



EU program update

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EU program update

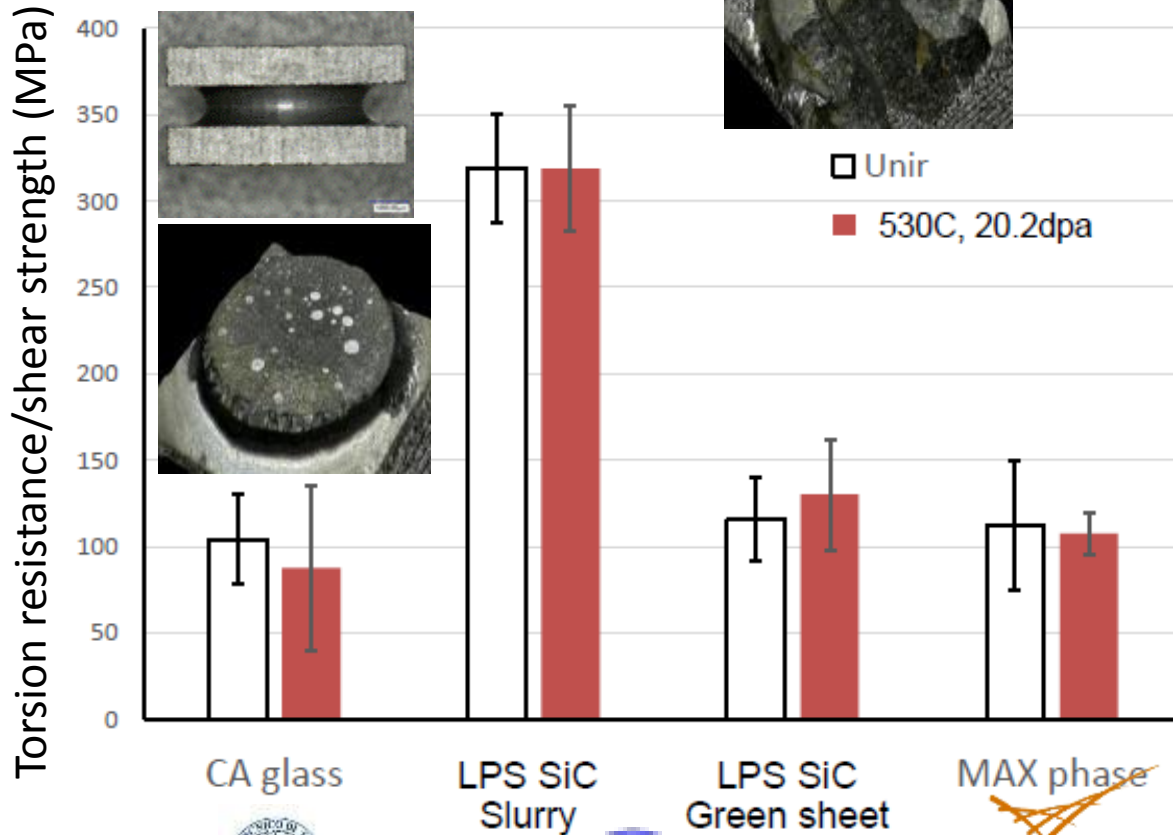
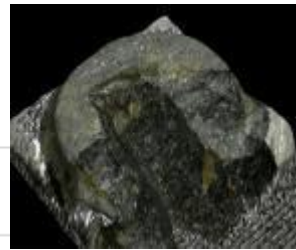
- POLITO:
 - Pressure-less joining materials:
 - glass-ceramics,
 - Refractory Metal (RM)-wrap
 - SPS joining in collaboration with QMUL & Nanoforce, UK
 - Modelling and testing of joined SiC by torsion and other tests
 - Ion irradiation of joints
 - W/Fe functionally graded joints by sputtering (poster)
 - *EU project funded (Il Trovatore)(October 2017)*
 - *Autoclave tests on joined-coated materials*
 - *J-TECH@POLITO funded (May 2017)*
- CEIT:
 - porous SiC development for application as FCIs in DCLL blankets



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Pressure-less joining materials: glass-ceramics



- These torsion tests are suitable to measure the shear strength of a joined component only if the joining material is brittle *and if the fracture propagates exclusively in the joined area.*
- In this ideal situation, the measured shear strength is geometry independent
- In the case of fracture outside the joined area the measured value is *the torsion resistance of the joined sample*, dependent from the substrate mechanical properties



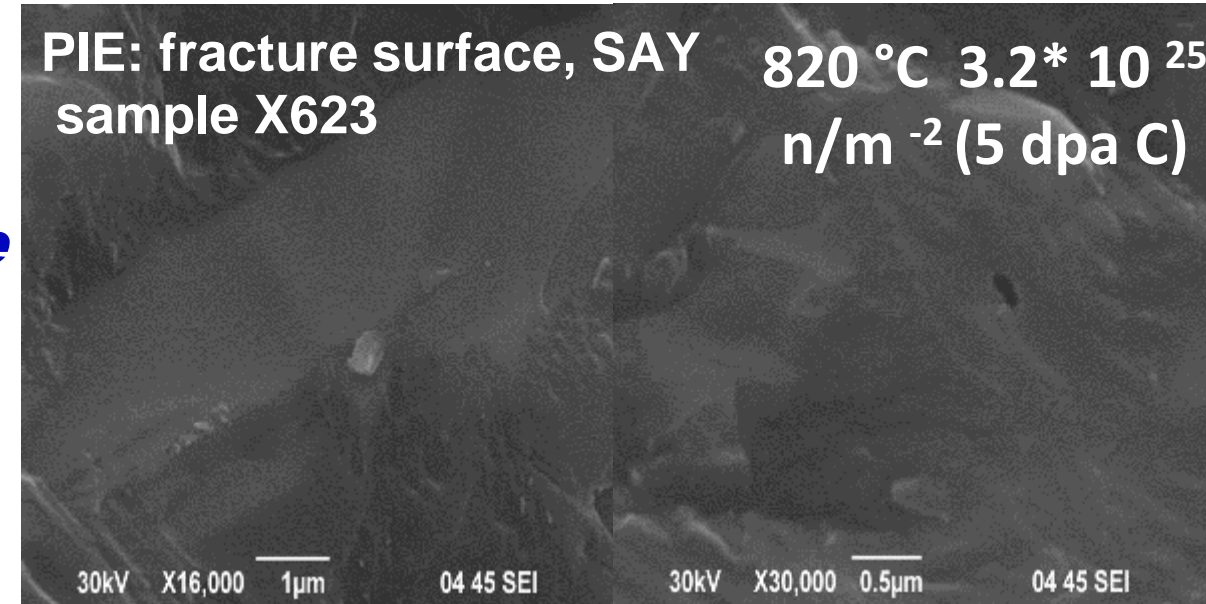
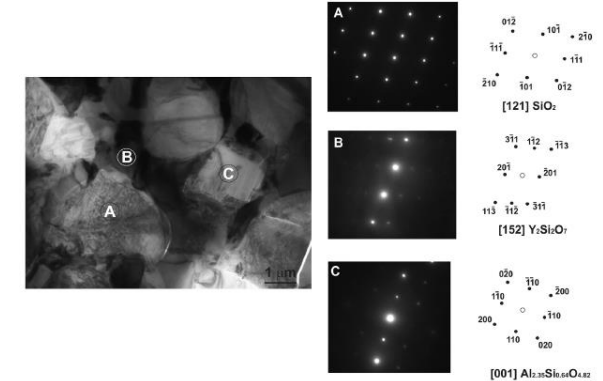


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Glass-Ceramic Joining (SAY) of SiC/SiC

Glass ceramic	composition	Tg (°C) parent glass	CTE parent glass (10 ⁻⁶)	Joining process (°C) Pressure-less	CTE glass-ceramic (10 ⁻⁶)	T soft Glass-ceramic	Crystalline phases (glass-ceramic)
SAY	SiO ₂ Al ₂ O ₃ Y ₂ O ₃	910	3.8	1375 1235 (crystallization)	5.5	975	Mullite, cristobalite, keivite



122 ± 10 MPa bending strength *before*

89 ± 17 MPa bending strength *after irradiation at 820 °C 3.2 * 10²⁵ n/m² (E > 1 MeV, 5 dpa C)*

Glass-Ceramic Joining (SAY) of SiC/SiC

- Preliminary tests in autoclave**

*High Pressure Chemical Reactor
100 ml, Supercritical Fluid Technology*

(POLITO, courtesy of Prof. L. Manna)

Temperature: 312-325°C

Pressure: 150 bar

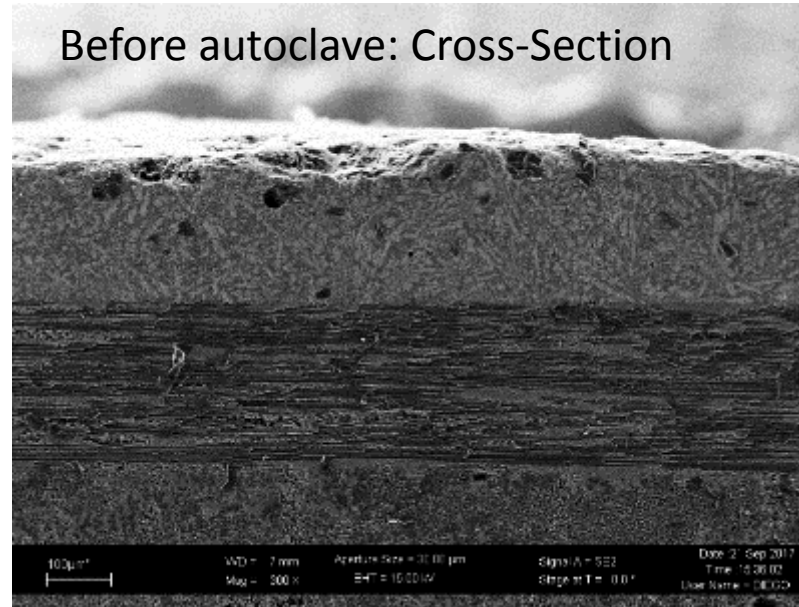
Stirring: 60 rpm

Time to dwell temperature: 45 min

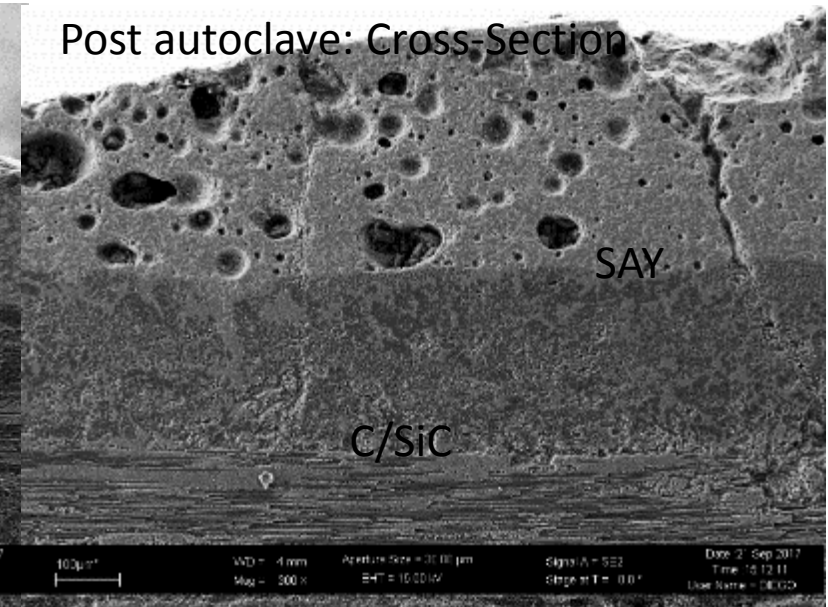
Dwell time: 8 Hours

Cooling time: 30 min

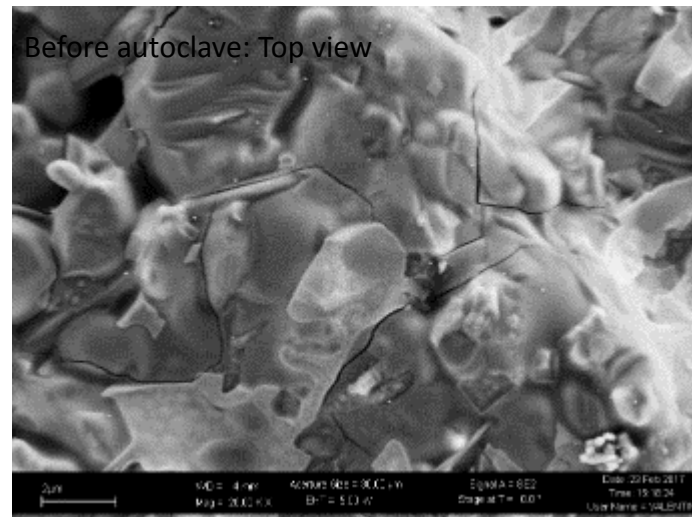
8-9 ppm oxygen dissolved in water



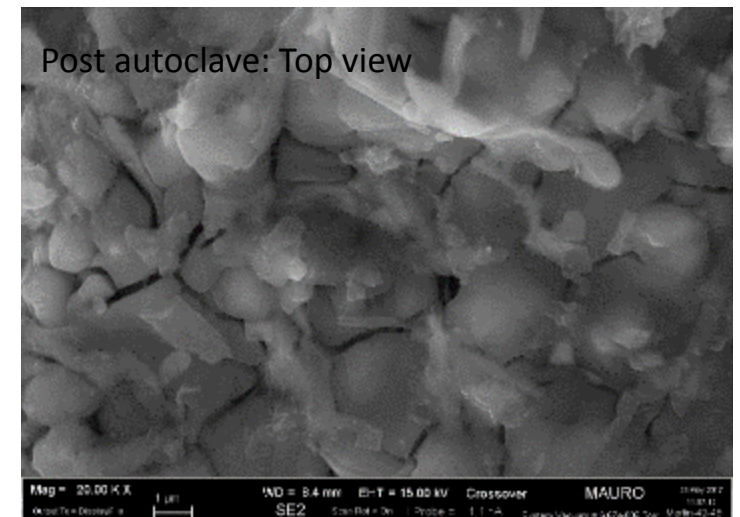
Before autoclave: Cross-Section



Post autoclave: Cross-Section



Before autoclave: Top view



Post autoclave: Top view

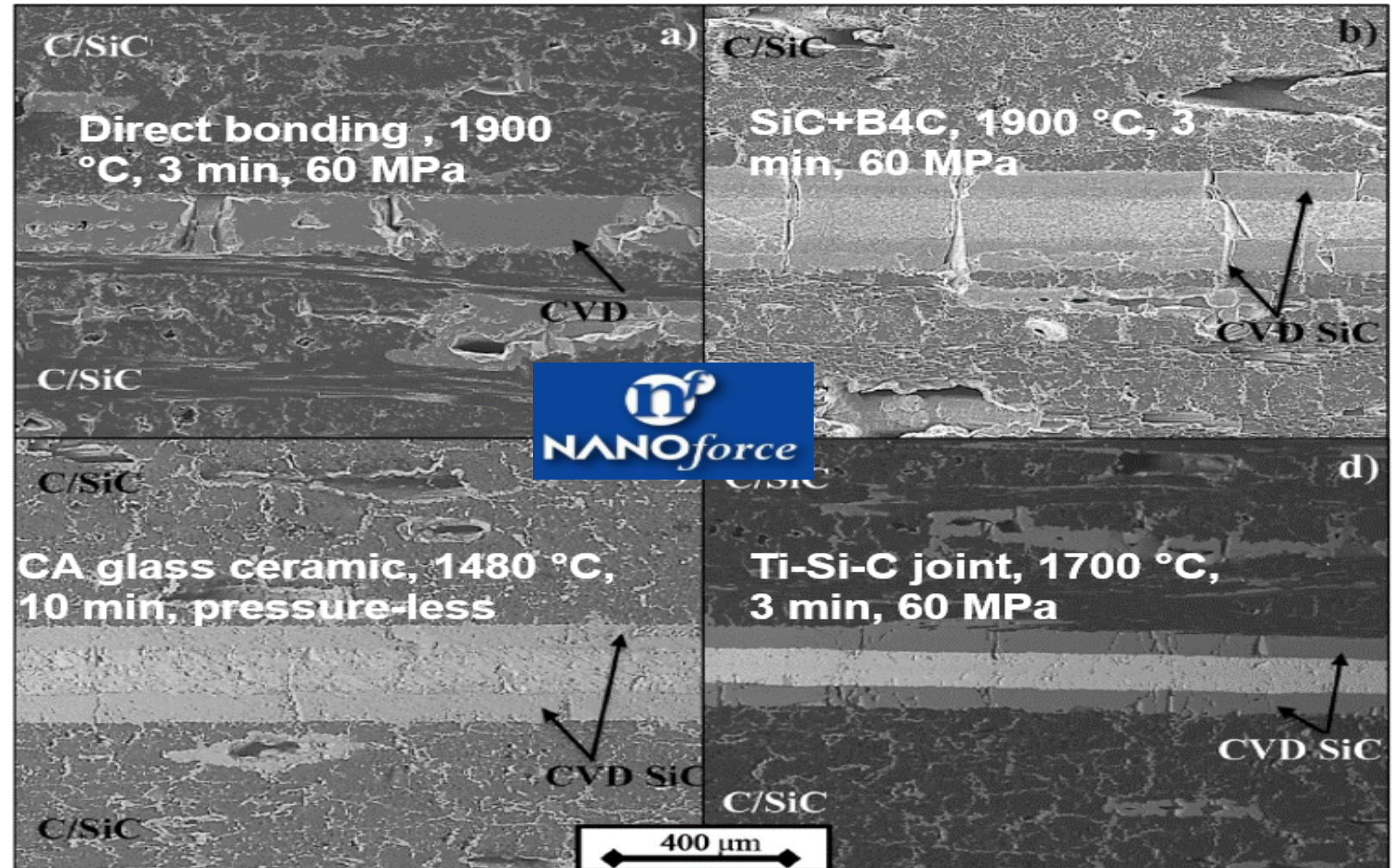


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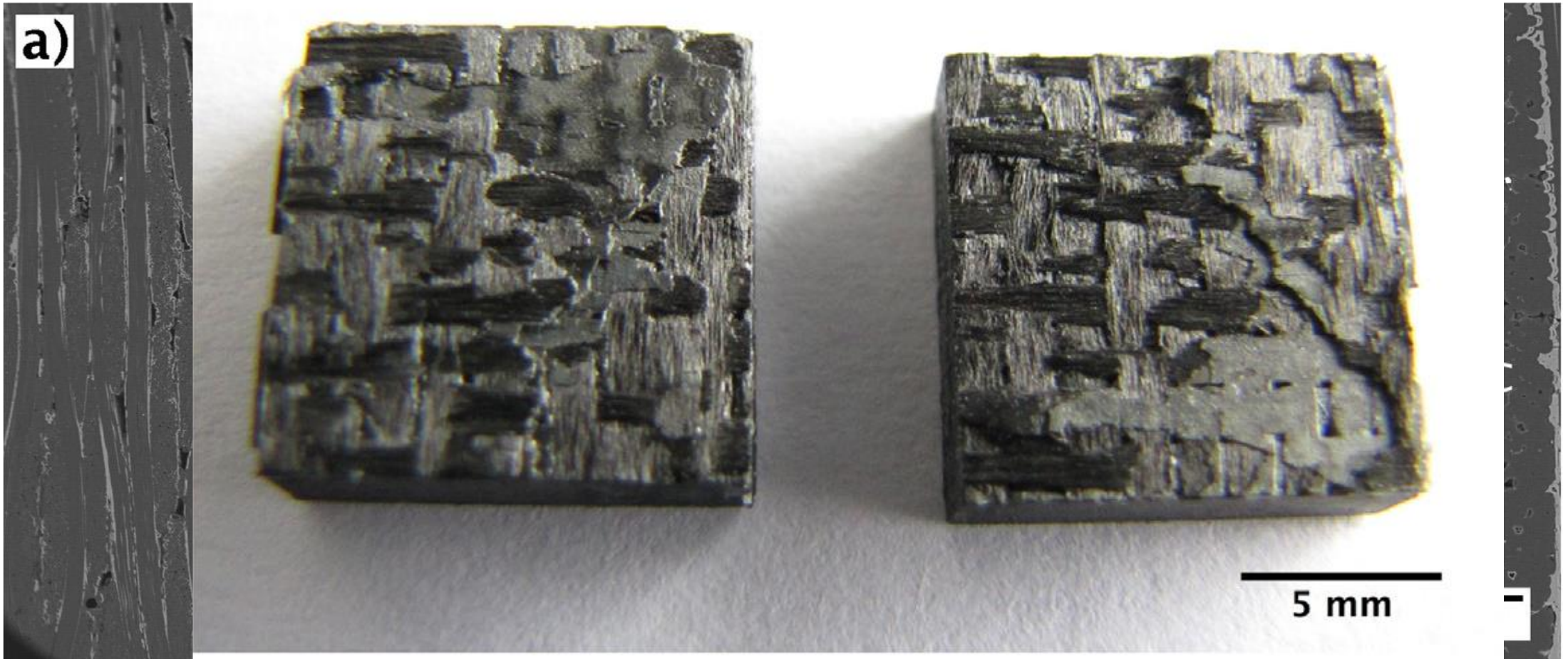
Pressure-less joining materials: SPS joining in collaboration with QMUL & Nanoforce, UK

- **SPS direct bonding**
- **pressureless SPS successful with glass-ceramics as bonding material**
- **SPS suitable for MAX phases as bonding material**



Joining of C/SiC and SiC/SiC with pre-sintered Ti_3SiC_2 MAX phase by SPS:
1300 °C, 50 MPa, 5 minutes

Journal of the European Ceramic Society 36 (2016) 3957–3967





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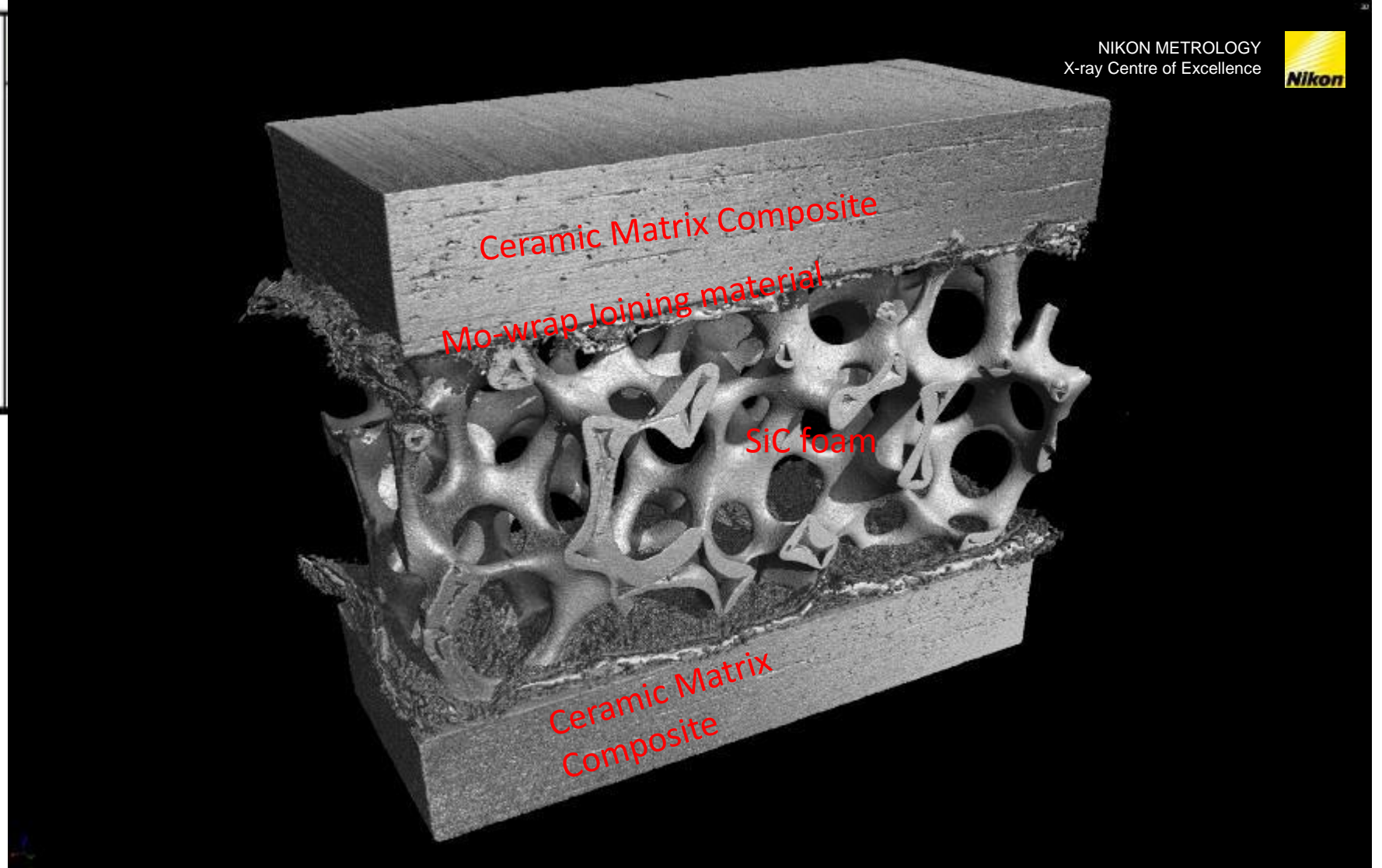
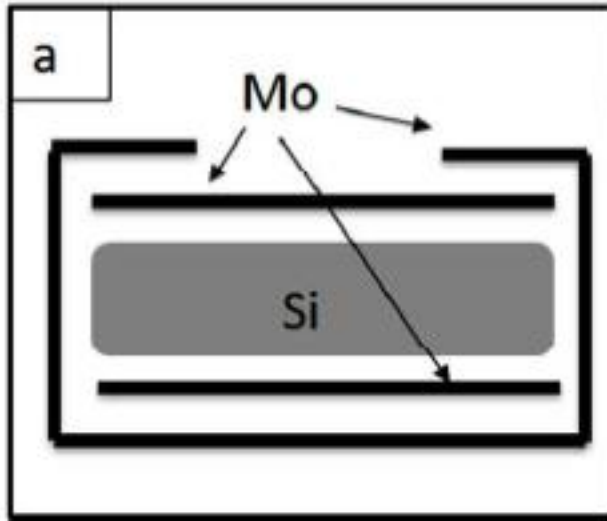
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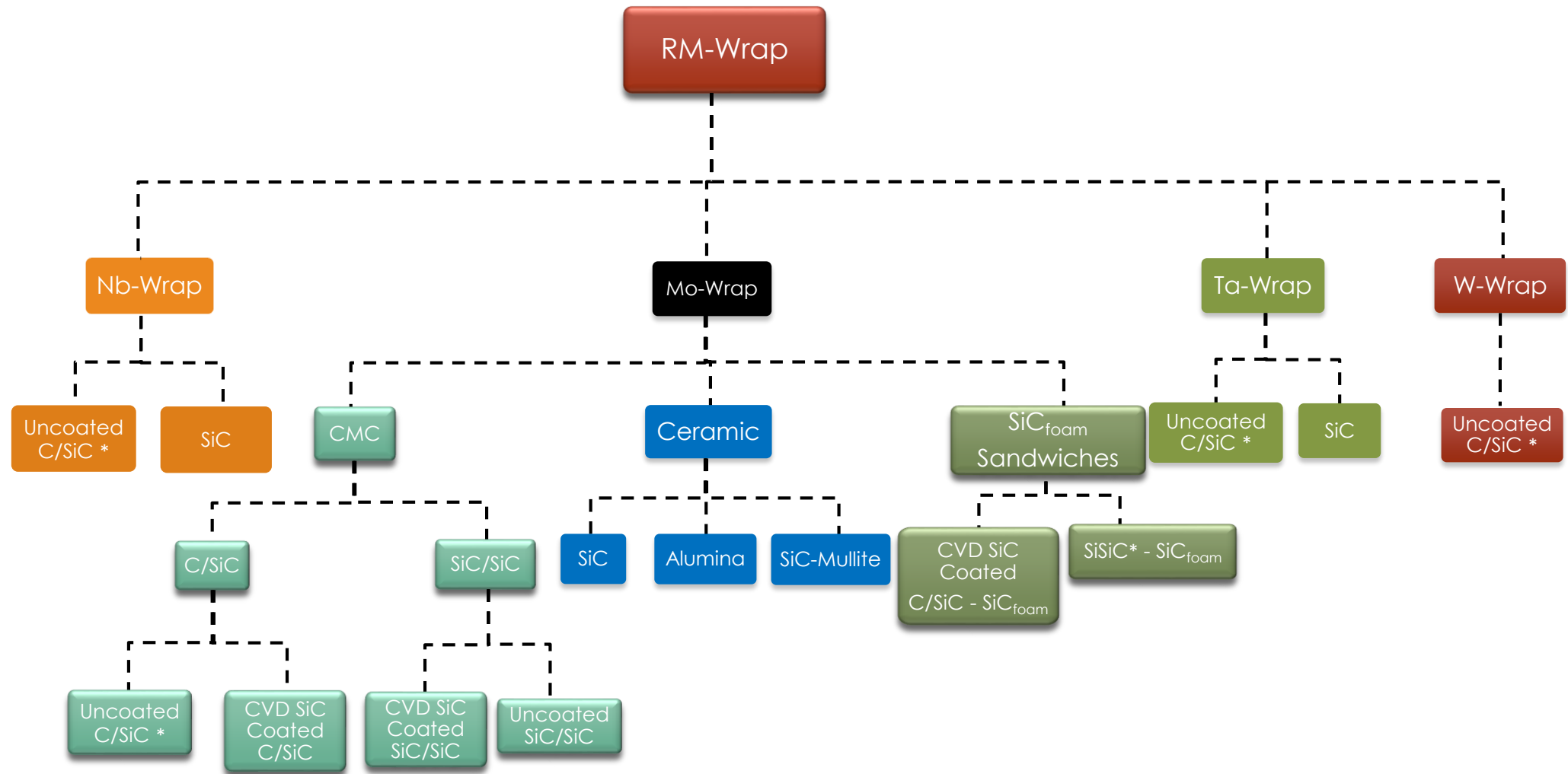
Wrap-joining: another pressure- less joining technique suitable for porous SiC-based components



International Journal of Applied Ceramic Technology



Other «wraps» under testing



- If not differently specified, joints are between similar materials (e.g. SiC means joining between two SiC parts); SiC-mullite and Sandwiches are exceptions.
- RM-Refractory Metals
- CMC- Ceramic matrix composites
- SiC-foam_f : Silicon carbide foam
- SiSiC-Silicon carbide obtained by Liquid Silicon Infiltration (LSI)
- * silicon coating before RM-wrap

- Preliminary results of Tungsten-Wrap are promising
- Nb/Ta Wrap can be applied on several samples as with Mo-Wrap
- Wide range of combination Mo, Nb, Ta and W- Wraps individually and together



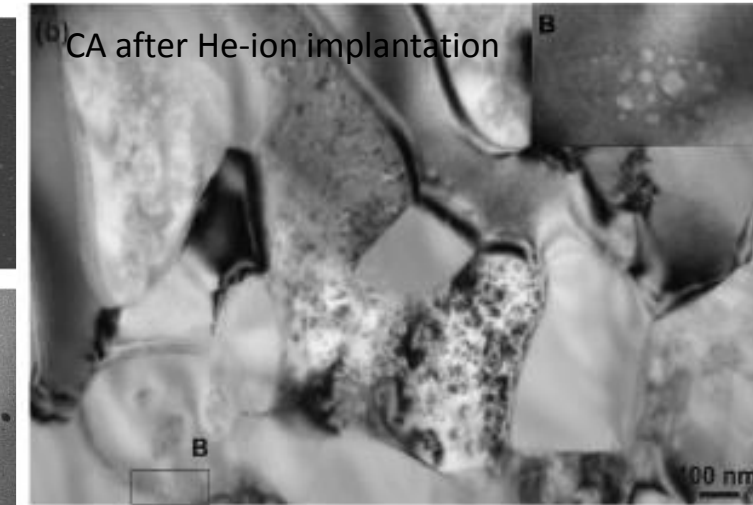
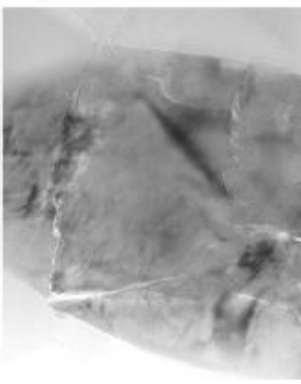
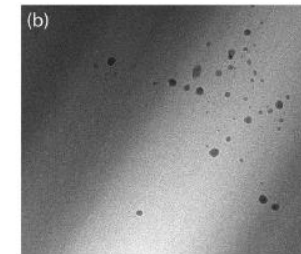
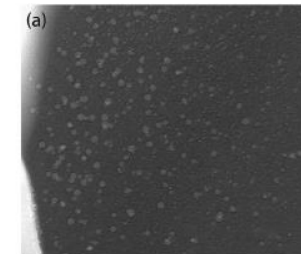
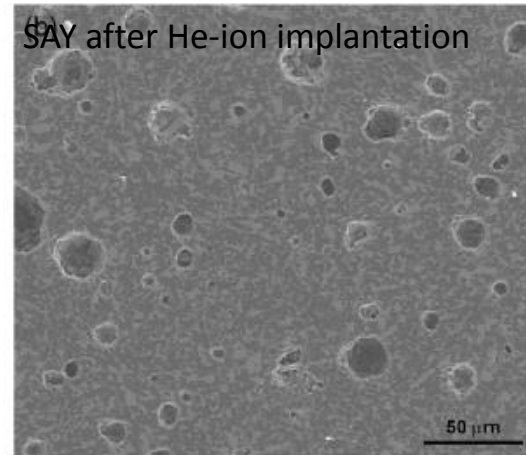
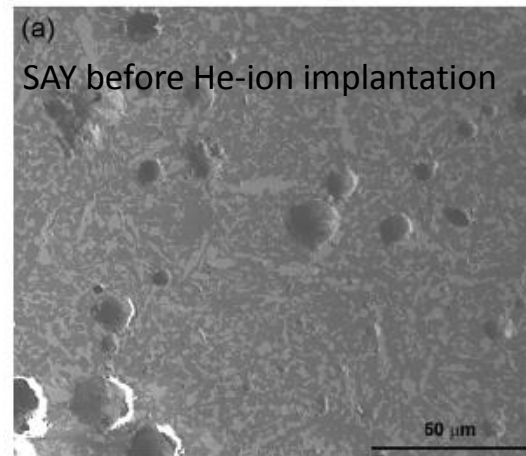
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He-ion irradiation effects on glass-ceramics for joining of SiC-based materials

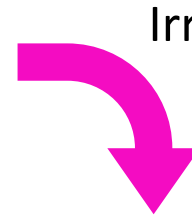
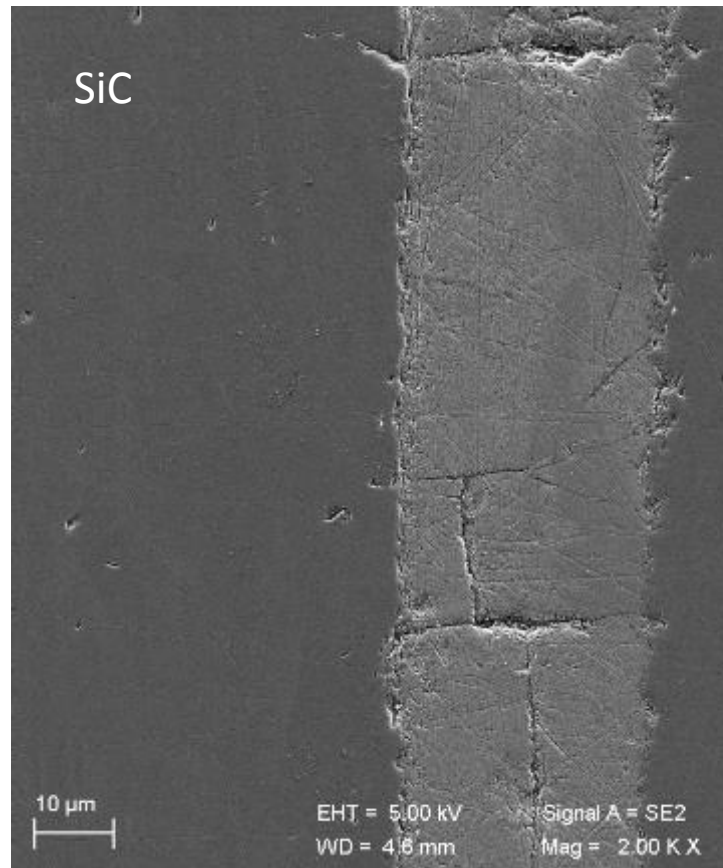
- Glass ceramics (SAY, CA) irradiated with 5.5 MeV He ions at an average temperature of 75 °C to a fluence of almost $2.3 \cdot 10^{18} \text{ cm}^{-2}$ (about 40 dpa in the ion implantation region) to simulate damage expected in nuclear plants.
- No amorphization was found even in correspondence to the He implantation zone.
- agglomerates of He-bubbles in the implantation region for the CA and a more homogeneous He-bubble distribution in the SAY.
- The radiation damage induced only occasional micro-cracks, mainly located at grain boundaries (CA) or within the grains (SAY)
- Si-ion irradiation on joined samples, ongoing

Journal of Nuclear Materials 472 (2016) 28e34



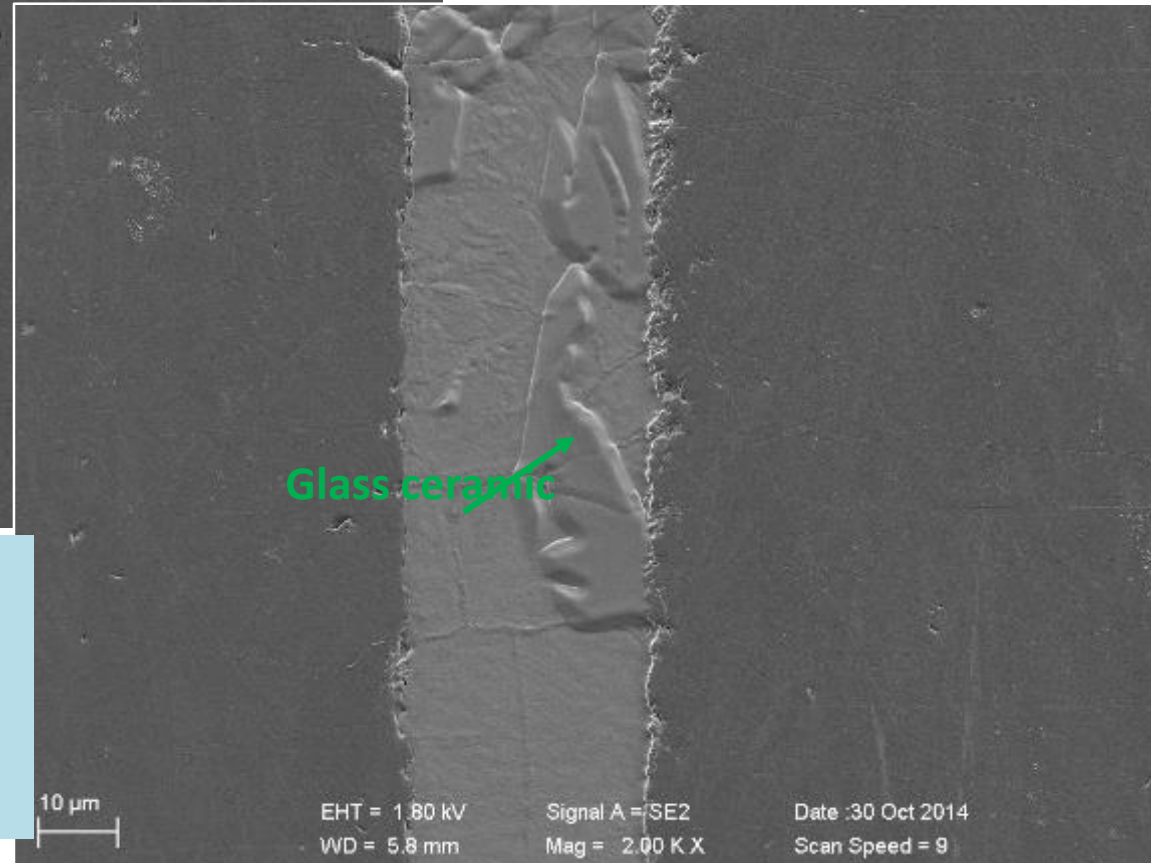


The CA joined SiC were irradiated with **5.1 MeV Si²⁺** ions at temperature of **400 and 800°C**, corresponding to a damage level of **5 dpa** averaged over the damage range



Irradiation at 400°C

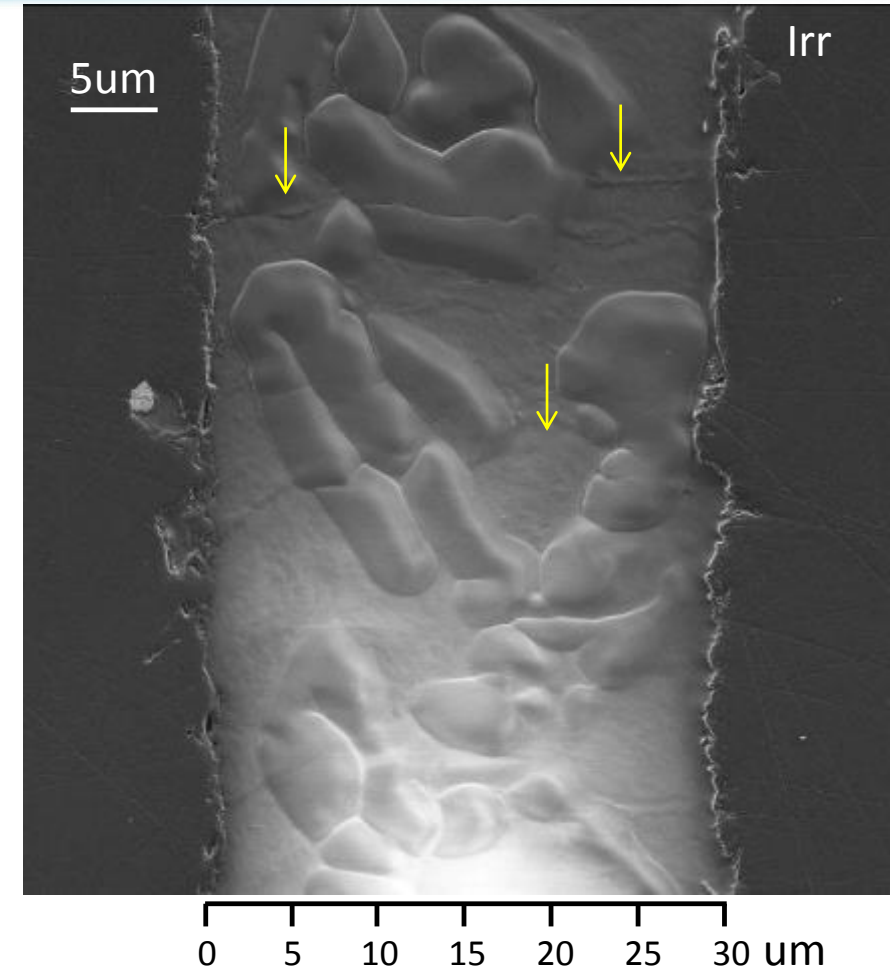
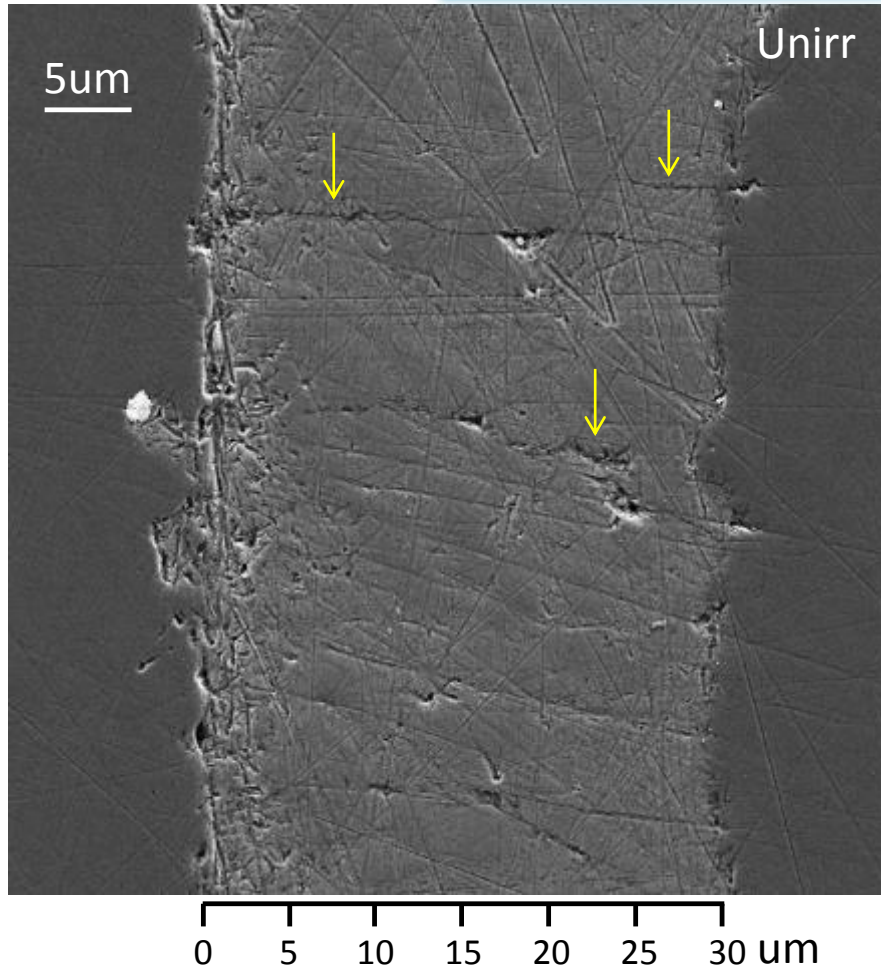
DuET facility, **Kyoto University**



No debonding at the CA/SiC interface has been detected
Crack healing → due to swelling?



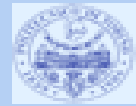
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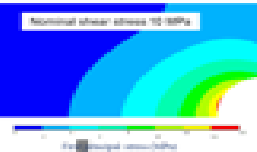
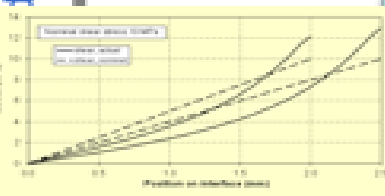
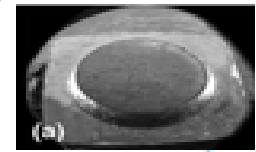
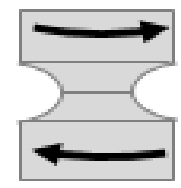
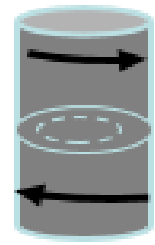
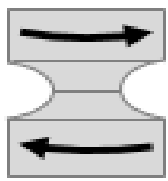
on shear strength of ceramics joined by brittle or ductile materials

Joint strength measurement under torsion: flowchart (cohesive fracture*)

JOINING MATERIAL

BRITTLE
Circular (full) bond: rod or hourglass

DUCTILE
Ring shaped (annular) bond: tube or hourglass



* Modelling done for THG5, THG4

If hourglass *: **modelling needed**
- to check if τ only in the bond section
- to calculate K_t (stress conc. factor)

Preliminary torsion tests: tentative ring width
 $M_{max}/J * R$ with $J = \pi(R_o^4 - R_i^4)/2$

(Elastic-plastic modelling possible if joining material stress-strain curve available)

Torsion tests
 $K_t * M_{max}/J * R$

Further torsion tests: decrease ring width until **constant** joint strength is obtained

Failure in the joint section: **joint shear strength**
(failure due to max principal stress in the 45° skew plane, σ_{max})

Failure in the adherends: joint strength higher than adherend strength

Failure in the joint section: **joint shear strength**
(failure due to max shear stress in the cross section, τ_{max})

Failure in the adherends: joint shear strength higher than adherend strength

*In case of non-cohesive fracture, measured values give nonetheless indication on joint strength



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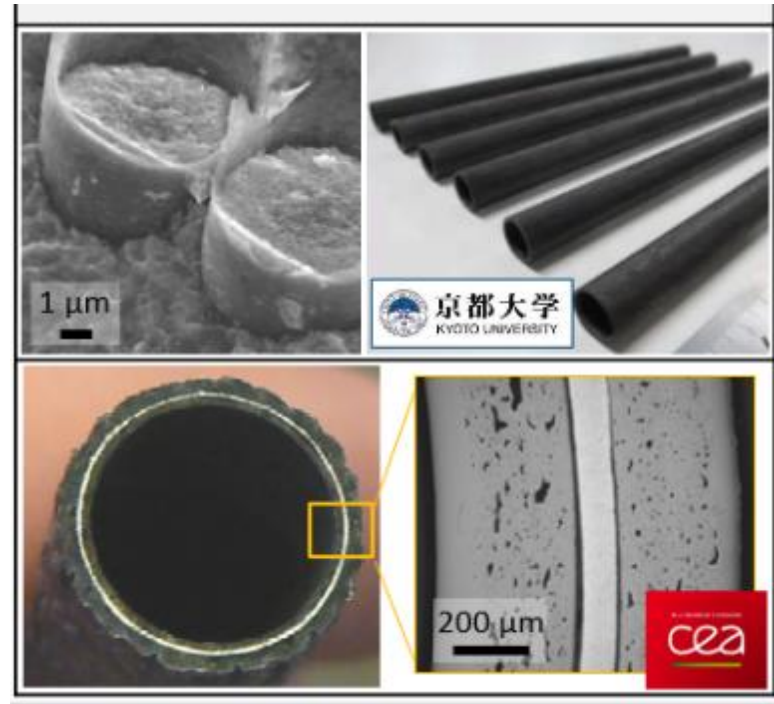
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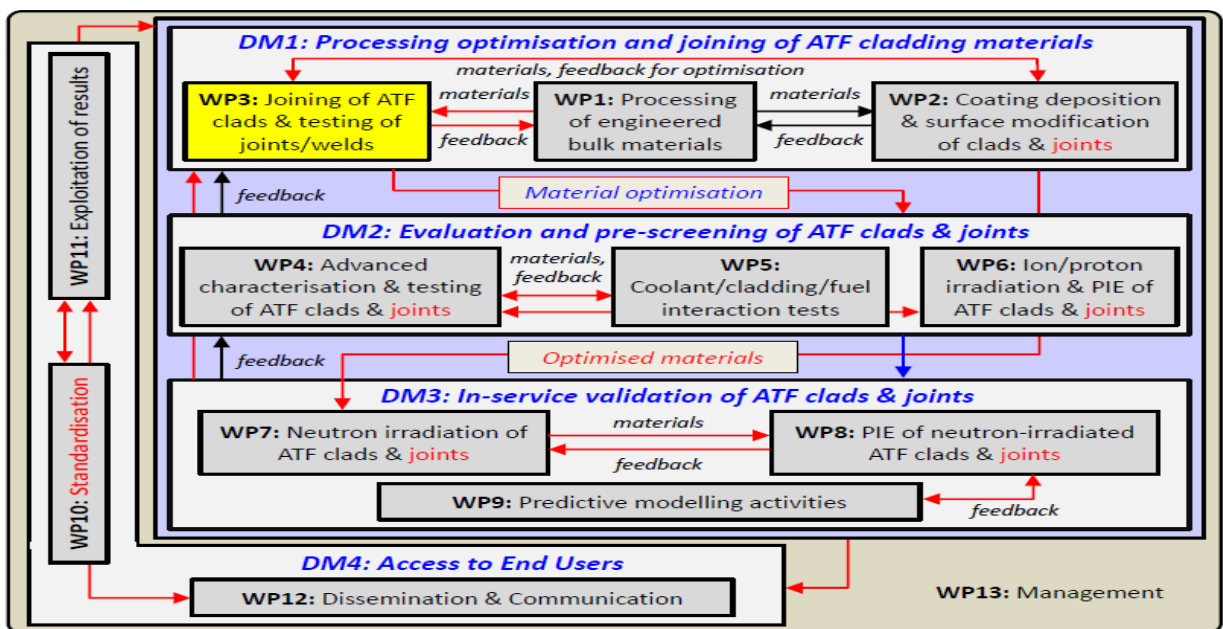
IL TROVATORE

INNOVATIVE CLADDING MATERIALS FOR ADVANCED ACCIDENT-TOLERANT ENERGY SYSTEMS

Overall budget: 5 M€ EU contribution + 1.5 M€ additional contributions
Kick-Off Date: 1st October 2017 Project Duration: 4.5 years (54 months)



WP3. Joining of ATF clads & testing of joints/welds





J-TECH@POLITO

Advanced Joining Technology at POLITO

Prof. Luca Goglio (DIMEAS)

Prof. Monica Ferraris (DISAT)

Prof. Franco Lombardi (DIGEP)

Kick Off Meeting

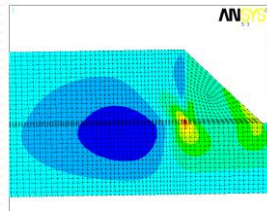
20 ottobre 2017

THE IDEA

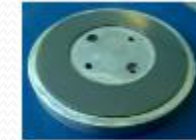
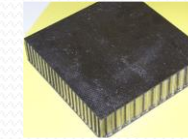
DIMEAS



- Design and testing of assemblies subassemblies and components
- Modeling and structural optimization
- Non-destructive testing



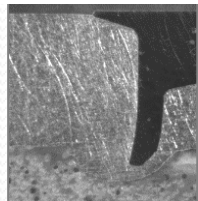
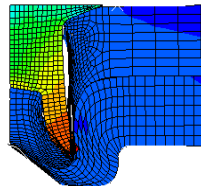
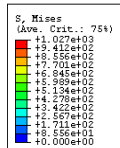
DISAT



- Materials design, characterization and optimization
- Joining materials design, characterization and optimization

Establishing a top-class centre on advanced joining technology

DIGEP



- Process design, modelling and optimization
- Monitoring and control procedures and algorithms
- Process industrialization
- Cost and sustainability

COMPANIES





J-TECH@POLITO new facilities

- Customized facility for **Non Destructive Testing (NDT)** of joined components and materials, based on X-ray tomography
- Multipurpose **joining & testing facility** including heating stage/mechanical testing equipment operating in vacuum, inert and reactive atmosphere, temperature range -80;+1450 °C
- **Friction Stir Welding** station
- **Laser Nd-YAG** head to be applied on an existing 6 axis anthropomorphic robot, thermographic system for inspection



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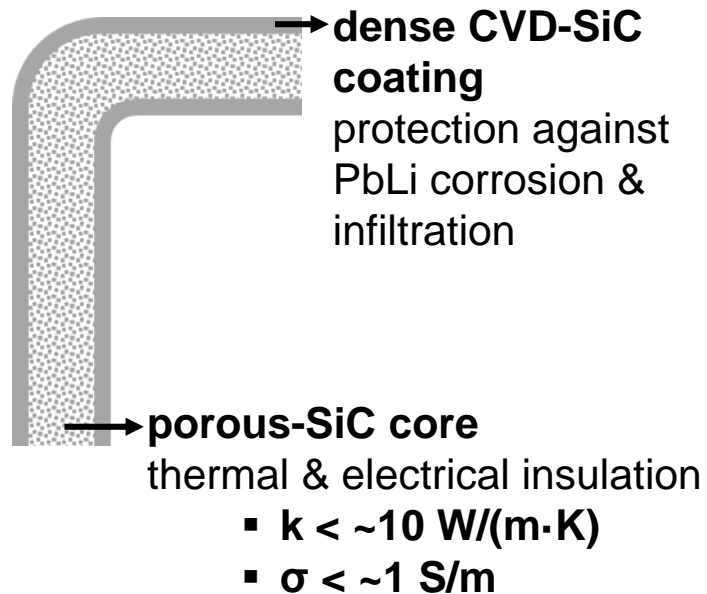
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Development of a SiC-sandwich material for FCIs

Candidate material for FCIs in the high-temperature DCLL: SiC

- suitable for high temperature applications
- high chemical stability
- adequate for radiation environments
- \uparrow *thermal & electrical conductivities* \rightarrow insulating SiC material: R&D needed

Possible option: SiC-based sandwich with porous & dense layers



Enabling Research  EUROfusion

- Production of porous SiC
- Characterization of porous & coated SiC samples: mechanical & thermal properties, electrical conductivity, corrosion tests in PbLi
- Analyze the feasibility of using a SiC-based sandwich as material for FCIs
- Exploration of possibilities for industrial fabrication

Fabrication procedure

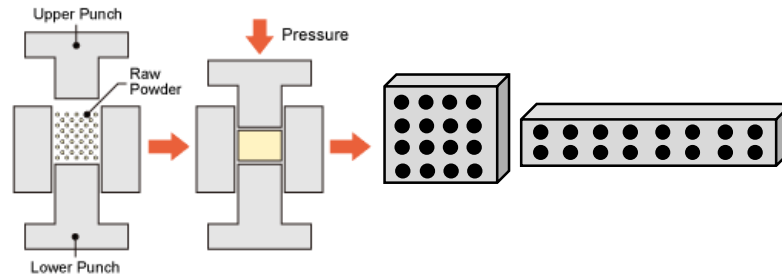
Based in the *sacrificial template* concept: a sacrificial phase is added to the initial powder mixture → phase removed: **pores**

1. Powder mixture

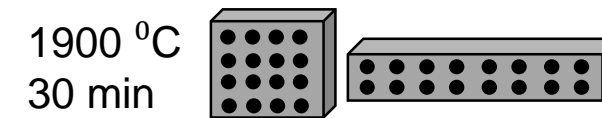
- SiC (0.3 μm)
- Sintering additives (Al_2O_3 , Y_2O_3) – 2.5 wt. %
- Sacrificial phase → spherical graphite powder (MCMB, ~15 μm)



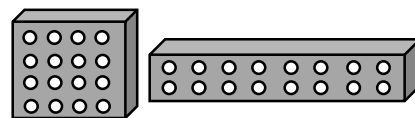
2. Uniaxial pressing



3. Sintering

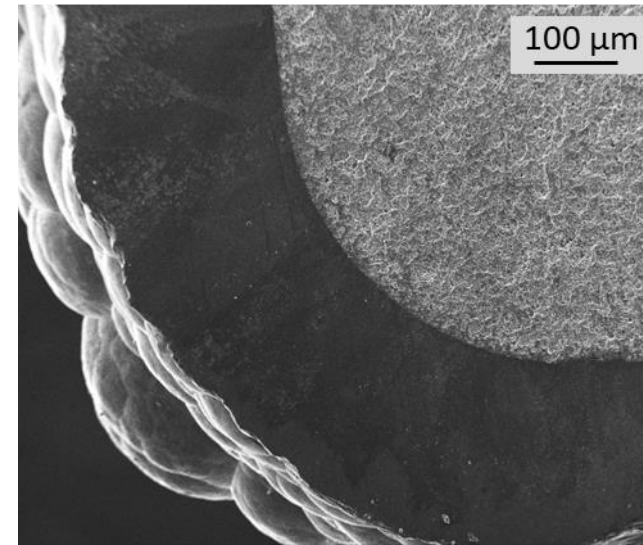
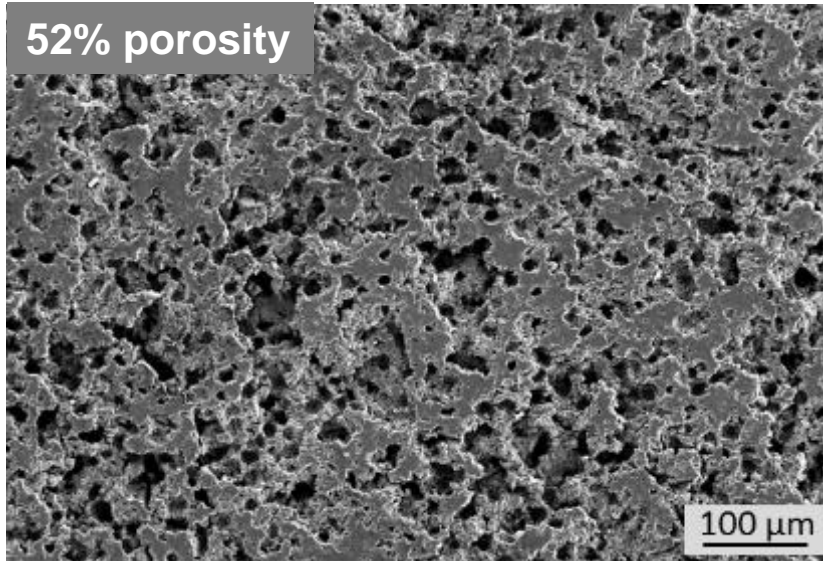


4. Oxidation

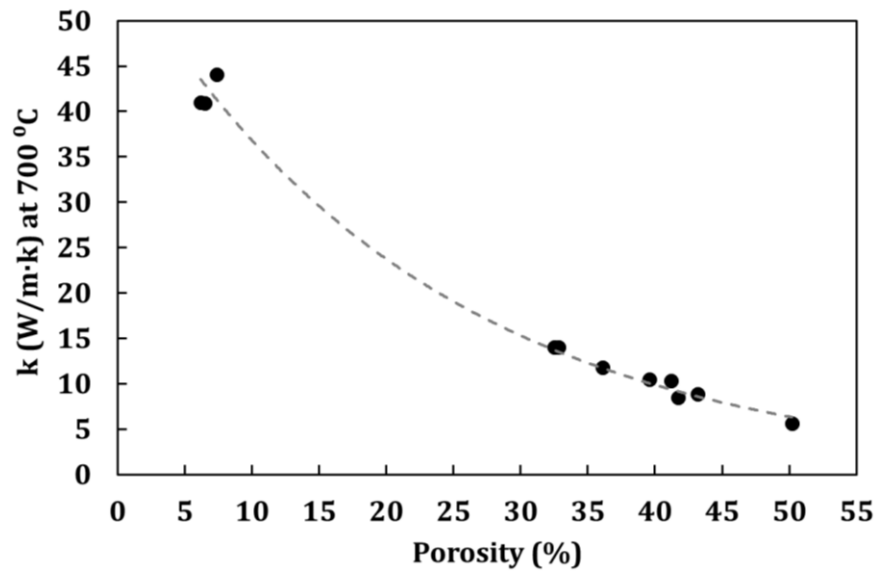


700 °C → reaction between air & graphite
10 h → **porous samples**

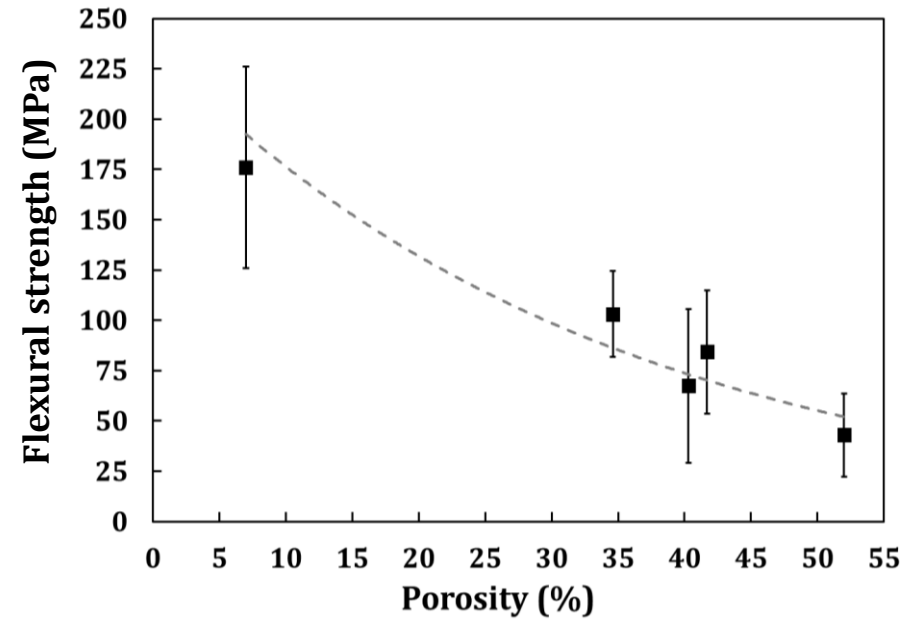
▪ SiC sandwich material: microstructure, CVD coating, properties



Porous SiC covered by 200-400 μm CVD-SiC



at 700 °C: $k < 10 \text{ W/m}\cdot\text{K}$ if porosity $> 40\%$

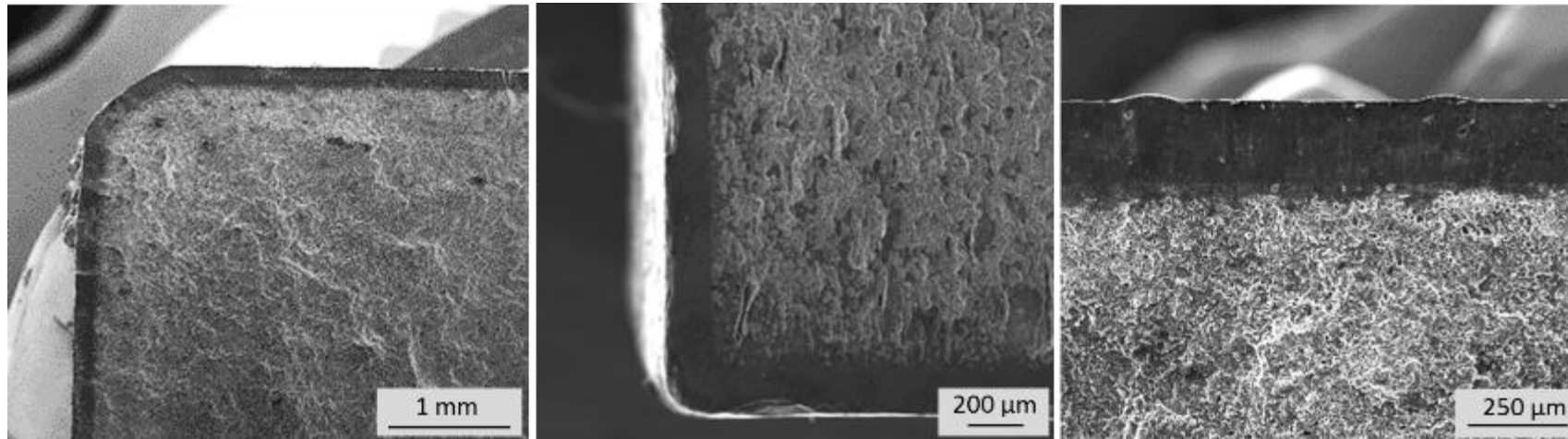


1st corrosion experiment: flat samples under static PbLi



50% porous core with a ~200 μm CVD-SiC coating

Samples after the experiment

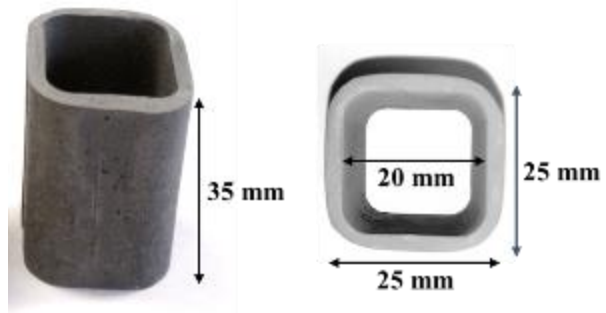


no PbLi infiltration & no signs of corrosion in the dense coating

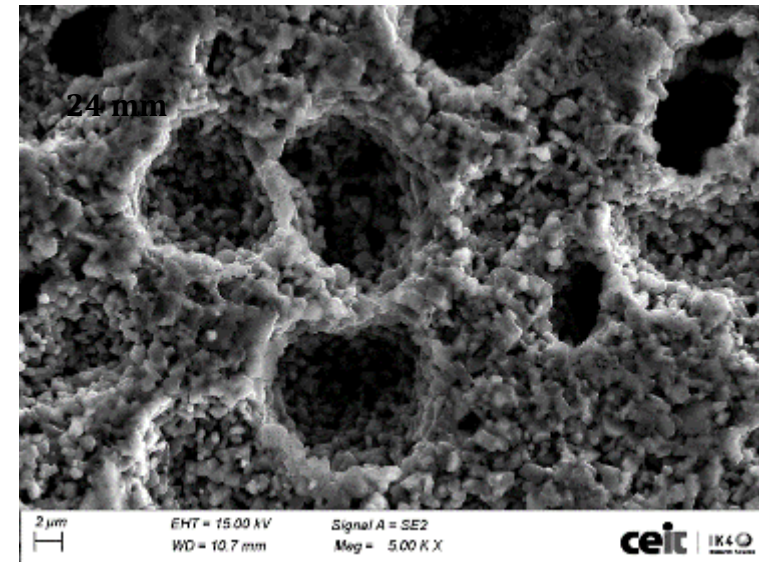
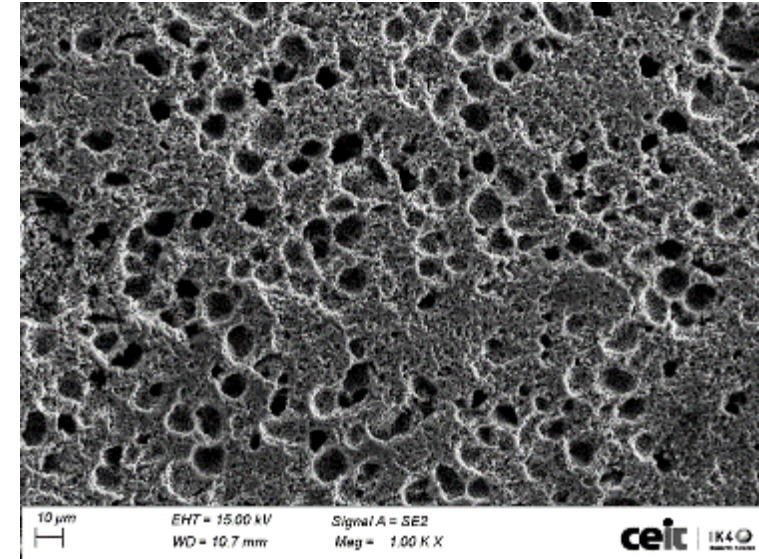
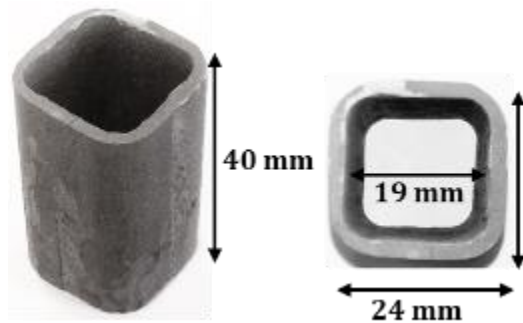
2nd corrosion experiment: flat samples under flowing PbLi

- New batch of samples → 40% porous core & CVD-SiC coating of **200-400 μm**
 - 11 samples tested
 - 8 subjected to a **1.8-2 T magnetic field**
 - 3 outside the magnetic field as control samples
 - PbLi flowing at **~10 cm/s** and **~550 °C for 850 h**
- no damage, no PbLi infiltration, no signs of corrosion of dense coating

▪ Fabrication of porous SiC hollow samples by gelcasting method: first results



Samples will be coated with CVD-SiC
 → lab-scale FCI prototypes



	Initial MCMB (wt.%)	Final porosity (%)	Flexural strength (MPa)
Gelcasting	20	44	79 ± 11
Uniaxial pressing	20	42	84 ± 31



EU program update

Thank you for your attention

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