

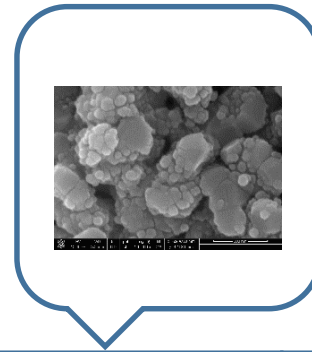
# Nano functionalization of energy devices

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Motivation

Problems and  
Solutions

3D case study

2D case study

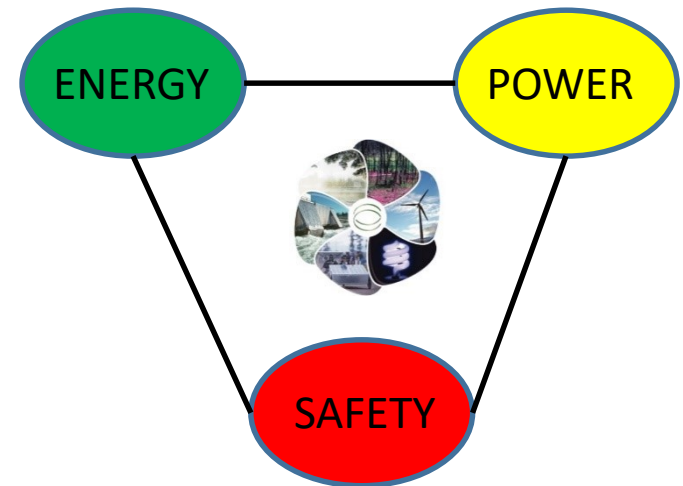
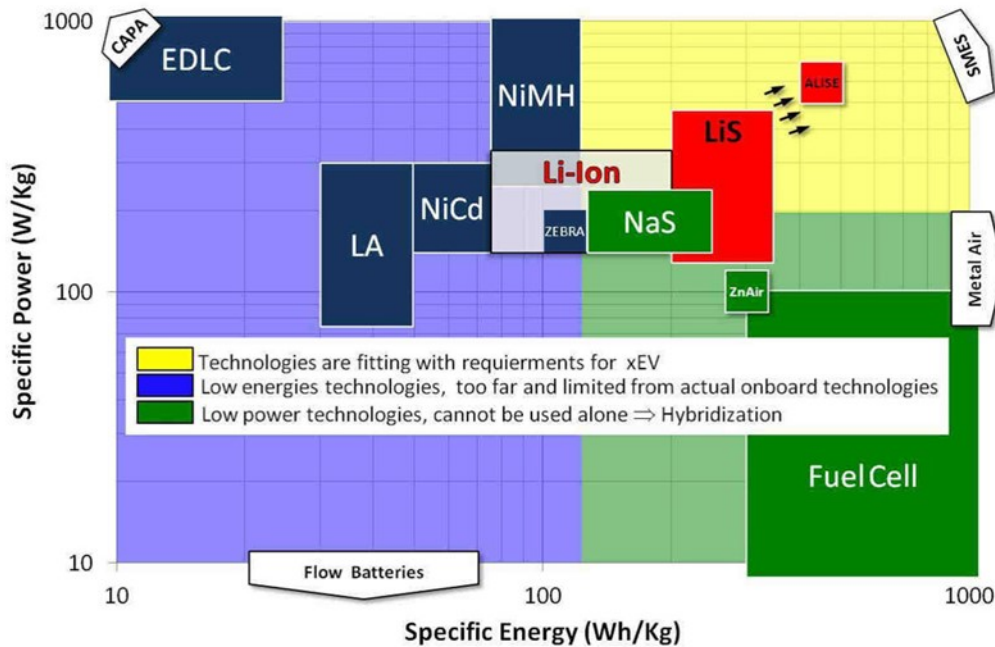
# Global Drivers

- **Environmental changes** - demand for alternative energy sources for the new economy.
  - *Climate change issues; globalization - new government regulations, labor migration, emerging technologies, socio-economic factors, geo-political implication, global financial instability.*
  - *An average coal-fired power plant emits ~ 100 kg of arsenic, 500 tons of particulates, four pounds of cadmium, 5,000 tons of sulfur oxides, 50 kg of lead, one million tons of carbon and 10,000 tons of nitrogen oxides annually.*
- **Constantly rising demand for oil** primarily driven by the developing world's consumption, which is rising three times as fast as in the OECD.



# Global Solutions

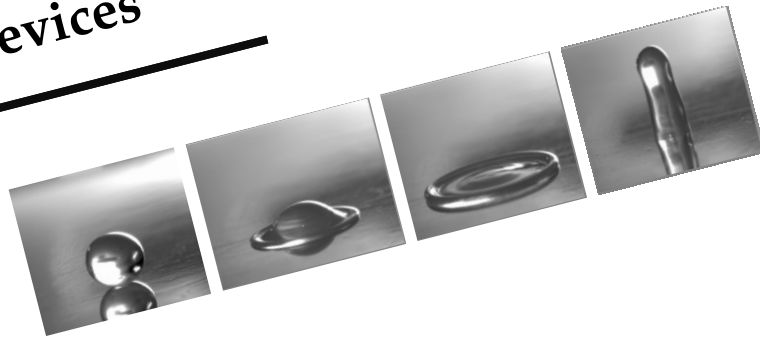
- Popular higher rate-of-return alternative energy sources such as: **wind and solar cell**.
- Storing this energy is one of the greatest barriers to the adoption of renewable energy.
- Complimentary use of **hydrogen** (fuel cells and electrolysers) and **battery** storage is the key to success (EU “Directive on Deployment of alternative fuels Infrastructure” ).



<http://www.aliseproject.com/li-s-batteries/>

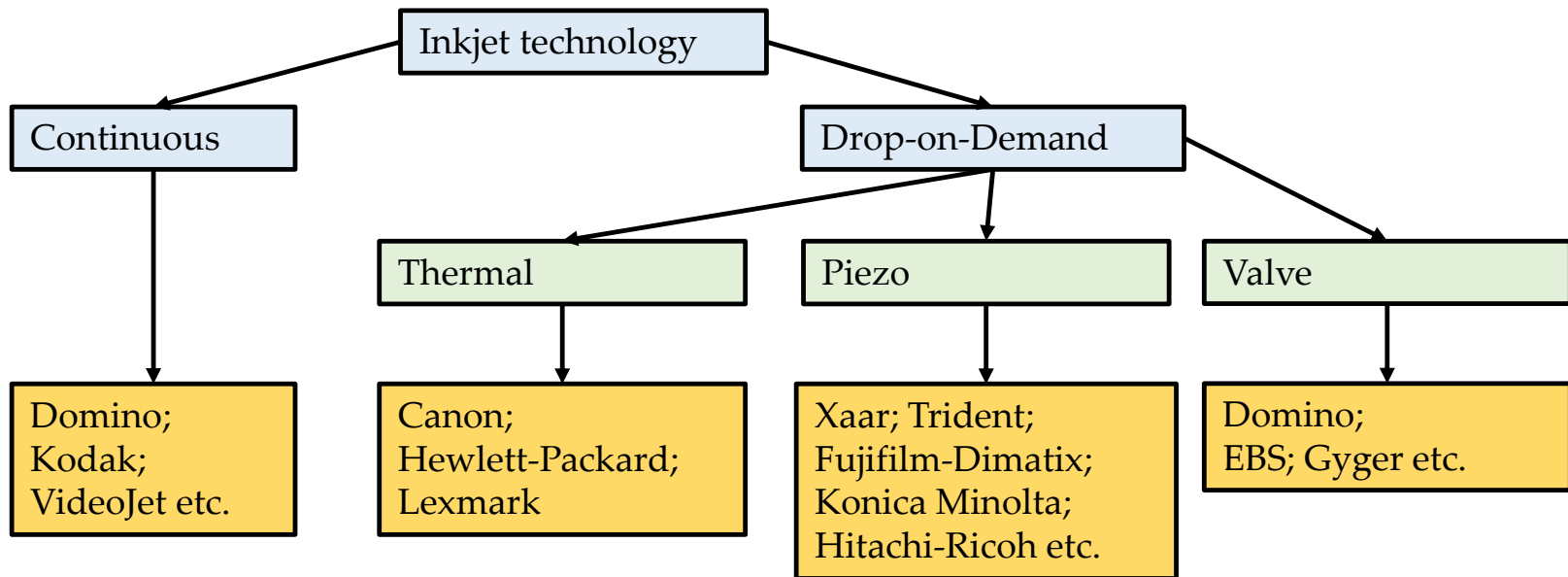
# INKJET PRINTING

A tool for nano-functionalization of energy devices





In 1878 Lord Rayleigh studied the breakup of droplets when a pressure wave was applied. However, it was only in 1960 that Richard G. Sweet fabricated printed equipment based on these previous discovered principles.



# Why inkjet?

**Non- contact** - Deposition on fragile or 3D structured surfaces

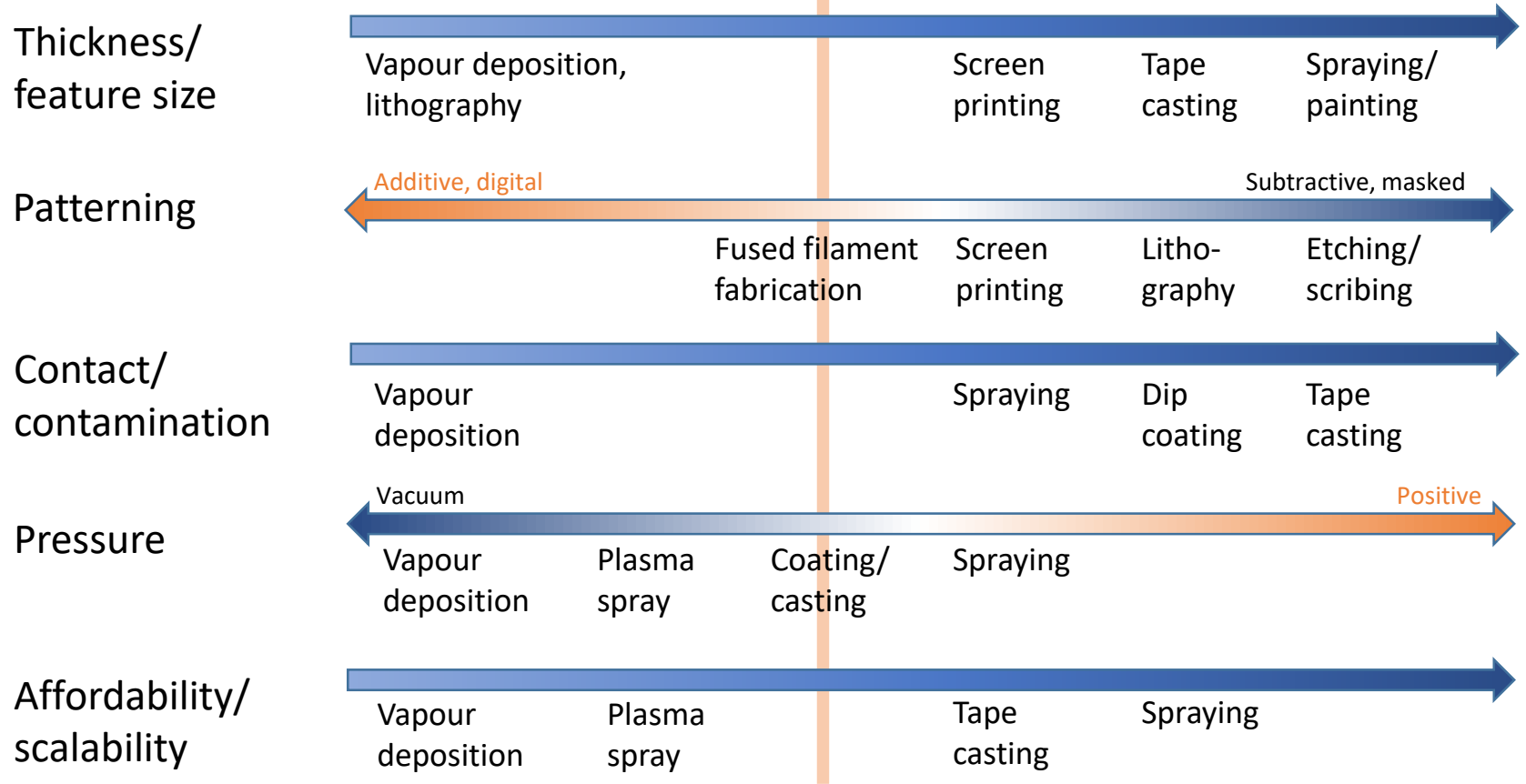
**Digital control** - Flexible pattern deposition. 3D functionalization.

**Functional materials** - Organic, inorganic, biomaterials.  
Solutions, suspensions, colloids, emulsions, melts.

**Reduced production cost** - Efficient use of precursors.  
Additive processing.

**Increased throughput** - High frequency printing.  
Quick set-up. Easy customization.

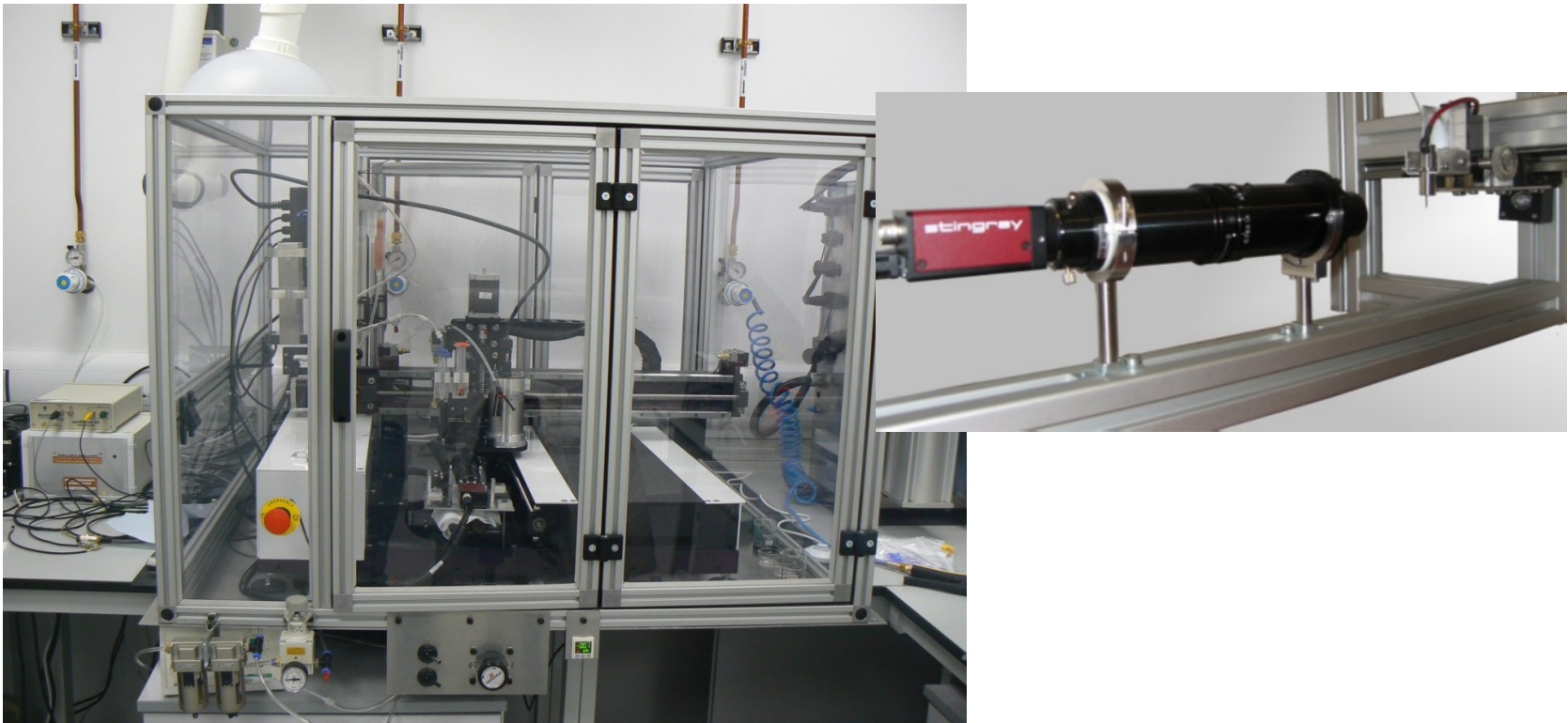
Inkjet printing

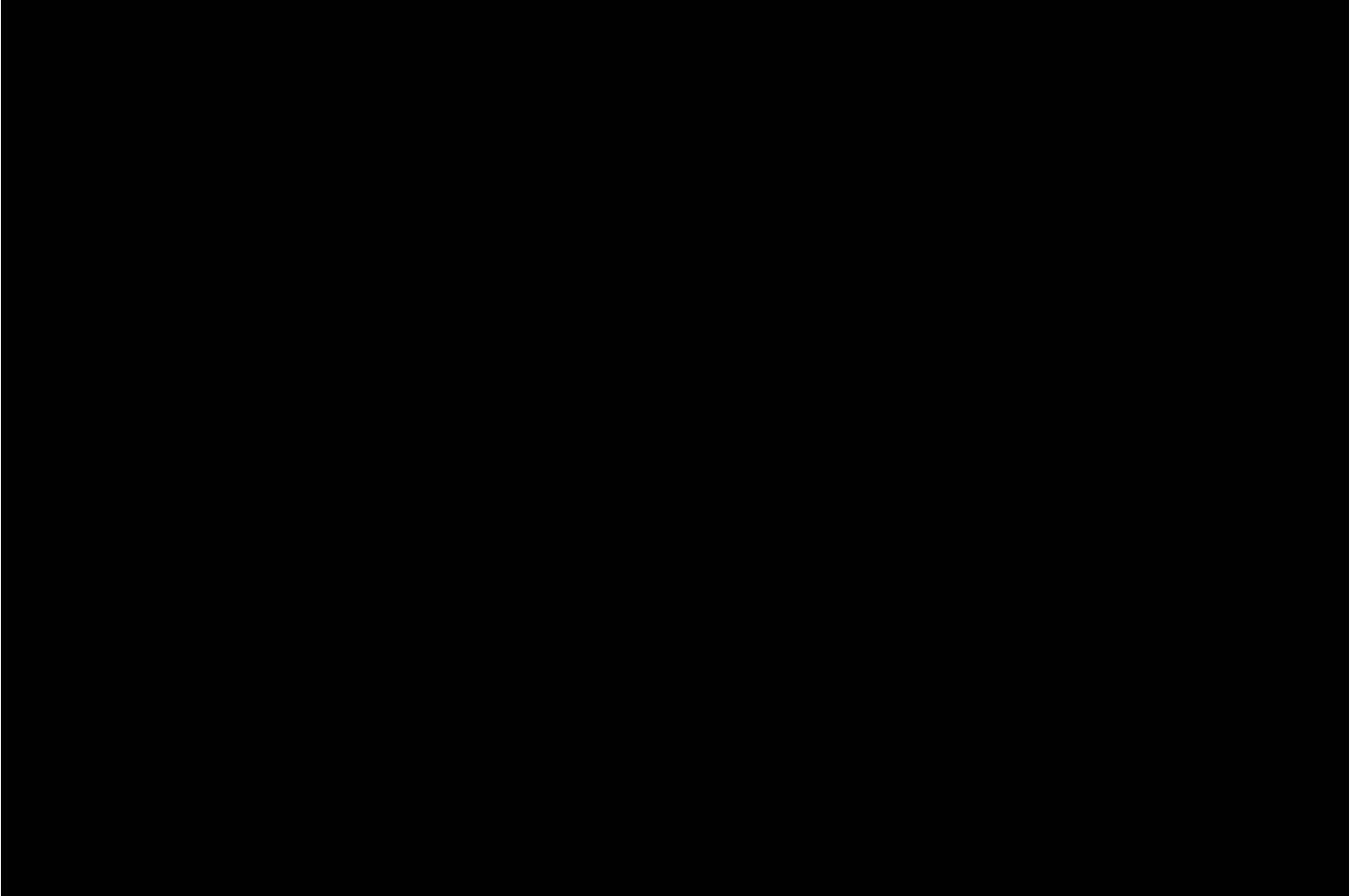




# Cjet printer

- Bespoke inkjet printing equipment and software developed, designed for materials applications
  - **Interchangeable** print-heads and inkjet printing technologies
  - **Integrated** drop visualisation
  - **Robust and affordable**





SOFC ELECTRODES NANOENGINEERING

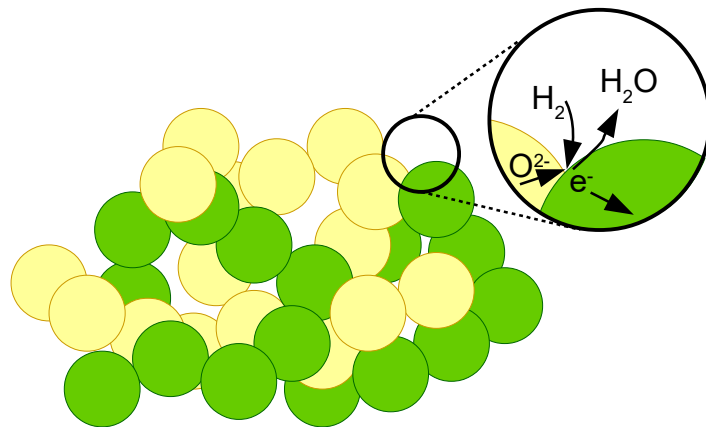
3D nano-functionalization



Key technical barriers in SOFC technology

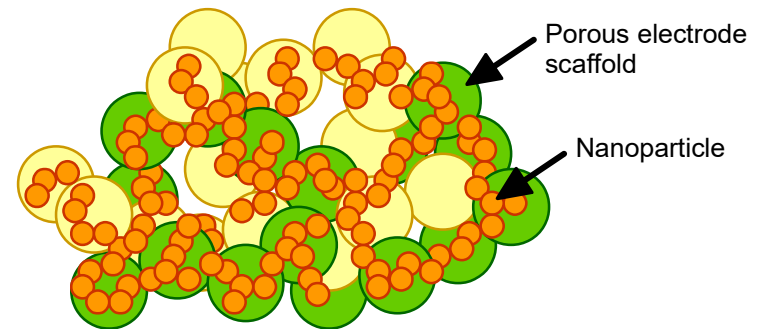
- (i) insufficient thermal resistance,
- (ii) insufficient overall energy efficiency of SOFC stacks,
- (iii) insufficient lifetime utilisation.

# Solid oxide fuel cells – infiltration nano-engineering

- Nanostructuring the porous electrode: reduce  $R_p$ , increase TPB & power output and improve long term stability
- Solution infiltration via inkjet printing

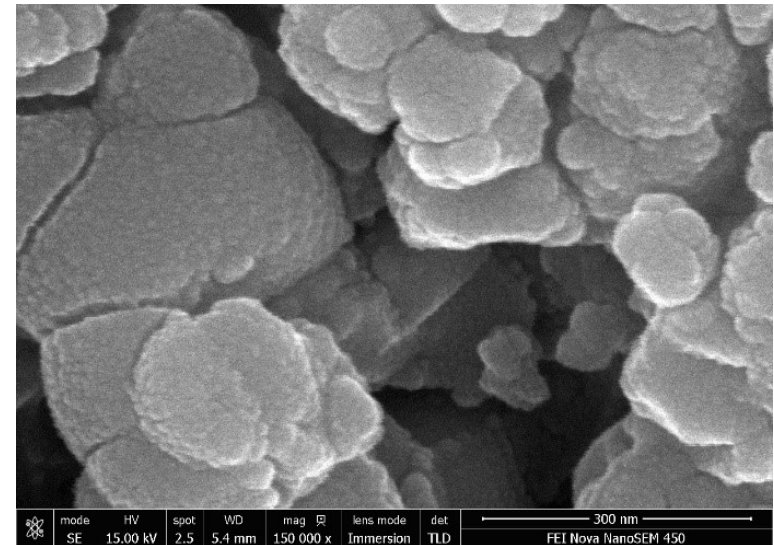
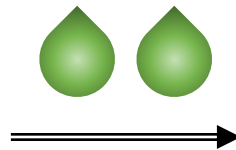
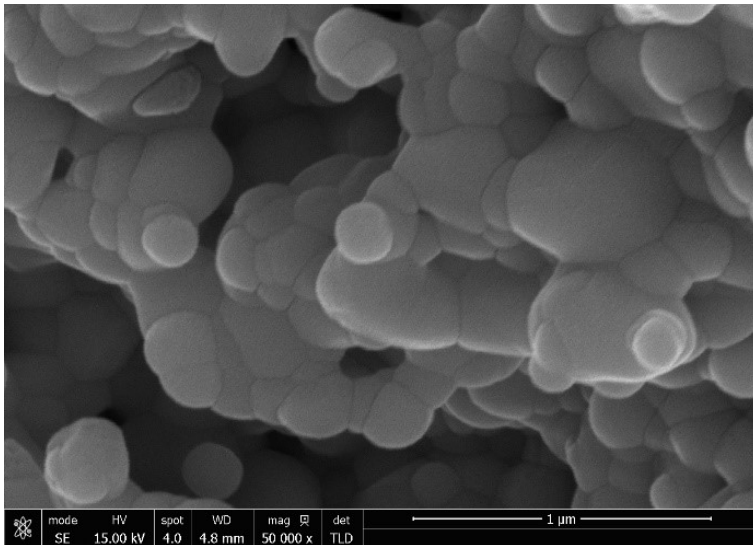
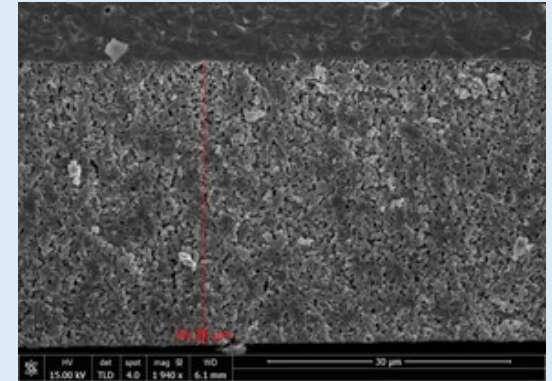


 Electronic conductor  
 Oxygen ion conductor



# SOFC cathode infiltration

- Cathode:  $\text{La}_{0.6}\text{Sr}_{0.4}\text{Co}_{0.2}\text{Fe}_{0.8}\text{O}_3/\text{Ce}_{0.9}\text{Gd}_{0.1}\text{O}_2$  composite
- Electrolyte:  $\text{Ce}_{0.9}\text{Gd}_{0.1}\text{O}_2$
- Infiltrated with  $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$  and Gd:doped  $\text{CeO}_2$

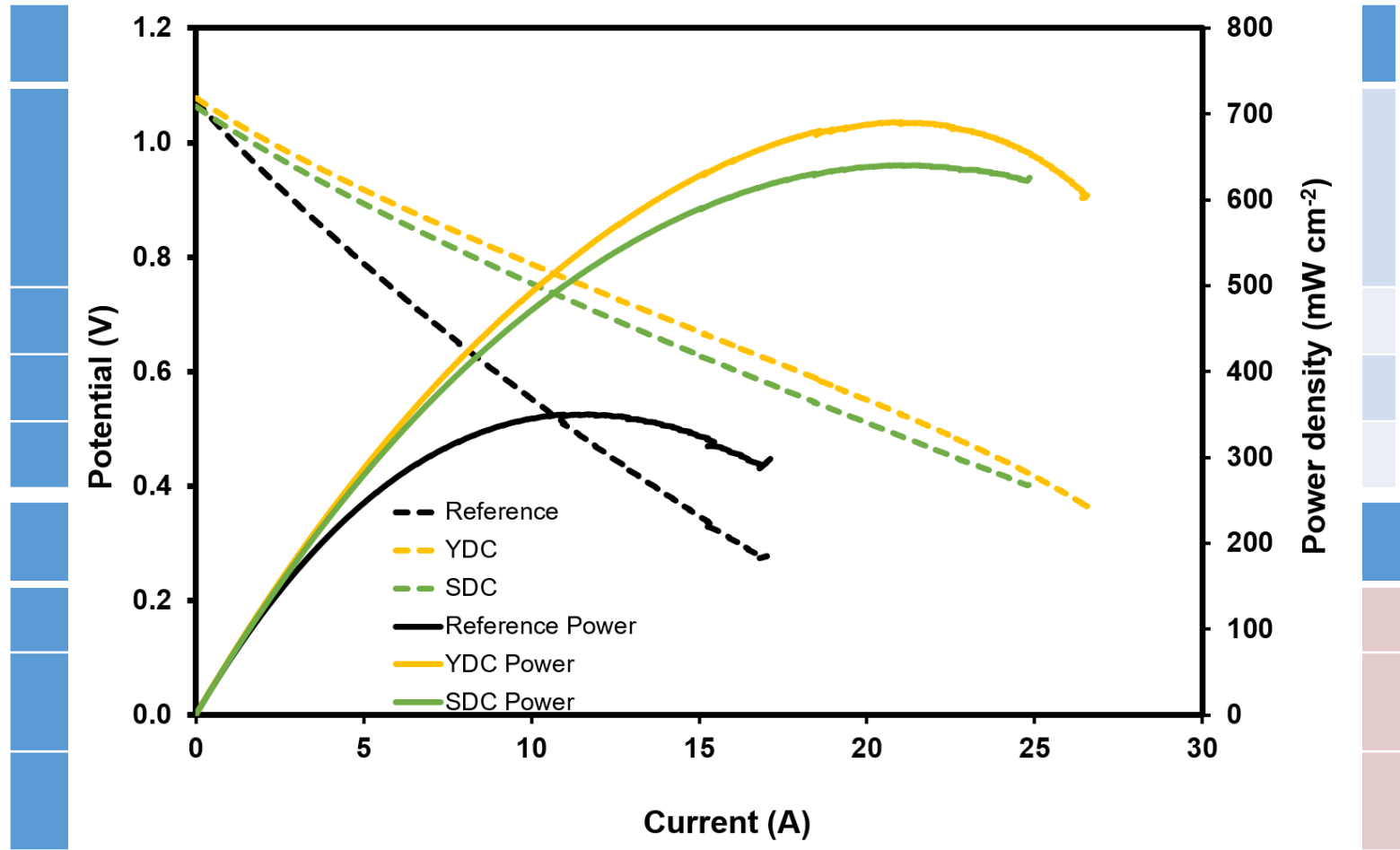


# Nano-structuring objectives

- *Enhancement* of electrochemical performance by extension of TBP / density of active catalytic sites via nano-decoration (discrete nano particles or complete coating)
- *Low temperature calcination* of infiltrated materials
- *Avoidance* of detrimental interactions
- *Minimizing* the effect on concentration polarization losses
- *Long term stability* of the performance improvement
  
- **Low cost scalable technology**

# ASR values and Degradation rate

Aging for 100 hours at 650 °C; testing at 650°C in air



**Inkjet-printed LiS battery cathode**

**3D functionalization**

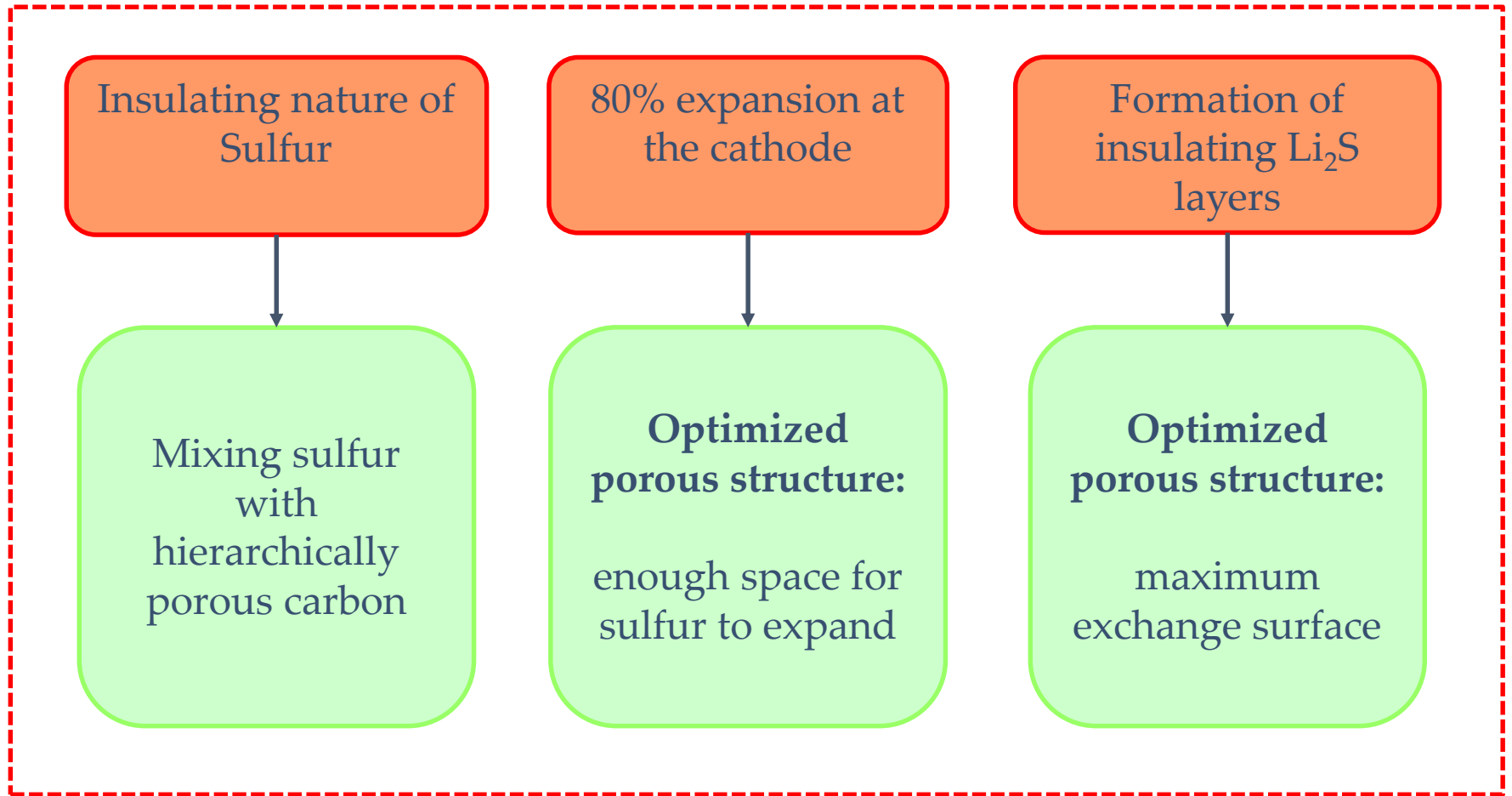


The Zephyr 7 holds the official endurance record for an unrefueled flight, lasting 336 hours, 22 minutes and 8 seconds. It uses sunlight to charge a lithium-sulfur battery during the day.

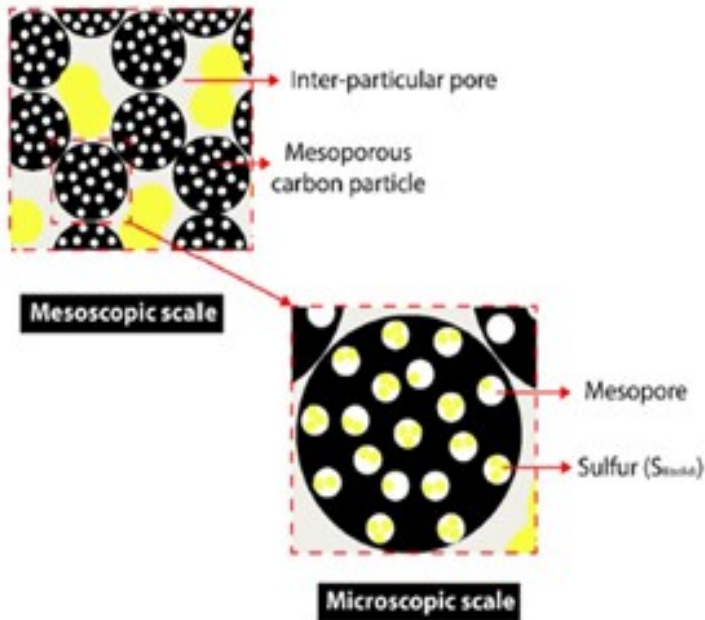


# Lithium-Sulfur batteries

- High theoretical capacity – 1672 mAh/g !
- Sulfur is inexpensive and abundant !



# Inkjet-printed LiS battery cathode

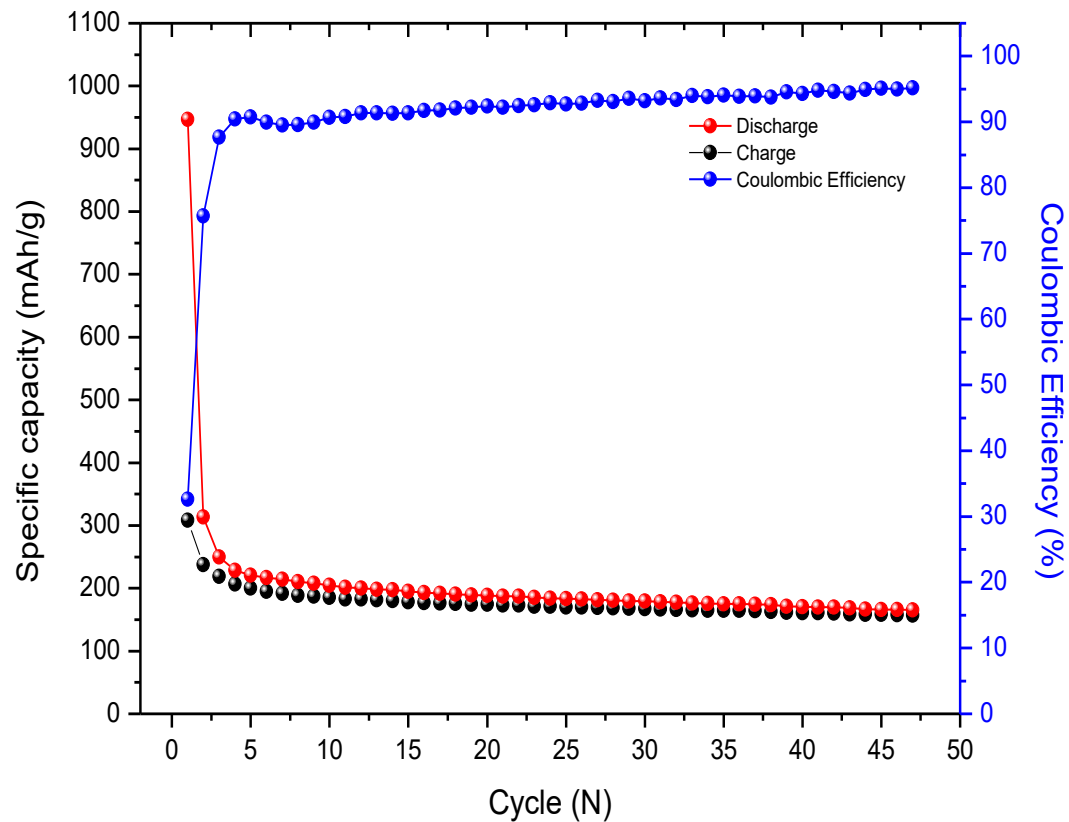
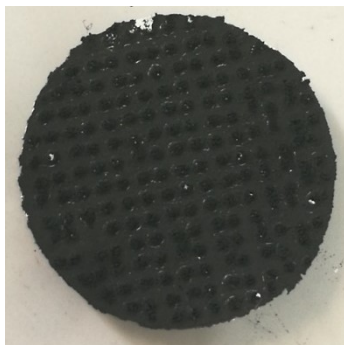


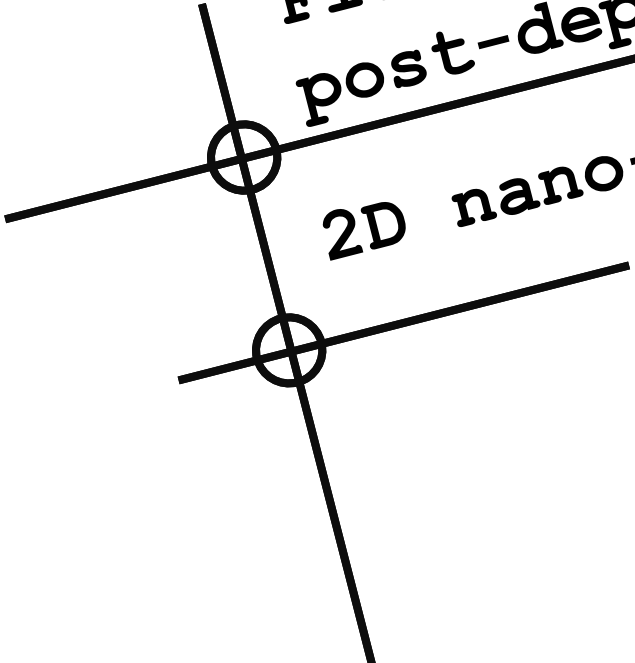
Micropores: 1-3 nm  
Mesopores: 3-10 nm  
Inter-particle pores: > 30 nm

Substrate porosity

Fiber diameter: 1000 nm

# Inkjet-printed LiS battery cathode



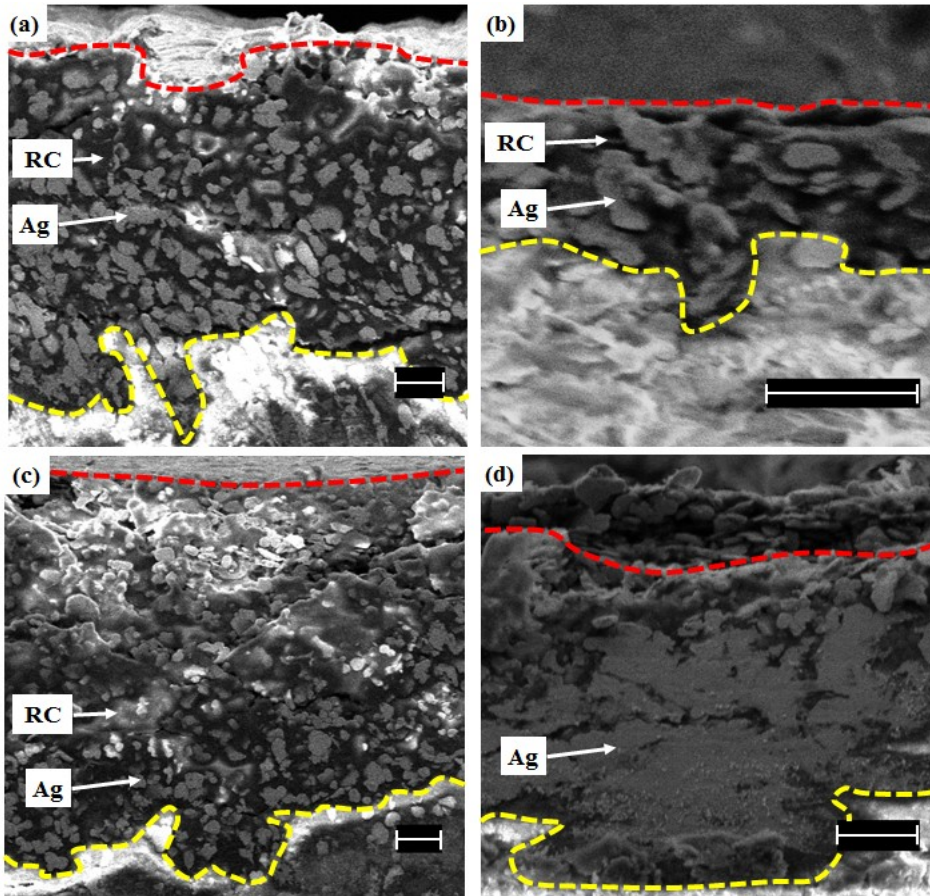


Flexible silver tracks without  
post-deposition sintering

2D nano-functionalization

Temperature sensitive substrates  
cannot withstand sintering of high  
temperature !

# Conductive tracks for flexible electronics

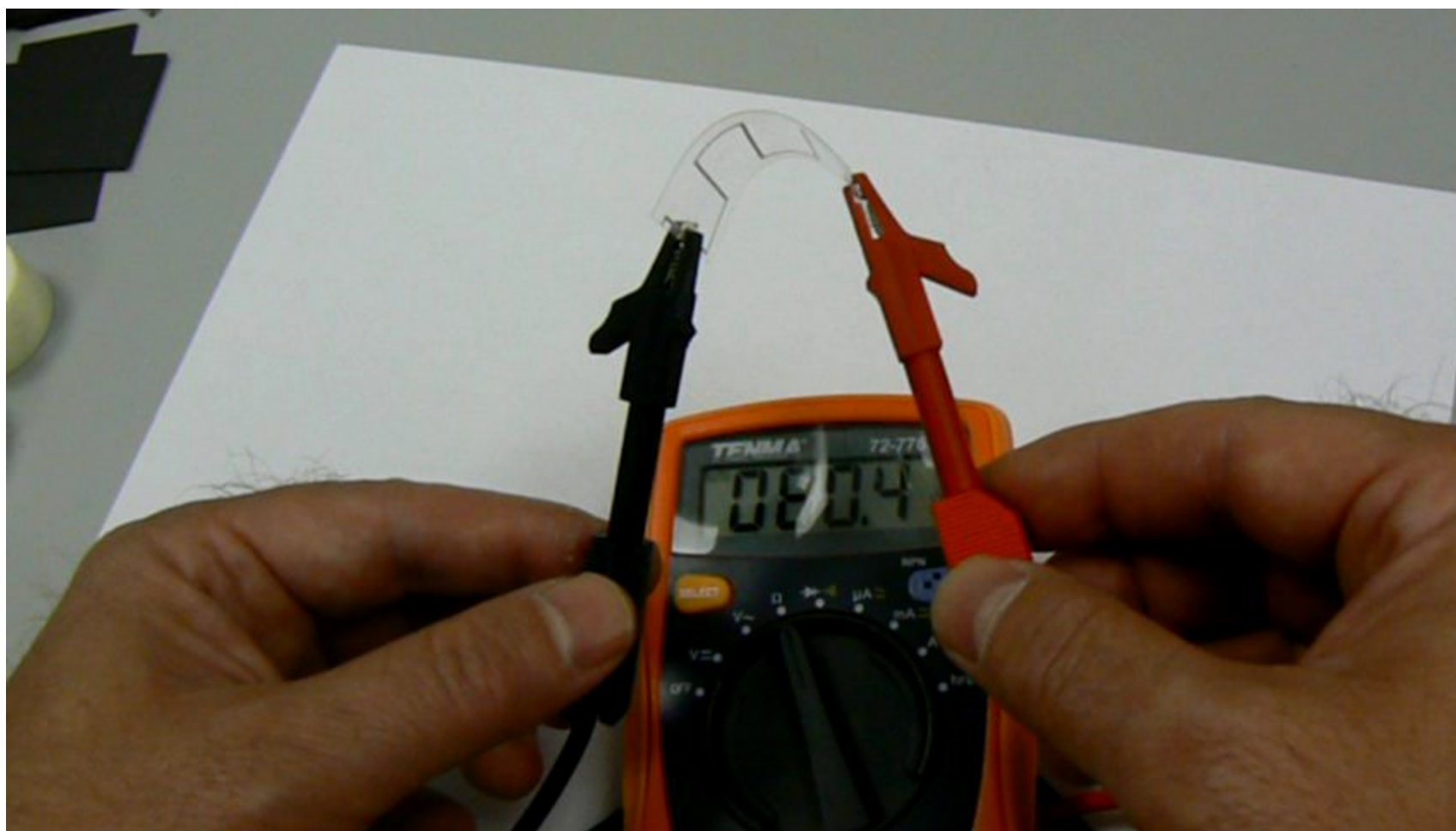


- (a) doctor blading
- (b) flexography of the as-received ink,
- (c) doctor blading of a thinned ink (40% ink and 60% water)
- (d) inkjet printing of a thinned ink (40% ink and 60% water).

(The dotted lines show layers with a thickness of (a)  $27\mu\text{m}$ , (b)  $7\mu\text{m}$ , (c)  $38\mu\text{m}$  and (d)  $19\mu\text{m}$ , respectively)

Aqueous-based silver ink (DZP Technologies Ltd, UK - silver flakes ( $90\% < 3.9\mu\text{m}$ ))





# Summary

- Inkjet printing nano-functionalization method has been successfully applied in several functional energy materials applications.
- *CAMJet* Group Ltd. was created with an ambition to commercialize the technology.
- The company aims to provide a flexible platform for inkjet processing for a variety of customers – academic institutions, R&D sector, ink developers etc.

Thank you for your attention !