

# Influence of Deposition on the Mechanical Property Correlation in Al-O Thin Films with Complex Microstructures by RF Magnetron Sputtering

R. Hariharan and R. Raja

**Abstract---** *AL-O films were ready on un warmed 4140 steel abstract by RF magnetron sputtering technique. Post-deposition hardening of AL-O films in vacuum was found to enhance film structure and electrical characteristics like dense structure, swish surface stress relief and increase electrical resistance appropriate hardening temperature conjointly reduced loss issue. The coordination between hardening conditions and also the body of the films (crystalline structure and microstructure) was examined by X-ray diffraction (XRD) scanning electron microscopy (SEM) atomic force microscopy (AFM) and FESEM with EDAX. The mechanical behaviour of nanocrystalline CNC metals has attracted widespread interest through the bulk of efforts have centred on economically pure metals.*

**Keywords---** *EDAX, XRD, AFM, FESEM.*

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## I. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Aluminium Oxide

Alumina or aluminium oxide Can be a compound of metal and finished gas  $Al_2O_3$ . This mainly occurs from the oxides of many metallic elements and is especially known as aluminium (III) compounds.. it's usually known as corundom, and should even be known as aloxide, aloxite, or aluminium oxide betting on explicit structures or applications. It happens normally in its crystalline polymorphic area  $\alpha-Al_2O_3$  due to the mineral corundum, sorts of that kind the important gemstones ruby and sapphire.  $Al_2O_3$  is imperative in its utilization to give metallic component metal, as partner rough because of its hardness, and as a recalcitrant material because of its high the point of solidification.

### 1.2 Aluminum Oxide Structure

The most common form of crystalline corundum is understood to be a mineral, ie a thermodynamically stable substance. Octahedron void element. Each center of  $Al^{3+}$  is octahedral. In its natural philosophy, minerals use a symmetrical spatial lattice with a set of regions R-3c (the number in the international table is 167). The original unit contains 2 corundum formulation units.

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Aluminium oxide is present in different phases, as well as cubic  $\gamma$ - and  $\eta$ -phases, a monoclinic  $\theta$ -section, a hexagonal cross section  $\chi$ , a rhombic  $\kappa$ -section and, hence, a  $\delta$ -section that will be polygonal or orthorhombic. Each includes a distinctive crystalline structure and properties. Cube-shaped  $\gamma$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> has the necessary technical applications. The presumed  $\beta$ -Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> was NaAl<sub>11</sub>O<sub>17</sub> [11].

Molten corundum, close to the melting point, is about 2/3 of the tetrahedron (ie, 2/3 of the square measure of Al, enclosed in four elementary neighbours) and 1/3 5-coordinated, little or no.

### ***1.3 Application of Alumina***

More than 90% of the alumina, often referred to as fused alumina (SGA), is used to assemble metal components, sometimes using the Hall-Elo method. The rest is often referred to as special alumina and is used to reflect its immobility, heat resistance and resistance in an extremely wide range of applications

#### ***Filler***

Chemical recession and white color, aluminum oxide may be the preferred filler for the plastic. Alumina can be a common ingredient and is usually a gift for cosmetic products, rouge, lipstick and enamel.

#### ***Glass***

Many glass formulas have oxidized oxide as auxiliary in toxic substances.

#### ***Catalytic***

Alumina catalyzes the diffusion of useful reactions in the industry. At the largest scale, the use of alumina lies in the fact that the catalyst is within the framework of the Claus procedure for changing over sulfide off-gas to basic sulfur in refineries. It can likewise be utilized to get dried out alcohols to olefins.

Alumina is an impetus for a few mechanical impetuses, for example, hydrodesulfurization and a few Ziegler-Natta polymerizations.

#### ***Purification***

Alumina is utilized broadly to expel dampness from air streams.

#### ***Abrasive***

Alumina is utilized due to its hardness and quality. It is generally utilized as a partner to nursing homes, as well as a cheaper alternative to industrial diamonds. Alumina crystals are used for many types of sandpaper. Likewise, its low warm protection and low warmth are broadly utilized as a part of pounding activities and are very substantial cutting devices. Because of the powdered abrasive mineral chlorite, it is an important part of the silica chalk side of the club head "chalk" used in table games. Alumina powder is used in some CD/DVD sharpening and scratch repair tools. Its sharpening quality also lags behind the use of dentifrices.

#### ***Paint***

Pigment for exposure to alumina. The paint uses flakes of aluminum oxide for reflective decorative effects, for example, in the automotive or cosmetic industries.

## **Composite fiber**

Alumina is used in some experimental and business-fibrous materials for superior application

### **1.4 High Speed Steel**

AISI 4140 Chrome - Moly High Tensile Steel, typically prepared solidified and tempered to Condition "T" in segments up to 100mm, with an enduringness of 850 – a 1000 MPa and going for this quality place bigger segments. It offers a terribly sensible adjust of quality, strength and wear-protection.

### **1.5 Sputtering**

The sputter proclamation is a PVD strategy (physical vapor deposition), which plays out a thin film declaration by sputtering. This incorporates empowering material from a "target" from a "substrate" on a semiconductor wafer to a substrate. The deposited material is re-emitted by particle or atom bombardment during the entire deposition process. The shot out sputtering molecules have a decent vitality conveyance, as a rule up to a few many calories (100,000 K).

Sputtered particles (commonly just a little portion of the ionized emanation molecule locale units on the request of 1%) flight ballistically from the objective and vigorously crash on the substrate or vacuum chamber ( Causing re-sputtering). Rather, at higher gas weights, the particles act as moderators, migrate to diffuse, reach the substrate or chamber wall, and flow into the compressed gas atoms when subjected to a stochastic process. From the influence of high energy orbit to the low energy thermal motion, the whole changes. The background pressure level is constantly changing.

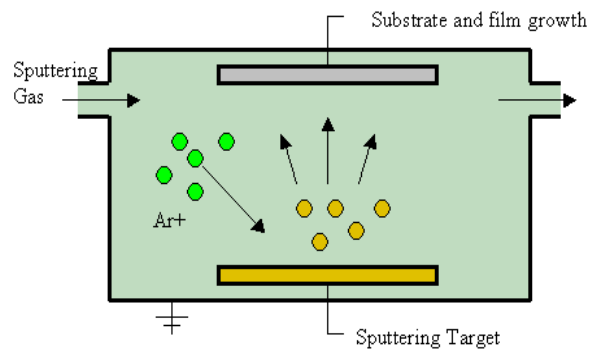


Fig. 1.1: Sputtering Process

The sputtering gas is usually associate in nursing chemical element like noble gas. For economical momentum transfer, the mass of the sputtering gas ought to be near the mass of the target, thus for sputtering lightweight components, Ne is desirable, whereas for significant components Kr or atomic number 54 are used. Receptive gases can even be wont to sputter mixes. The compound might be molded on the objective surface, in-flight or on the substrate waging on the technique parameters. The supply of the numerous parameters that administration sputter testimony make it an opulent technique, however conjointly empower specialists a larger than usual level of administration over the extension and microstructure of the film.

## **II. WORKING METHODOLOGY**

### ***2.1 Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)***

An examining electron magnifying lens (SEM) can be a magnifying lens that delivers a picture of an example by checking it with an objective electron shaft. The electrons connect with iotas in the example and produce different signs that contain data about the surface geology and structure of the example. Electromagnetic radiation is usually sampled in heterodyne samples and the position of the beam is combined with the detected signal to provide an image. SEM can reach resolutions in excess of micrometers. Samples were tested under high vacuum, under low vacuum, under humid conditions (ambient SEM) and under large refrigerant or high temperature spectra..

### ***2.2 X-Ray Powder Diffraction***

X-beam diffraction depends on productive obstruction of monochromatic X-beams and a crystalline example. These x-beams are created by a shaft tube, sifted to give monochromatic radiation to think, collimate and direct to the example. The collaboration of the episode beams with the example prompts productive impedance (and diffraction range) when the conditions are as per the Bragg law ( $n\lambda = 2d\sin \theta$ ). This law concerns the wavelength of the radiation to the optical wonder and along these lines the grid in a profoundly crystalline example. These diffracted X-beams are then identified, prepared and checked. By checking the example with a 2-channel appropriation, all achievable optical marvels of the cross-section because of the irregular introduction of the powdered material must be acquired. The change of the optical wonders into the d-separating permits the recognizable proof of the mineral because of the particular mineral properties of an arrangement of trademark d-spacings. Ordinarily, this is regularly accomplished by examination of d-spacings with standard reference designs.

### ***2.3 Microhardness***

The Vickers Hardness Control was developed in 1921 by Henry M. Robert L. Smith and the martyr E. Sandland at Vickers Ltd as an alternative to the Brinell material hardness maintenance method. The Vickers control is usually easier to use than alternative hardness tests because the specified calculation range unit is freed from the indenter scale, and therefore the impression is used for all materials regardless of hardness. The essential principle, as with all common measures of hardness, is the ability of the requested material to resist plastic deformation of a regular supply. The Vickers Check is utilized for all metals and has one of the most extensive sizes of perseverance testing. The hardness consistency given by the test is comprehended because of the Vickers Pyramid Range (HV) or Diamond Pyramid Hardness (DPH). The hardships are reawakened in units of Pascal, yet ought not to be mistaken for weight, which likewise has Pascale units. The seriousness of assorted variety is dictated by the weight of attack and not by the Kingdom, which is generally in control and not occupied.

### ***2.4 Surface Roughness & Thickness***

A profilometer can be an instrument to which the profile of a surface is accustomed to quantify its roughness. crucial dimensions as a step, curvature, flatness, quadratic measurement calculated from the surface topography. While the historical term of a profilometer was a tool just like a machine that measures a surface because the surface is taut with respect to the contact profilometer stylus, this term is dynamic with the emergence of various contactless profilometry techniques. Non-scanning technology lives the surface topography within a camera capture, XYZ scan is no longer necessary.

As a result, dynamic changes in the topographical square size are measured in real time. Profiles of this day not only look like static topography, but also dynamic topography as a system measure of time-resolved profilometers

### III. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

#### 3.1 X-RAY Diffraction

The stage arrangement, and in addition the structure of the film, were inspected by X-beam diffraction examination. The XRD examples of AIO thin films appear in Figure 3.1 The brilliant pinnacles (h-AIO 0002), (C-AIO 002), and (h-AIO) were gotten in the X-beam diffraction thinks about. The uncoated pinnacles of 100 ° C, 200 ° C and 300 ° C were utilized with Origin 8 and Match! Looked at. Optical wonder designs from the distinguished pinnacles reminiscent of the development of the hexagonal segment of AIO were recorded as per the polygonal shape structure. Knowing the wavelength ( $\lambda$ ), the full width at 0.5 forces (FWHM) of the pinnacles ( $\beta$ ) and the optical marvels point ( $\Theta$ ), the molecule estimate (D) was ascertained utilizing the Scherrer equation.  $D = 0.9 \lambda / \beta \cos\theta$ .

For 100 °C

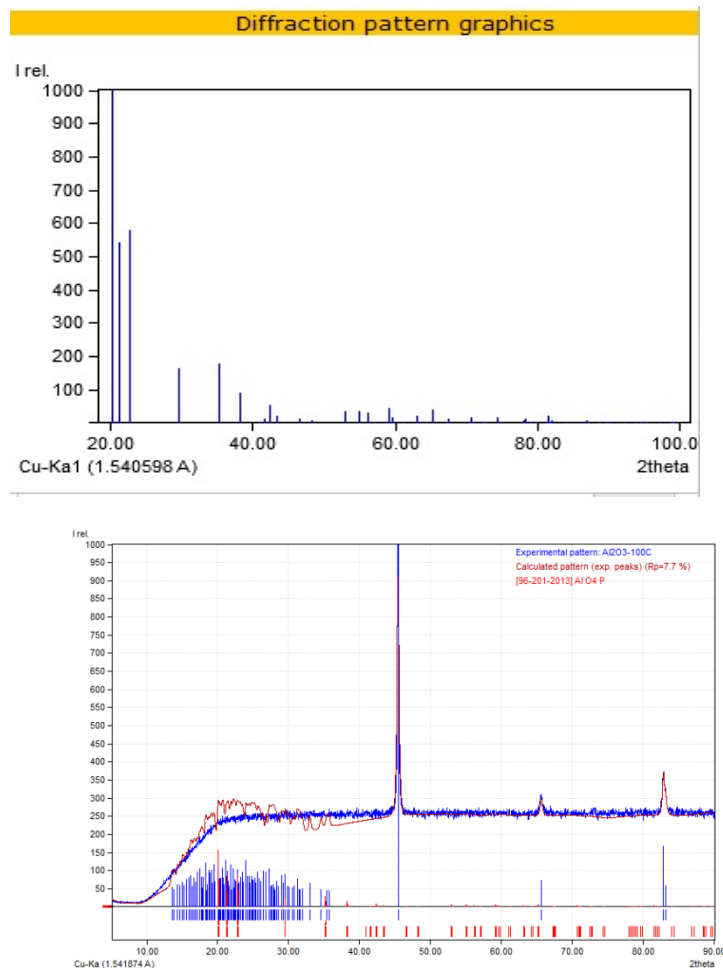


Fig.3.1: XRD Pattern of the AIO Thin Films Deposited on HIGH Speed Substrates at Temperature 100 °c

*For 200 °C*

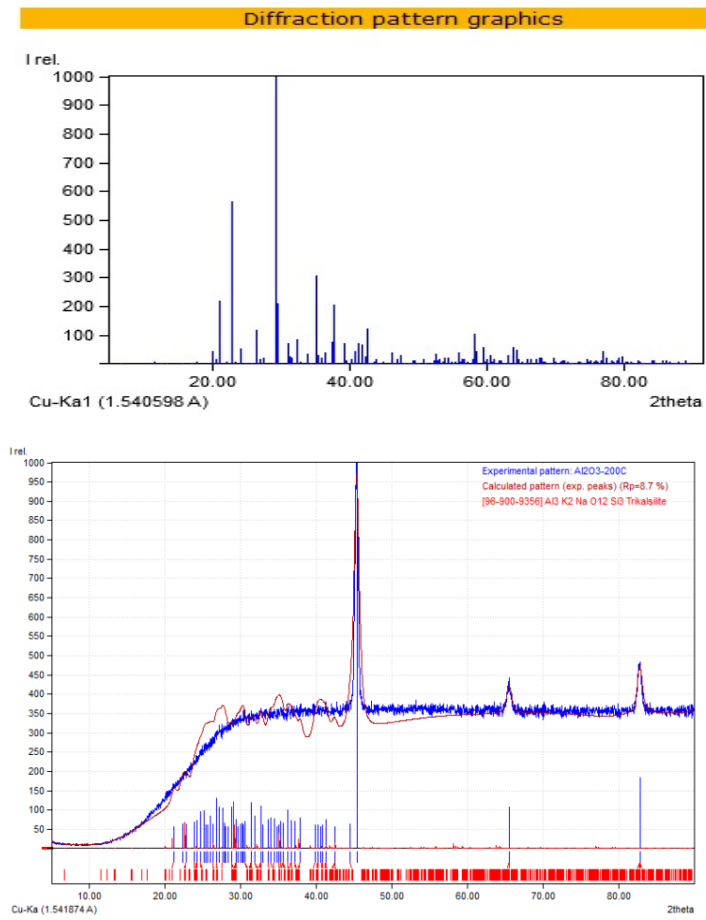
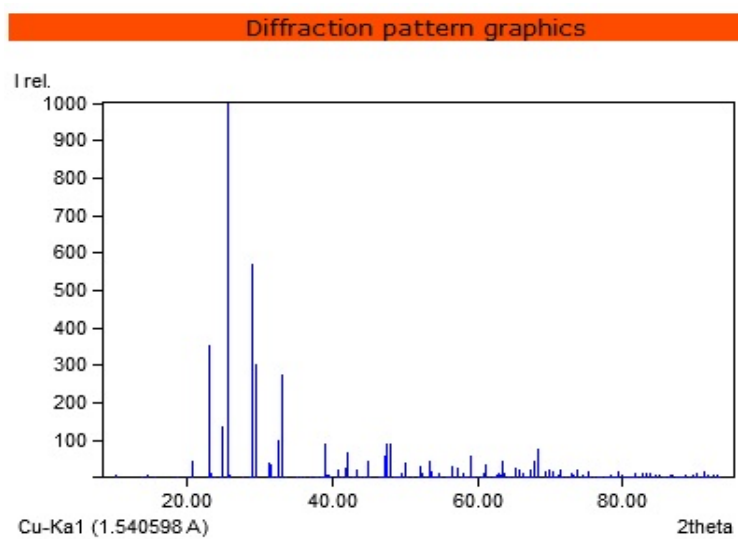


Fig.3.2: XRD Pattern of the AlO Thin Films Deposited on High Speed Substrates At Temperature 200 °c

*For 300 °C*



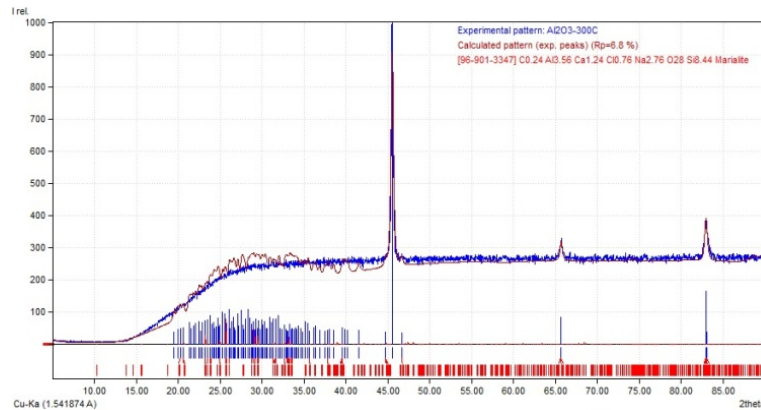


Fig.3.3: XRD Pattern of the AIO Thin Films Deposited on High Speed Substrates at Temperature 300 °C

## IV. COMPOSITION AND STRUCTURE OF ALO/HIGH SPEED STEEL

### 4.1 Atomic Force Microscopy Studies (AFM)

Surface topographical characterization was done by Atomic Force research. The AFM scan was carried on 3 samples coated with AlN at temperature, 200°C for 60nm severally. The scan was carried with semi-contact mode on sputtered AIO for a scan space of 5µm × 5µm on the surface. From the AFM pictures (refer Fig.4.2 ) aluminium surface have average roughness of 6.78922 nm, 5.59142 nm and 16.6085 nm for room temperature, 200°C temperature coatings respectively. From the results found it can be determined that due to the low average roughness, there will be low friction co-efficient decreasing the wear on the worm gear.

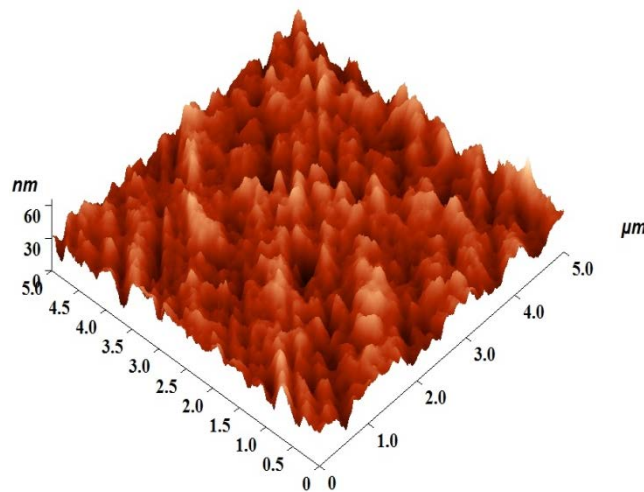


Fig. 4.1: 5µm × 5µm 3D Image of Coated Sample at 200°C

### 4.2 Micro Hardness

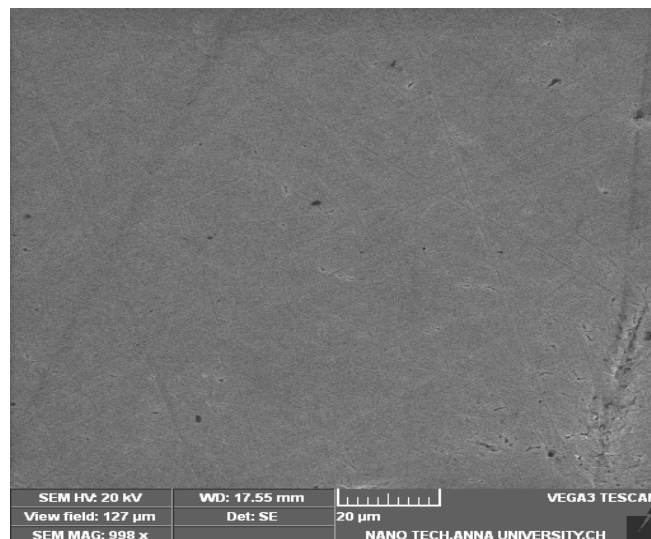
Characterization of mechanical properties of the films was performed using vickers hardness. The hardness  $H_v$  100 gms was carried for temperature 100 °c (310,315,314) & 200 °c (358,369,363) & 300 °c(270,285,277 respectively). The film connection pins and sleeves in the Convair 580 aircraft were hardened to a Vickers hardness specification of 390 HV5 by the process manufacturer and '5' was 5 kg.

However, on an aircraft flying Paternaer flight 394, it was later found that these pins had been replaced by substandard components, resulting in rapid wear and eventually causing loss of the aircraft. The accident investigators found during the inspection that the hardness of the pins below the standard was only 200-230 HV5. Currently, some watch factories increase the area of the crystal glass by testing the Vickers hardness test. As they increasingly create higher watches, they use it as a joint victim of the buyer's sales data. Due to the Vickers hardness check, every day customers are currently creating a sober watch crystal strength. Some of the manufacturer's regional departments claim that they need to watch glass at 6000 Vickers, and different watches score 700.

#### 4.3 Scanning Electron Microscopy (SEM)

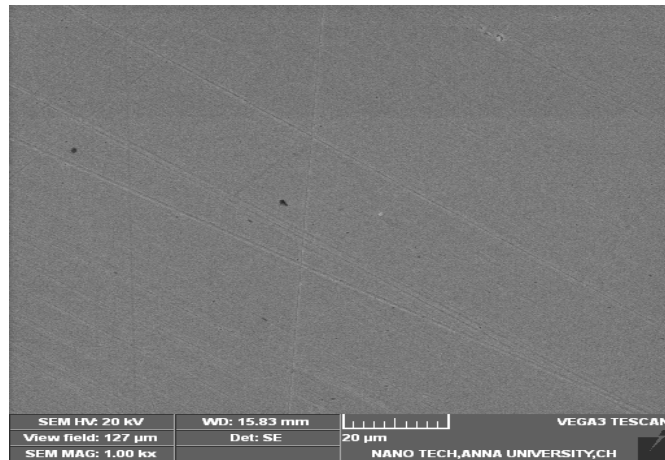
Scanning electron microscopy produces images by searching the specimen for a rectangular space (raster scan) on the central beam. Once the pillar communicates with the example, it loses vitality through a progression of components. The lost vitality again ends up different structures, for example, warm, low-vitality auxiliary electrons and high vitality backscattered electrons, light discharge or X-beam emanation, every one of these structures are given to convey about the surface of the example, for example, its geology and Composition. Once the signal is generated, the image displayed by the degree of association SEM maps the variable intensity of any of these signals to the image at a position that is comparable to the beam position on the sample. In the SEM image of the sub-closed aircraft shown below, and where appropriate, the image was created from signals generated by secondary negative ion detectors in most SEMs, standard or conventional imaging modes. By and large, the picture determination of partner degree SEM is at least partner degree request of size poorer than that of a TEM. As a result of the SEM picture, it depends on surface procedures instead of transport however is prepared to scale the gathered examples to a couple of centimeters (according to the settings and settings) that includes a good depth of field, then will turn out pictures that square measure smart portrayals of the three-dimensional type of the example. Another favourable position of SEM is its selection referred to as environmental scanning microscope (ESEM) will turn out pictures of adequate Quality and spine, models are wet or vacuum or gas.

*For 100 °C*





*For 200 °C*



*For 300 °C*

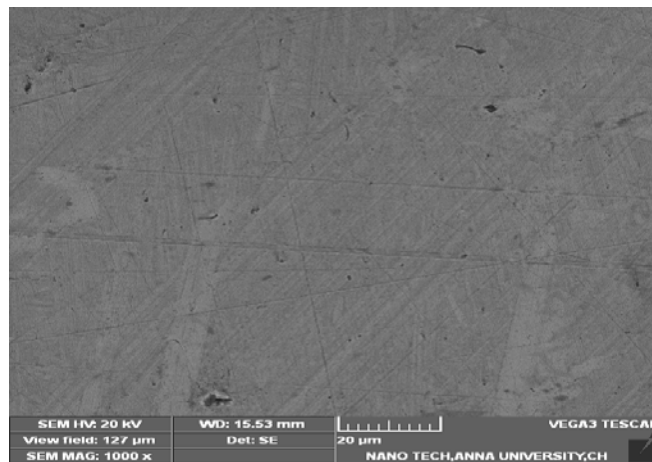


Fig.4.2: SEM of the AlO Thin Films Deposited on High speed Substrates at Temperature 100 °c,200 °C, 300 °c  
Respectively

## V. CONCLUSION

Aluminum Oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) thin films were set up on low carbon steel substrates at an alternate temperature (RT,200,400,500,600) using RF magnetron sputtering method. The prepared films were characterized by XRD, AFM and Nano indentation techniques to study the microstructural and mechanical properties of the films respectively.

The XRD analysis showed that the film prepared at RT and 100 C showed the amorphous nature of the films. The films prepared at 200 -300 c showed the peaks corresponding to hexagonal (0002) and cubic (002) structure, preferential orientation along (002) for the sputtered Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> films with cubic structure and also hexagonal phases are present at low substrate temperature.

Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> coatings were with successfully prepared RF magnetron sputtering on low steel substrate. Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> coatings

would possibly attain higher erosion polarization protection and moderately stable consumption potential among the SBF surroundings than the uncoated low steel. Thusly, the covered examples would have lower erosion and therefore the substrate coated at 100°C, 200°C exhibited the most effective corrosion resistance for the coating investigated within the studies. The damage resistance and therefore the corrosion resistance of low steel was multiplied by Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> coating.

Aluminium Oxide (Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) provides good protection for corrosion for the metal substrates. The surface morphology of the films was characterized by Scanning Electron microscopy (SEM) studies. It shows the graceful morphology of the films with uniform distribution of the crystallites and most of the grains have the same grain size. The roughness and thickness of the films are 126 nm, -454 nm and -257.57 nm at temperatures of respectively. In the Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub> thin films, the surface geology comprises of groups of same sizes with unpredictable shapes. The unpredictable type of grains recommends that at low substrate temperatures the mechanical vitality isn't sufficient for the association of the grains which can be light-emitting diode to the presence of further phases as evident from the XRD analysis. it's evident from the AFM micrographs that the form of the grains changes with increasing substrate temperature additionally to the grain size.

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