

1. Record Nr.	UNINA9911004815703321
Titolo	Advanced piezoelectric materials : science and technology / / edited by Kenji Uchino
Pubbl/distr/stampa	Oxford, : Woodhead Pub., 2010
ISBN	1-84569-975-0
Descrizione fisica	1 online resource (697 p.)
Collana	Woodhead Publishing Series in Electronic and Optical Materials
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Disciplina	620.112972
Soggetti	Piezoelectric materials
Lingua di pubblicazione	Inglese
Formato	Materiale a stampa
Livello bibliografico	Monografia
Note generali	Description based upon print version of record.
Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	pt. I. Piezoelectric materials -- pt. II. Preparation methods and applications -- pt. III. Application oriented materials development.
Sommario/riassunto	Piezoelectric materials produce electric charges on their surfaces as a consequence of applying mechanical stress. They are used in the fabrication of a growing range of devices such as transducers (used, for example, in ultrasound scanning), actuators (deployed in such areas as vibration suppression in optical and microelectronic engineering), pressure sensor devices (such as gyroscopes) and increasingly as a way of producing energy. Their versatility has led to a wealth of research to broaden the range of piezoelectric materials and their potential uses. Advanced piezoelectric materials: sci