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## INVESTIGATION OF STRUCTURE MODIFICATIONS IN MATERIALS IRRADIATED BY ULTRA-SHORT PULSES OF 4<sup>th</sup> GENERATION XUV FEL SOURCE

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The XUV TESLA Test Facility Free Electron Laser, a IV<sup>th</sup> generation radiation source being progressively constructed in HASYLAB at DESY, Hamburg, is amongst the most powerful sources of EM radiation ever built [1,2]. The TTF FEL delivers a highly coherent radiation of peak power of the order of 1 GW in a short pulse of only 50-100 fsec. During the Phase I of the FEL facility activity, the emitted photon energies were 12-14 eV, In the Phase II, to be achieved in 2005, the photon energy will reach 30-40 eV. Energies in the soft and hard X-ray region are expected to be attained in the next few years. Combination of such power levels typical to laser ablation using conventional pulsed lasers working in optical wave-length with extremely short pulse duration, unreachable in the regions of XUV to X-rays with other known devices, makes it possible to testify theoretical predictions indicating different mechanisms of energy

absorption and dissipation, than that occurred when the irradiation pulse durations are in the picosecond or nanosecond region [3-5]. Experimental results collected during the Phase I of the FEL activity of material damage and surface modification due to beam interaction supported in part these predictions [6-7].

The aim of this presentation is to show chosen examples of characteristic structural changes observed in solids irradiated during the Phase I of the TTF FEL activity and to discuss some methods suitable to structure characterization, specific to the strong 4<sup>th</sup> generation sources. Future experiments at the TTF FEL as well as a discussion of expected benefits to the science and technology, emerging from the new generation sources will be also presented.

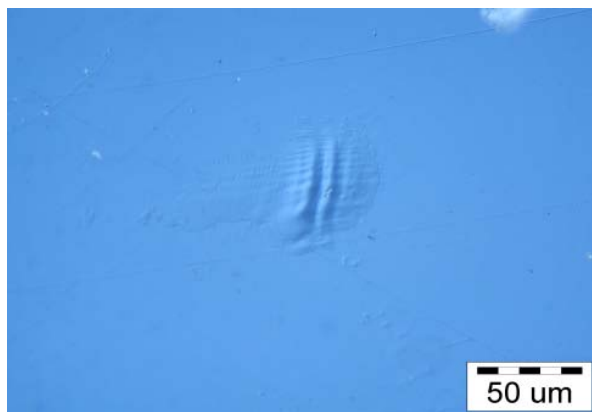


Figure 1. Relief of the FEL beam intensity projected by a single shot of fluence 0.4 J/cm<sup>2</sup> in a PMMA target.

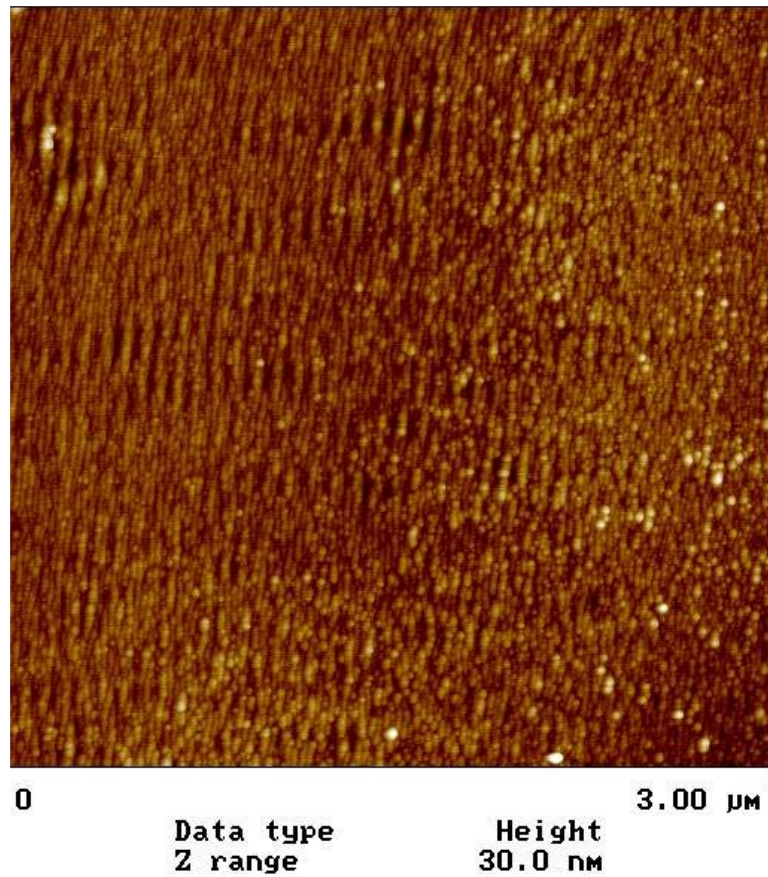


Figure 2. Periodic surface structure induced by the FEL beam in carbon film.

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