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## ACCEPTED MANUSCRIPT

# P-type transparent conductive CuAlO<sub>2</sub> thin films prepared using atmospheric pressure plasma annealing

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#### Abstract

Transparent conductive CuAlO<sub>2</sub> thin films prepared using atmospheric pressure plasma annealing are reported. The sol-gel-derived thin films on the quartz substrate were annealed using atmospheric pressure plasma of N<sub>2</sub>-10%O<sub>2</sub> at 700-800°C for 10 min. The CuAlO<sub>2</sub> phase was obtained at 750°C. The binding energies of the Cu-2p<sub>3/2</sub> and the Al-2p<sub>3/2</sub> of the thin films were centered at 932.6±0.2 eV and 73.3±0.2 eV, revealing the valence state of Cu<sup>+</sup> and Al<sup>3+</sup>, respectively. The direct and indirect optical bandgaps of the CuAlO<sub>2</sub> thin films were 3.58 eV and 1.81 eV, respectively. Additionally, the CuAlO<sub>2</sub> thin films had the conductivity of  $(1.42\pm0.1)\times10^{-3}$  S/cm with the carrier concentration of  $(1.32\pm0.13)\times10^{14}$  cm<sup>-3</sup>. Therefore, atmospheric pressure plasma annealing provides a feasible method for preparing CuAlO<sub>2</sub> thin films.

Keywords: CuAlO<sub>2</sub>, thin films, atmospheric pressure plasma, annealing, deposition.

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