



Air Carbon Recycling for Aviation Fuel Technology

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FACTS & FIGURES – Aviation sector



4.5 billion
passengers were carried
by the world's airlines

87.7 million
jobs supported worldwide (aviation and
related tourism). 11.3 million people
worked directly in the aviation industry.

915 million tonnes
of CO₂ produced worldwide by flights.

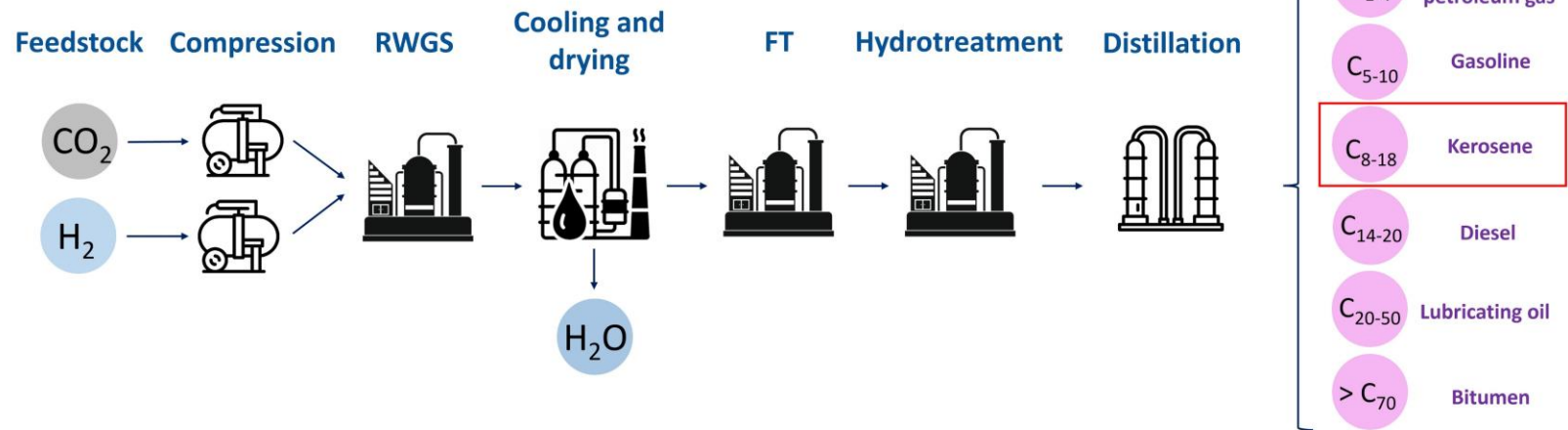
Climate targets:

50%

By 2050, net aviation carbon emissions will be half of what they were in 2005.

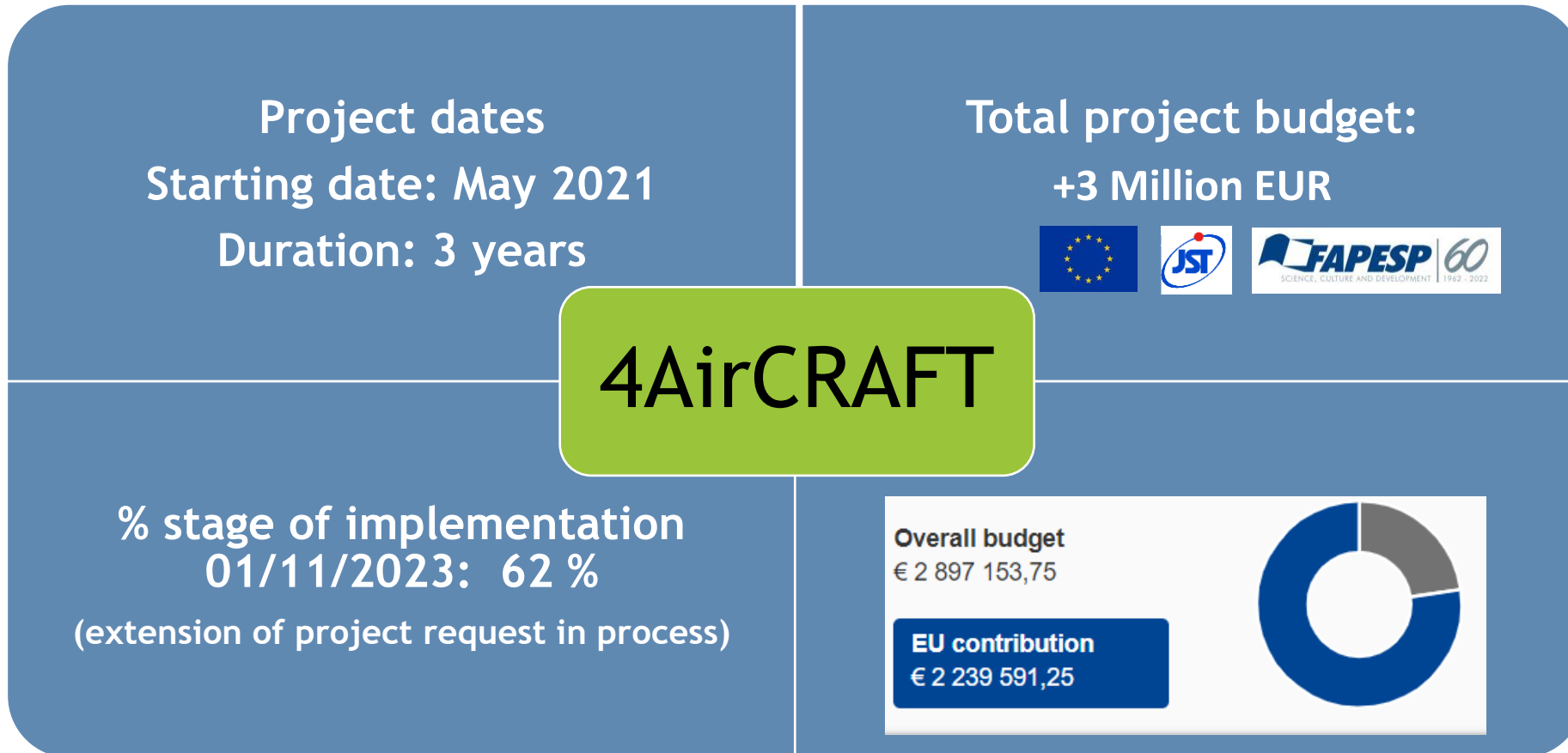
Stabilise

From 2020, net carbon emissions from international aviation will be capped through carbon neutral growth.



Unfortunately, **conventional technologies** often suffer from **low selectivity** and **conversion** while **lacking energy efficiency**. Therefore, new technology solutions are required, in which the **rational design of catalytic materials and intensified sustainable processes** is a must.

Project Overview



Partners



HELSINGIN YLIOPISTO
Universiteit Antwerpen
UNIVERSITÄT BIELEFELD
Ha FOUNDATION FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW HYDROGEN TECHNOLOGIES IN ARAGON
BOM BASQUE CENTER FOR MATERIALS, APPLICATIONS & NANOSTRUCTURES
CSIC CONSEJO SUPERIOR DE INVESTIGACIONES CIENTÍFICAS
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

HOKKAIDO UNIVERSITY
USP Universidade de São Paulo

Project summary

Goal

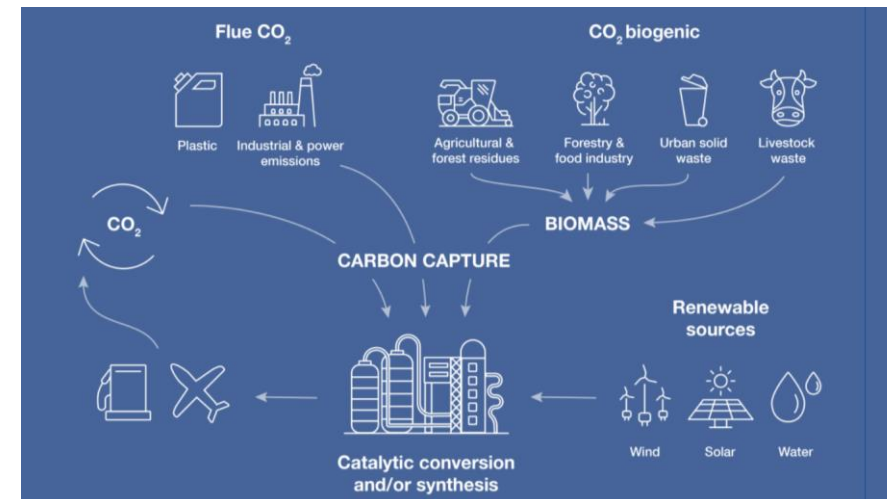
Proof of the concept of a novel hybrid reactor including novel catalysts and linked lab-scale components/systems to produce sustainable long-chain hydrocarbons more efficient than existing approaches.



Water and carbon dioxide from biomass and industrial sources

Greener, milder and intensified liquid fuel production routes

Direct aviation use, storage and distribution in the existing infrastructures



This will be achieved by controlled synthesis and the unraveling of structure performance relationships both comprising the activity and the selectivity of the reaction towards molecules that are suitable as jet fuels.



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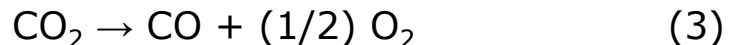
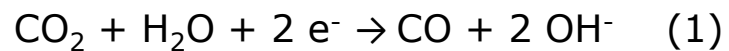
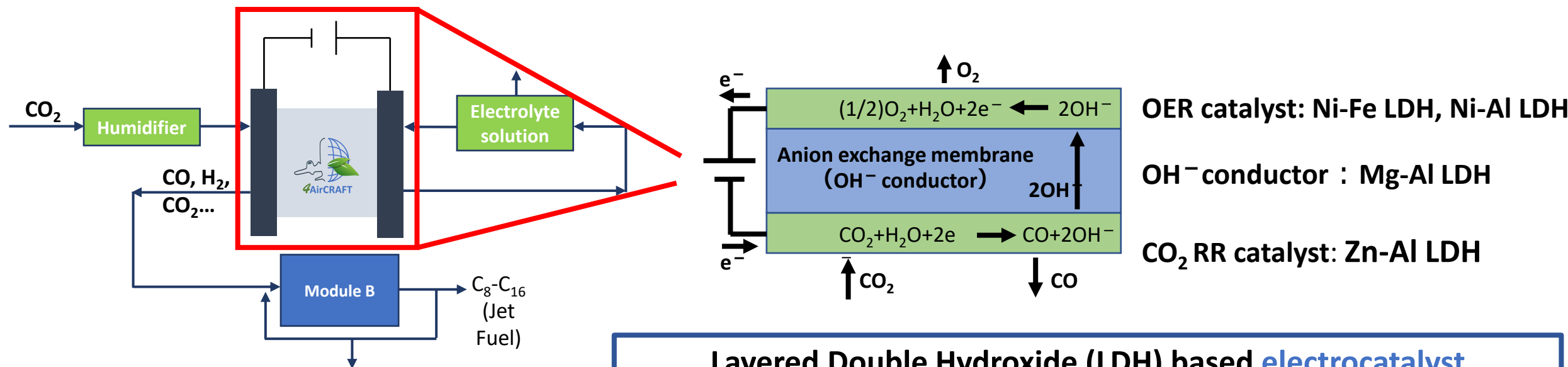
KEY ACTIVITY #1

CO₂ to CO: Electrocatalysts development

4AirCRAFT Cascade reactor – Strategy II - “syngas mediated”



Electrocatalysts for both CO₂ reduction and oxygen evolution, and anion exchange membrane that is stable under basic conditions are now being explored.



Layered Double Hydroxide (LDH) based electrocatalyst



Prof. K. TADANAGA sensei

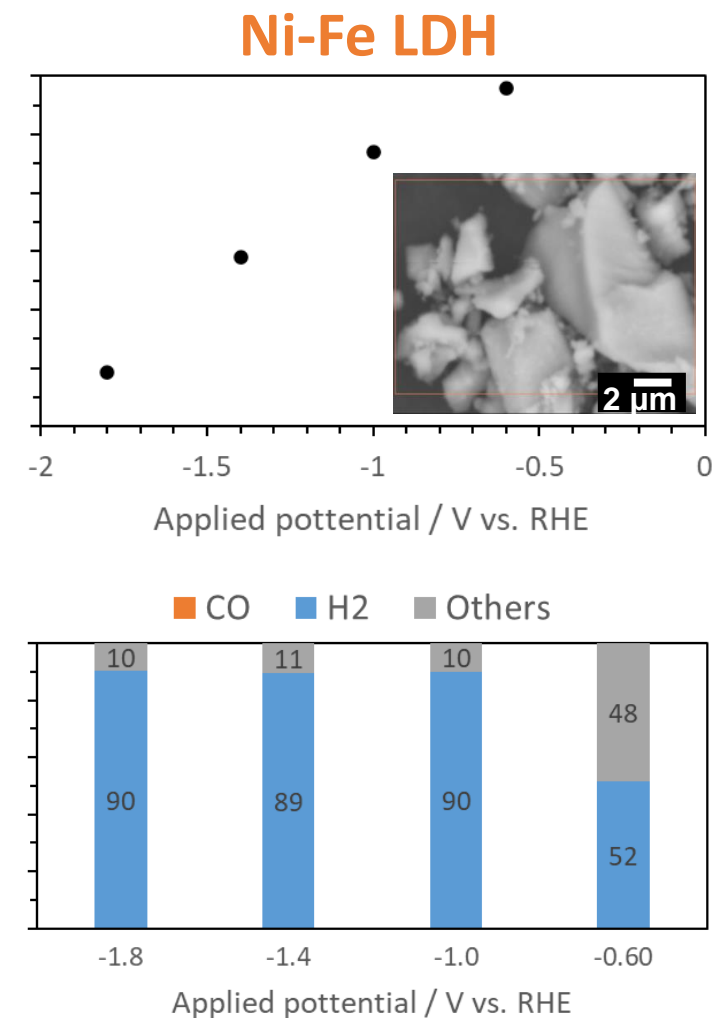
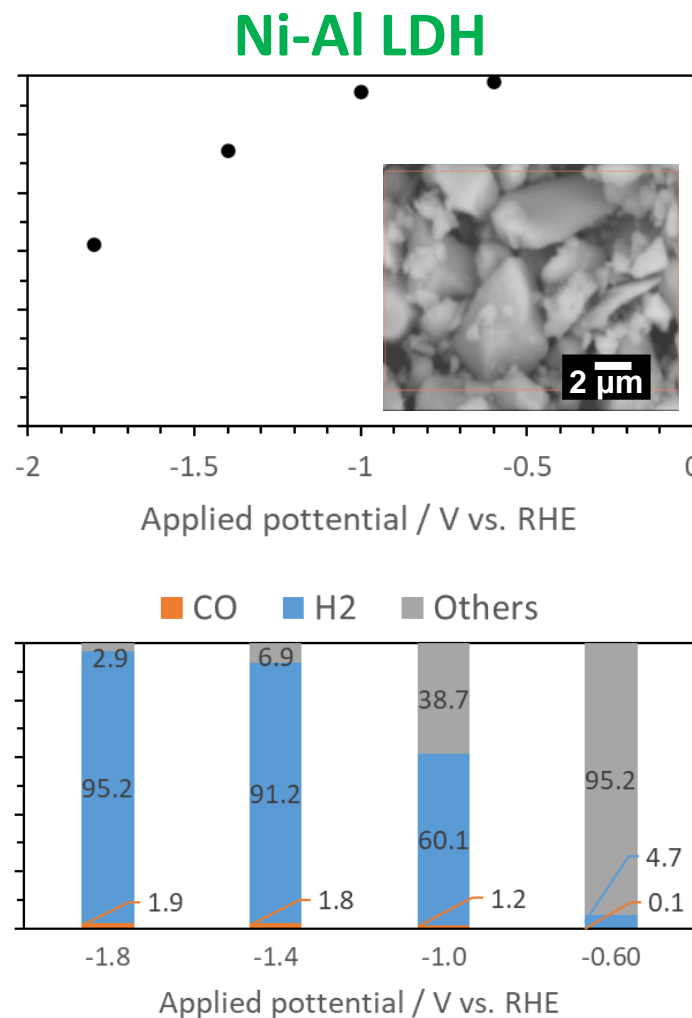
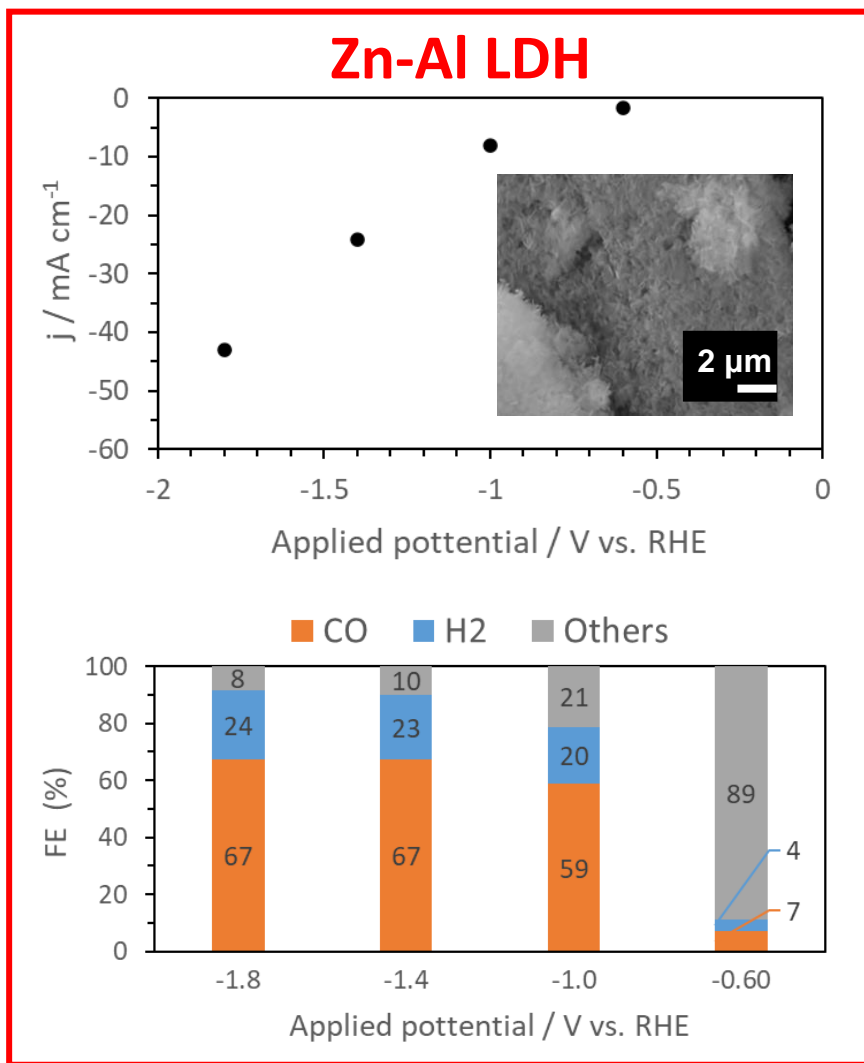


- Variety of metal combination^[1]
- Large surface area^[1]
- High OH⁻ conductivity^[2]
- Stability in alkaline solution^[2]

[1] C. I. Ezech et al., *Ultrason. Sonochem.* **2018**, *40*, 341; [2] K. Tadanaga et al., *Adv. Mater.* **2010**, *22*, 4401.

Gaseous CO₂RR activity

Current density (j) & Faradaic efficiency (FE)





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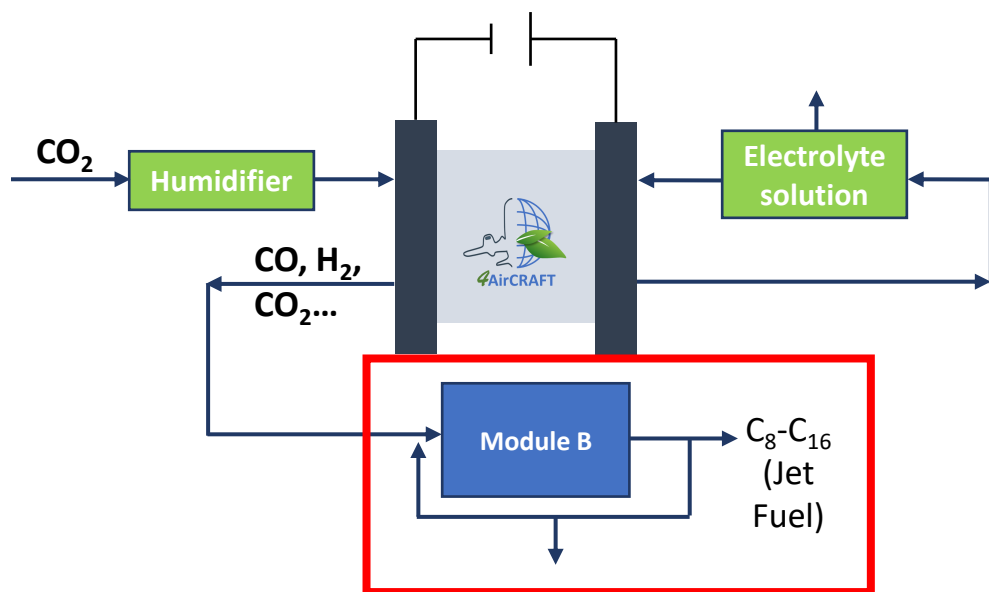
KEY ACTIVITY #2

CO to Jet Fuels: Nanocatalyst development

4AirCRAFT cascade reactor – Strategy II - “syngas mediated”



Nanocatalysts Development: CO to Jet Fuels



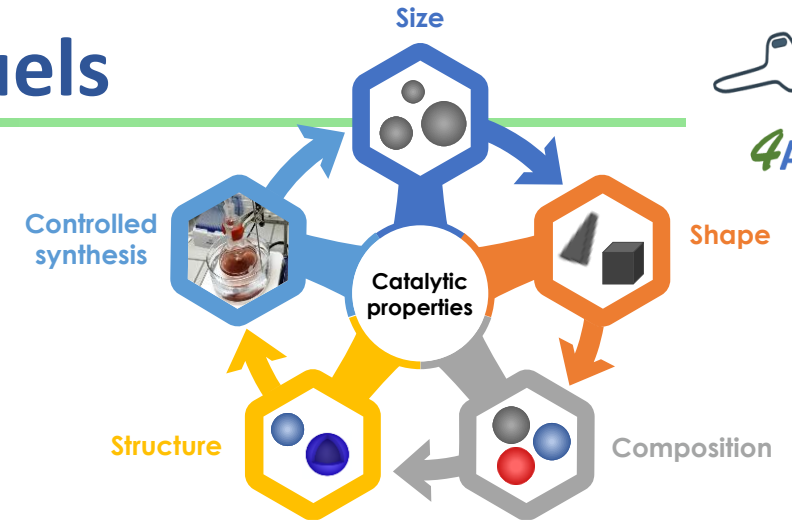
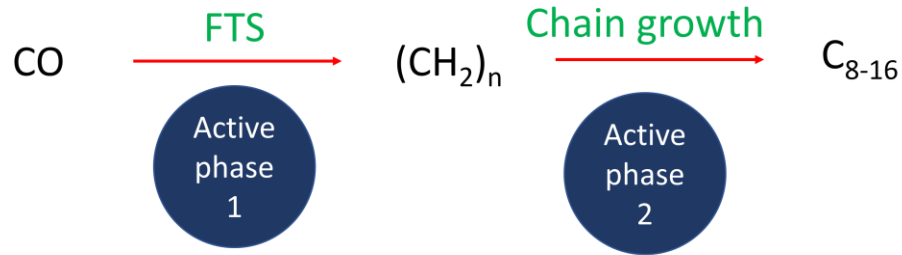
Zeolite based nanocatalysts; development and characterization



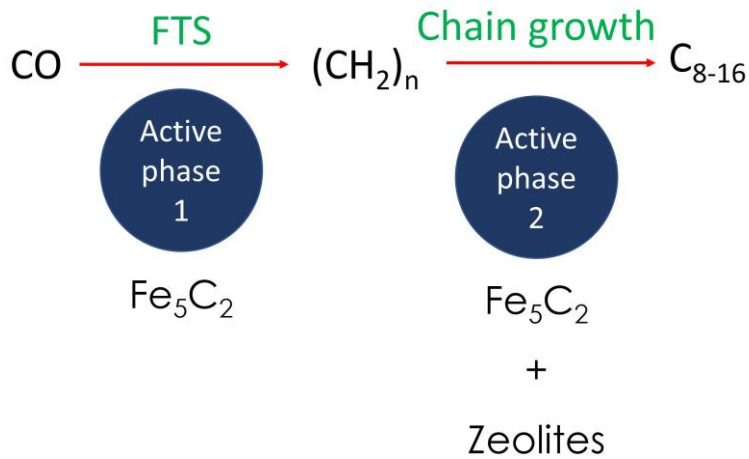
UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI



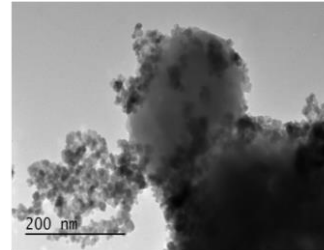
Nanocatalysts Development: CO to Jet Fuels



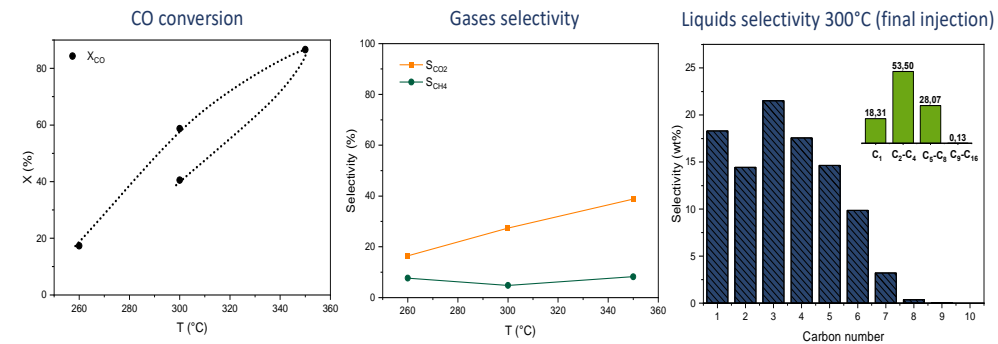
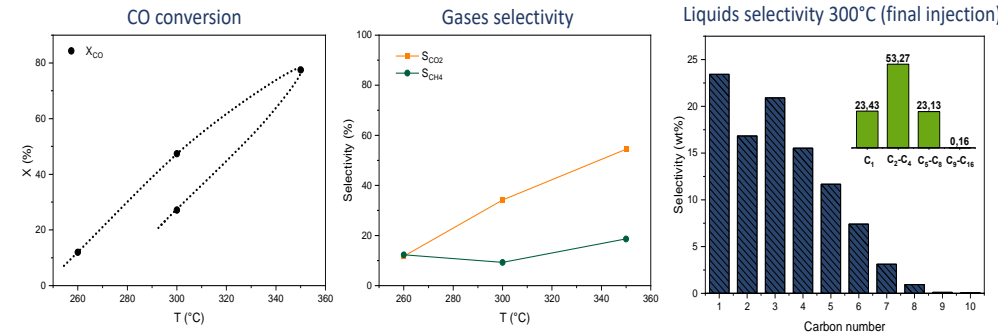
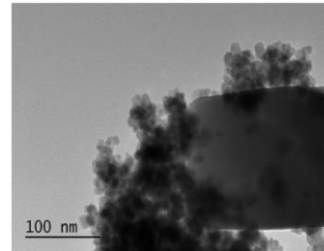
State-of-the-art catalysts: high temperatures and high pressure



FeZ91-PM



FeZ91-DI





Air Carbon Recycling for Aviation Fuel Technology

KEY ACTIVITY #3

Chemoenzymatic synthesis

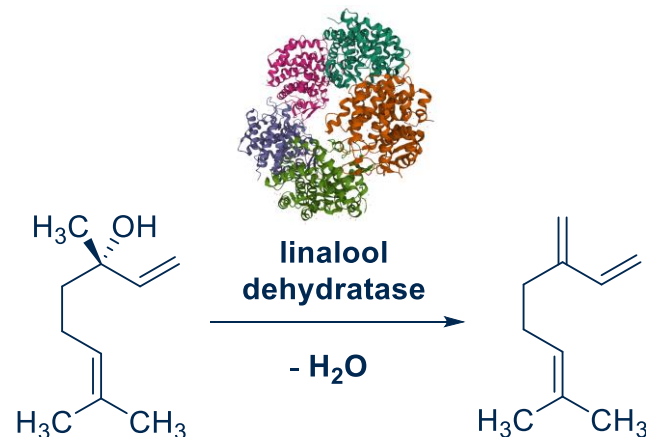
Chemoenzymatic jet fuels synthesis



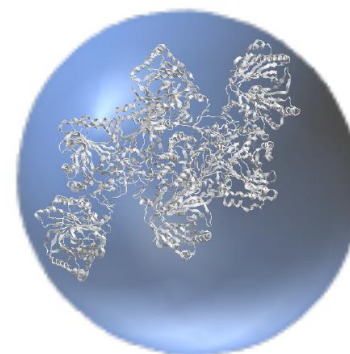
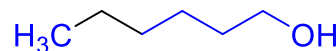
UNIVERSITÄT
BIELEFELD

Prof. Dr. H. GRÖGER

The goal: ... or is it more a dream?



But: dehydration of a tertiary and not primary alcohol!

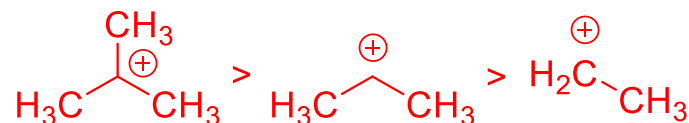


new, tailor-made
biocatalyst
(dehydratase)

mild reaction conditions
(e.g., T < 100°C)



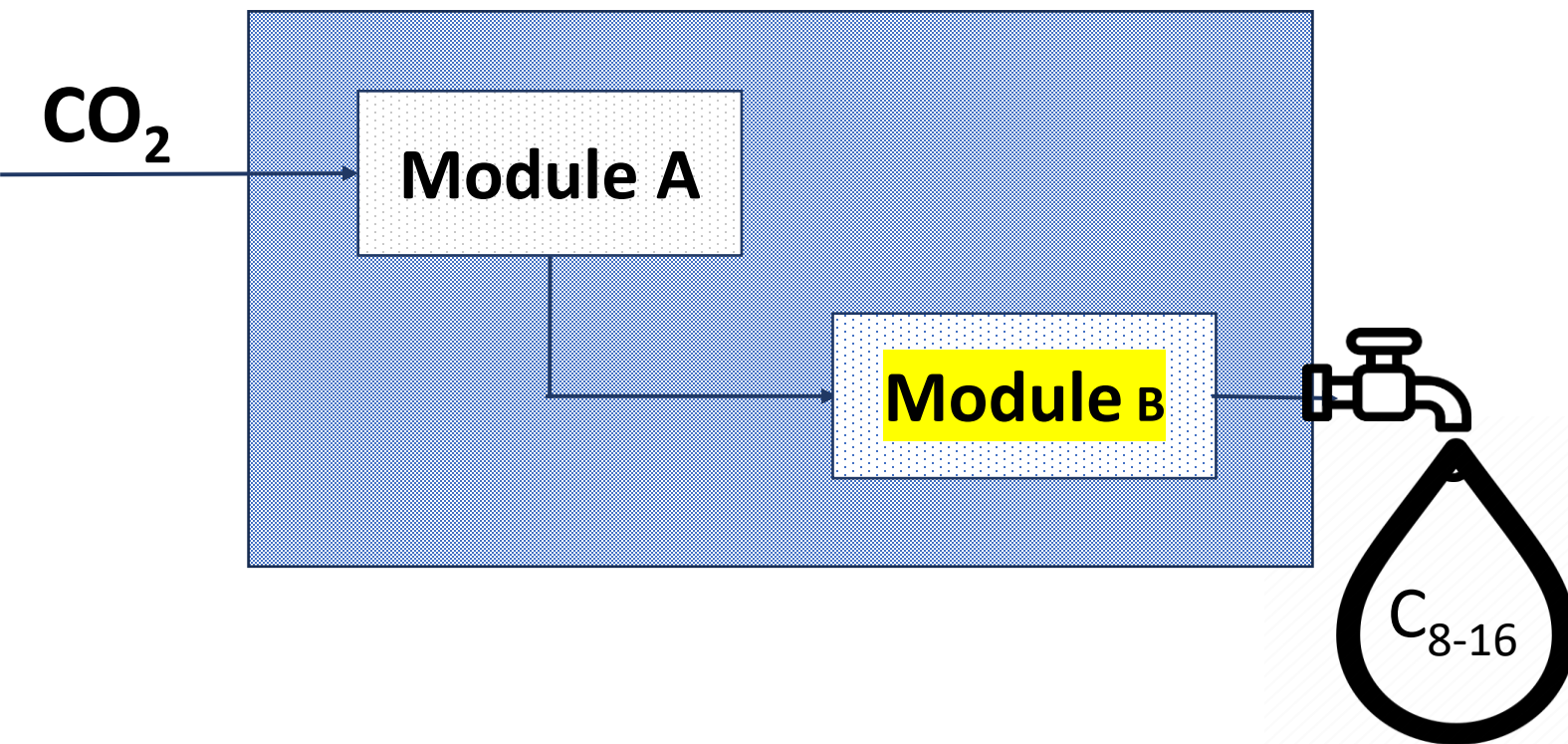
Stability of cations:



Biocatalysts known for tertiary alcohols,
but unknown for primary alcohols

Chemocatalysts known for
dehydration of primary alcohols,
but T > 180 °C, mostly > 250 °C

Biomimetic catalysts for dehydration of primary alcohols



PRODUCT

Precise synthesis and high yield of jet fuel



MILD CONDITIONS

Unprecedented low temperature



RATIONAL DESIGN

Hybrid catalyst integration & synergetic approach

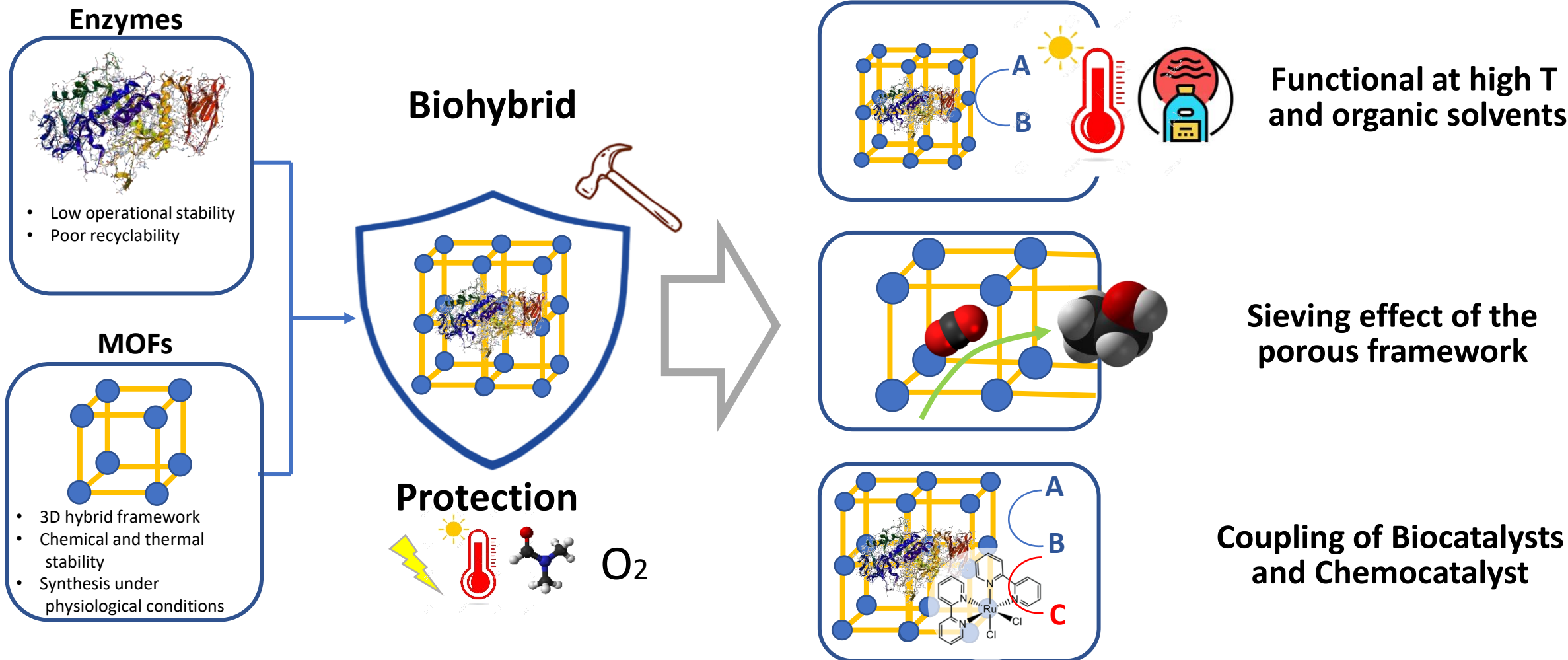


Air Carbon Recycling for Aviation Fuel Technology

KEY ACTIVITY #4

Advanced catalysts carriers

Metal-Organic Frameworks in 4AirCRAFT



Improvement of conversion, selectivity, stability

Nano → Macro scale



Prof. S. WUTTKE

ikerbasque
Basque Foundation for Science



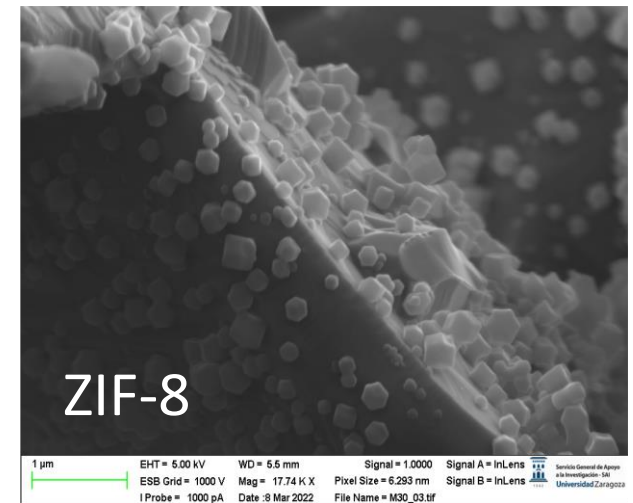
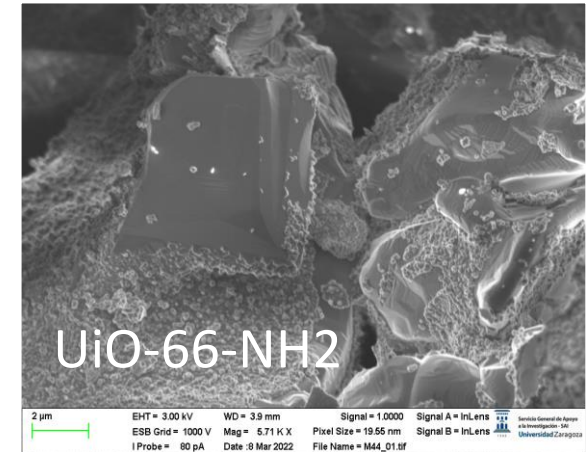
Metal-Organic Frameworks



Dr. J. GURAUSKIS



Hierarchical porous scaffolds





Air Carbon Recycling for Aviation Fuel Technology

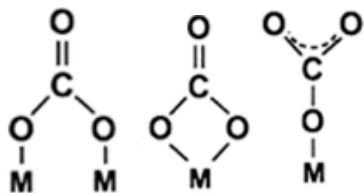
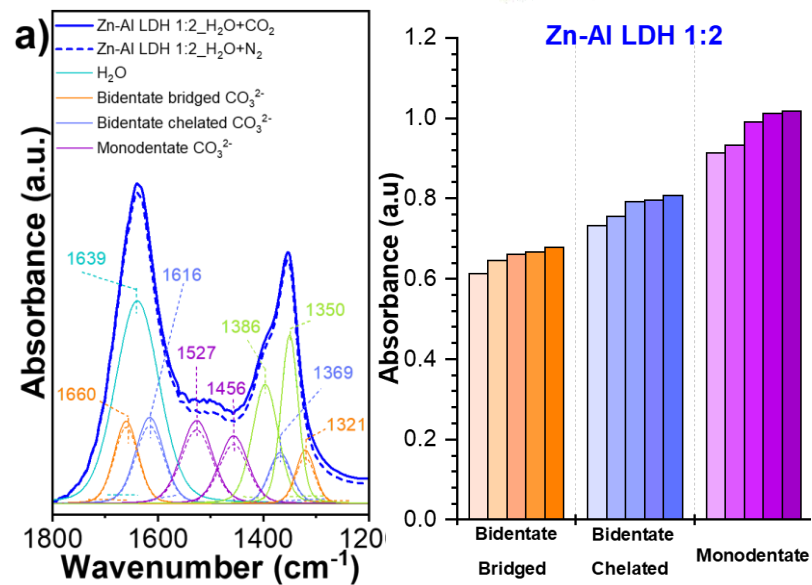
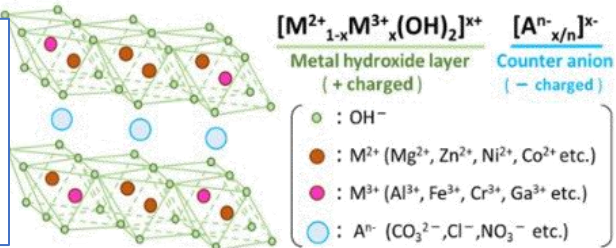
KEY ACTIVITY #5

Advanced Characterization

In situ and operando characterization

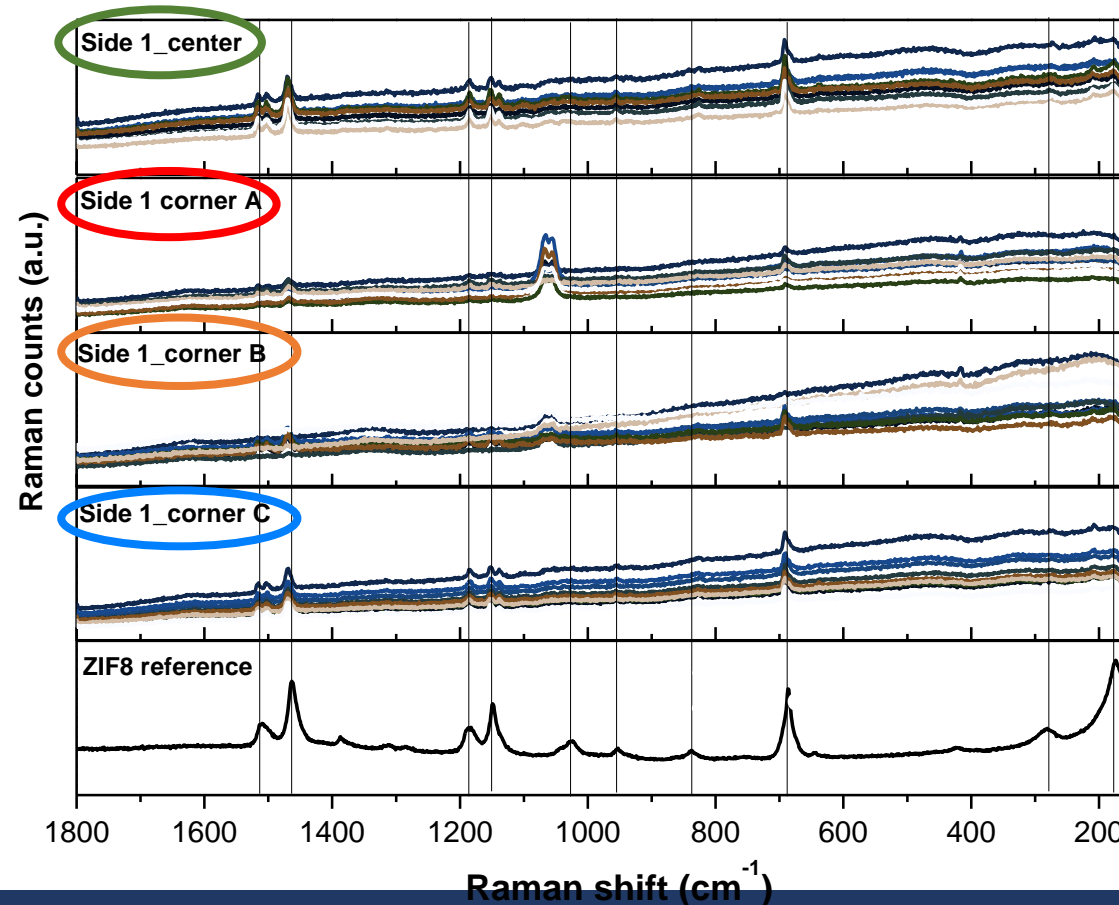
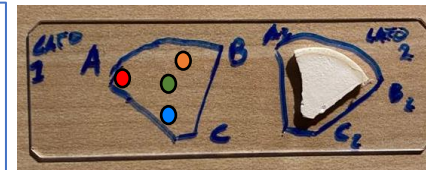
IR spectroscopy

Electrocatalysts
ATR-IR spectroscopy on LDH



Raman spectroscopy

Functionalized Catalyst carriers
Raman spectroscopy on composites materials



✓ Detection of composite material

✓ Detection of composite material

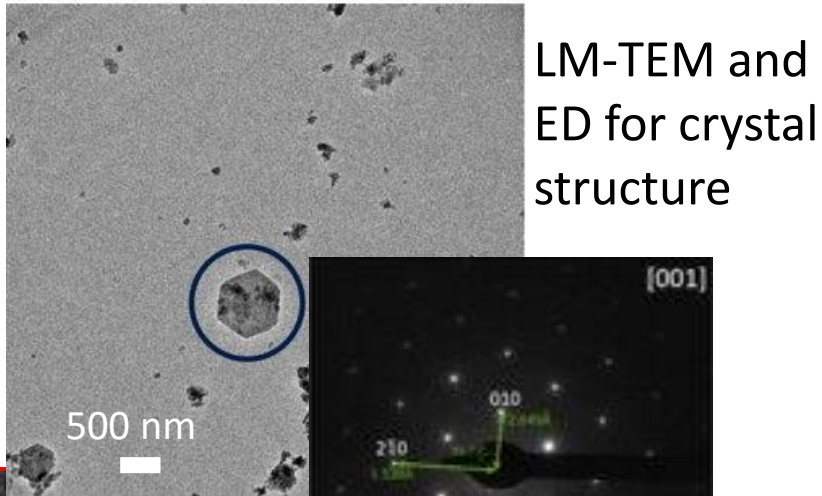


Dr. F. BONINO

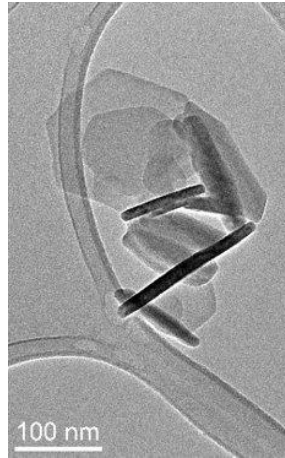
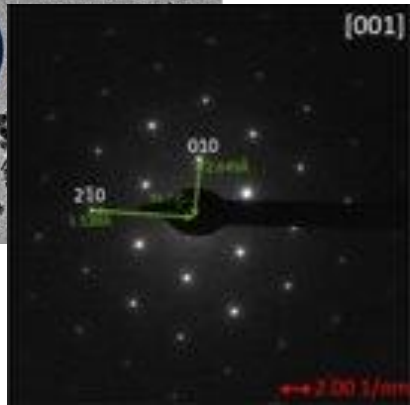


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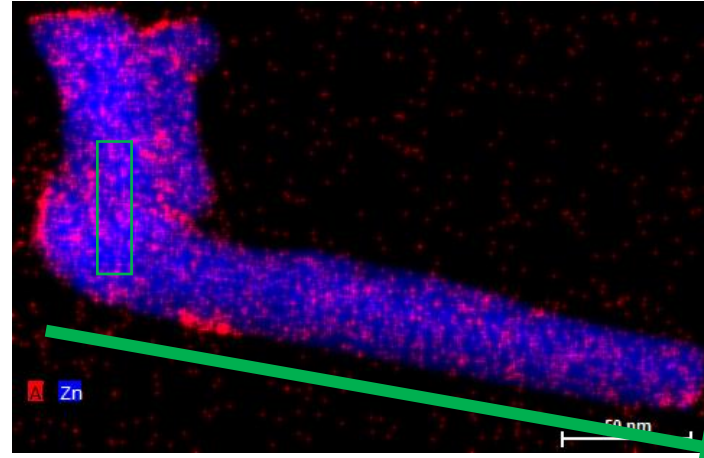
Morphology, Composition, crystal structure by means of transmission electron microscopy



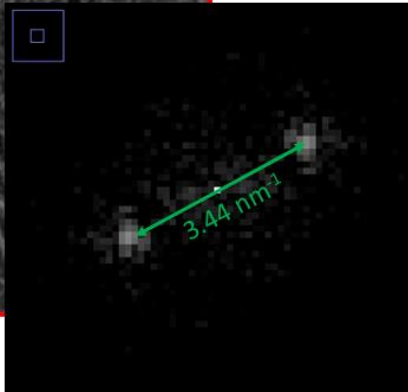
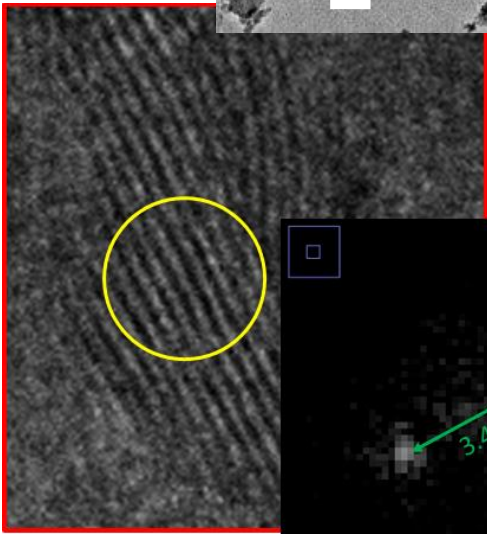
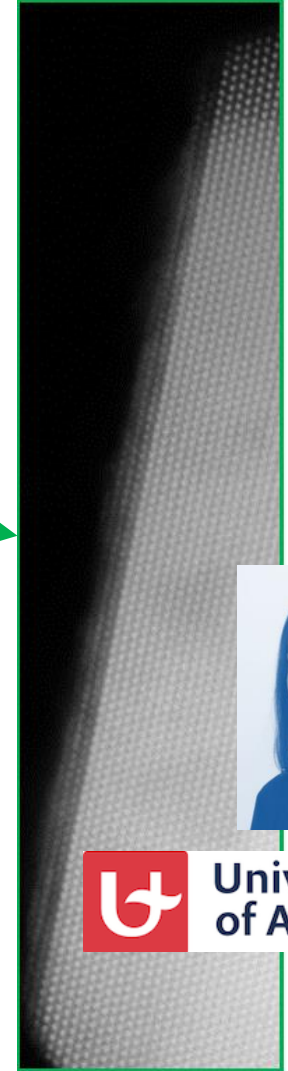
LM-TEM and ED for crystal structure



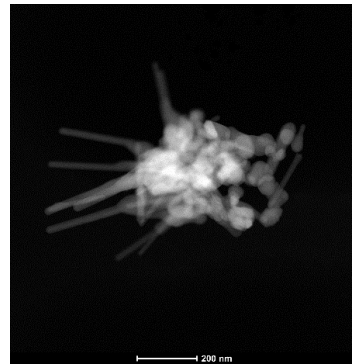
BF-TEM of the morphology



EDX analysis of the composition



High resolution TEM and FFTS for interlayer spacings



LM-HAADF-TEM of the morphology

HAADF-STEM atomic resolution imaging of crystal structure, layers, defects



Air Carbon Recycling for Aviation Fuel Technology

KEY ACTIVITY #6

Additive manufacturing - reactors

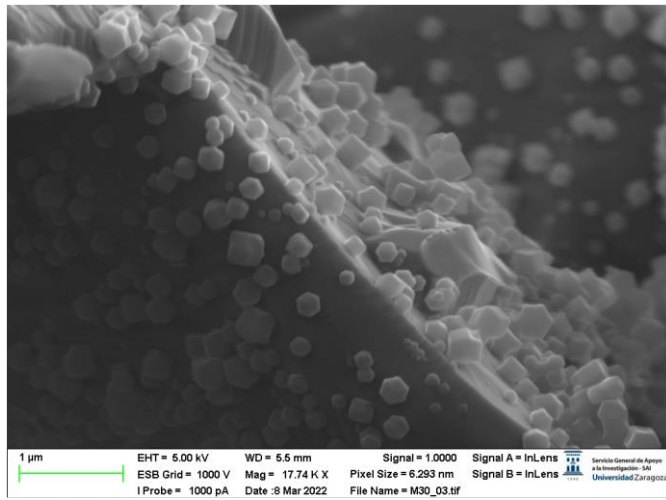
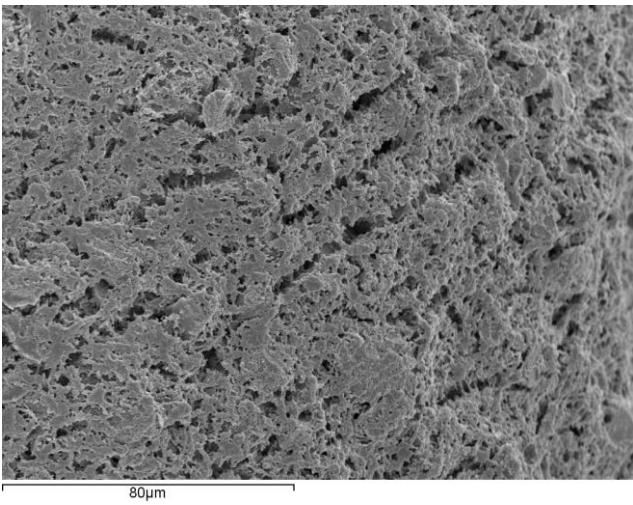
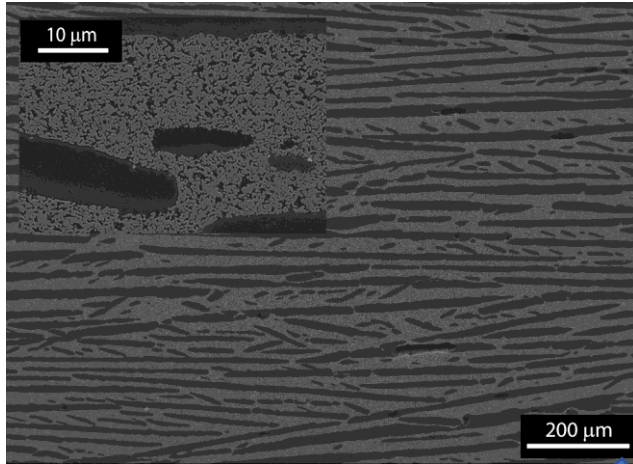
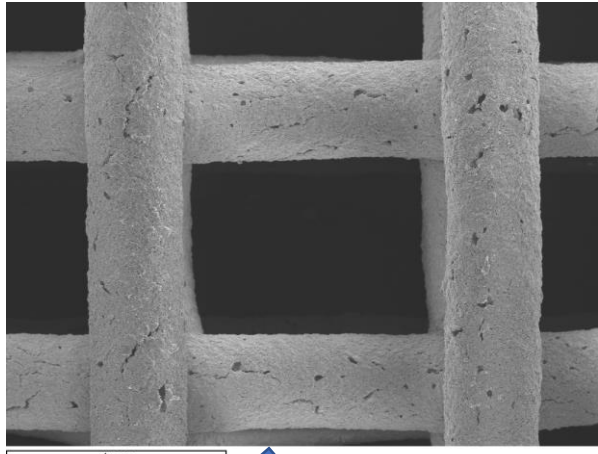
Components of the reactor



Processing

Microstructure

Properties



Dr. J. GURAUSKIS



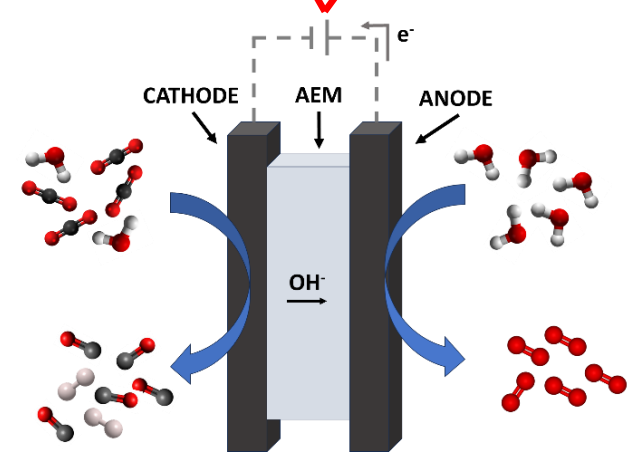
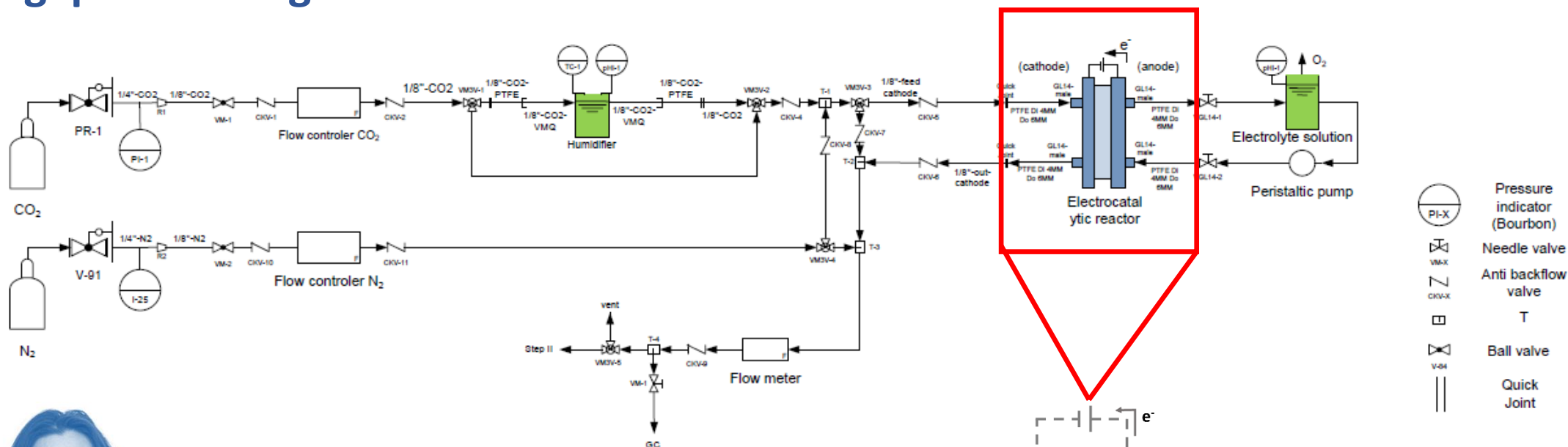


Air Carbon Recycling for Aviation Fuel Technology

Next steps: Proof of the concept

Proof of concept “electrochemical module”

Zero-gap cell configuration – CO₂RR Test bench



Zero-gap for the CO₂RR

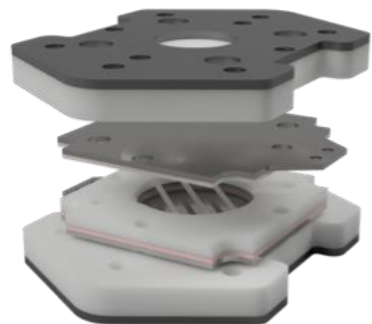


Dr. V. GIL

Proof of concept “electrochemical module”



Commissioning module
-single cell-



Initial module design
-single cell-



✓ Faraday Efficiency **FE**

✓ Lifetime 

✓ LCA 





Air Carbon Recycling for Aviation Fuel Technology

Summary

4AirCRAFT – Research Activities



Materials

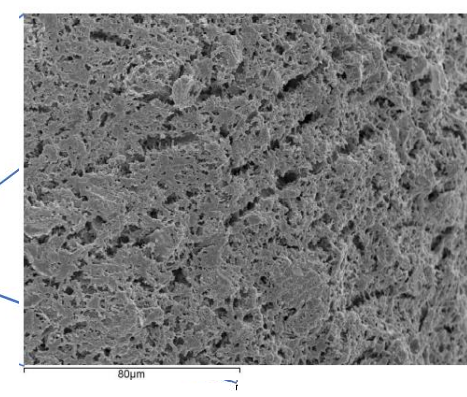
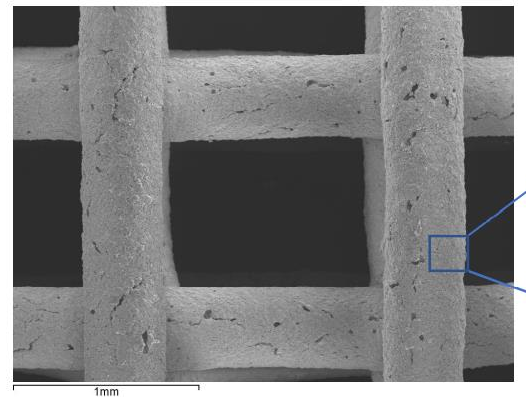
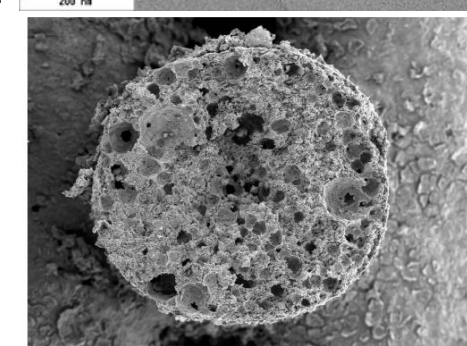
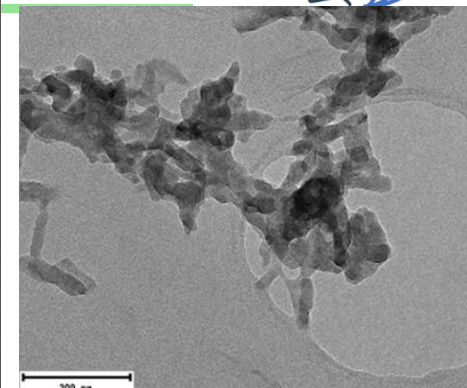
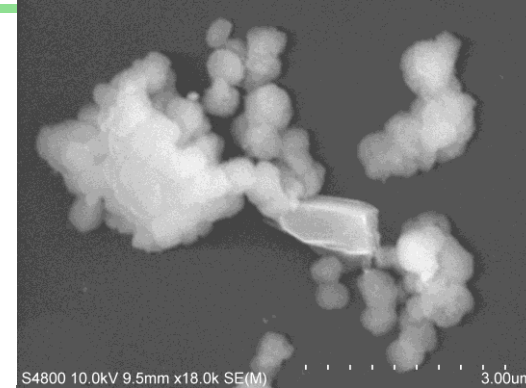
- Electrocatalyst
- Chemocatalysts
- Biocatalysts and Biomimetic catalysts
- Structural and mechanistic investigations

Components

- Membranes and Electrodes
- Advanced Catalysts Carriers (MOFs and nano→meso→macro structured and functionalized scaffolds)
- Structural and mechanistic investigations

Reactor

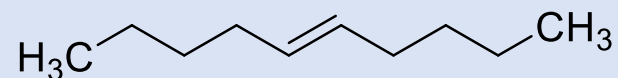
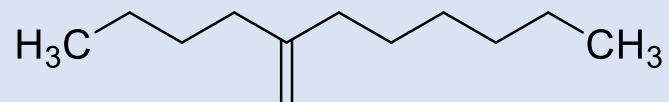
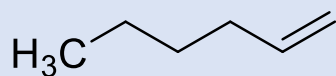
- Reactor design-Process Intensification
- Structural and mechanistic investigations
- Proof of the concept and Life Cycle Assessment



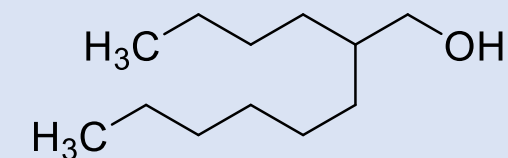
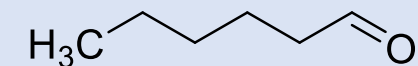
Potential target molecules being accessible by 4AirCRAFT



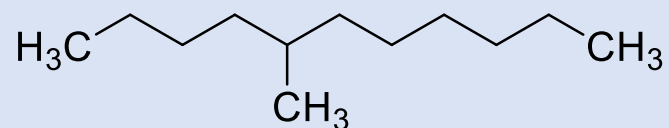
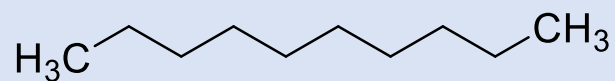
alkenes



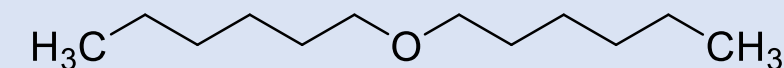
oxo-products



alkanes



dialkyl ethers





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This work is supported by Japan Science and Technology Agency (JST) under Grant Agreement No JPMJSC2102.



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