

News Release May 22, 2025 Nippon Electric Glass Co., Ltd.

Development of Large TGV Glass Core Substrates for Laser Modification / Etching and CO₂ Laser Processing

Expanding Our Product Lineup Toward the Full-Scale Development of the Inorganic Core Substrate Business

Nippon Electric Glass Co., Ltd. (Head Office: Otsu, Shiga, Japan; President: Akira Kishimoto;) has successfully developed two types of TGV (Through Glass Vias) ^{* 2} glass core substrates for next-generation semiconductor package applications—one compatible with laser modification and etching^{* 1}, and another with CO_2 laser processing—and has begun providing samples of both. The offered products include 515 x 510 mm substrates with TGV processed in-house, as well as unprocessed (TGV-free) mother glass.

With the success of this development, we will further expand our lineup of inorganic core substrates (GC Core[™], glass core) and respond to diversifying customer needs in all directions.





Glass substrates and cross-sectional image by laser modification and etching (substrate thickness 0.4 mm, hole diameter φ50μm)





Glass substrates and cross-sections image by CO_2 laser (Substrate thickness 0.5 mm, hole diameter $\phi90\mu m)$

* 1 Laser modification and etching: A processing method in which a chemical treatment is performed after forming a via-shaped "modified part" in glass by laser irradiation. Since the reforming part selectively reacts with the chemical solution, fine via processing becomes possible.

* 2 TGV (Through Glass Vias): Ultra-fine through-holes formed in glass substrates for electrical interconnection.

Background of development

Advancements in AI technology and the expansion of data centers are driving demand for increasingly high-performance, high-density semiconductors. The spread of chiplet technology^{*3} and the trend toward larger package substrates^{*4} have intensified the need for inorganic core substrates that offer excellent flatness, high insulation, and high rigidity.

As one of the world's leading specialty glass manufacturers, we have been actively developing advanced materials for inorganic core substrates. We have already received strong interest in our proprietary GC Core^M and glass core substrates designed for CO₂ laser via processing.

Meanwhile, demand has also been growing for TGV processing using laser modification and etching methods. Since 2020, we have been developing glass materials optimized for this method and have provided samples to evaluate. In this latest development, we succeeded in creating a new glass composition ideal for laser modification and etching, and established a sample supply system for large-format substrates (515 x 510 mm) with TGV holes. By offering substrates compatible with both processing methods, we are now better positioned to flexibly and rapidly respond to a broader range of market needs.

*3: Chiplet technology: A semiconductor packaging technology that realizes high performance and flexibility by integrating multiple small chips (chiplets) in one package instead of the conventional single chip configuration.
*4: Package substrate: An intermediate substrate for connecting between a semiconductor chip and an electronic circuit board. It is responsible for electrical connections, heat diffusion, and mechanical support.

Future outlook

We will continue to advance development of inorganic core substrates compatible with CO_2 laser processing—announced in 2024—with the goal of starting mass production by 2028. At the same time, the launch of samples for laser modification and etching will help us gain further customer evaluations and enhance our presence in the inorganic core substrate market.

Exhibition schedule

The inorganic core substrate developed this time will be exhibited at the "Total Solution Exhibition for Electronic Equipment 2025 in JPCA Show 2025" to be held at Tokyo Big Sight from June 4.

Exhibition name: Total Solution Exhibition 2025 (JPCA Show 2025) Session: June 4 (Wed) - 6 (Fri), 2025 Venue: Tokyo Big Sight Booth number: 7F-03 Application site for exhibition invitation ticket (free):

TGV processing system	Characteristics	Benefits
CO ₂ laser processing	Direct laser drilling of vias in glass	Fewer steps, high-speed processing, compatible with PCB ^{*5} laser processing machine
Laser modification and etching	Laser irradiation modifies the glass, enabling selective etching to form vias	Capable of processing TGVs with small diameters and narrow pitches Etching surface is not easily damaged

Comparison of CO2 laser processing and laser modification / etching

* 5 PCB: Printed circuit boards

- Inorganic core substrate (GC core™, Glass core substrate) product page

https://www.neg.co.jp/en/products/inorganic-core-substrate/index.html

[Company Profile]

Nippon Electric Glass Co., Ltd. is a world-class specialty glass manufacturer headquartered in Otsu City, Shiga Prefecture. Special glass that creates novel functionality is transformed into a variety of products, such as sheets, tubes, fibers, and powder, and is used in a wide range of fields, including semiconductors, displays, automobiles, electronic devices, medical care, and energy. The special glass developed using the technology and track record that we have honed over our 70-year history is highly regarded in a wide range of fields, from everyday life to cutting-edge industry.

Company name: Nippon Electric Glass Co., Ltd. Representative: Akira Kishimoto, President Head office location: 7-1 Seiran 2-chome, Otsu, Shiga 520-8639, Japan Founded: December 1, 1949 Business details: Manufacture and sale of special glass products and fabrication URL: <u>https://www.neg.co.jp/en/</u> Nippon Electric Glass Co., Ltd. 7-1 Seiran 2-chome, Otsu, Shiga 520-8639, Japan

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