Applied Surface Science

Femtosecond laser surface structuring of molybdenum thin films

L. Kotsedia ^{a,b,*}, P. Mthunzi ^c, Z.Y. Nuru ^{a,b}, S.M. Eaton ^{d,e}, P. Sechoghela^{a,b}, N. Mongwaketsi ^{a,b}, R. Ramponi ^f, M.Maazaa, ^{a,b}

^a UNESCO-UNISA Africa Chair in Nanosciences-Nanotechnology, College of Graduate Studies, University of South Africa, Muckleneuk ridge, PO Box 392, Pretoria, South Africa

^b Nanosciences African Network (NANOAFNET), iThemba LABS-National Research Foundation, 1 Old Faure Road, Somerset West 7129, PO Box 722, Somerset West, Western Cape Province, South Africa

^C Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), Biophotonics Lab: National Laser Centre Pretoria, 0001, South Africa

^d Physics Department, Politecnico di Milano, Piazza Leonardo Da Vinci, 32, 20133 Milano, Italy

^e Center for Nano Science and Technology, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, Via Pascoli 70/3, 20133 Milano, Italy

^f Institute for Photonics and Nanotechnologies (IFN)–CNR, Piazza Leanardo Da Vinci, 32, 20133 Milano, Italy

Abstract

This contribution reports on the femtosecond surface structuring of molybdenum thin coatings deposited by electron beam evaporation onto Corning glass substrates. The 1-D type periodic grating lines created by such an ablation showed that the widths of the shallow grooves followed a logarithmic dependence with the laser energy incident on the molybdenum film. The electronic valence "x" of the created oxide surface layer MoO(subx) was found to be incident laser power dependent via Rutherford back scattering spectrometry,X-ray photoelectron spectroscopy and X-ray diffraction investigations. Such a photo-induced MoO(subx)–Mo nanocomposite exhibited effective selective solar absorption in the UV–vis–IR spectral range.