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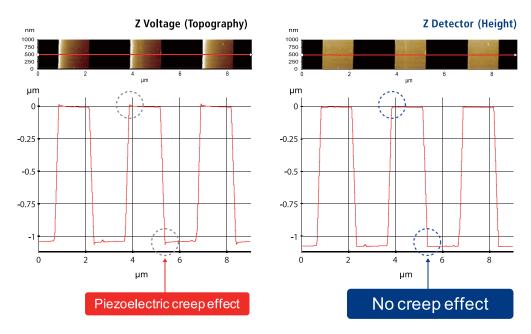


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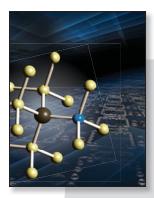
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ON THE COVER

Nitrogen-vacancy centers: Physics and applications. This issue of MRS Bulletin highlights progress in realizing applications based on the nitrogen-vacancy (NV) center in diamond. The cover illustrates the NV center in diamond. The yellow circles are carbon, the black circle represents a vacant site in the diamond lattice, and the blue circle represents a nitrogen atom. The black circle is a schematic representation

of a conceptual diamond quantum computer. The shapes are light-guilding structures made from diamond. Images courtesy of Charles Santori, HP Labs, Palo Alto, CA. See the technical theme that begins on page 127.



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The Materials Research Society (MRS), a not-for-profit scientific association founded in 1973, promotes interdisciplinary goal-oriented basic research on materials of technological importance. Membership in the Society includes almost 16,000 scientists, engineers, and research managers from industrial, government, and university research laboratories in the United States and over 80 countries.

The Society's interdisciplinary approach differs from that of single-discipline professional societies because it promotes information exchange across the many technical fields touching materials development. MRS sponsors three major international annual meetings encompassing approximately 125 topical symposia, and also sponsors numerous single-topic scientific meetings. The Society recognizes professional and technical excellence and fosters technical interaction in local geographic regions through Sections and University Chapters.

MRS participates in the international arena of materials research through the International Union of Materials Research Societies (IUMRS). MRS is a member of the Alliance for Science & Technology Research in America and is an affiliate of the American Institute of Physics.

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