties of fabricated films can be found in chapter 4. Chapter 5 introduces into the experimental details. The deposition system, substrate preparation, deposition process steps, postdeposition treatment and procedures used for thin film characterization are described here. Chapter 6 contains results and discussion of performed experiments. Each section of this chapter is divided into introduction, experimental, results and conclusions parts for easier orientation in the concrete studied problem. In final chapter 7 the contribution of the thesis is concluded.

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## About the author



Lucie Prušáková was born in Pilsen on 25<sup>th</sup> of February 1982. In 2001 she finished her pre-university education at Gymnasium L.Pika in Pilsen. She studied the material science at the University of West Bohemia in Pilsen, Department of Material science and Technology. As a part of her study she did an internship at Namakkal University in India, during which she studied the operation research. In June 2007 she obtained the Master degree, with a graduation project on the topic of tribological properties of TiCN thin films. Subsequently she joined the New Technology Research Centre – Department of Materials & Technology, where she is carrying out her doctoral research in the group of Doc.RNDr. Pavol Šutta, Ph.D. Her research on materials for thin film silicon based solar cells, with a main focus on the development of transparent conductive oxides, is described in this work.

## List of publications

- 2012
- **Lucie Prušáková**, Petr Novák, Pavel Kulha, Adam Bouřa: Mikrogenerátor napětí s piezoelektrickou ZnO vrstvou. **PROTOTYP / FUNKČNÍ VZOREK** 2012.
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