You may not be aware of their presence, but you are likely benefiting from them on a daily basis. Thin film processes are pervasive throughout government, industry, and the consumer world; used in computer read/write heads, semiconductor, and flat panel display manufacturing.

A sputter deposition system for depositing thin films was developed by CVC, Inc. of Rochester, New York, with the support of Jet Propulsion Laboratory’s (JPL) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program. The SC-4000 deposition system was developed for JPL to produce high quality films of high temperature superconducting material for microwave communication system components. The system was also used to deposit ferroelectric material for capacitors and the development of new electro-optical materials.

“This project placed CVC in a much better position within the industry and led to the turnaround of CVC’s research and development efforts in thin film process solutions for a number of applications, such as aluminum oxide and copper, that have become commercially successful for CVC,” comments Zoe Piliero, Director of Corporate Communications.

A worldwide supplier of thin film process equipment for semiconductor integrated circuits and thin film magnetic recording head manufacturing, CVC’s annual revenues more than doubled in fiscal year 1996 over 1995, highlighted by the company’s growth in the Asian markets, with 1997 also a banner year.

CVC’s current thin film processing system, CONNEXION®, currently ranges in price from $1.5 million to $3 million, depending on the number of modules and features selected with the system configuration. CVC has an installed base of over 260 process modules on more than 80 CONNEXION cluster tool platforms. Recording head, semiconductor, and flat panel display technologies continue to evolve day by day. CVC’s goal is to continually invest in research and development and to improve equipment and process performance—placing them as a world leader by providing customers with the very best thin film process solutions.

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