



Nanostructured Interfaces and Surfaces Centre of Excellence

# Micro e nano-materiali per l'industria dei trasporti

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- esperienze acquisite
- attività in corso su temi specifici
- progetti da sviluppare







Sistemi e Tecnologie per l'EsPlorazione Spaziale, STEPS fase 1 (2010-2012) fase 2 (2013-2014) Materiali ablativi



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SEM image of a carbon-based polymer composite foam

Contatti: D. Scarano, F. Cesano, A. Zecchina



SEM image showing a hierarchiacal porosity: large porosity (blue) and smaller interconnected pores (green, red).



air/propane flame test



# Carbon-carbon conductive and piezoresistive composites



#### 1D and/or 2D Carbon-based composites

...conductive **tracks** on polymers obtained by laser polypropylene (PP), exfoliated graphite (E irradiation on non-conductive MWCNT/Polyethylene multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs) composites.



SEM lateral view of the v-shaped track after laser irradiation, highresolution SEM and AFM images taken along the profile of the track (on the top right) and far from the laser track (on the bottom right)

*F. Cesano, et al., Carbon 2013, doi: 10.1016/j.carbon.2013.04.066 S. Cravanzola, et al , Carbon 2013, doi: 10.1016/j.carbon.2013.05.064* 

...conductive **wires**, 1.5 mm and 3 mm in diameters, obtained by melt blending raw materials: polypropylene (PP), exfoliated graphite (EG) and/or multiwalled carbon nanotubes (MWCNTs)



SEM and nc-AFM images of the conductive wire, showing the interconnections among graphite nanoplatetels (2D) and nanotubes (1D); on the bottom, height profiles along the selected lines



### Porous carbon-oxide composites (ZnO/C, SnO<sub>2</sub>/C, TiO<sub>2</sub>/C)



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(a) X- Ray Tomography and (b) SEM images of a porous core-shell C/TiO<sub>2</sub> composite microsphere; (c) lateral-view SEM image of an array of TiO<sub>2</sub> pillars protruding from a C-monolith.
*F. Cesano, et al., Adv. Mater. 2008, 20, 3342–3348*

### ZnO/C



SEM and AFM images of ZnO– carbon composites



SEM and AFM images of imprinted carbon phase

*F. Cesano, Journal of Photochemistry and Photobiology A: Chemistry* 196 (2008) 143–153

M. Rahman et al., Catalysis Today 150 (2010) 84–90.

Contatti: A. Damin, G. Spoto; F. Bonino, S. Bordiga; D. Scarano, F. Cesano, A. Zecchina,

### SnO<sub>2</sub>/C

SEM images of SnO<sub>2</sub>/Sn/Carbonbased porous composites: foams (a) and films (b), with the related XRD patterns (d, e).

Structure and optical/conductive properties make them suitable for capacitors (foams) and gas sensors (films)





### Hybrid materials as anodes



Increase of electric conductivity of materials for power anodes based on TiO<sub>2</sub>

State of the art
i)TiO2 + Grafene [1] hybrid materials

#### Self-Assembled TiO<sub>2</sub>–Graphene Hybrid Nanostructures for Enhanced Li-Ion Insertion

Donghai Wang,<sup>†</sup> Daiwon Choi,<sup>†</sup> Juan Li,<sup>†</sup> Zhenguo Yang,<sup>†</sup> Zimin Nie,<sup>†</sup> Rong Kou,<sup>†</sup> Dehong Hu,<sup>†</sup> Chongmin Wang,<sup>+</sup> Laxmikant V. Saraf,<sup>†</sup> Jiguang Zhang,<sup>†</sup> Ilhan A. Aksay,<sup>‡,</sup>\* and Jun Liu<sup>†,</sup>\*

"The specific capacity was more than doubled at <u>high charge rates</u>, as compared with the pure  $TiO_2$  phase"





<u>Progress in the field can be achieved by:</u>

1.Increase in conductivity of anodes by coupling TiO<sub>2</sub> with carbon based phases;

2.Hybrid TiO<sub>2</sub>/carbon based materials (CBM) made via "green" synthesis;

3.Synthesis will NOT use expensive graphene made separately;

4.Applicatione to di  $TiO_2/CBM$  anodes in Li-batteries: catodes made of innovative materials such as nanostructured LiFePO<sub>4</sub>.

Contatti: C. Minero



Flattening of HRR  $\rightarrow$  efficient flame retardation.

Contatti: M. Zanetti



# Inflatable structures



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Polymer for low permeability/high strength filled with phillosilicates or graphene



"Tortuous path" of a gas atom or molecule in a exfoliated nanocomposite



Contatti: G. Ricchiardi



### **Thermoelectric materials:**





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Systems and components for energy harvesting and energetic efficiency

Progetto Automotive DRAPO'

- Stoichiometric monophasic system
- High grain boundaries density
- Single/double/multi-doping
- Supersaturation by non equilibrium techniques (ball milling, melt-spinning)

Environment friendly TE materials: Mg<sub>2</sub>Si

Efficiency increase

of CoSb<sub>3</sub>, Zn<sub>4</sub>Sb<sub>3</sub>

 $ZT = \frac{\alpha^2 \sigma}{\sigma} T$ 

Stability of TE modules in service: thermal diffusion at interfaces

Contatti: A. Castellero







### **Nanostructured magnets**







Improving magnetic properties of rapidly solidified ribbons and wire controlled amorphous to nano-crystalline transformation.





Contatti: M. Baricco, L. Battezzati



# Materials for additive manufacturing



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Superalloys and Ti-alloys are candidates for AM. Optimization of microstructure via phase fraction modelling.





Figure 1: Schematic Diagram of the EBFFF Process



Contatti: L. Battezzati



### Welding of HS automotive steels

0.6





Laser weld of automotive steel: molten zone and HAZ. Modelling solidification microstructure using metastable phase diagrams





### Wear in brake pads and discs



An example of service to industry: formulation and analysis of friction materials.

Wear debris acquire microstructure typical in processes of severe plastic deformation (ECAP, HPT, white layer formation...)











# Conclusions

- New projects on materials for application in transports
- Up to date research and training
- Relationship with other fields
- Critical mass needed for industrialization and competing with advanced countries
- Critical mass needed for large facilities





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# Ringraziamenti

IATF1



Progetto SISA

### PRIN vari





Compagnia di San Paolo



EU-7FP – AccMet EU-7FP - VitriMetTech



#### ESA-THERMOLAB

Progetto Automotive DRAPO' (Regione Piemonte)



Asse 1 "Innovazione e transizione produttiva"

Misura I.1.1 "Piattaforme innovative"

F.E.S.R. 2007/2013