

Rosenfeld, Poelsema, and Comsa Reply: Meyer and Behm [1] correctly state that the reason for an enhanced island density during growth after a pretreatment of the surface by low energy argon ion bombardment might be different from the one we propose in [2]. We note, however, that Meyer and Behm, who did their measurements at room temperature, cannot exclude that directly after the ion bombardment an enhanced island density is indeed present on the surface. We observe in annealing experiments that adatom islands start to decompose at temperatures around 300 K. So, depending on the precise temperature and the time between the ion bombardment and the recording of the scanning tunneling microscopy (STM) pictures, islands that were formed during sputtering (and are mainly small in size [3]) might have vanished when the STM pictures are taken.

Apart from that, the STM measurements nicely confirm the main result of our Letter [2]: The combination of vapor deposition with a pulsed ion beam leads to an enhanced island density which in turn induces two-

dimensional layer growth.

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