

Elif Balkas, PhD Wolfspeed

Elif Balkas received her BS degree from the Department of Metallurgical and Materials Engineering at the Middle East Technical University of Turkey in 1999, followed by her MS degree in materials science from the same university in 2001. During her Master's studies, she designed and built a research laboratory to develop and test material systems for hydrogen sorption for energy-storage purposes. For her PhD degree, she studied GaN growth via physical vapor transport techniques in the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at North Carolina State University and received her degree in early 2005. Balkas joined Intrinsic Semiconductor in 2005, where she worked as an epitaxy scientist specializing in GaN and SiC epitaxy platforms. She joined Wolfspeed, A Cree Company, through acquisition in 2006. At Wolfspeed, she dedicated much of her time to developing SiC crystal growth and surrounding technologies that are scalable for manufacturing purposes. Balkas is currently driving the development efforts as the director of materials R&D at Wolfspeed, to create SiC substrates that enable power and radio frequency devices on wide bandgap materials.