

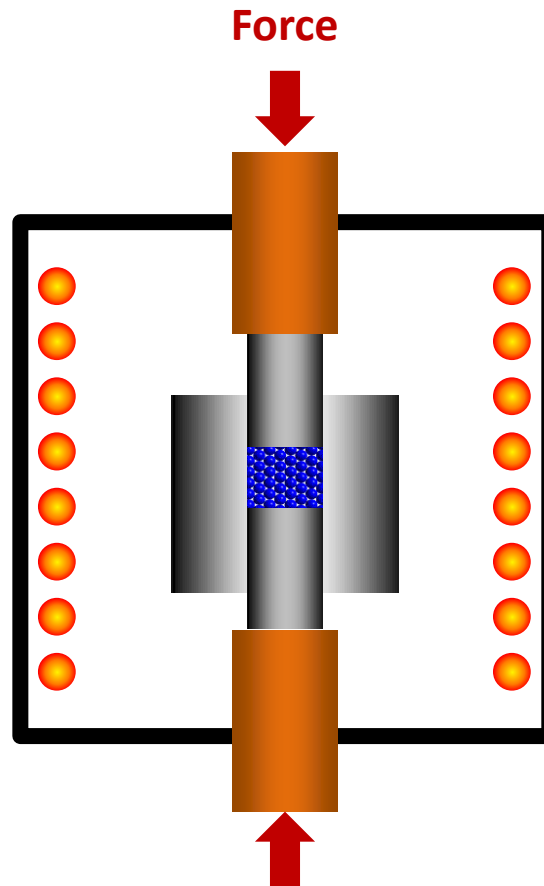
Field assisted sintering techniques SPS and Flash Sintering

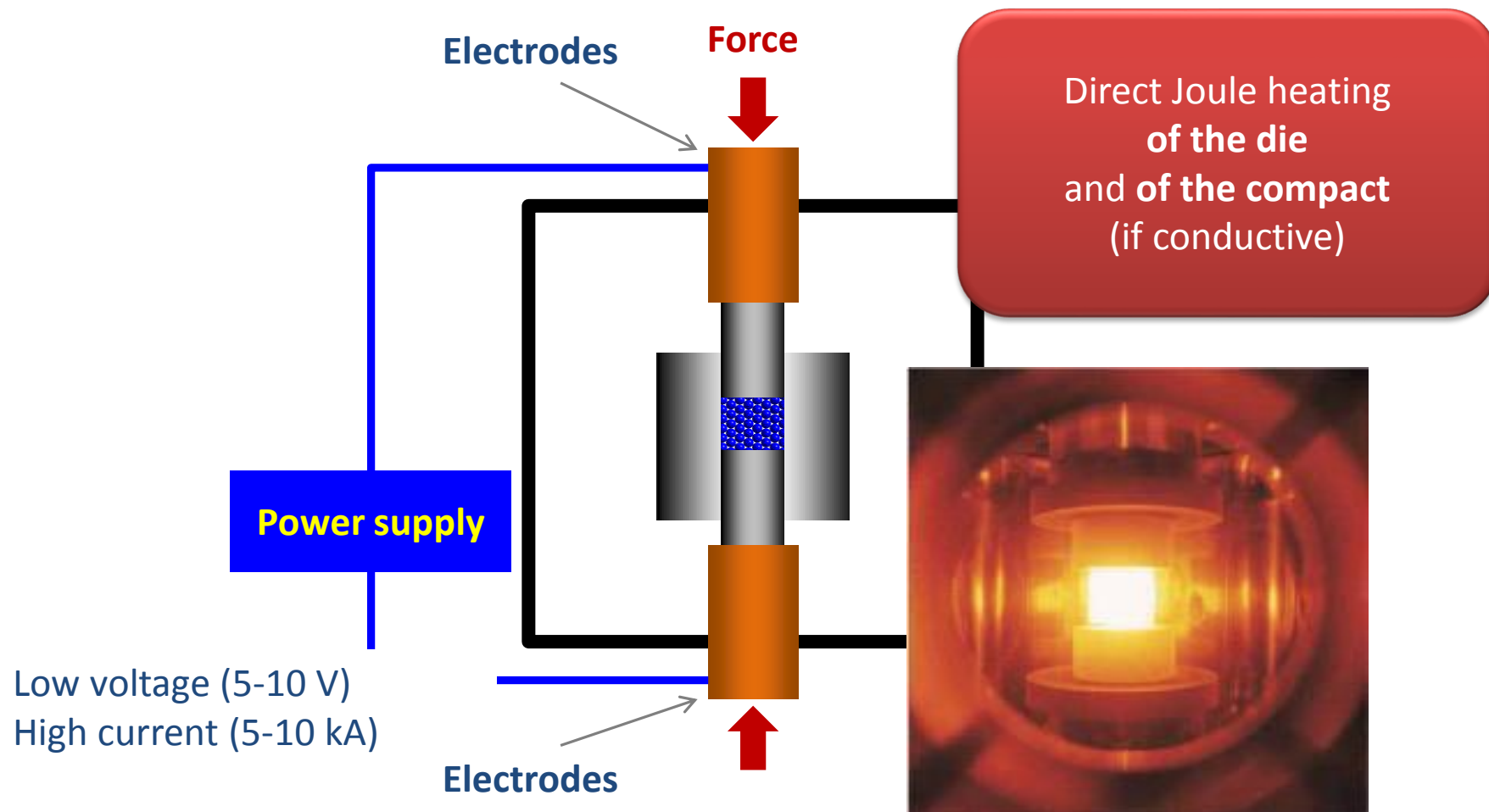
Jean-Pierre Erauw

Belgian Ceramic Research Centre



SPARK PLASMA SINTERING - SPS





Source FCT Systeme

Advantages of the technique

- Applicable to a **large range of materials**, conductive as non-conductive
- Applicable to materials difficult to sinter
- Very **short thermal cycles**
- **Lower sintering temperatures**
 - leads to reduction of power consumption
 - phases **integrity can be maintained**
 - offers potential **microstructural control** (nanomaterials ...)

These merits stem from

Thermal effects

- very high heating rates → surface diffusion mechanisms inhibited
- Important local temperature gradients → thermal diffusion (Ludwig-Soret effect)
- Macroscopic thermal gradients → thermomechanical stresses amplifying the creep mechanisms
- Heterogeneous local distributions of temperature → local melting phenomena at contact points

Athermal effects

- electromigration / enhancement of diffusion in ionic conductors
- electroplasticity phenomena
- dielectric breakdown of oxide layer at the surface of the grains and enhanced formation of defects at GB
- ...

These merits stem from

Thermal effects

- very high heating rates → surface diffusion mechanisms inhibited
- Important local temperature gradients → thermal diffusion (Ludwig-Soret effect)
- Macroscopic thermal gradients → thermomechanical stresses amplifying the creep mechanisms
- Heterogeneous local distributions of temperature → local melting phenomena at contact points

Athermal effects

=

Field effect

Field Assisted Sintering technology (FAST)

Advantages of the technique

- Applicable to a large range of materials, conductive as non-conductive
- Applicable to materials difficult to sinter
- Very short thermal cycles
- Lower sintering temperatures
 - leads to reduction of power consumption
 - phases integrity can be maintained
 - offers potential microstructural control (nanomaterials ...)

Limitations of the technique

- Limited geometrical complexity of the parts
- Batch process – further improvement of the productivity is needed
- Homogeneity often remains an issue (especially for large parts)

Nevertheless SPS attracts a large interest

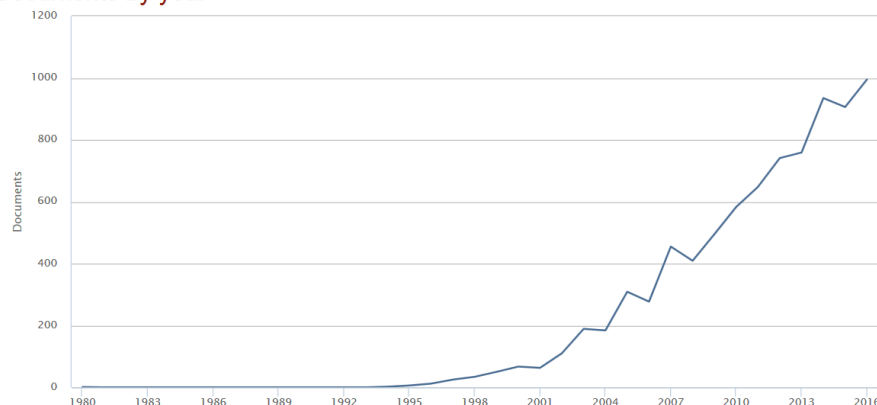
from the academic world

as well as from industry

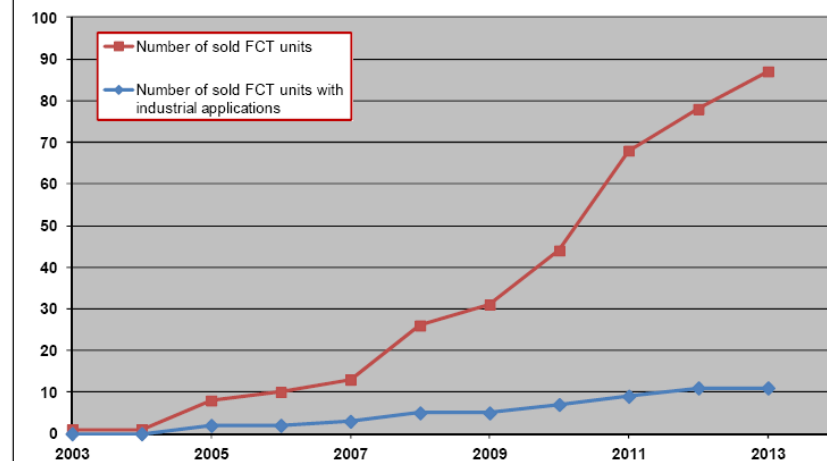
Source : Scopus

Keyword(s) : Spark Plasma Sintering

Documents by year

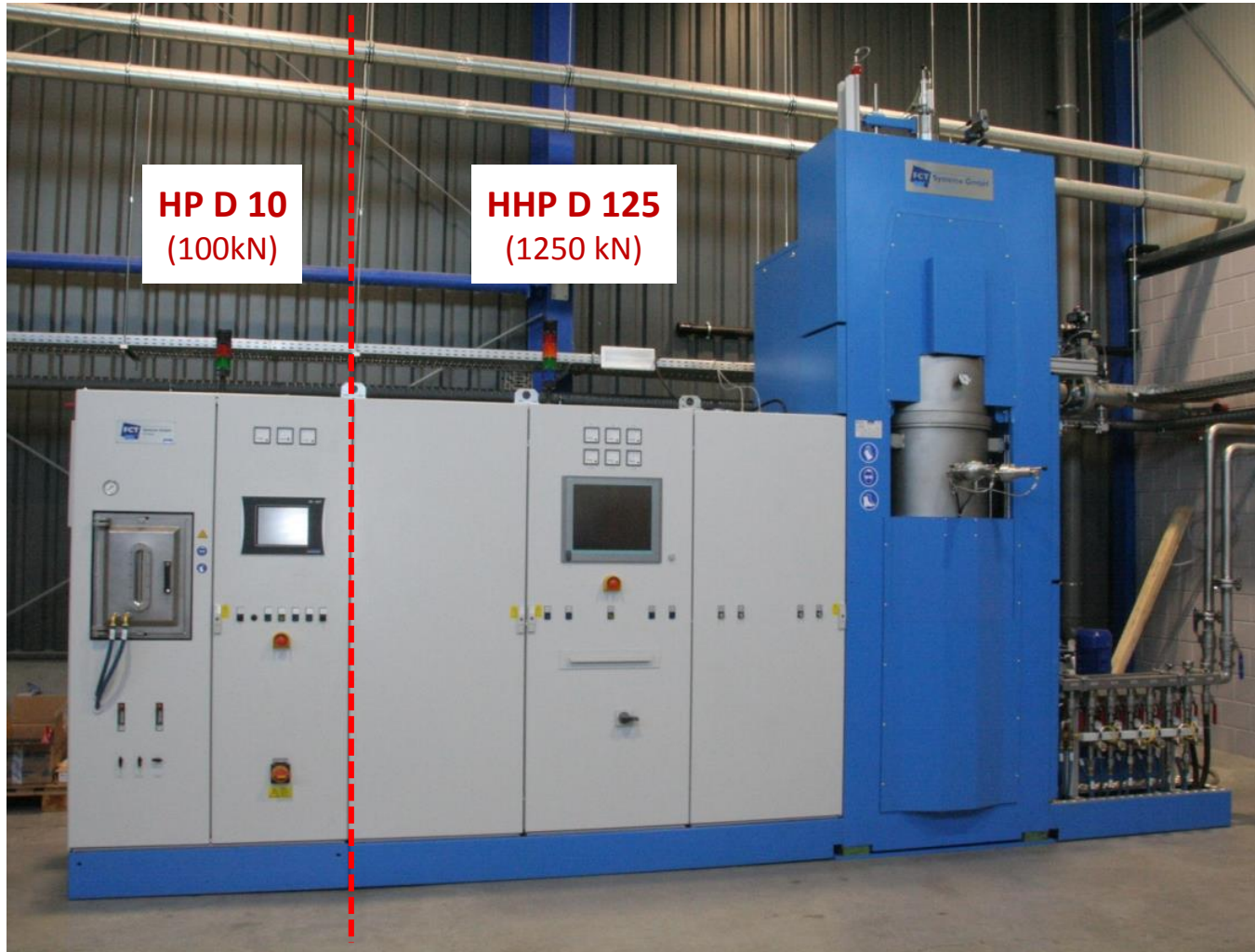


Distribution of FCT FAST/SPS facilities worldwide



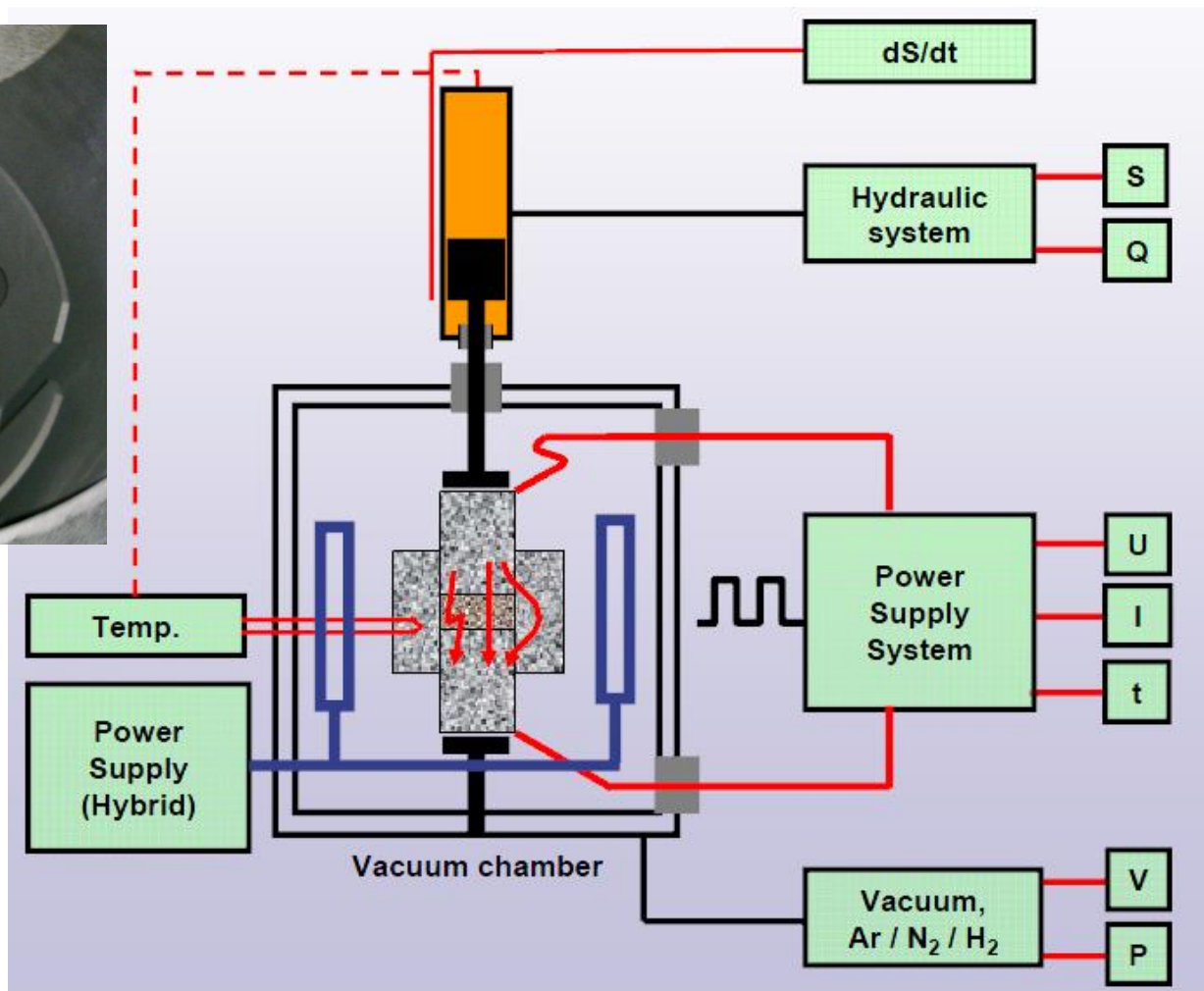
SPARK PLASMA SINTERING @ BCRC

Twin-Hybrid system - HHP D 125-SP (FCT Systeme GmbH)



Spark Plasma Sintering at BCRC

Twin-Hybrid system - HHP D 125-SP (FCT Systeme GmbH)



Our research topics

Basic research

- Insight in the fundamental mechanisms
- Process modelling

Innovative Materials

- Wear resistant
 - (Electro) optics
 - Thermoelectrics
 - « Polyvalent »
- Cermets and composites
YAG, Ba(Sr)TiO₃
(Semi) Heussler compounds
MAX phases

Technical Improvements

- Upscaling
- Shape complexity

Basic research

- Insight in the fundamental mechanisms
- Process modelling

Innovative Materials

- Wear resistant
 - (Electro) optics
 - Thermoelectrics
 - « Polyvalent »
- Cermets and composites
YAG, Ba(Sr)TiO₃
(Semi) Heussler compounds
MAX phases

Technical Improvements

- Upscaling
- Shape complexity

Project(s)	PhD thesis (First DOCA DGO6), Cerapide (ERDF) Vulcanus traineeship
Contributors	M. Demuynck, V. Dupont, J.P. Erauw, Y. Hasagawa T. Van Herck
Collaboration(s)	KULeuven, UMONS-FPMs

INSIGHT IN THE FUNDAMENTAL MECHANISMS

SPS vs conventional HP
Real advantages and
limitations?

Influence of thermal
and electrical
properties?



Available online at www.sciencedirect.com

SciVerse ScienceDirect

Journal of the European Ceramic Society 32 (2012) 1957–1964

ELSEVIER

www.elsevier.com/locate/jeurceramsoc

Densification of alumina by SPS and HP: A comparative study

Maryse Demuyne^{a,*}, Jean-Pierre Erauw^a, Omer Van der Biest^b, Francis Delannay^c,
Francis Cambier^a

^a Belgian Ceramic Research Centre (EMRA), Avenue Gouverneur Cornez 4, B-7000 Mons, Belgium

^b MTM KULeuven, Kasteelpark Arenberg 44, B-3001 Leuven, Belgium

^c EMPA UCLouvain, Place Sainte Barbe 2, B-1348 Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

Received 15 July 2011; received in revised form 13 October 2011; accepted 18 October 2011

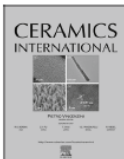
Available online 22 November 2011



Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Ceramics International

journal homepage: www.elsevier.com/locate/ceramint



Influence of conductive secondary phase on thermal gradients
development during Spark Plasma Sintering (SPS) of ceramic
composites



Maryse Demuyne^{a,*}, Jean-Pierre Erauw^a, Omer Van Der Biest^b, Francis Delannay^c,
Francis Cambier^a

^a Belgian Ceramic Research Centre (Member of EMRA), Avenue Gouverneur Cornez 4, Mons, B-7000 Belgium

^b MTM KULeuven, Kasteelpark Arenberg 44, Leuven, B-3001 Belgium

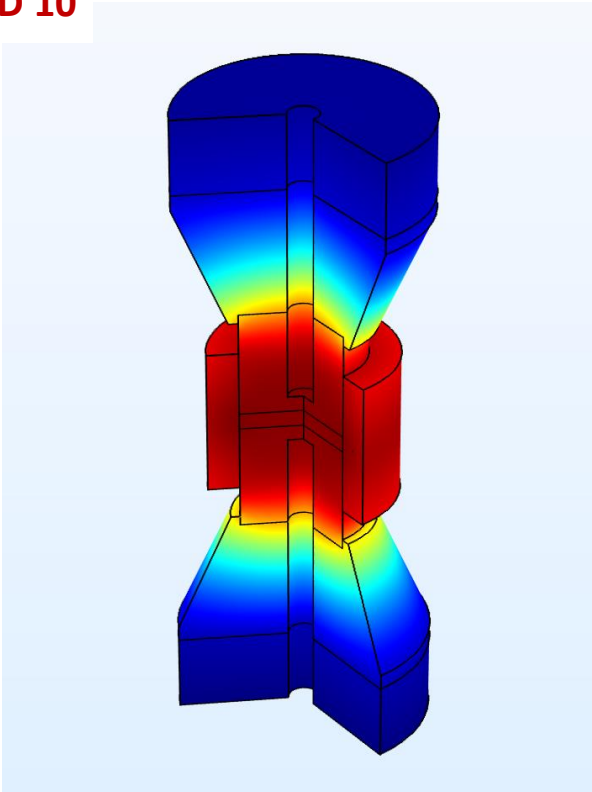
^c EMPA UCLouvain, Place Sainte Barbe 2, Louvain-la-Neuve, B-1348 Belgium

Project(s) Cerapide (ERDF)
Contributors M. Cambier, V. Dupont, J.P. Erauw, T. Van Herck
Collaboration(s) UMONS-FPMs

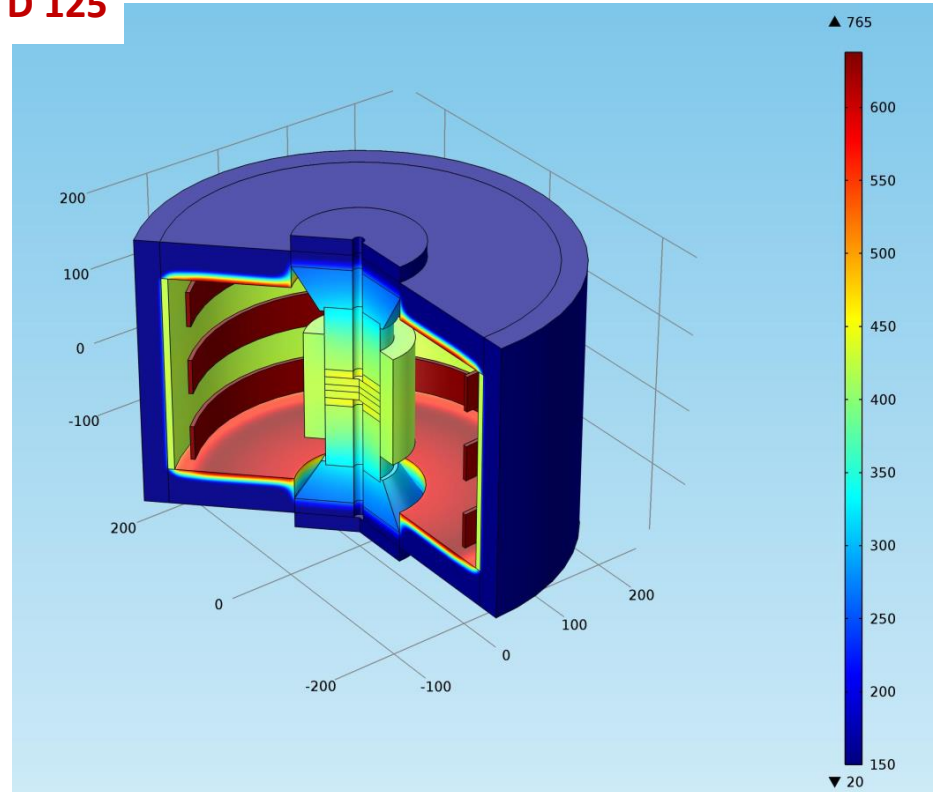
MODELLING THE PROCESS

- helps clarifying the experimental observation
- supports the **optimization of the tools** (dies, plunger...)
- Supports the **optimization of the sintering cycle** (e.g. in hybrid mode)

HP D 10



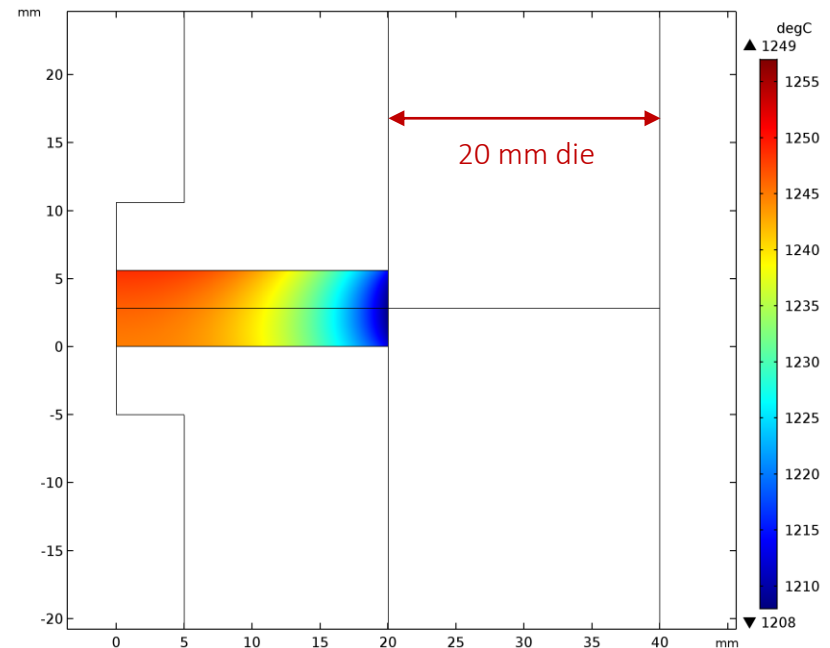
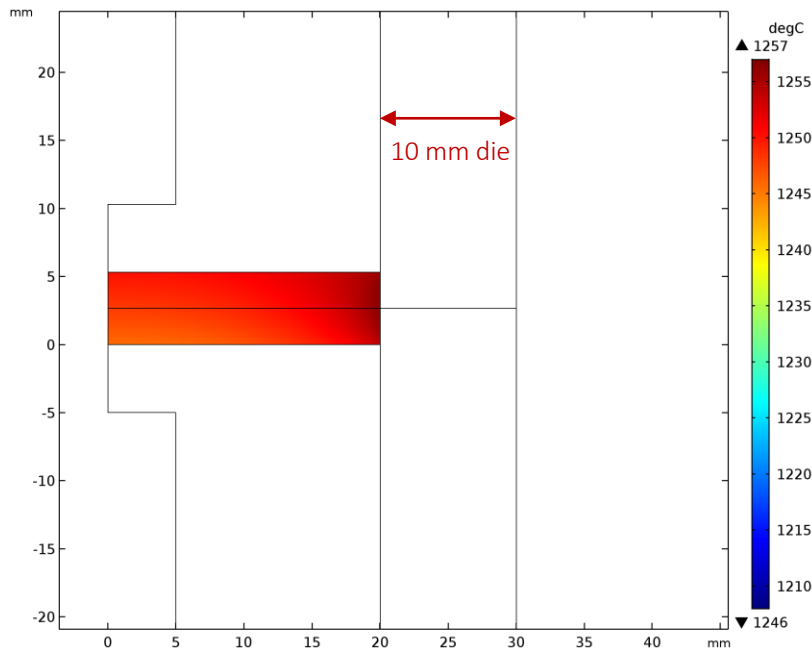
HHP D 125



Zirconia – Ø 40mm – Temperature distribution after 5' @1250°C

$T_{\min} : 1246 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ $T_{\text{mean}} : 1251 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $T_{\max} : 1257 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ $DT_{\max} : 11 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$

$T_{\min} : 1208 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ $T_{\text{mean}} : 1231 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$
 $T_{\max} : 1249 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ $DT_{\max} : 41 \text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$



Basic research

- Insight in the fundamental mechanisms
- Process modelling

Innovative Materials

- Wear resistant
 - (Electro) optics
 - Thermoelectrics
 - « Polyvalent »
- Cermets and composites
YAG, Ba(Sr)TiO₃
(Semi) Heussler compounds
MAX phases

Technical Improvements

- Upscaling
- Shape complexity

Project(s) STEELFSW & FSW-PME (DGO6), contractual projects
Contributors L. Boilet, M. Demuynck, V. Dupont, J.P. Erauw
Collaboration(s) Belgian Welding Institute, CEWAC

WEAR RESISTANT MATERIALS

WC-Co-cBN composites

- Addition of cobalt to WC → increases sinterability and fracture toughness
→ decreases hardness and wear resistance
- cBN is the second hardest material after diamond
- Addition of cBN to cemented carbides → increases hardness
→ decreases sinterability
- Thereupon, the phase transformation of cBN to its hexagonal phase limits the sintering temperature .

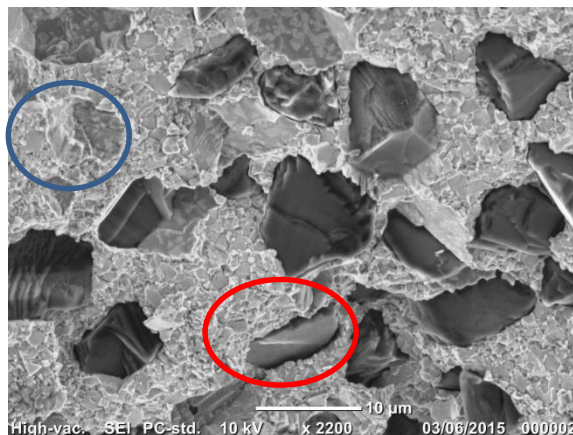
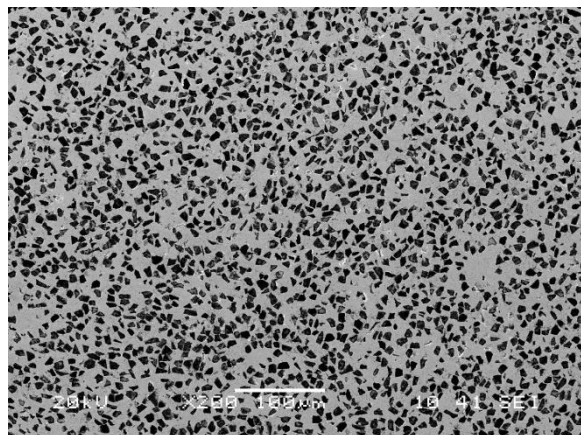
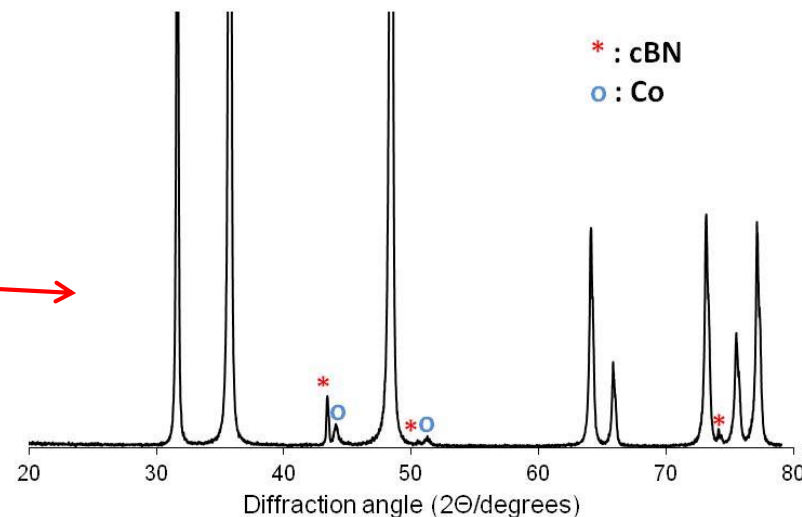
Combination of cBN addition and SPS technique
(with lower sintering temperature)



Materials with
enhanced mechanical properties

Optimization of the density by adjusting sintering parameters (T, P, dwell time)

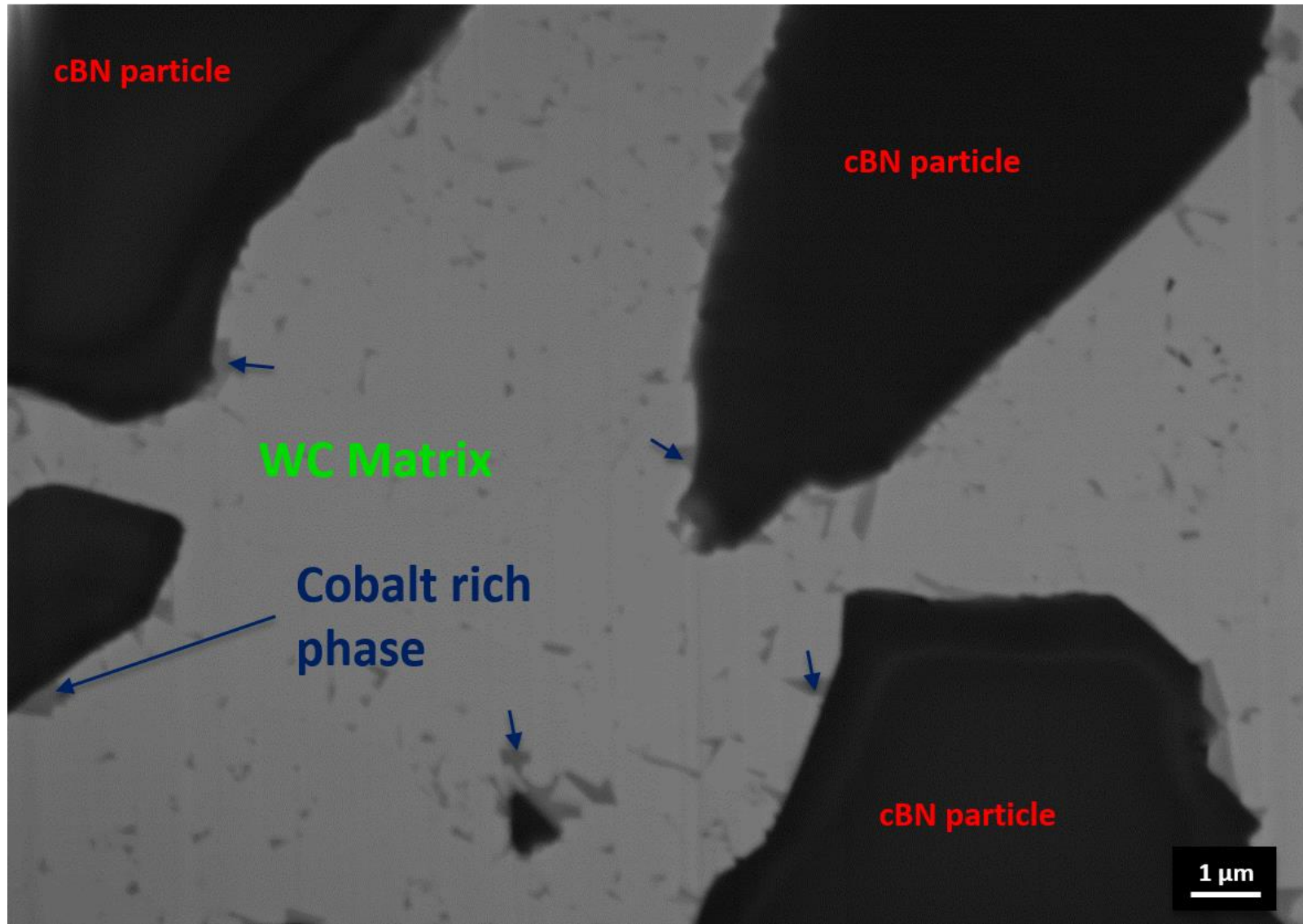
	Temperature (°C)	Dwell time (min)	Pressure (MPa)	Relative density (%)
WC 6 - 0	1200	10	60	99,4
WC 6 - 15	1200	15	60	99,4
WC 6 - 25	1220	15	60	99,7
WC 6 - 35	1220	15	70	99,3
WC 12 - 0	1150	15	60	100
WC 12 - 15	1160	15	60	99,9
WC 12 - 25	1160	15	60	100
WC 12 - 35	1160	15	70	99,9



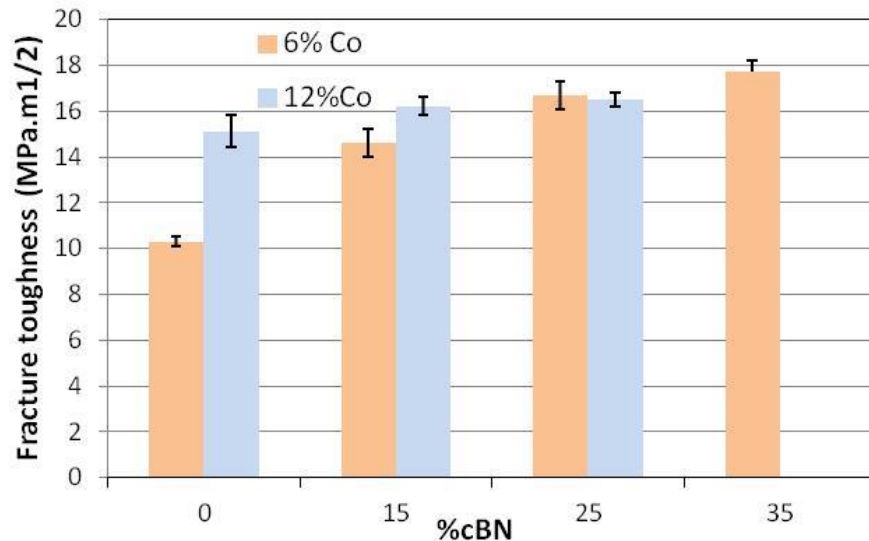
WC 12 - 35

- higher sinterability with 12% Co (densities \cong 100%)
- hBN phase not detected
- homogeneous distribution of cBN in the WC-Co matrix
- Mix of intergranular and transgranular fractures

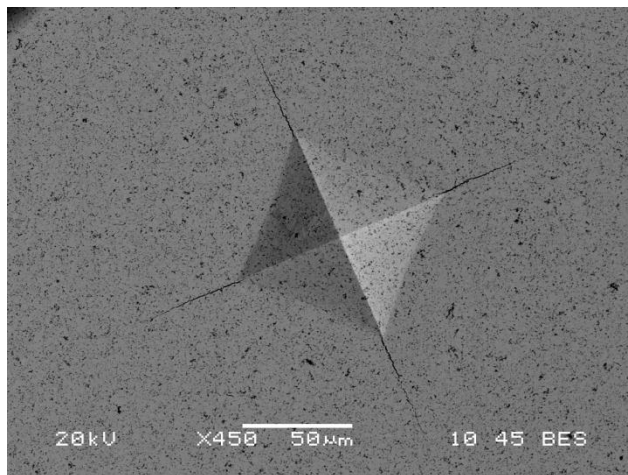
WC-Co-cBN composites



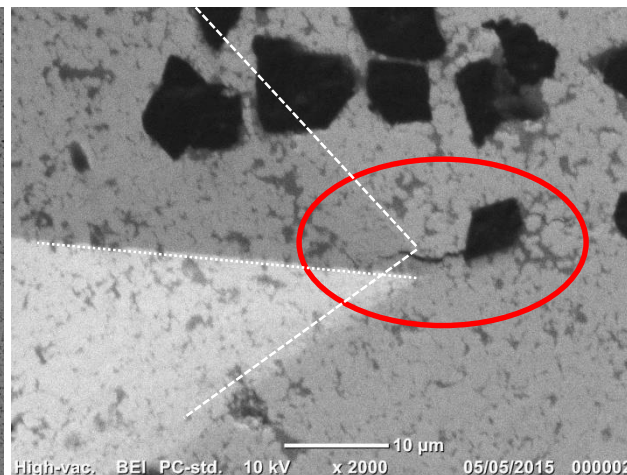
Mechanical properties



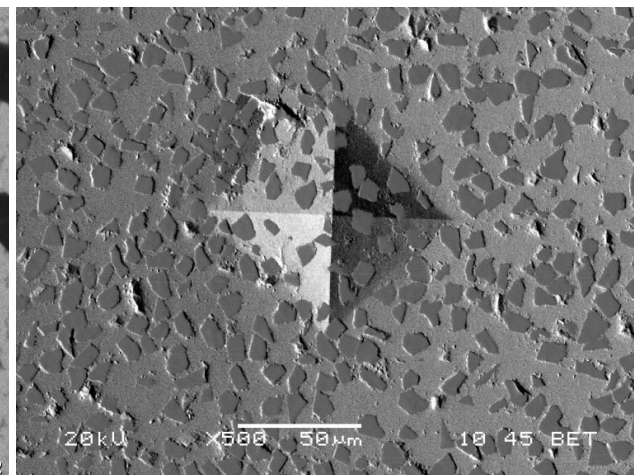
Increase of indentation fracture toughness due to crack deflection and/or arrest by cBN particles



WC 6-0

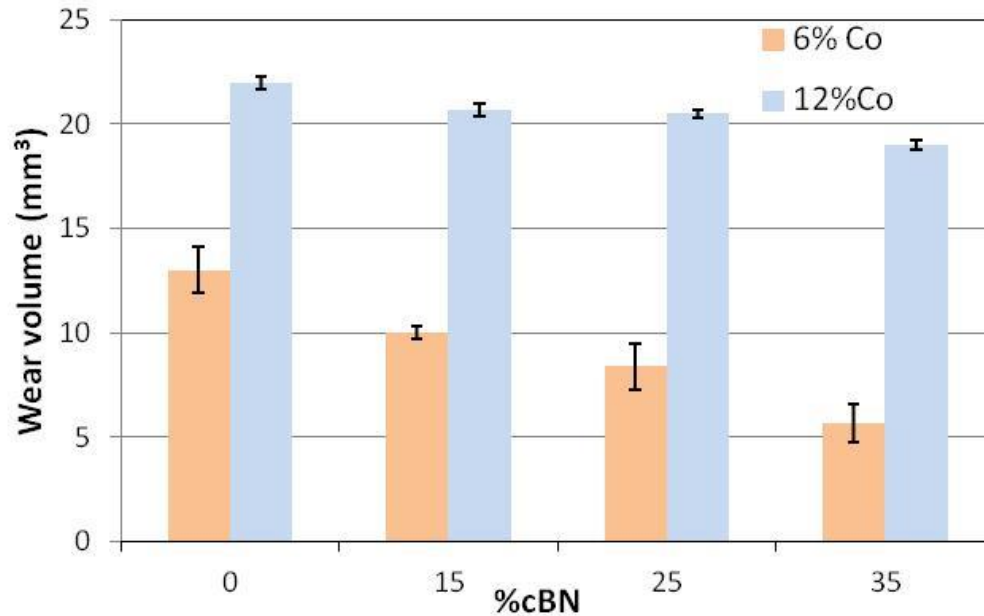
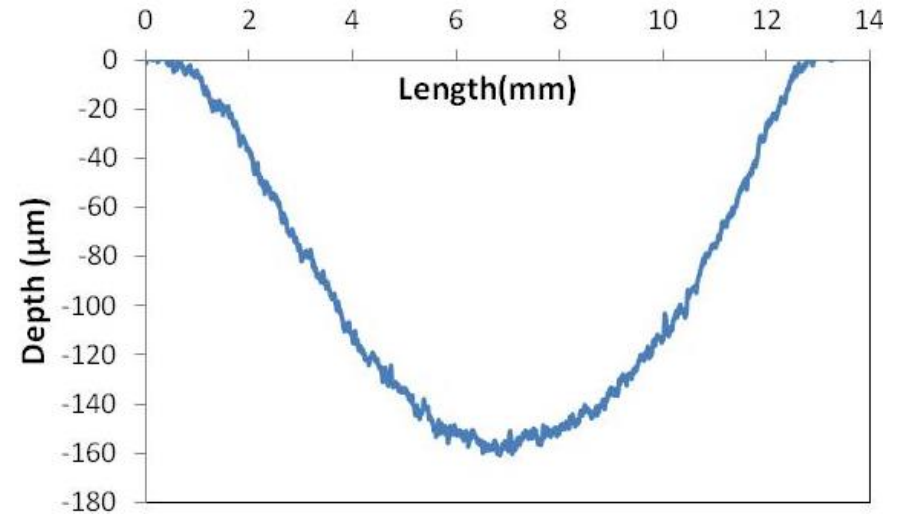
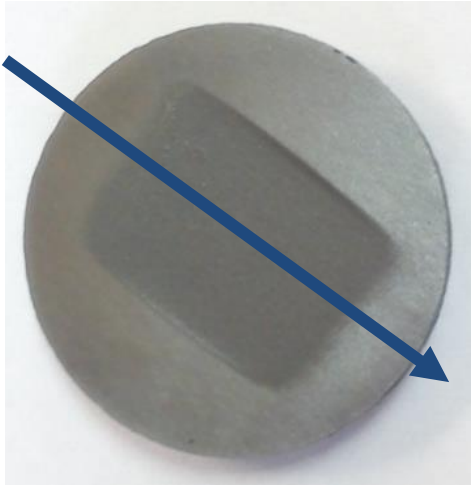


WC 12-15



WC 12-35

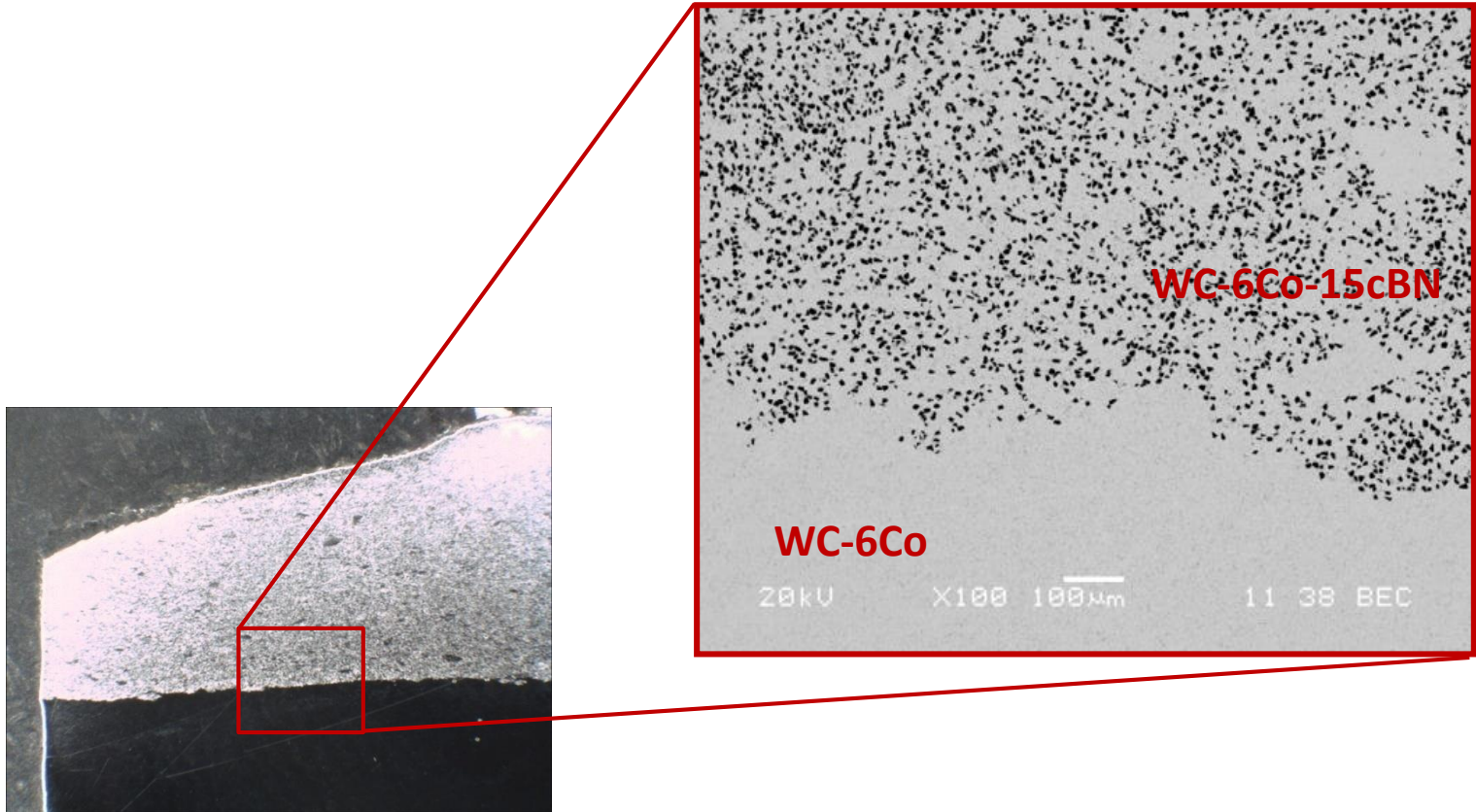
Wear tests results



- ↓ Co volume → ↓ wear
- ↑ cBN volume → ↓ wear

WC-Co-cBN based FGM material

Development of a graded composition has been demonstrated



Project(s) PhD thesis (First-DOCA DGO6)
Contributors R. Moronta Perez, P. Aubry, L. Boilet
Collaboration(s) University of Namur, Politecnico di Torino

(ELECTRO)OPTICS

- Achieve high transparency on both YAG and $\text{Ba}(\text{Sr})\text{TiO}_3$
- Achieve tunable optical properties in the specific case of $\text{Ba}(\text{Sr})\text{TiO}_3$
- Identify SPS sintering conditions leading to full density while keeping the grain size small
- Identify, where needed, optimum pre-treatment of the raw materials and/or post-treatment of the compacts enabling an improvement of the optical/electrical performances

Commercial YAG powder

Temperature influence

50MPa
 100°C/min 1050°C
 10 °C/min 1450 or 1500°C
 15min

1450°C
 $\rho \sim 100\%$

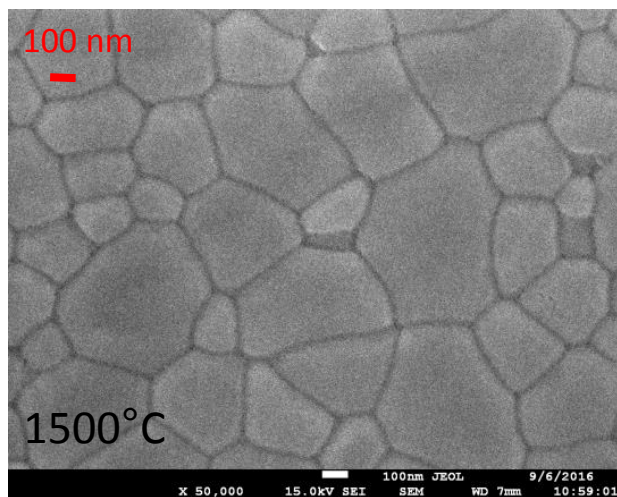


1500°C
 $\rho \sim 100\%$

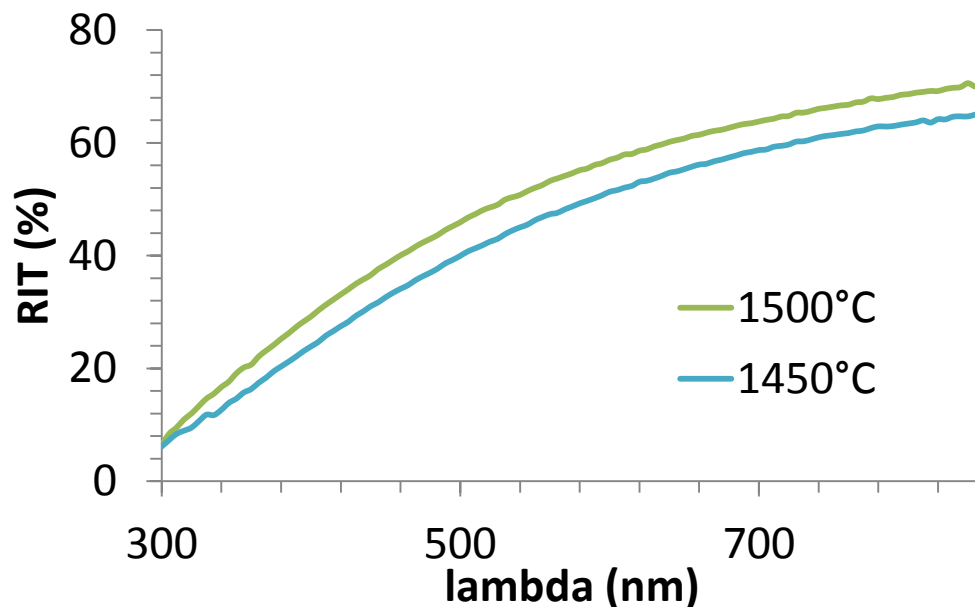


DRX- pure YAG

Slight coloration



$d = (200-800\text{nm})$
 No porosity



Commercial YAG powder

Post treatment

Cycle:

5°C/min

Dwell at T_{max} 12 h

Colouration ↓

As produced



1100°C-12h

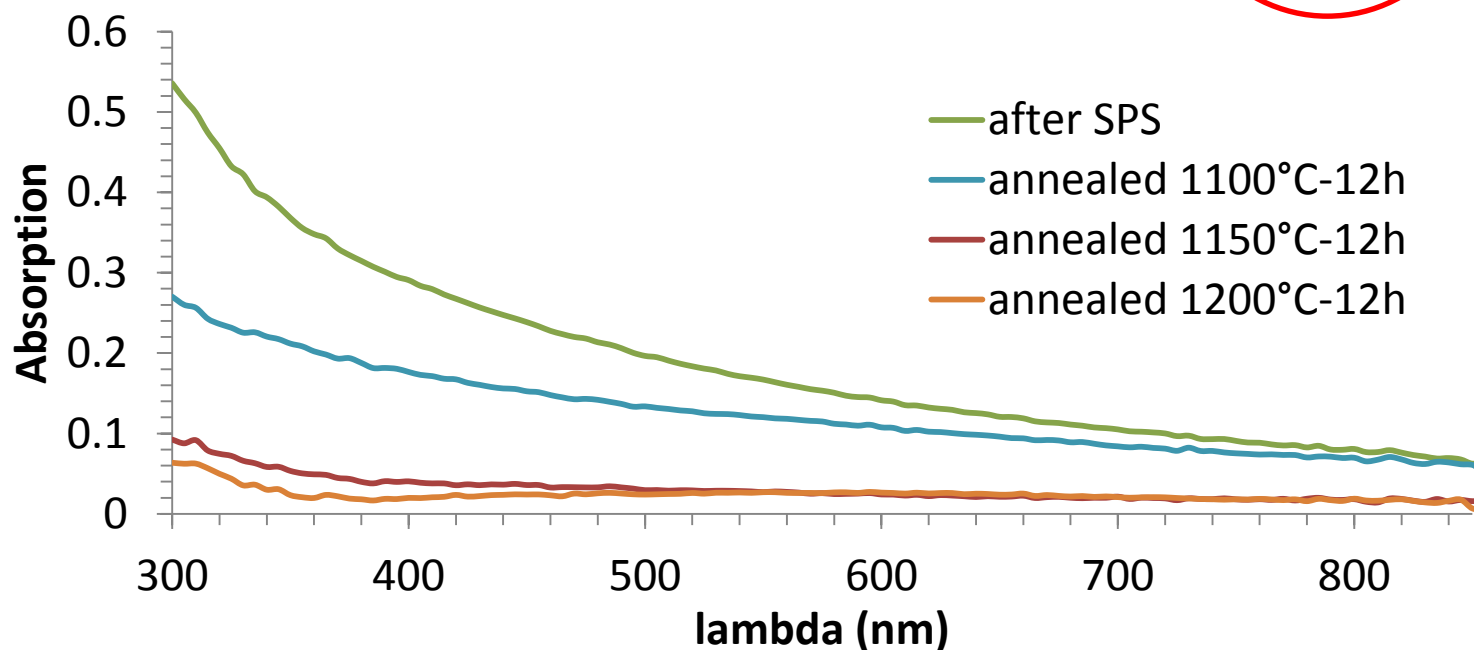


After annealing

1150°C-12h



1200°C-12h



Best results

TFT: 75%

RIT: 66%

Commercial BaTiO₃ powder

Optimization by dispersion

Dispersion and drying conditions

Isopropanol +Turbula BM 24h

Drying: rotavapor

After SPS

Better homogeneity

Grain size < 1μm

➡ Less agglomerates lead to a more homogenous compaction
and exaggerated grain growth removal

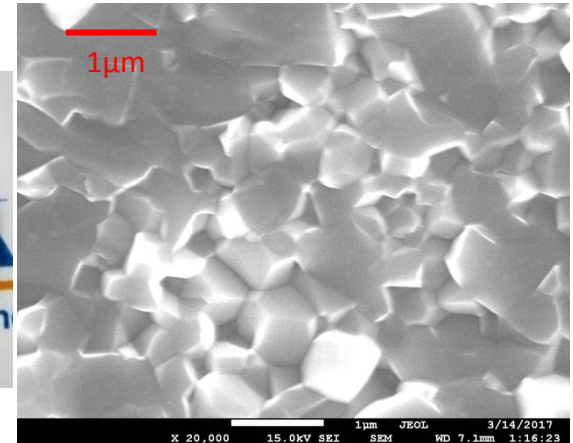
Air annealing

Different annealing conditions tested (700-950°C for 1-12h)

Chosen conditions: 800°C 6h

➡ Darkening decreases → Translucent
Grain size constant

1050°C
99.9%



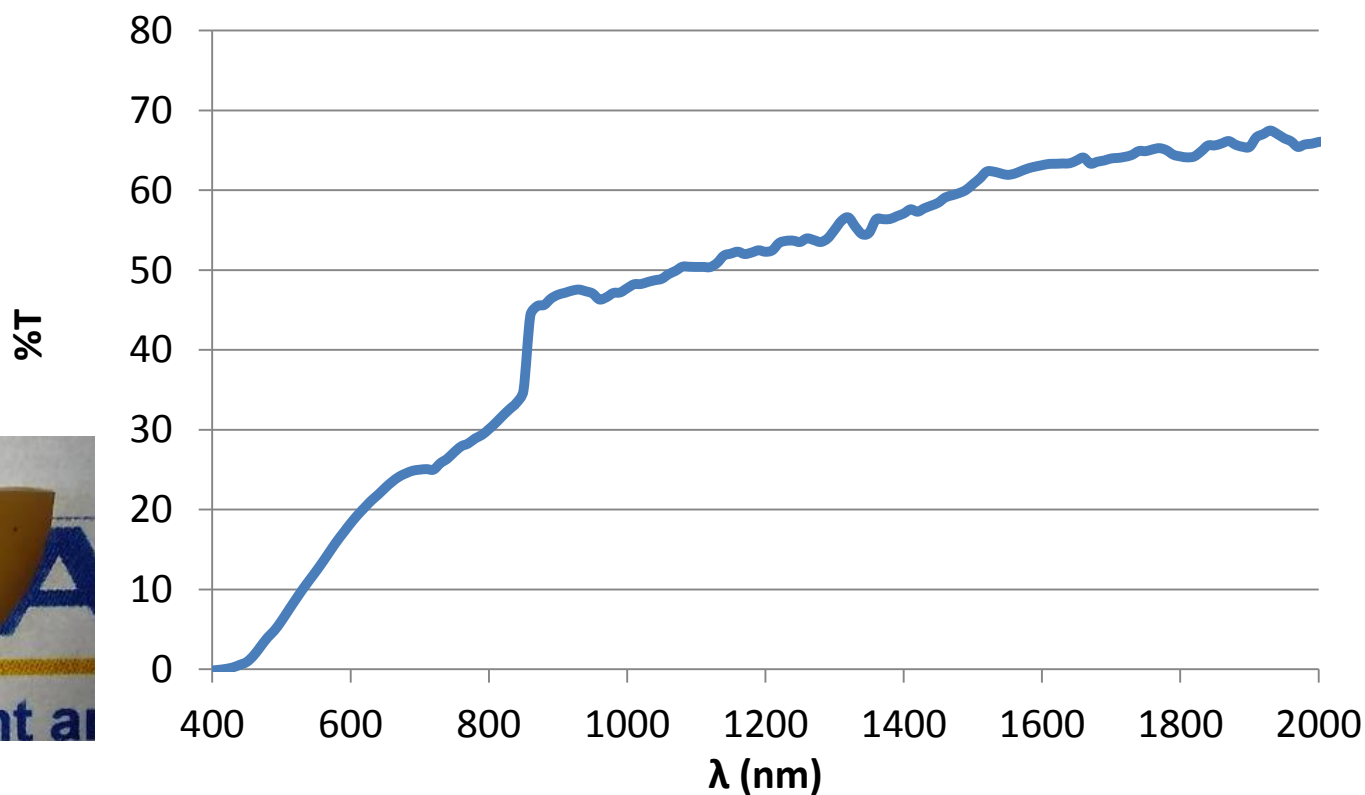
t = 1mm

Optical transmission

After annealing

Slight transmission in the VIS (17% TFT at 600nm)

Good transmission in the IR



Project(s) LoCoTED (ERDF), master and PhD thesis UCLouvain
Contributors P. Aubry, V. Dupont, J.P. Erauw, C. Ott, D.H. Makuanga,
 F. Timmermans, C. van der Rest
Collaboration(s) UCLouvain, Ulg, CRM group

THERMOELECTRICS

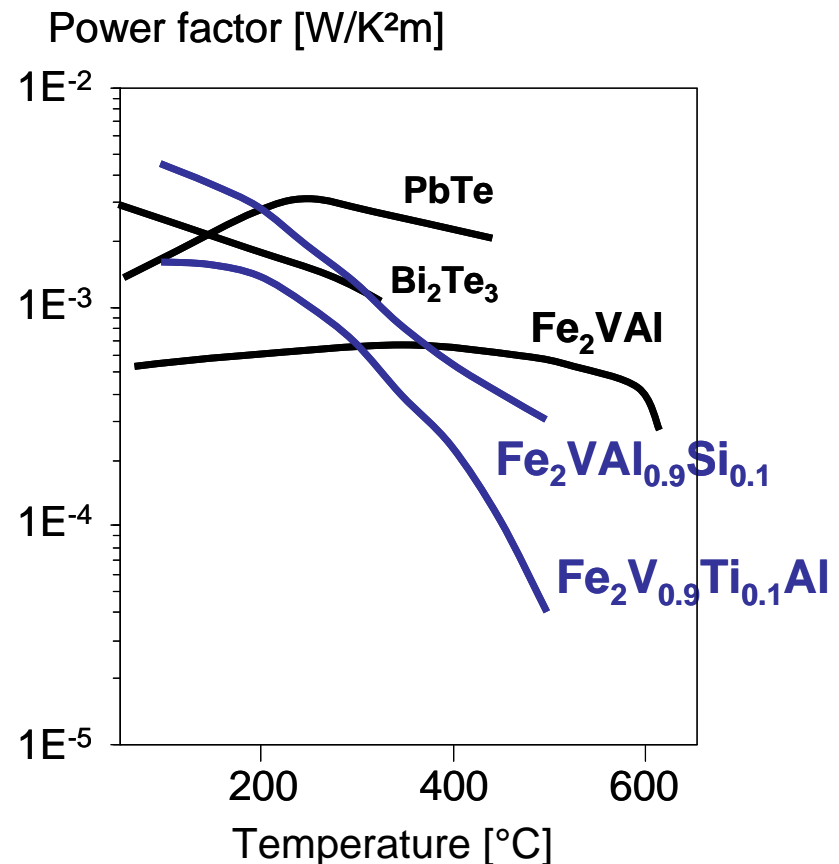
Fe₂VAI - an attractive TE material

The Fe₂VAI compounds are thermoelectric materials that meet most requirements for industrial applications

The constitutive elements are abundant, cheap and non-toxic

The power factor ($PF = \alpha^2 \sigma$) is similar to that of Bi₂Te₃ below 250°C

The Seebeck coefficient can be modulated by doping



Based on Y. Nishino published data

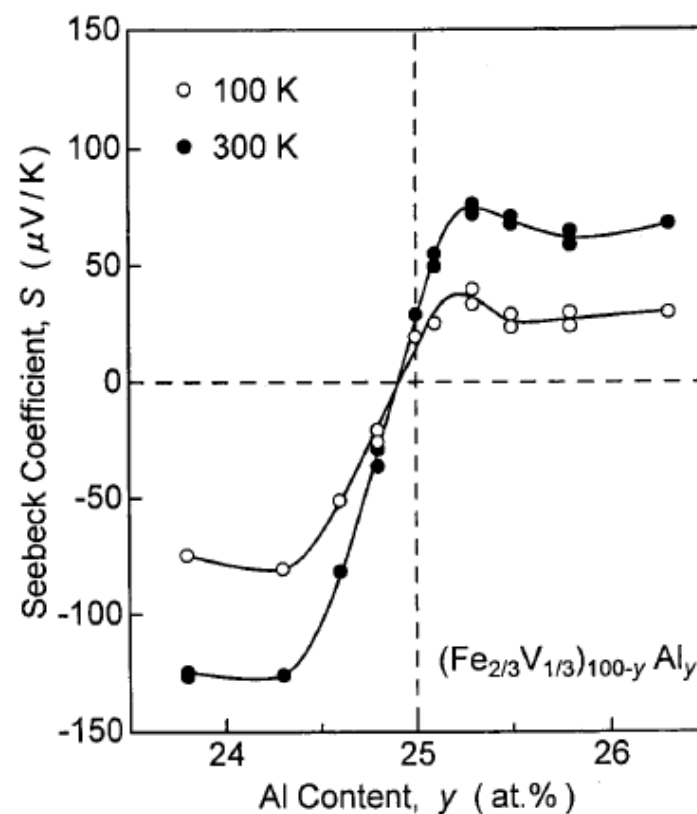
Fe₂VAl - an attractive TE material

The Fe₂VAl compounds are thermoelectric materials that meet most requirements for industrial applications

The constitutive elements are abundant, cheap and non-toxic

The power factor ($PF = \alpha^2 \sigma$) is similar to that of Bi₂Te₃ below 250°C

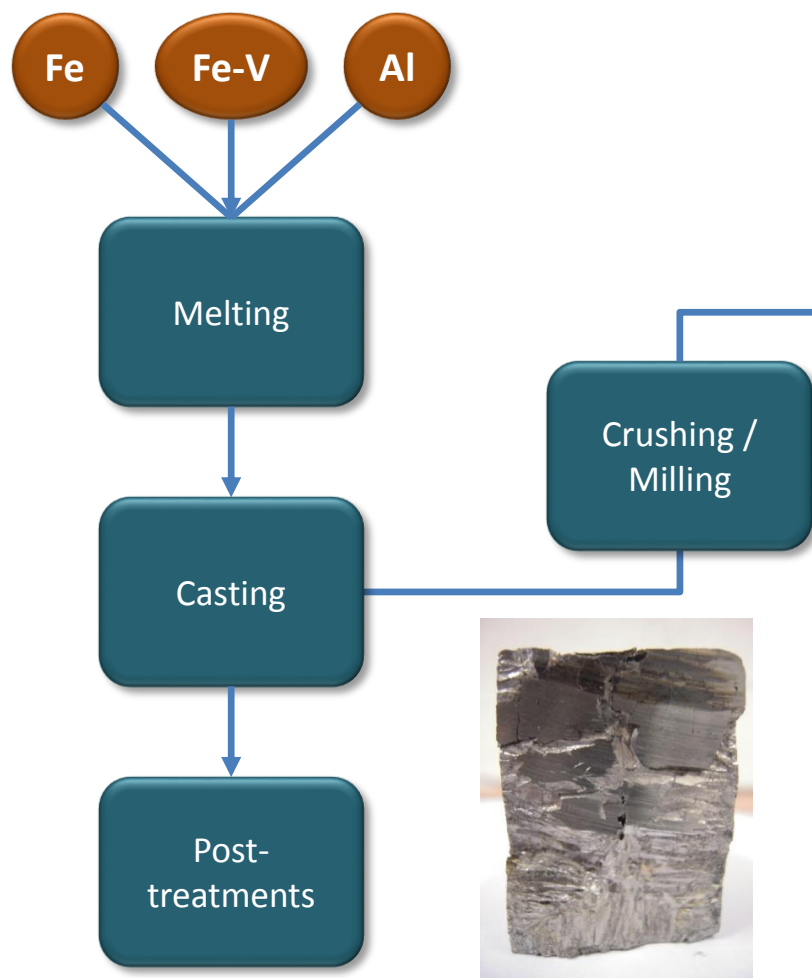
The Seebeck coefficient can be modulated by doping and/or off-stoichiometry



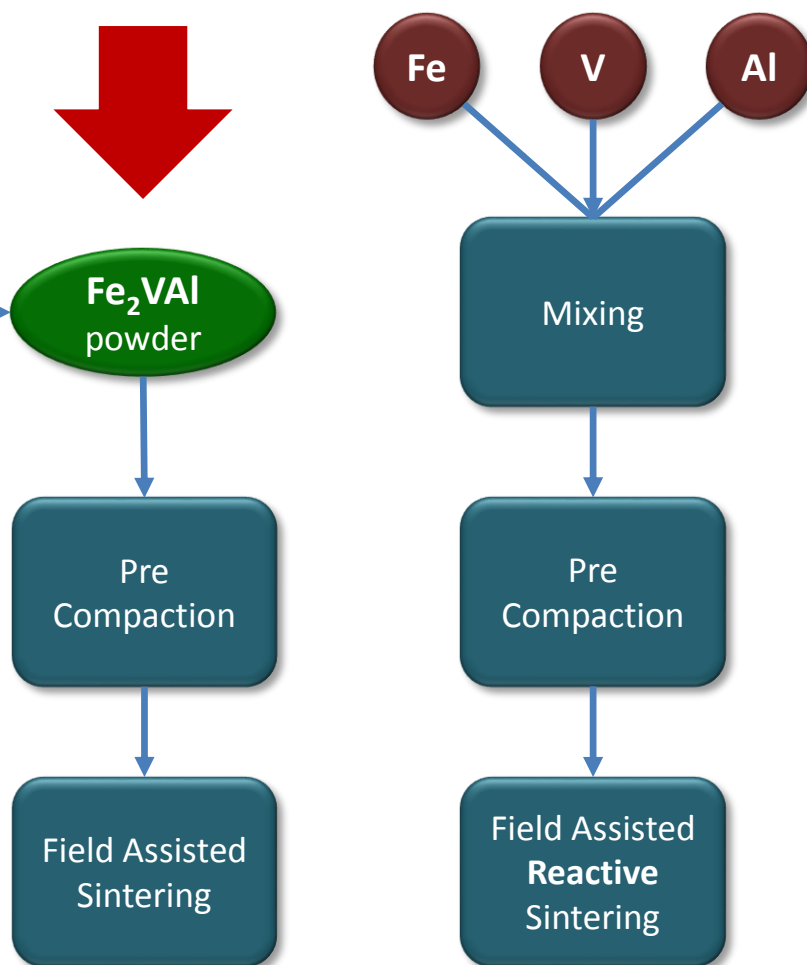
Y. Nishino *et al.*, Physical Review B, [63] 233303

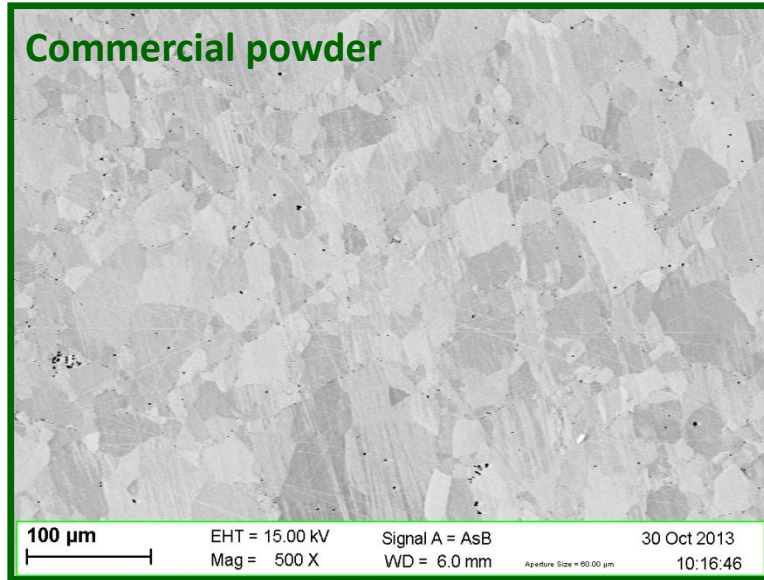
Fe₂VAI - Elaboration strategies

Classical Metallurgy Route

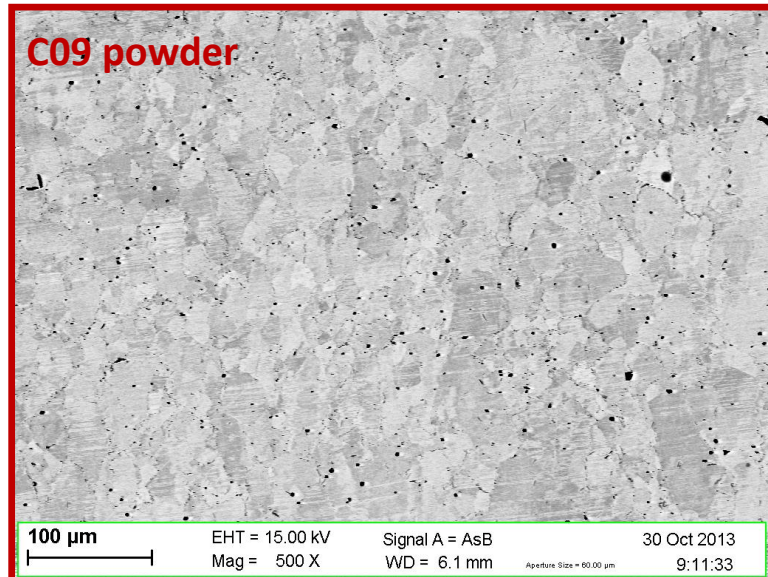
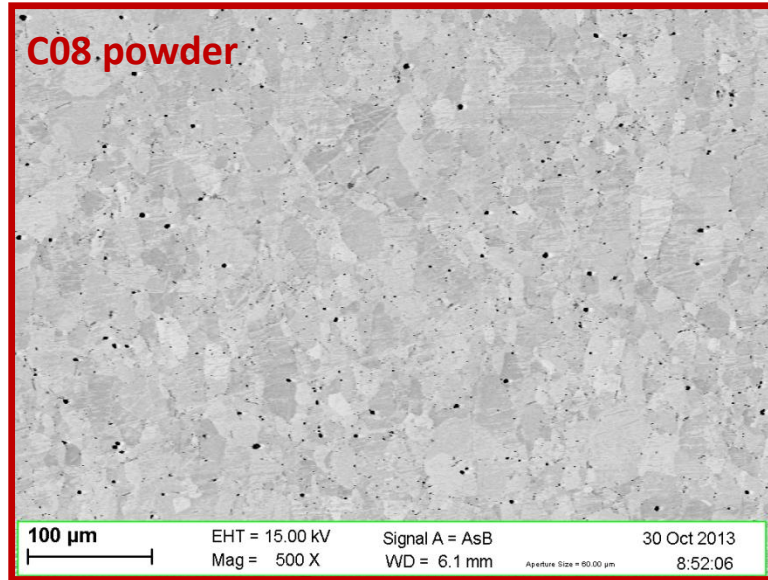


Powder Metallurgy Route

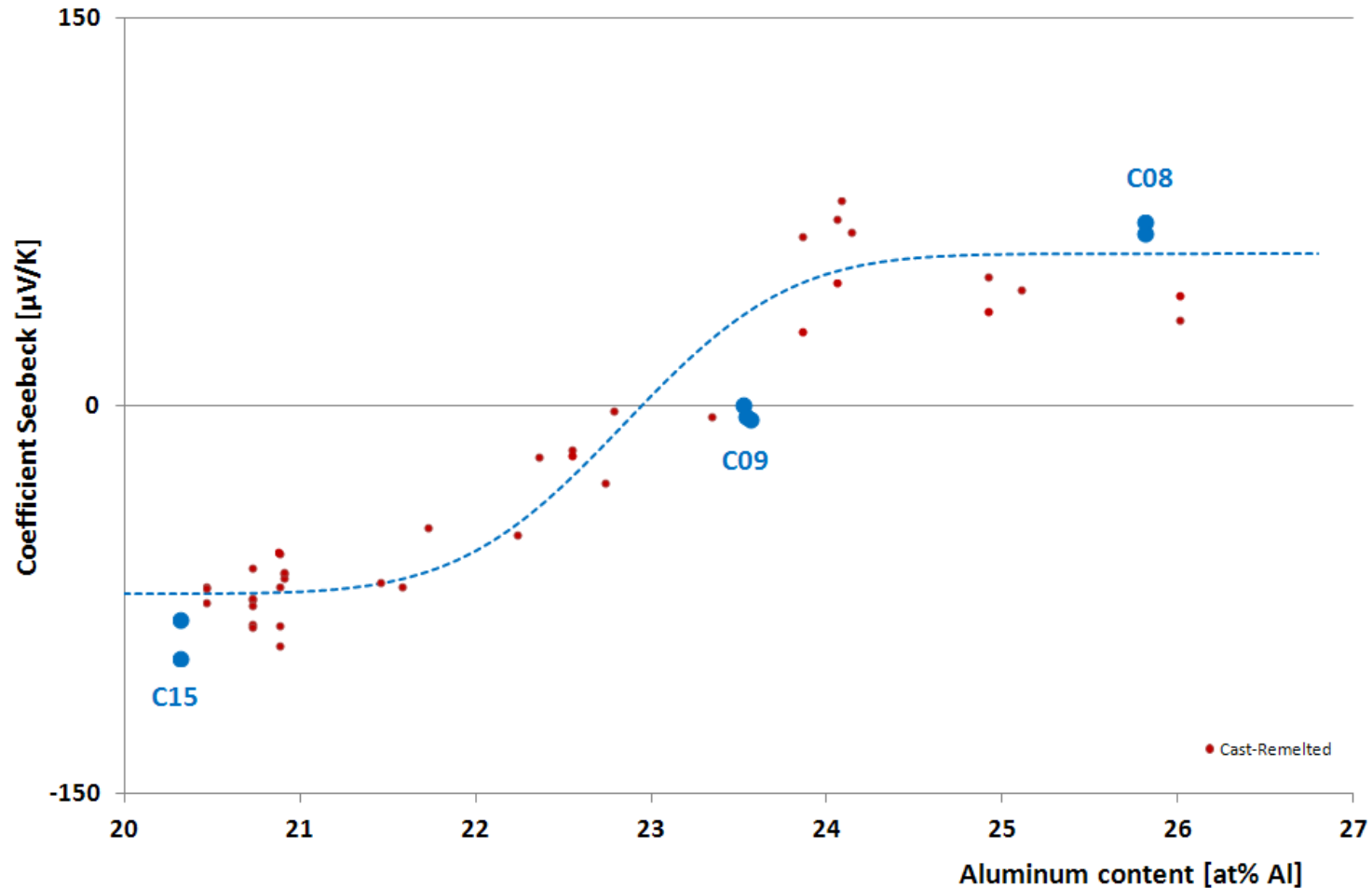




Homogeneous dense microstructure with a few isolated pores and fine globular precipitates along grain boundaries and in isolated clusters

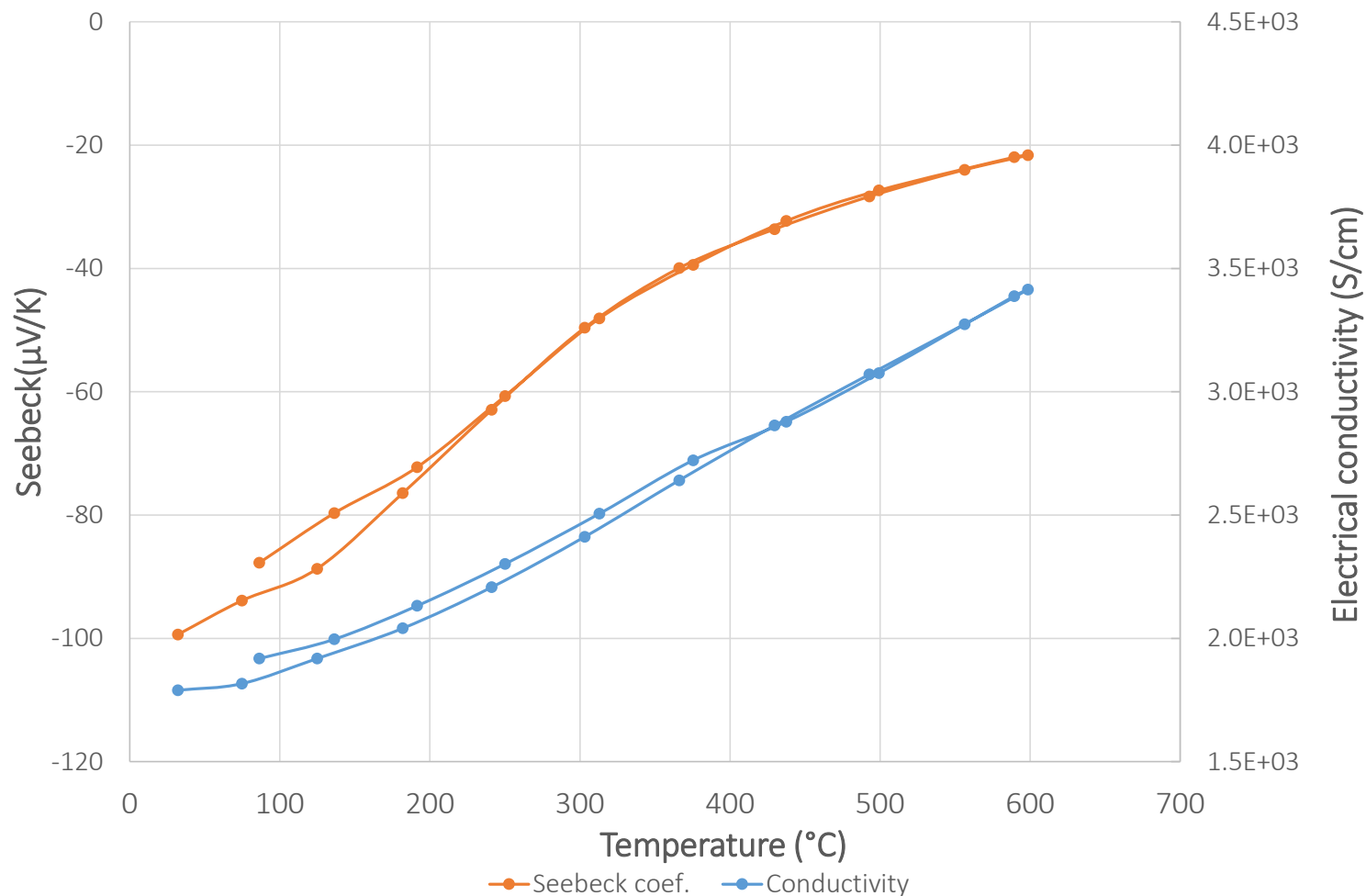


Seebeck coefficient as expected



Further development led to highest Seebeck coefficient for Fe₂VAI

C19 - best n



On-going work – Sputtering targets



Near full density, homogeneous 80 mm diameter sputtering targets have been prepared under hybrid sintering mode on the HHP D125 unit.

They are currently under investigation for the deposition of thin thermoelectric films.

ID	Diamètre mm	ρ_{app} g/cm ³	Open poro %	$\rho_{squel.}$ g/cm ³
Batch H289	80	6.54 6.56*	0.3 0.2*	6.56 6.57*
Batch H290	80	6.54	0.1	6.55
* after grinding				

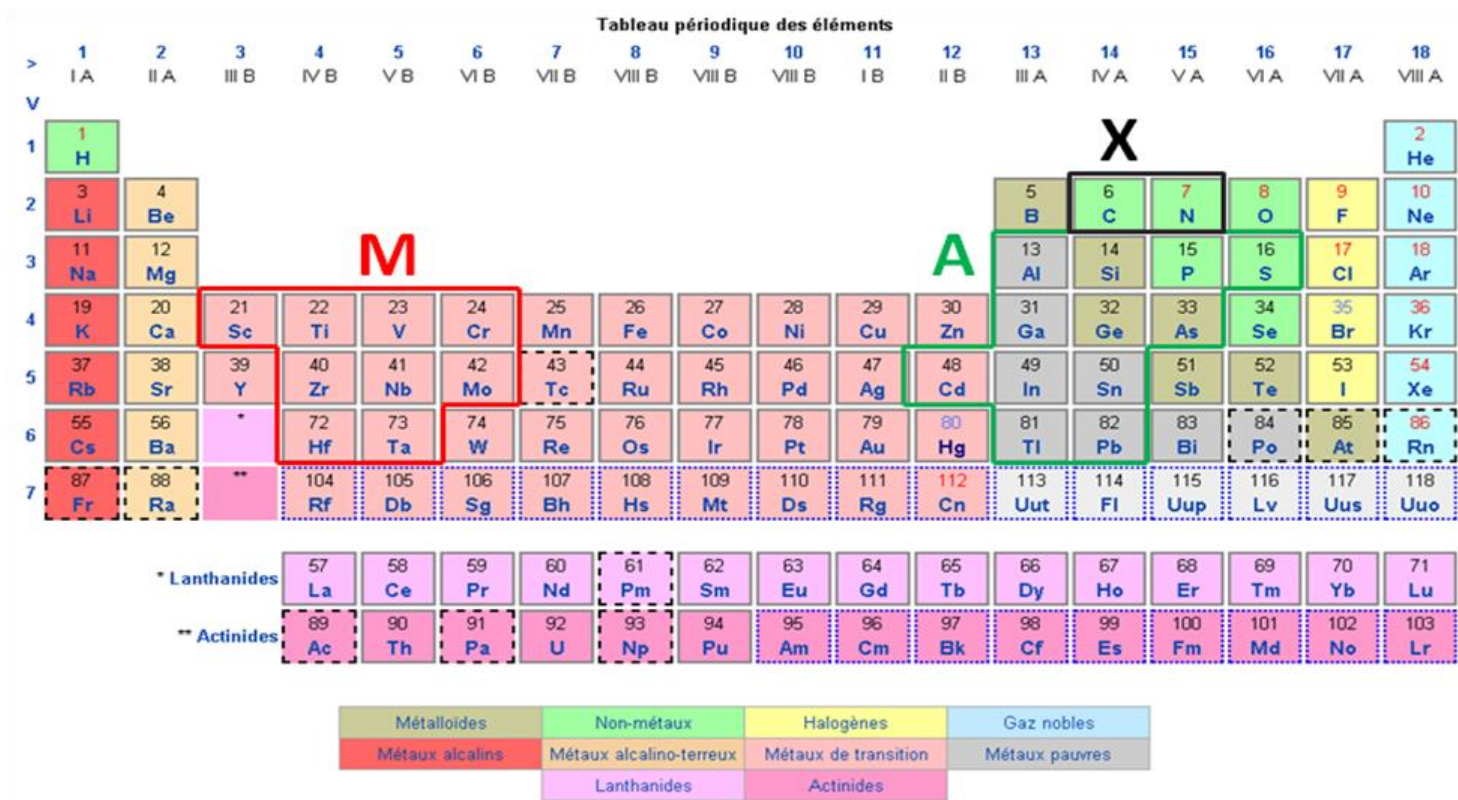
Project(s) CeraMAX (ERDF), PhD thesis University of Blida
Contributors P. Aubry, M. Demuynck, V. Dupont, J.P. Erauw, Y. Hadji
Collaboration(s) UCLouvain, UMONS-FPMs, University of Blida

MAX PHASES

Class of « new » compounds in which :

- M is a transition metal (Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Zr, Nb, Mo, Hf ou Ta)
- A is an element of group A (Al, Si, P, S, Ga, Ge, As, Cd, In, Sn, Ti, Pb)
- X is either carbon or nitrogen.

Tableau périodique des éléments



	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	I A	II A	III B	IV B	V B	VI B	VII B	VIII B	VIII B	VIII B	IB	II B	III A	IV A	V A	VI A	VII A	VIII A
1	1 H																	2 He
2	3 Li	4 Be											5 B	6 C	7 N	8 O	9 F	10 Ne
3	11 Na	12 Mg											13 Al	14 Si	15 P	16 S	17 Cl	18 Ar
4	19 K	20 Ca	21 Sc	22 Ti	23 V	24 Cr	25 Mn	26 Fe	27 Co	28 Ni	29 Cu	30 Zn	31 Ga	32 Ge	33 As	34 Se	35 Br	36 Kr
5	37 Rb	38 Sr	39 Y	40 Zr	41 Nb	42 Mo	43 Tc	44 Ru	45 Rh	46 Pd	47 Ag	48 Cd	49 In	50 Sn	51 Sb	52 Te	53 I	54 Xe
6	55 Cs	56 Ba		72 Hf	73 Ta	74 W	75 Re	76 Os	77 Ir	78 Pt	79 Au	80 Hg	81 Tl	82 Pb	83 Bi	84 Po	85 At	86 Rn
7	87 Fr	88 Ra		104 Rf	105 Db	106 Sg	107 Bh	108 Hs	109 Mt	110 Ds	111 Rg	112 Cn	113 Uut	114 Fl	115 Uup	116 Lv	117 Uus	118 Uuo
	* Lanthanides		57 La	58 Ce	59 Pr	60 Nd	61 Pm	62 Sm	63 Eu	64 Gd	65 Tb	66 Dy	67 Ho	68 Er	69 Tm	70 Yb	71 Lu	
	** Actinides		89 Ac	90 Th	91 Pa	92 U	93 Np	94 Pu	95 Am	96 Cm	97 Bk	98 Cf	99 Es	100 Fm	101 Md	102 No	103 Lr	

Métalloïdes	Non-métaux	Halogènes	Gaz nobles
Métaux alcalins	Métaux alcalino-terreux	Métaux de transition	Métaux pauvres
	Lanthanides	Actinides	

Class of « new » compounds in which :

- **M** is a transition metal (Sc, Ti, V, Cr, Zr, Nb, Mo, Hf ou Ta)
- **A** is an element of group A (Al, Si, P, S, Ga, Ge, As, Cd, In, Sn, Ti, Pb)
- **X** is either carbon or nitrogen.

Tableau périodique des éléments

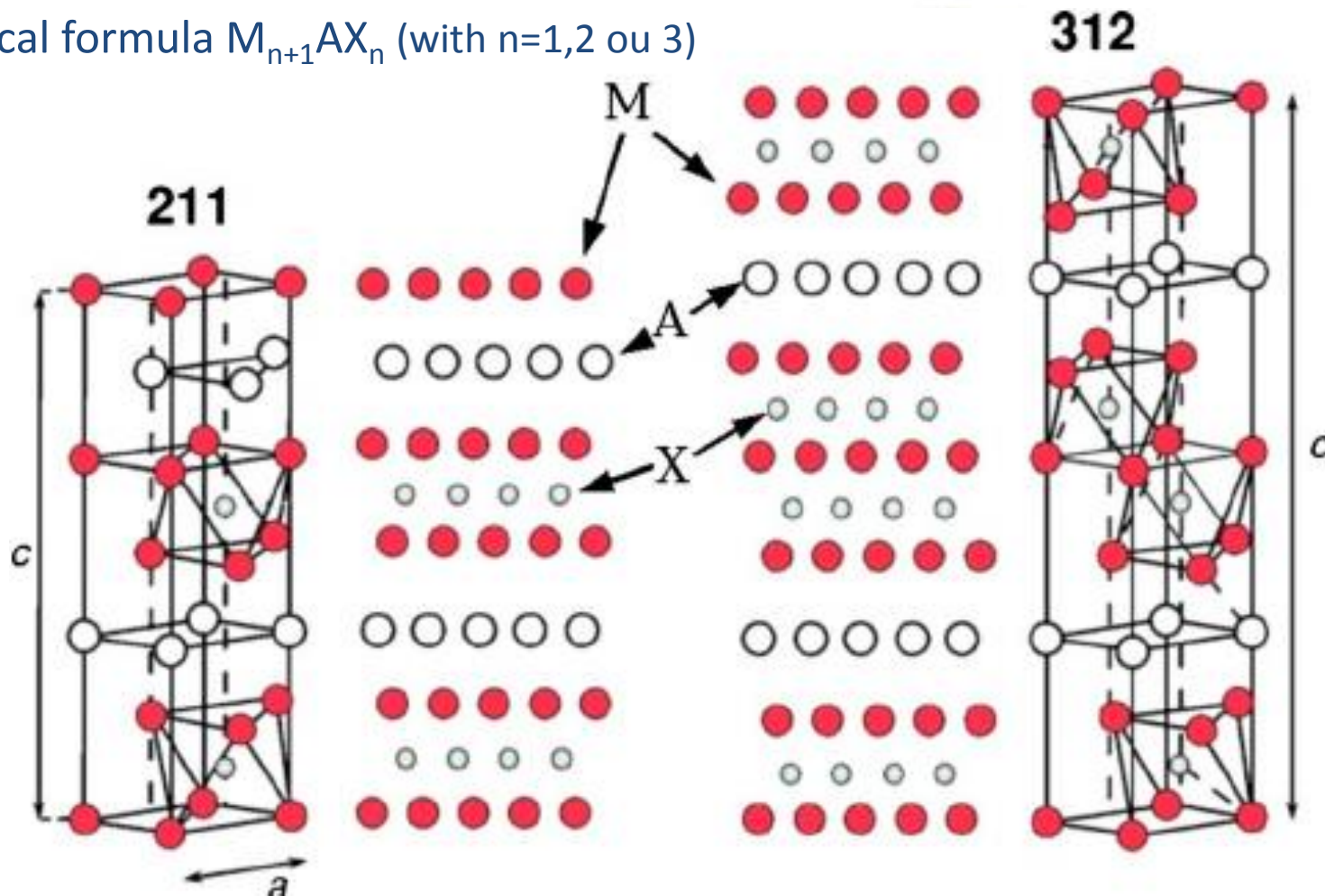
MAX Phases = ternary carbides or nitrides

Chemical formula $M_{n+1}AX_n$ (with $n=1,2$ ou 3)

Metallides	Non-métaux	Halogènes	Gaz nobles
Métaux alcalins	Métaux alcalino-terreux	Métaux de transition	Métaux pauvres
	Lanthanides	Actinides	

Layers of $M_{n+1}X_n$ carbide/nitride intercalated
with monolayers of element A

Chemical formula $M_{n+1}AX_n$ (with $n=1,2$ ou 3)



M.W.Barsoum, American Scientist 89, 34 (2001)

Layers of $M_{n+1}X_n$ carbide/nitride intercalated
with monolayers of element A

Chemical formula $M_{n+1}AX_n$ (with $n=1,2$ ou 3)

312

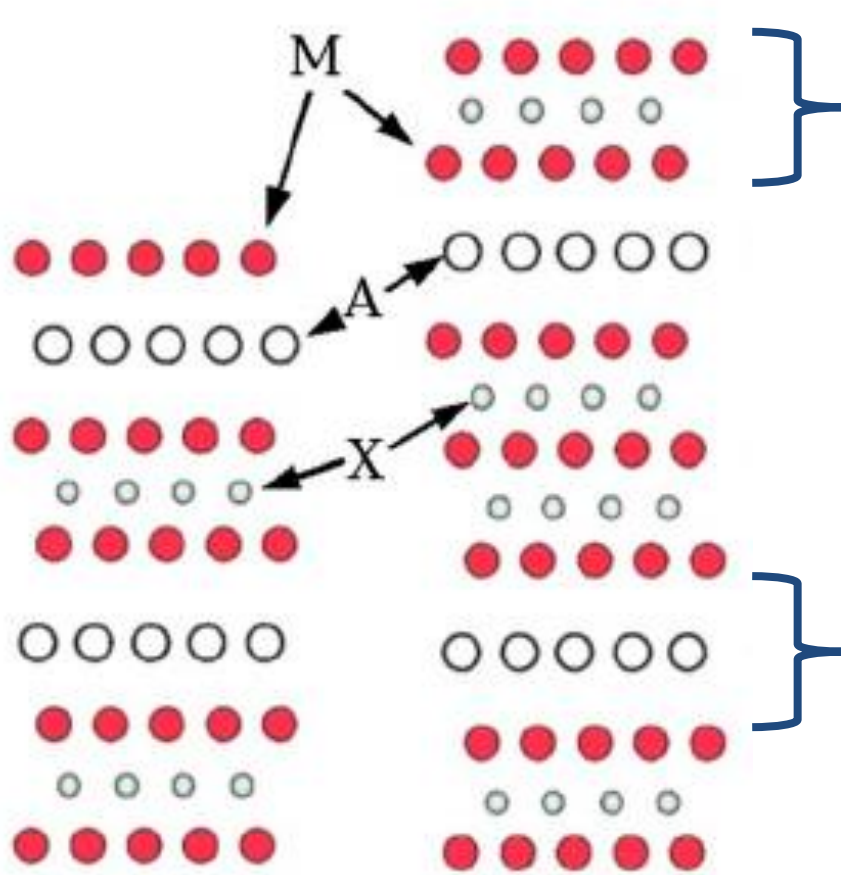
MAX Phases are characterized by their
(nano)lamellar structure



*M. Naguib et al., Advanced
Materials 23, 37 (2011)*



M.W.Barsoum, American Scientist 89, 34 (2001)



Carbide/nitride > strong covalent bonding M-X

Excellent thermal, chemical, electrical ... properties

Nano lamellar structure

Specific deformation mechanisms

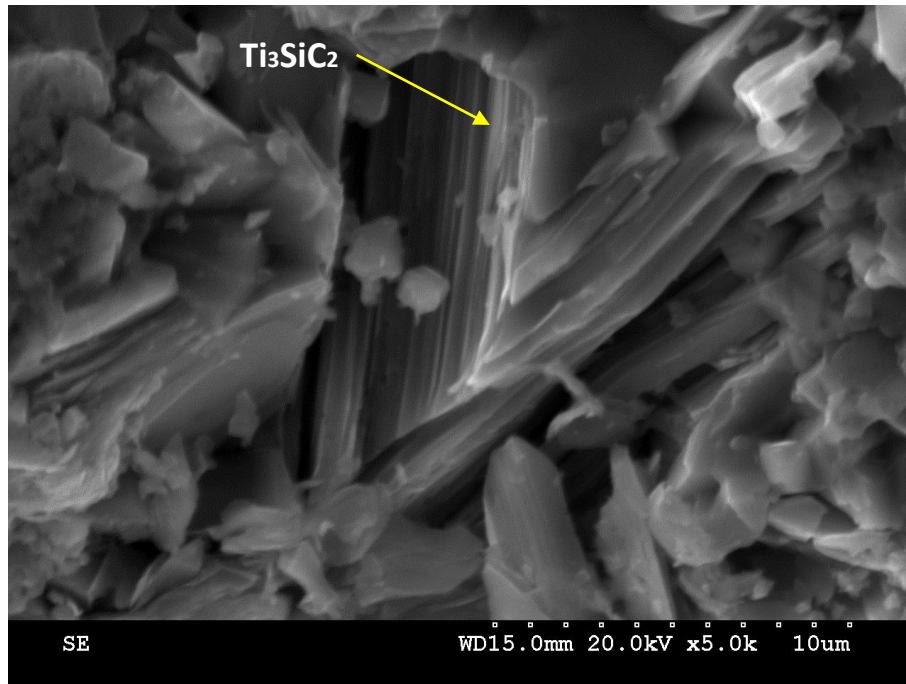


MAX Phases

Properties bridging the gap
between metals and ceramics



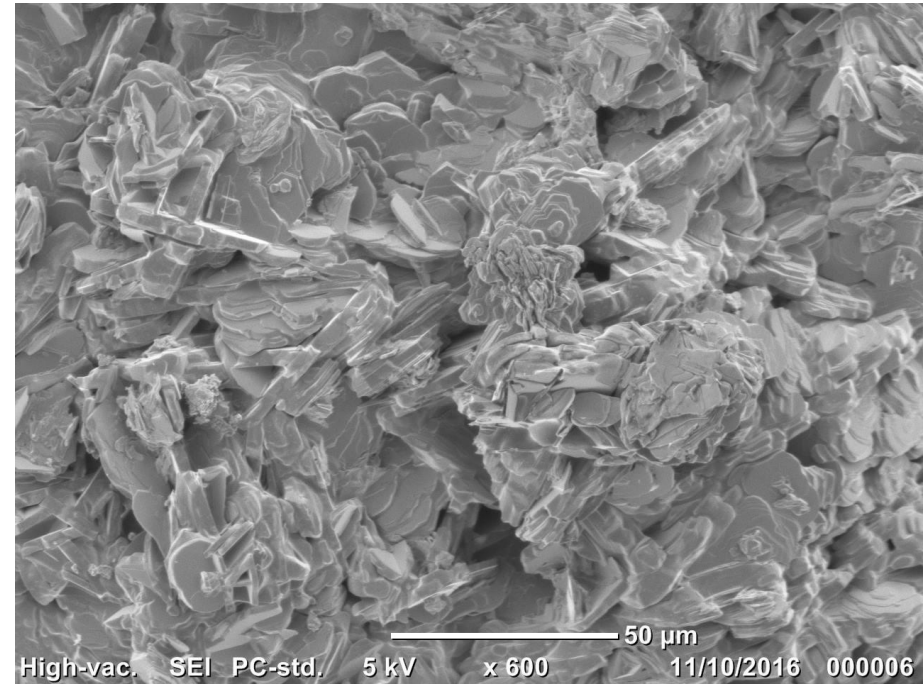
Bulk sample reactively SPS sintered
@ 1500°C



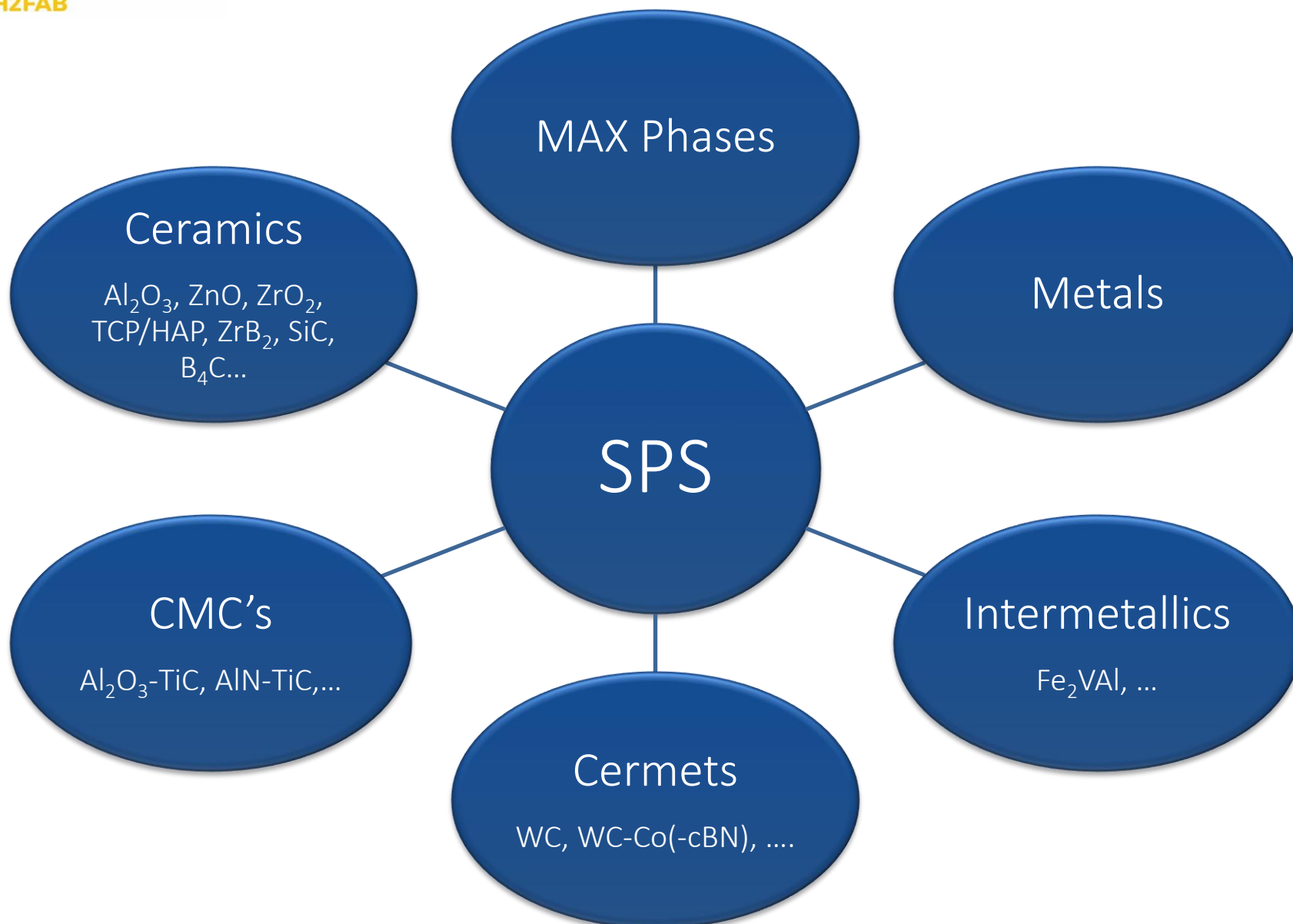
Reference materials



Powder reactive synthesized in SPS
@ 1350°C



Mixture of 211 and 312 phases



Basic research

- Insight in the fundamental mechanisms
- Process modelling

Innovative Materials

- Wear resistant
 - (Electro) optics
 - Thermoelectrics
 - « Polyvalent »
- Cermets and composites
YAG, Ba(Sr)TiO₃
(Semi) Heussler compounds
MAX phases

Technical Improvements

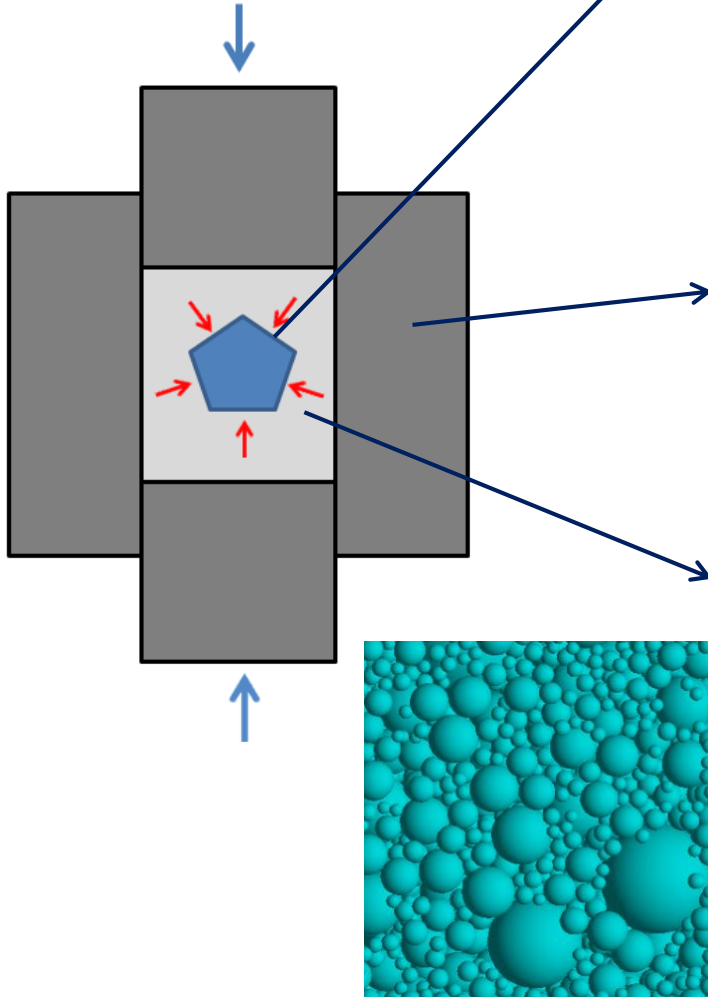
- Upscaling
- Shape complexity

Project(s) SHAPESPS (DGO6)
Contributors M. Demuynck, V. Dupont, S. Hocquet
Collaboration(s) Ulg-GRASP

SHAPE COMPLEXITY

Rationale of the ShapeSPS project

Quasi isostatic SPS



1 - Green part processing

- ❑ Take into account the dimensional variations during sintering
- ❑ Take care of debinding problem: compatible with the powder bed, low volume of gas → debinded?, pre-sintered?

2 - Sintering parameters

- ❑ Reach the wished density
- ❑ Take into account any deformation induced by the pressure

3 - Powder bed properties and numerical modeling

- ❑ Optimal properties of the powder bed
 - Powder flowability
 - Indentation problem
 - Forces dispersion
 - Recycling of the powder bed (i.e. does not sinter)
- ❑ Relative dimensions (part ↔ die)

- Uniaxial and isostatic pressing of powder of WC-12%Co
- Laser machining based on CAD model
- SPS cycle under optimal conditions of load and temperature



H_{tot}_{ini}
= 10,65mm

H_{spike}_{ini}
= 5,90mm

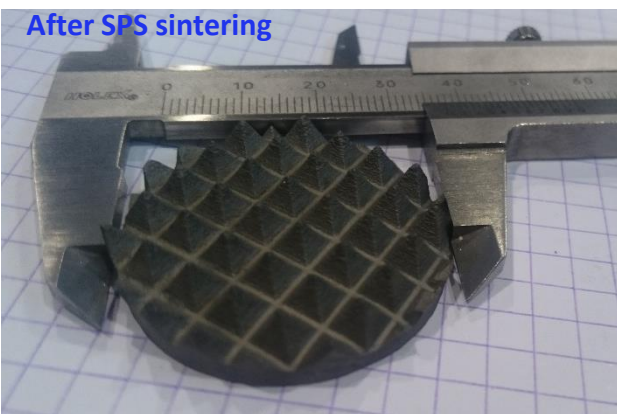
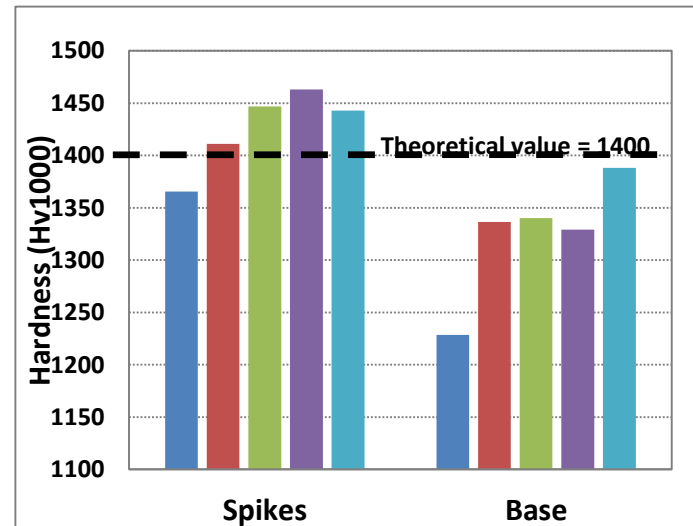
« Boucharde » part – Tool 80mm
1280°C-20min-100kN



Hardness measurement
(HV1000) on base and spikes

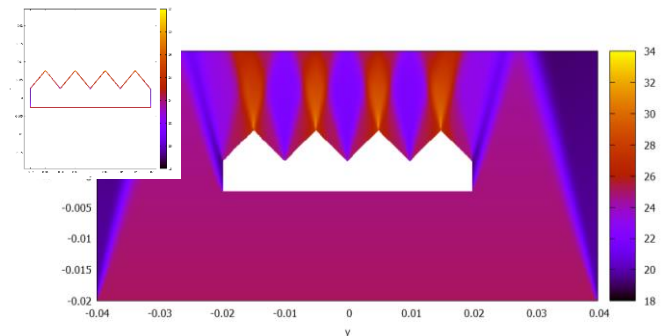
Hardness

- Pure WC ~ 2200
- WC + 6% Co ~ 1550
- WC + 12% Co ~ 1400



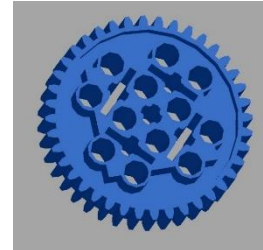
Density after sintering : 13.96 or 97.6%

Reinforcement on spikes,
explained by 2D model
(larger force applied by the
granular media on spikes)



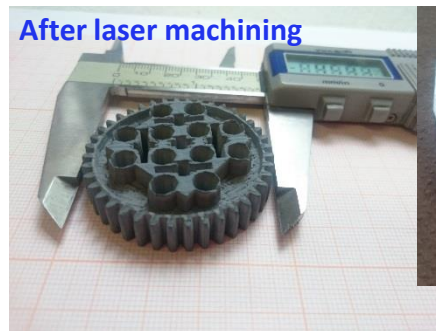
H_{tot}_{fin} = 7.85mm H_{spike}_{fin} = 4.30mm

- Uniaxial and isostatic pressing of alumina powder
- Laser machining based on CAD model
- Debinding (700°C) and pre-sintering at 1100°C/3h
- SPS cycle under optimal conditions of temperature and load



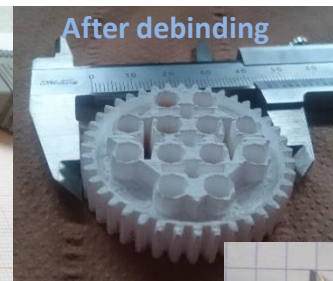
Turbine – Tool 40mm
1600°C-10min-3kN

**Density after sintering: 3.78
(95.0%)**



After laser machining

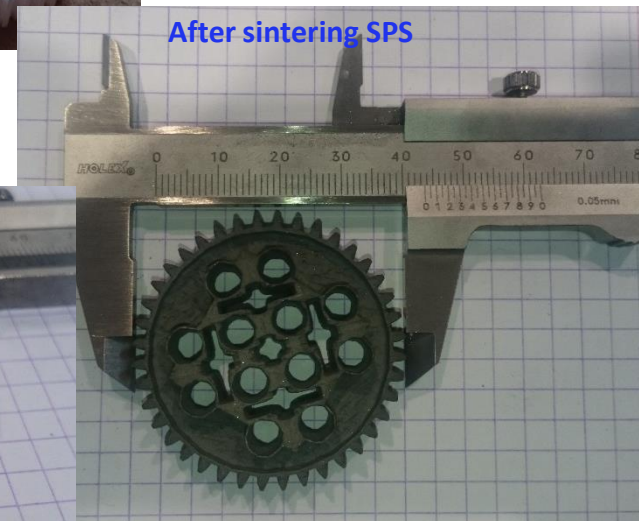
Gear – Tool 80mm
1500°C-10min-40kN



After debinding

**Density after sintering: 3.82
(96,1%)**

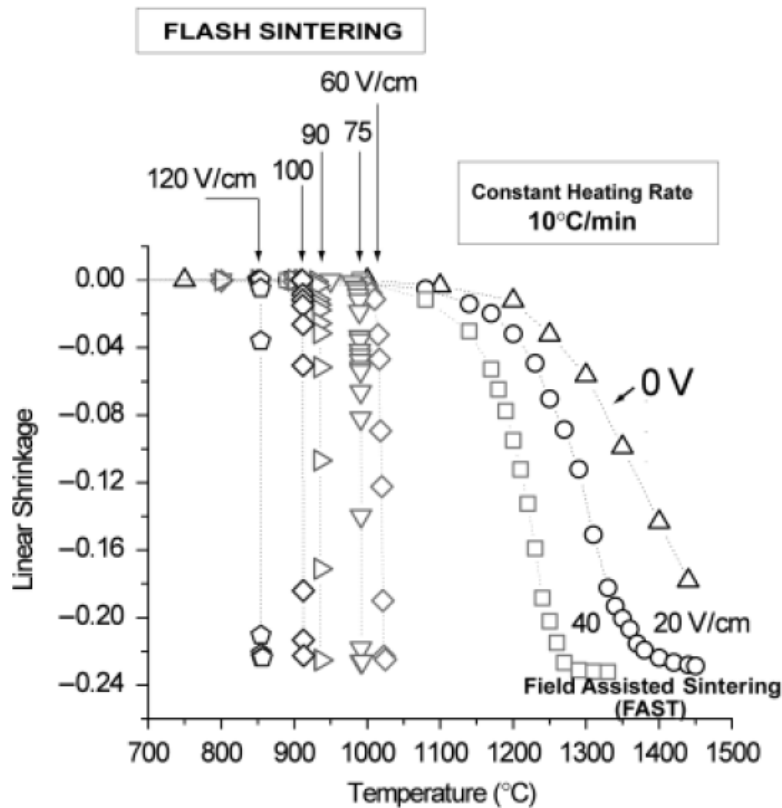
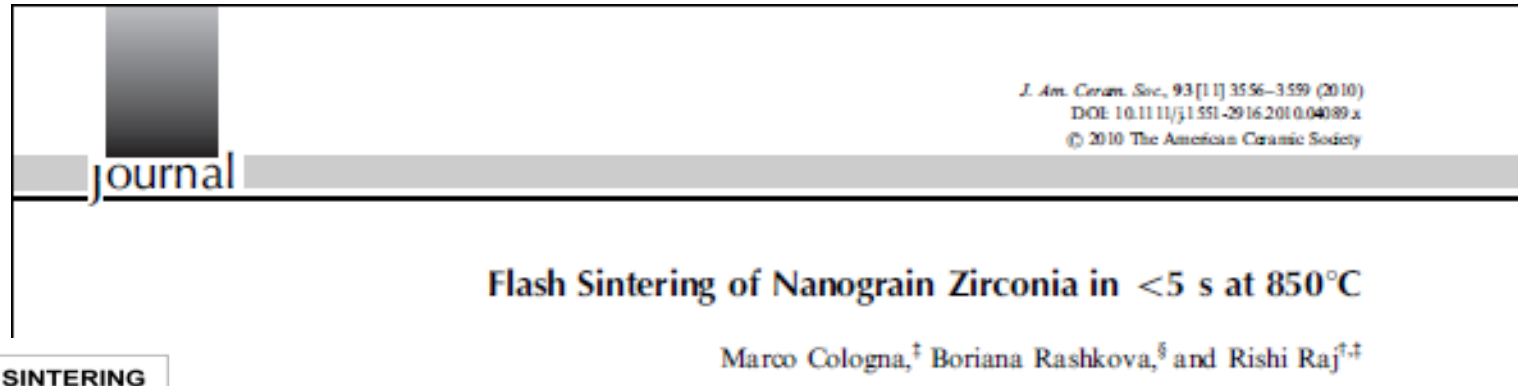
Shrinkage diameter : 2%
Shrinkage height : 26%



After sintering SPS



FLASH SINTERING



- densification quasi-instantanée
- d'un compact porté progressivement en température
- en présence d'un champ électrique dépassant une valeur seuil

In Situ Thermometry Measuring Temperature Flashes Exceeding 1,700°C in 8 mol% Y_2O_3 -Stabilized Zirconia Under Constant-Voltage Heating

Jungdeok Park and I-Wei Chen[†]

Mécanismes invoqués

- Forte augmentation locale de température aux joints de grains (d'autant plus marquée que les cols entre particules sont restreints)
- Nucléation de défauts (paires de Frenkel)
- Interaction avec les charges d'espace

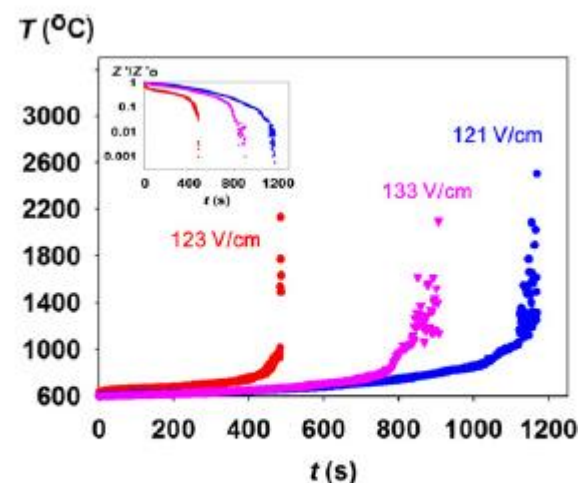
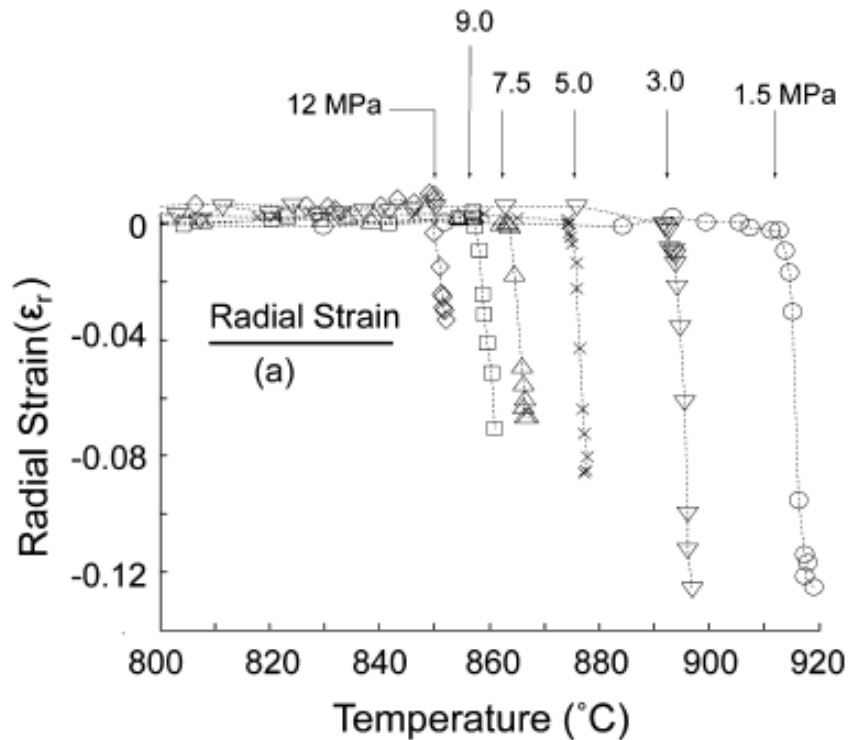


Fig. 6. Temperature of 8YSZ samples (0.6–0.69-mm thick) under constant voltage (8–8.5 V). Inset: decrease in resistance relative to initial value. Furnace heating rate: 10°C/min.

Flash-Sinterforging of Nanograin Zirconia: Field Assisted Sintering and Superplasticity

John S.C. Francis[†] and Rishi Raj

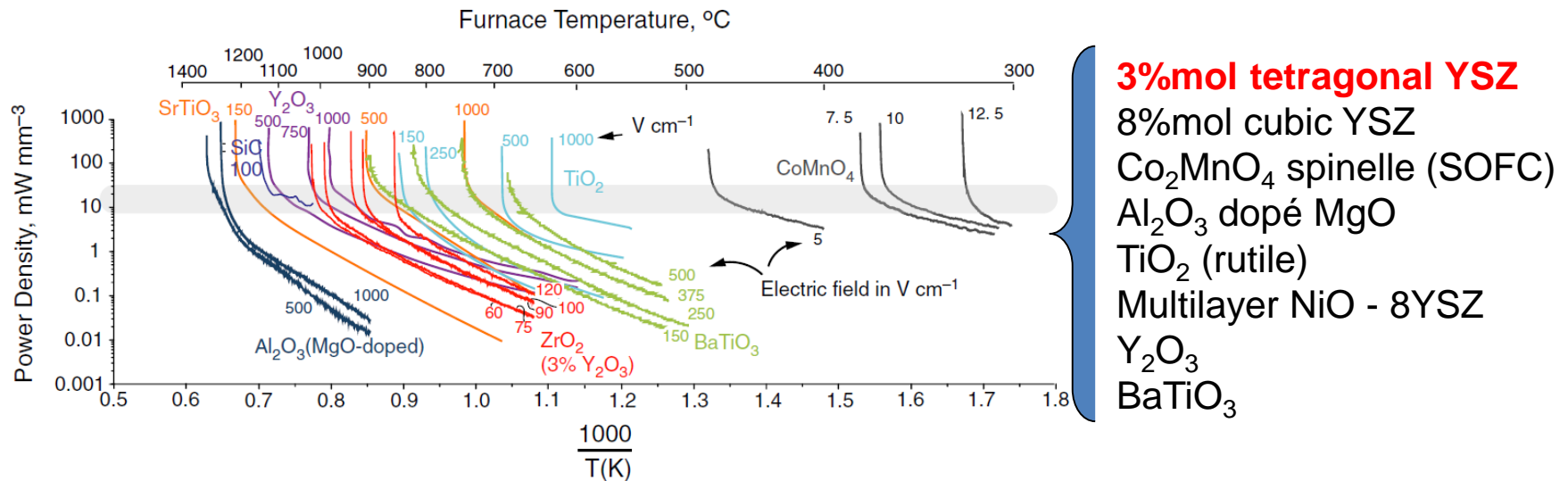
Electric Field = 100 V/cm

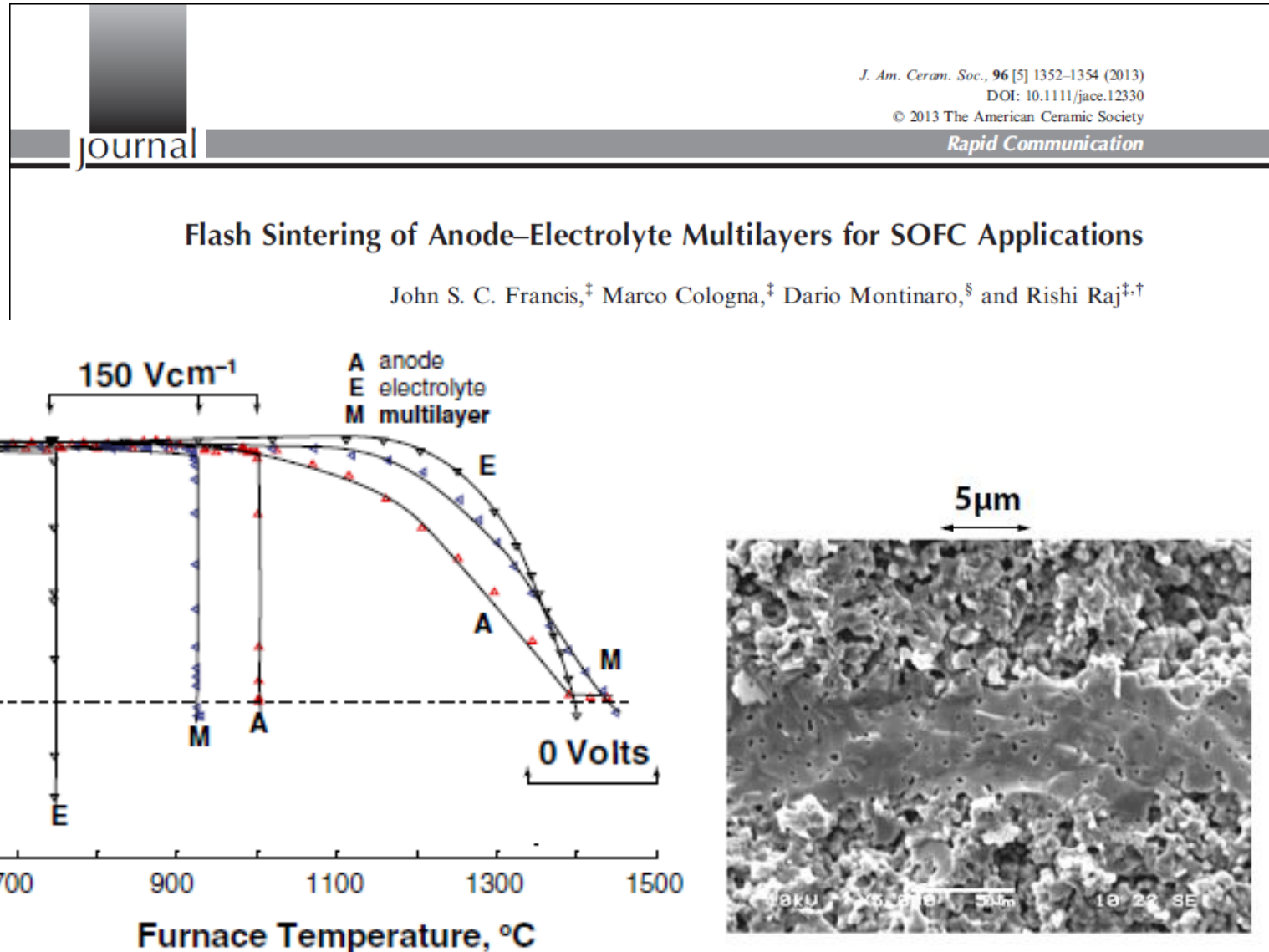


- A champ électrique fixé, on relève une diminution de la température seuil pour des contraintes appliquées croissantes

Applicable à tout matériau ?

- Rapporté essentiellement (mais pas uniquement) pour des oxydes
- Grandes variations de la valeur seuil du champ électrique selon le matériau considéré





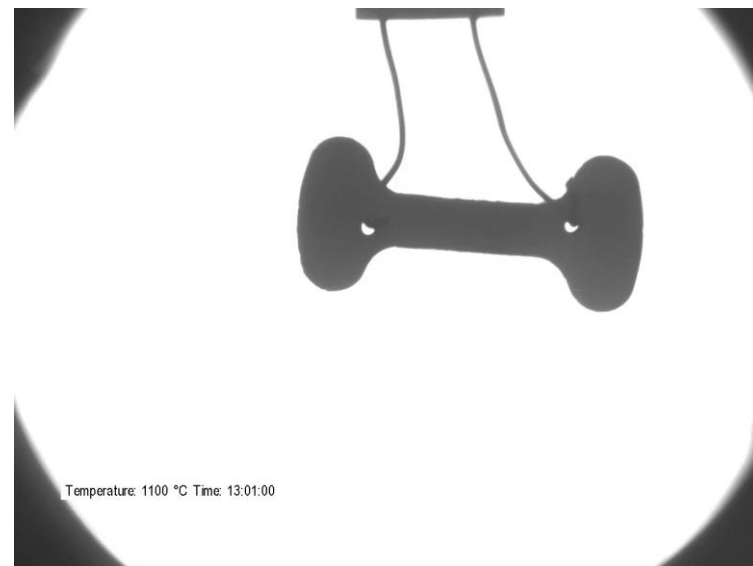
FLASH SINTERING @ BCRC

Project(s) FlashSint (ERDF)
Contributors L. Boilet, M. Demuynck, S. Hocquet
Collaboration(s) Université de Liège (Institut Montefiore)

FRITTAGE FLASH A L'ECHELLE PILOTE

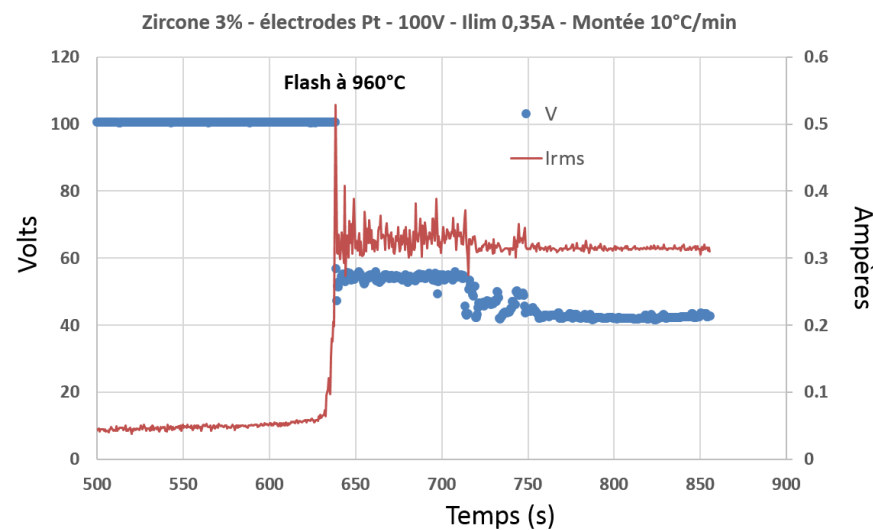
Essais à température constante

Température four (°C)	Tension (V/cm)	I _{max} (A)
950	115	0,35
1000	106	0,35
1050	100	0,35
1100	92	0,35
1150	62	0,35



Essais à vitesse de chauffe/tension constante

Tension (V/cm)	Température four (°C)	I _{max} (A)
100	980	0,35
125	950	0,35
150	840	0,35



Low Energy Firing Project

Lucideon (UK)

Objectif :

commercialisation de la technologie de frittage sous champ électrique (frittage flash) pour la production continue de produits céramiques à basse température (750-900°C)



20-metre kiln (source www.ceram.com)

- ❖ The DGO6 (Wallonia, Belgium) is greatly acknowledged for the financial support of the research projects STEELFSW, FSW-PME, SHAPESPS, First Do.C.A. SPS, First Do.C.A. Ceropt
- ❖ The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and Wallonia, are gratefully acknowledged for their financial support to the research projects T-REX-EquiDeR, T-REX-Cerapide, IMAWA-CeraMAX, IMAWA-FlashSint, FMF-LoCoTED in the frame of the “Convergence programme” and “Transition programme”

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS



The European Regional Development Fund and Wallonia invest in your future

My colleagues

Laurent Boilet

Michel Cambier

Maryse Demuynck

Vedi Dupont

Stéphane Hocquet

Rosa Moronta Perez

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Merci pour votre attention

Questions?



CRIBC (chef de file)

www.bcrc.be
Mons
+32 (0)65 40 34 34



Materia Nova

www.materianova.be
Mons
+32 (0) 65 55 49 02



UVHC-LMCPA

www.univ-valenciennes.fr
Maubeuge
+33 (0) 3 27 51 16 76



CRITT-MDTS

www.critt-mdts.com
Charleville-Mézières
+33 (0) 3 24 37 89 89



Matikem

www.matikem.com
Villeneuve d'Ascq
+ 33 3 61 76 02 45



POM Oost-Vlaanderen

Gent
+32 (0) 9 267 86 33



Wallonie

