



November 2006
Volume 8
Issue 21

Sponsored by MMR, Netzsch, Quad Group, ULVAC, Carl Zeiss MicroImaging,
Ambios, SPI Supplies, MHI and Pacific Nanotechnology

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[Mechanoluminescence induced from sonication of crystal slurries](#)

In materials with structures that lack symmetry such as piezoelectric crystals, charge of opposite sign separates when the material is stressed. If the stress is great enough, the material fractures, and the charge then recombines in the gas between the gap producing a small spark of light. A new study finds that the effect can be intensified by immersing slurries of crystals into paraffin infused with various gases, which is then irradiated with ultrasonic waves.



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