



Submission Deadline—December 1, 2017

## Stabilization of Organic Electronic Materials and Devices

The unique properties of organic semiconductors grant unrivaled potential for highly efficient, low-cost, and sustainable optoelectronic applications, e.g., in light and power generation, sensor technology, and electronic circuitry. Semiconducting polymers and small molecules can be scaled up to satisfy industrial needs and be processed onto plastic substrates using high throughput technologies. This makes a technological and economic breakthrough in the near future possible.

Despite the widespread potential, organic electronics face important challenges. A critical factor in the overall cost assessment is the lifetime of a final product. The current generation of organic electronics offers limited stability and need to be encapsulated using costly barrier materials. A fundamental understanding of the processes governing performance decay paired with innovative material approaches is essential for enhancing the longevity of organic optoelectronic devices and thus guaranteeing market readiness. This Focus Issue will address both mechanistic aspects that determine the lifetime of materials and devices as well as future strategies with practical relevance for increasing the lifespan and reliability of organic electronics.

### Contributed articles are sought in the following areas:

- ◆ Fundamental degradation mechanisms in active materials and finished devices (photophysical and spectroscopic studies)
- ◆ Novel material concepts leading to enhanced intrinsic material stability (materials design, predictive simulations, materials synthesis, etc.)
- ◆ Extrinsic material concepts for stabilizing organic electronics materials (stabilizing additives, optimal microstructure, crystallinity, etc.)
- ◆ Realization of stabilization approaches in device structures with practical relevance

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## Wide Energy Gap Semiconductors: Material Issues and Device Implications

Wide energy gap semiconductors, as distinct from their more conventional counterparts, silicon and gallium arsenide, offer considerable promise for novel electronic and optoelectronic device applications. Due to their higher polar optical phonon energies, the saturation electron drift velocities exhibited by these materials tend to be higher. In addition, the dielectric constants, both static and high-frequency, associated with the wider energy gap semiconductors tend to be smaller than with conventional semiconductors. These factors favor improved electron device performance. Another benefit is their great tolerance to high applied electric field strengths, the breakdown field of a semiconductor material increasing with the magnitude of its energy gap. The high thermal conductivities and resistance to radiation offered by some of these materials further contribute to their appeal.

The past three decades have seen numerous developments in the wide energy gap semiconductor field, both at the materials level and in the range of device applications now offered. This Focus Issue will present results corresponding to both traditional wide energy gap semiconductors, and some of more recent interest. An emphasis will be placed on the material properties of these semiconductors, and the role that such properties play in defining the range of device applications possible. The range of materials considered will include, but is not limited to, silicon carbide and its polytypes, the III-V nitrides, oxide-based semiconductors, and some more recently developed wide energy gap semiconductor materials.

### Contributed articles are sought in the following areas:

- ◆ Advances in the growth of the wide energy gap semiconductors
- ◆ Developments in the processing of the wide energy gap semiconductors
- ◆ New device applications possible as a result of the distinct material properties associated with newer wide energy gap semiconductors
- ◆ Material properties and how they are distinct from their more conventional counterparts
- ◆ Brief overviews of developments in the field over the past three decades
- ◆ Brief perspectives on future opportunities for the wide energy gap semiconductors

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One Liberty Plaza, 20th Floor,  
New York, NY 10006

A publication of the  
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*Advancing materials. Improving the quality of life.*

Periodical Rate Postage Paid at New York, NY  
and Additional Mailing Offices

ISSN: 0884-2914