

#### FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR MICROENGINEERING AND MICROSYSTEMS IMM







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"Hit the ground running and make further big things happen"

PROF. DR. MICHAEL MASKOS

### **DEAR READERS**

During the past months all of our skills were demanded to create an excellent starting point for acting as Fraunhofer Institute for Microengineering and Microsystems IMM from the beginning of 2018. I am very proud of all my coworkers. Crucially thanks to their enthusiasm and commitment we were able to master all challenges during the last years.

But it is of course as well the perfect time to say "thank you" to all those helping hands that extended to us such a warm welcome to Fraunhofer right from the beginning, in particular all the collegues from Fraunhofer ICT, accompanying us during the integration phase. And it is even more the right time to set our sights on the future now, to hit the ground running and make further big things happen.

One such big thing literally could be the so-called "ISO-Container Forty-feet Equivalent Units" which serve us as ideal approach to establish flexible, efficient and economical production processes on-site, still retaining the advantages of a microstructure based operating principle. Aiming at a self-sufficient, modular and flexible chemical plant this container will comprise all plant periphery and control as well as a modular, multi-purpose microreactor based equipment for the production process. Possible applications range from the synthesis of fine and specialty chemicals, the in situ generation of intermediates to energy carriers as well as energy conversion processes (including biofuels) based on a heterogeneously catalyzed approach (gasoline synthesis, power-to-gas).

The ground has been paved by a series of large European cooperation projects. So we put on our "seven-league boots", remove the remaining obstacles and bring this successfully to the start. In this spirit, enjoy reading our latest annual report designed to present an attractive composition of already completed "runs" and their relevance to actual and future endeavors while having always in mind that "a rolling stone gathers no moss".

PROF. DR. MICHAEL MASKOS DIRECTOR FRAUNHOFER IMM



## FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR MICROENGINEERING AND MICROSYSTEMS IMM

As Fraunhofer IMM, we work in the two fields of Energy and Chemical Technology (processes, reactors, plants) as well as Analysis Systems and Sensors (methods, components, systems). We organize our competencies in these two pillars according to the priorities Energy, Chemistry and Raw Material, Safety, Health and Nutrition, Mobility and Transport and Industrie 4.0. Our developments are used in the business fields Energy and Environment, Chemistry, Process Engineering and Aerospace, Biomedical Analysis and Diagnosis, Safety as well as Industrial Analysis. With our system and technology oriented innovations we contribute to the competitiveness of our customers and partners. In doing so, we stand for responsible handling of new technologies and for sustainable development to benefit private and public enterprise as well as society.

The division **Energy and Chemical Technology** comprises the product areas **Energy Technology**, **Chemical Technology** and **Nanoparticle Technology**.

In the product area **Energy Technology**, we deal with current and future issues concerning mobile and decentralized provision and storage of electrical energy, with thermal management in the automotive industry and with the production of synthetic (bio)fuels. We improve the reliability and efficiency of compact material and energy conversion systems as well as of decentralized, mobile power supply units.

In the product area **Chemical Technology**, we focus on the intensification of chemical production using methods and devices of chemical micro process engineering. Based on a well-scalable, modularly designed reactor family or by means of specific, often highly integrated designs, we develop, design and manufacture milli- and microstructured flow reactors from laboratory to industrial scale, which are optimally adapted to the respective process or application. We intensify chemical production processes and increase the availability of materials, data and information for product and production issues.

We intensify chemical production processes and increase the availability of materials, data and information for product and production issues.



In the product area **Nanoparticle Technologies** we deal with the production and characterization of nano- and microparticles with different properties and their applications in pharmaceutical, chemical, agricultural and consumer goods industry. Our research is focused on different material classes such as metals (e.g. Cu, Pt, Pd), metal oxides (e.g. ZnO, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Fe<sub>x</sub>O<sub>y</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and semiconductor nanoparticles (quantum dots), as well as polymeric particles and capsules up to several micrometers. We improve the quality of nanoparticles, enhance the productivity of syntheses and increase both, the efficiency and the availability of agents at the target site.

#### The division Analysis Systems and Sensors comprises the product areas Microfluidic Analysis Systems, Sensor Technology and Equipment Engineering.

As one of the pioneers of microfluidics, we have been developing fully integrated and automated **Microfluidic Analysis Systems** for over 20 years. Based on a "microfluidic construction kit" with comprehensive coverage of the required functional elements, we are able to develop an application idea to the proof of function and build fully functional demonstrators up to pilot production within short time. We accelerate and automate reliable analysis systems, increase the compactness of established processes and bring them to the place of action.

In the product area **Sensor Technology** we deal with the development of customer-specific optical, electrochemical and

MEMS sensor technology. Comprehensive competencies in the design of microstructured components and their system integration associated with a wide spectrum of micro manufacturing processes such as mechanical precision machining, laser material processing, silicon and thin-film technology are our unique selling points. We increase the robustness of our customers' sensor technology and thereby minimize the effort in process monitoring.

In the framework of "Systems Engineering" our production portfolio ranges from numerous individual manufacturing processes up to **Equipment Engineering**. By this, we understand the integration of microfluidic cartridges or e.g. silicon-based sensors in mechanical constructions in functional connection with the necessary optics, actuators as well as with other electronic functional elements (heaters, motors, pumps, etc.). We combine and integrate fluidic elements and sensors in intelligent systems, thus, creating new fields of application.

Our product areas are complemented technologically by our long-standing know-how in mechanical precision machining processes, spark erosion, laser material processing as well as by a series of clean room based chemical and physical structuring processes.



## **QUALITY POLICY**

As contract research organization a reproducibly high quality of our research and development services is the basis for a successful business activity and customer loyalty in the long term. Quality means for us to understand the partially complex customer requirements, whether expressed or unspoken, to transfer them into workable and customer-friendly solutions and to meet or exceed our customers' expectations. The quality of our work is crucial for customers to place an order and to successfully exploit the results.

We are not only developing solutions with and for industry, we as well strive for a project-oriented continued development of our capabilities. We are working together with industry, research organizations and universities in projects being co-financed by the federal government, the federal state or the European Commission in order to tackle important issues for the future. Fraunhofer IMM is a reliable partner and cultivates fair relationships to customers and suppliers. Without doing so the provision of our services would not be possible. To openly communicating with all stakeholders is the absolute precondition for any constructive collaboration.

Our employees are the backbone of our institute. Their skills, willingness and subjective well-being determine our target achievement. Our employees feel fully committed to our standards of quality and are being encouraged to further expand our high standards in project work and quality of service by continuous training. Essential prerequisites for professional operation such as adequate communication structures, training and qualification opportunities as well as a positive and productive working environment are created.

Quality-determining process flows are clearly defined, documented and are continuously adapted to changing requirements and improved. Novel quality-determining processes are documented immediately. All related documents are clearly guided and controlled in order to guarantee a sustainable quality in all areas. Our quality awareness and understanding as well as the attitude of all employees towards quality are essential to achieving the project objectives and, by this, the satisfaction of our customers.

Our management stipulates the quality policy and ensures a consequent implementation of the quality management system. We strive for a continued certification according to DIN EN ISO 9001:2015 and review the effectiveness of our quality management system by regular internal audits and quality meetings.

### **FRAUNHOFER IMM IN NUMBERS (2017)**



>59%

<41 %



12,7

MILLION EURO



<23%





76%

24%



### FRAUNHOFER IMM NETWORK

In order to secure our competitiveness and scientific excellence a close cooperation with research institutes and multipliers is of particular importance to us. Our scientists and engineers therefore cooperate with universities, institutes and companies both nationally and internationally in development projects with a short-term and long-term focus. Close connections to partners in the region are of special relevance in this process.

#### COOPERATIONS AND STAFF EXCHANGE

UNIVERSITY OF MAINZ // MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE FOR POLYMER RESEARCH MAINZ

### STUDENT RESEARCH PROJECTS AND DISSERTATIONS

UNIVERSITY OF MAINZ // UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES MAINZ // TU DARMSTADT // TU KAISERSLAUTERN // RHEINMAIN UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES // FRANKFURT UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES // KAISERSLAUTERN UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES // UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES // UNIVERSITY OF STUTTGART // UNIVERSITY OF DUISBURG-ESSEN



#### NETWORKS

CENTER OF SMART INTERFACES // DUAL CAREER NETWORK RHEINMAIN // MAINZ RESEARCH ALLIANCE E.V.// CLUSTER INDIVIDUALIZED IMMUNEINTERVENTION (CI3) E.V.

### REGIONAL NETWORK

### RESEARCH NETWORK

BMBF PROJECT PARTNERS // TU EINDHOVEN // EUROPEAN TECHNOLOGY PLATFORMS // EU PROJECT PARTNERS // BAM BUNDESANSTALT FUER MATERIALFORSCHUNG UND -PRUEFUNG // DECHEMA // PROCESS-NET



## FRAUNHOFER INSTITUTE FOR CHEMICAL TECHNOLOGY ICT

The Fraunhofer Institute for Chemical Technology ICT focuses on process scalability and on the transfer of research results from laboratory to pilot scale, or even pilot-level applications. In 2017, 540 employees were working at Fraunhofer ICT's site in Pfinztal (close to Karlsruhe) and 25 in the Project Group for New Drive Systems at the east campus of the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology KIT.

Our customers and project partners include companies concerned with chemicals and chemical process engineering, vehicle manufacturers and their suppliers, the plastics processing industry, manufacturers of materials, recycling companies, companies in the field of energy and environment, customers concerned with safety-related issues, and the construction and aviation industries. In addition, we are the only explosives research institute in Germany to cover the entire development chain for explosives, from the laboratory through to the pilot plant and system.

We are the only explosives research institute in Germany to cover the entire development chain for explosives

#### Our core competences

The core competence **Chemical and Environmental Engineering** is concerned with the design and implementation of novel, resource-efficient chemical processes, from the laboratory to the technical scale. This core competence spans the entire processing chain - from raw material processing, chemical engineering and downstream processing through to subsequent processes such as the refinement and shaping of products.

In the core competence **Polymer Engineering** we successfully conduct application-related research on polymer synthesis and material technology, plastics processing, component development and manufacture and the recycling of plastics and their applications.



Important research topics include sustainable and affordable energy supply and efficient energy management. In the core competence **Energy Systems** we are concerned with energy storage devices for mobile and stationary systems, fuel cells, heat storage devices and material energy storage. The institute's electrochemical and chemical know-how has been accumulated over more than 30 years, laying the foundations for the development of efficient and cost-effective storage devices and converters.

Based on long-standing experience, and as the only German research institution in the field of **Explosive Technology**, we assist the German Federal Ministry of Defence, the defence industry and the public sector with current challenges in the field of domestic and international security. Fraunhofer ICT covers the whole system development chain, from the raw product through to the prototype of an explosive.

→ From January 2014 until December 2017 Fraunhofer IMM has been a branch of Fraunhofer ICT. Since January 2018 we act as Fraunhofer IMM.

- 1 Fraunhofer ICT Campus
- **2** *Recycling of wind turbine rotor-blades.*

**3** Reaction calorimetry for real-time measurement of heat flows in microreactors.

#### Kontakt

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### FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT IN NUMBERS (2017)



INSTITUTES AND RESEARCH UNITS IN GERMANY



**S** BILLION EURO

CONTRACT RESEARCH

>70 % INDUSTRY AND PUBLICLY FINANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS

< 30 % Contributed by the german federal and state governments

BILLION EURO RESEARCH BUDGET



Joseph von Fraunhofer

## FRAUNHOFER-GESELLSCHAFT

Research of practical utility lies at the heart of all activities pursued by the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. Founded in 1949, the research organization undertakes applied research that drives economic development and serves the wider benefit of society. Its services are solicited by customers and contractual partners in industry, the service sector and public administration.

At present, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft maintains 72 institutes and research units. The majority of the more than 25 000 staff are qualified scientists and engineers, who work with an annual research budget of 2.3 billion euros. Of this sum, almost 2 billion euros is generated through contract research. Around 70 percent of the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft's contract research revenue is derived from contracts with industry and from publicly financed research projects. Around 30 percent is contributed by the German federal and state governments in the form of base funding, enabling the institutes to work ahead on solutions to problems that will not become acutely relevant to industry and society until five or ten years from now.

International collaborations with excellent research partners and innovative companies around the world ensure direct access to regions of the greatest importance to present and future scientific progress and economic development.

With its clearly defined mission of application-oriented research and its focus on key technologies of relevance to the future, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft plays a prominent role in the German and European innovation process. Applied research has a knock-on effect that extends beyond the direct benefits perceived by the customer: Through their research and development work, the Fraunhofer Institutes help to reinforce the competitive strength of the economy in their local region, and throughout Germany and Europe. They do so by promoting innovation, strengthening the technological base, improving the acceptance of new technologies, and helping to train the urgently needed future generation of scientists and engineers.

As an employer, the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft offers its staff the opportunity to develop the professional and personal skills that will allow them to take up positions of responsibility within their institute, at universities, in industry and in society. Students who choose to work on projects at the Fraunhofer Institutes have excellent prospects of starting and developing a career in industry by virtue of the practical training and experience they have acquired.

The Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft is a recognized non-profit organization that takes its name from Joseph von Fraunhofer (1787–1826), the illustrious Munich researcher, inventor and entrepreneur.

## CORE COMPETENCIES

The core competencies and related core topics are the basis for the specialized focus as well as positioning of Fraunhofer IMM within the research and development landscape. Via the core services, based on the core competencies and core topics, Fraunhofer IMM meets the demands from the market-oriented business fields and applications.

The applied microstructure technology and microfluidics, as it is practiced by IMM within the Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, is aimed at the design, construction and testing of chemical and analytical processes using microstructured or microfluidic components and functional units made from various materials, coupled with nanostructured elements and surfaces. In combination with the appropriate sensors and actuators this results in integrated systems with a broad application potential in energy technological, chemical and biological processes as well as for resolving questions in analytics and sensor technology.

In this way we drive forward specific system solutions in the fields of energy technology, heterogeneous catalysis, chemical (process) engineering, functional materials, nanotechnologies, technical and (bio)chemical analysis as well as sensor technology. Microstructure technology and microfluidics, as developed by IMM, are characterized by a consistent relevance to application, the bridge building from available basic knowledge up to required implementations and the claim of scientific excellence. It does not focus on single industries or segments. In fact, our ability to realize microstructures in a variety of materials and to understand how liquids and gases as well as the microstructures themselves react fluidically, mechanically, thermally and (bio)chemically leads to an enormous spectrum of applications. These applications are reflected in the portfolios of our customers, business fields and core topics, though they are based upon the same, defined core competencies.



## MICROSTRUCTURE-BASED ANALYTICS AND SENSOR TECHNOLOGY

The core services of Fraunhofer IMM within the core competency »Microstructure-based Analytics and Sensor Technology« are aimed at a significant improvement of the availability of information and data at the point of need by using microstructure technologies.

The core competency is characterized by the ability to rethink sensor solutions as well as (bio) chemical analysis processes and processes based on microstructure technologies, to interpret them in a completely new way by considering microfluidic principles and by using micro fabrication technologies. In doing this, we open up solutions for the on-site generation of data and information which are not accessible in traditional approaches and offer them to the market.

#### Within the core competency our scientists perform work on the core topics:

**Analysis Methods & Microfluidics:** portable micro analysis systems for chemical- and bioanalysis for the process control in electroplating-, energy- and biotechnology, semiconductor industry and medical technology; microfluidic cartridges for sample preparation and cell handling; protocols and processes for quality- and process control in food- and semiconductor industry, in safety technology, liquid biopsy and personalized healthcare

**Sensor Design & Micro Structuring:** Multichannel micro electrode probes for neural signal recording and neurostimulation; foil-based sensors for the application in on-line process analytics and process control; development of dead volume free membrane valves; acceleration



of micro drilling processes due to the development of a high-precision vibration rotation spindle for electrical discharge machining; development of gas-selective separation membranes for the fabrication of highly sensitive gas sensor chips for the detection of helium or hydrogen

**Assembly Units & System Engineering:** Design and implementation of a fully automated ion analysis unit with self-sufficient, maintenance-free operation for laboratory applications; development of a highly automated POCT-system for the subtyping of influenza viruses with integrated sample preparation and multiplex proof RTqPCR detection; development and realization of a non-dispersive multiparameter on-line sensor for the quality control of lubricating oil; development and realization of a compact module for the measurement of the size distribution of nanoparticles in continuous flow; development and realization of a compact cytometry module for fluorescence based cell counting; a fully automated system for the isolation of circulating tumor cells directly from a high-volume blood sample for the application in liquid biopsy

Hence, we cover the entire value chain beginning with the design and processing of microstructured components, the sample preparation for analytics, the conception, testing and optimization of methods for sample handling, the sample concentration and marking, the adaption or optimization of necessary protocols and required reagents up to the detection of elements marked in the process and their automated evaluation.

Device for continuous
μ-titration
 Injection mulded
microfluidic cartridge with
flow cytometry optics



## MICROSTRUCTURE-BASED PROCESS ENGINEERING AND CATALYSIS

The core services of Fraunhofer IMM within the core competency »Microstructure-based Process Engineering and Catalysis« are aimed at a significant improvement of the availability of chemicals, energy and materials by using microstructure technologies. These improvements affect, amongst others, the yield and selectivities in chemical processes, the dynamics and compactness of systems developed for the decentralized energy generation and the accuracy and consistent quality of customized material properties of nanoparticles and encapsulations.

On the basis of the inherent operating principle "microstructuring" the core competency »Microstructure-based Process Engineering and Catalysis« is characterized by the ability to rethink whole classes of chemical process controls, which are particularly performed in fine and specialty chemical industry as well as in pharmaceutical industry in the liquid phase or gas/liquid phase in batch processes, thus discontinuous and with often severely alternating product quality. To interpret these processes in a completely new way by applying continuous flow principles and microstructured mixers and reactors is one of our strengths. In many cases, we hereby make entirely new process routes accessible which are not feasible in a traditional batch process.

#### Within the core competency our scientists perform work on the core topics:

**Catalysis**: development of long-term stable catalyst formulations for the combustion of toxic gases; long-term stable catalysts for the reforming process of liquid gas, propylene glycol, ethanol and methanol, for water-gas-shift reactions, for the preferential oxidation of carbon

In many cases, we hereby make entirely new process routes accessible



monoxide and for a variety of other reactions; performance of catalyst analyses on behalf of large industrial companies and public organizations

**Microstructured Reactors and Flow Chemistry:** automated solid handling in additively manufactured reactors for the continuous processing of intermediates like Grignard reagents; development of a new generation of reactors for photocatalysis and of catalytic combustion reactors made from aluminum for aeronautical applications

**Encapsulation and Nanoparticle Synthesis:** continuous encapsulation in a polymer matrix; customized capsules made from renewable raw materials for the encapsulation of fragrances with different polarity; encapsulation of isocyanates and their controlled release; development and design of continuous processes for the synthesis of biodegradable and biocompatible nano capsules for the transport and controlled release of active ingredients; continuous synthesis of quantum dots as well as activities in medical diagnostics with quantum dots as fluorescent marker

Hence, we cover the entire process chain beginning with the reactant preparation for the processing, including conception, testing and optimization of the process control, the development or optimization of catalysts potentially needed and the coordination of process control, reactor design, the experimental optimization of the overall process up to downstream processing (for instance separation and cleaning technologies).

 Miniaturized tube bundle heat exchanger
 Catalyst preparation: impregnation of a wash coat
 250 W fuel processor for LPG (Liquefied Petrole-

um Gas)



## **FUNCTIONAL MATERIALS**

The business field "Functional Materials" is dealing with the production and characterization of nano- and microparticles with different properties and their applications in pharmaceutical, chemical, agricultural, and consumer goods industries. Our research is focused on different material classes such as metals (e.g. Cu, Pt, Pd), metal oxides (e.g. ZnO, SiO<sub>2</sub>, Fe<sub>x</sub>O<sub>y</sub>, Al<sub>2</sub>O<sub>3</sub>) and semiconductor nanoparticles (quantum dots), as well as polymeric particles and capsules up to several micrometers.

For the encapsulation of active ingredients we have established different technologies for the effective loading with hydrophilic and lipophilic liquids, and solid materials. The physicochemical properties of the particles such as chemical composition, shape, morphology and surface functionalization are designed according to the specific requirements. The use of modular reactors in the continuous synthesis process increases both reproducibility and control of particle size, size distribution and composition. A simple adjustment of flow rate and temperature allows for a precise control of the desired product properties. Together with integrated on-line process control, quality control can be realized in real time.

### FROM CONTINUOUS AND REPRODUCIBLE PRODUCTION STRATEGIES TO TAILOR-MADE PARTICLE PROPERTIES



2015 Coated fracture implant / ROTOCOAT system prototype





Development of a novel coaxial mixer with separation layers for the continuous synthesis of silica nanoparticles.





3D plasma treatment and coating of microscopic objects.

## 2016

System for the continuous synthesis of quantum dots with integrated high-temperature reactors



### 2016 Setup for the continuous

Setup for the continuous formation of polymer-based particles



High-temperature reactor for the continuous synthesis of nanomaterials with in-line process analytics, e.g. for fluorescent quantum dots.



Continuous synthesis of polymeric nano- and microparticles with customized functionalities.



2017

Setup with integrated PEEK caterpillar mixer / TEM image of catalyst particles



Development of a continuous process to synthesize CuO/ZnO nanoparticles as catalyst for syngas conversion.





Encapsulation of hydrophilic active agents in PLGA nanocapsules in continuous flow.

## **MILESTONES**



### 3D PLASMA TREATMENT AND COATING OF MICROSCOPIC OBJECTS

(Project ANTIOBTI, 4/2012 to 3/2015) Milestone in "surface modification of microstructured objects"

Plasma treatment is the first choice for engineering surface properties in an all dry process. Tailored surface properties can be realized for small parts and components without affecting bulk properties. Microstructured objects with complex shapes and geometries are treated homogeneously providing full surface coverage and thus maximum product efficacy and safety. 3D plasma treatment is suitable for medical devices, 3D printed components and rapid prototyping. The ROTOCOAT system, developed at Fraunhofer IMM, is a versatile and easy-to-use tool for coating small parts with complex shapes. It can be used for the modification of polymeric, metallic or ceramic parts, hence bringing new and multiple functionalities to the surface.



### DEVELOPMENT OF A NOVEL COAXIAL MIXER WITH SEPARATION LAYERS FOR THE CONTINUOUS SYNTHESIS OF SILICA NANOPAR-TICLES

(Project M4N-EFRE, 4/2012 to 3/2015) Milestone in "nanoparticle fabrication process"

For precipitation reactions with fast kinetics, that are prone to clog the reactor system, a novel type of coaxial mixer has been developed featuring multiple layers of a separation fluid, that prevents mixing of the chemical precursors close to the nozzle where fouling is most critical. This new mixer has successfully been applied to the synthesis of silica nanoparticles using economical precursors that had previously been prohibitive for the above reasons.

### CURRENT PROJECTS



### SYSTEM FOR THE CONTINUOUS SYNTHESIS OF QUANTUM DOTS, BASED ON AN INTEGRATED REACTOR CONCEPT FOR HIGH-TEMPERATURE SYNTHESIS OF NANOMATERIALS

(Projects M4N-EFRE / KONTIDOT, 4/2012 to 12/2016) Milestone in "production of functional materials"

The reactor with integrated heating (up to 400 °C), mixing and optical detection cells is designed for the continuous and reproducible synthesis of nanomaterials at high temperatures and allows the transfer of common hot-injection protocols from batch to continuous. The setup features precursor delivery, pumps, mass-flow controllers, additional temperature zones, fraction collection and process analytics by optical spectroscopy. Due to its modular layout, the system can be flexibly reconfigured to suit a specific material system or synthesis protocol, respectively. Optical absorbance and fluorescence spectra are recorded in-line at multiple detection points and provide information about product quality and process stability in real time.



PROCESS DEVELOPMENT FOR CONTINUOUS SYNTHESIS OF MUL-TIFUNCTIONAL POLYMERIC NANO-PARTICLES AND NANOCAPSULES LOADED WITH HYDROPHILIC AND HYDROPHOBIC COMPOUNDS

(Project CONTICAPS, 1/2016 to 12/2016) Milestone in "tailoring particle properties"

Advances in nanotechnology offer immense potential towards the development and production of innovative materials with improved, customized properties. To match the application requirements, the physical and chemical properties of the endproduct can be adjusted by the effective combination of properly chosen materials. The encapsulation of active ingredients in polymeric particles protects them against environmental conditions, prolonging the lifetime and reactivity of the end-product. Our main focus is the development of energy-/costefficient and high-throughput synthetic strategies for the preparation of polymeric particles and capsules in batch and in continuous flow, specializing in particles that react to external stimuli.



## CHEMISTRY

The business field "Chemistry" is mainly dealing with the intensification of chemical production applying methods and devices of chemical micro-process engineering. Following a well-scalable, modularly designed reactor family concept or by means of specific, often highly integrated solutions, we develop, design and manufacture milli- and microstructured flow reactors from laboratory to industrial scale, which are optimally adapted to the respective process or application. We develop chemical processes mainly in the field of organic chemistry covering both, single and multiphase processes as well as non-catalytic and heterogeneously and homogeneously catalyzed reactions. Our research priorities comprise photochemistry, electrochemistry and the synthesis of reactive intermediates.

By linking with new plant concepts, such as the chemical plant infrastructure in container format, we open up decentralized and mobile production approaches. The integrated approach of development, modularization and process automation builds a bridge to the chemical Industrie 4.0.

### FROM SINGLE PROCESS ENGINEERING COMPONENTS TO NOVEL REACTOR AND PLANT CONCEPTS FOR SUSTAINABLE MODULAR AND DECENTRALIZED CHEMICAL PRODUCTION







Establishing the first unit operation for process engineering at lab scale.





First gas phase microreactor based on a stack of microstuctured catalyst coated plates.





Establishing gas-liquid contacting device for fast and highly exothermic reactions.



Ultra-fast multi-lamination mixer for laboratory and pilot production range.



999

Caterpillar micromixer and

star laminator

Significantly increasing reaction throughput.

### 2016 Grignard pilot reactor

### 2017 Falling film microreactor for photochemistry



Carbon dioxide as a raw material source for photocatalytic conversion into basic chemicals.



2013

Integration of a smallscale multi purpose plant for continuous processes in a container infrastruc-

ture.





In situ production of reactive intermediates (e.g. Grignard reagents) involving continuous solids handling (e.g. Mg turnings).

Novel reactor concepts for modular and decentralized chemical production.

Microchemical process engineering for process intensification in chemical production.



2009

Scalable microreactor for pilot plant production

## **MILESTONES**



### PERIODIC PROCESSING IN MICROREACTORS

(Project PERIMI, 11/1998 to 10/2001) Milestone in "modular reactor technology"

The developed microreactor was the first modular, reaction plate based system which could be customized to a certain extent and, thus, adapted to process requirements. The plates could be coated with catalyst, so that the assembled device can function as gasphase reactor, either with or without internal heat transfer. For coating at this stage of development wash coating, coprecipitation and sol-gel techniques were applied. The device could also be used as liquid-phase micro heat exchanger. For the first time temperature modulation with short response times was realized allowing periodic processing with respect to concentration and temperature.



### INTEGRATED MULTISCALE PROCESS UNITS WITH LOCALLY STRUCTURED ELEMENTS

(Project IMPULSE, 2/2005 to 1/2009) Milestone in "plant development"

IMPULSE was an EU-FP6 flagship project targeting the utilization of (micro) structured equipment as a key for the development of innovative chemical plants of tomorrow. The former IMM was responsible for the development and manufacture of microstructured reactors as well as involved in process development for various application areas and establishing pilot installations. The main focus was lying on the application areas of ionic liquids synthesis, emulsification, electrochemistry, and micro encapsulation.



### COMBINING PROCESS INTENSIFICATION-DRIVEN MANUFACTURE OF MICROSTRUCTURED REACTORS AND PROCESS DESIGN REGARDING TO INDUSTRIAL DIMENSIONS AND ENVIRONMENT

(Project CoPIRIDE, 1/2009 to 8/2013) Milestone in "flexible and scalable production, even under harsh process conditions"

Within the EU-FP7 project CoPIRIDE the consortium followed the approach of modular production and plant concepts for intensified processes in order to achieve a flexible and scalable production taking into account sustainability and economic efficiency. One core element thereby was the development and use of a mobile, container-like plant infrastructure. Another one was the advancement of modular and, thus, scalable microreactors for industrial production relying on manufacturing technologies being suitable for series production. Achieved successes comprise: a high product quality in anionic polymerization, an increased space-time yield in the epoxidation of soybean oil, supercritical biodiesel production using lower value raw material
### CURRENT PROJECTS



#### MODERN POLYMER-BASED CATALYSTS AND MICRO-FLOW CONDITIONS AS KEY ELEMENTS OF INNO-VATIONS IN FINE CHEMICAL SYNTHESIS

(Project POLYCAT, 1/2010 to 3/2014) Milestone in "selectivity and efficiency of industry relevant reactions"

The EU-FP7 funded project POLYCAT has developed novel, polymer-supported catalysts to improve, based on highly reactive nanoparticles, the selectivity and efficiency of industry relevant reactions. The combination of these novel catalyst systems with microprocess technology allowed the precise adjustment of ideal process conditions. Furthermore, a multifunctional, compact plant installed in a container-like infrastructure was established allowing the industrial partners the application of a novel and improved production method for the synthesis of pharmaceutical active ingredients.



#### PHOTOCHEMICAL CO<sub>2</sub> ASSIMILATION WITH VISIBLE LIGHT ON MICROSTRUCUTRED DIAMOND SURFACES IN CONTINUOUSLY OPERATED MICROREACTORS

(Project CarbonCat, 1/2016 to 8/2019) expected milestone in "CO<sub>2</sub> utilization"

The CarbonCat project aims for the pioneering development of a microreactor system for the evaluation of the potential of novel catalyst materials aiming at the innovative utilization of  $CO_2$ , coming as close as possible to nature inspired photosynthesis while exclusively using sunlight. Instead of plant cells we will use a newly developed microreactor containing a diamond photocatalyst as photoactive center. Ultimate goal of the CarbonCat project is the development and provision of a demonstration plant which converts  $CO_2$  into valuable chemical C1 components.



#### IN SITU PRODUCTION OF GRIGNARD REAGENTS WITH CONTINUOUS PROCESS CONTROL

(Internal project, 2017) Milestone in "in situ production of reactive intermediates and solid handling"

The synthesis of Grignard reagents and their conversion with a variety of organic molecules such as ketones and aldehydes is one of the most effective methods of C-C bond formation. Continuous processing enables a large magnesium excess to suppress unwanted side reactions and improves heat transfer to avoid runaway of the reaction. Our novel reactor system allows a continuous supply of magnesium, integrated magnesium activation, integrated process control as well as in-line analytics via IR measurements.

# **ENERGY**

The business field "Energy" is mainly dealing with current and future issues concerning mobile and decentralized provision and storage of electrical energy and the production of synthetic (bio)fuels. The technology is based on microstructured plate heat exchangers which are applied as chemical reactors through the introduction of coated catalysts. The development work covers the entire technology chain in the fields of system design, process simulation, catalyst development, durability tests, reactor design, development of cost-effective manufacturing technologies, system control, system integration and testing. Apart from the development of individual components and complete reformer systems for hydrogen production from conventional and renewable fuels, the research focuses on the areas of fuel processing, liquid hydrogen technology, exhaust gas purification, power to gas, heat and cooling management, energy storage and biofuel synthesis.



### FROM HEAT MANAGEMENT TO COMPLEX UNITS FOR MOBILE ENERGY GENERATION; FROM POWER TO GAS AND CHEMICALS

2004 Evaporator based on microstructured plates

2000 Heat exchangers of

different size





Heat exchangers based on stacks of microstructured plates.



Sandwich reactor for methanol fuel processing / catalyst development





First microreactor for methanol fuel processing with catalyst developed at IMM.





First evaporator designed at IMM for use in fuel processor applications.





Electrical gas pre-heater for use in fuel processor applications.





2014 Fuel processor system for propylene glycol



Development of a fuel processor system for the conversion of methanol into natural gas.







Development of a (5 kW PEM) fuel cell system including a diesel based fuel processor for Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) applications for trucks.



Cryogenic test plant in container



Development of a system for the transportation of cryogenic liquid hydrogen for local energy supply.







Development of a mobile power supply for aircraft galleys based on a propylene glycol fuel processor.

### **MILESTONES**



#### REALIZATION OF A MINIATURIZED REFORMER FOR MOBILE HYDROGEN GENERATION

(Project METAFORM, 6/2000 to 8/2002) Milestone in "hydrogen generation and catalyst preparation"

The project METAFORM has paved the ground for the still ongoing successful development of mobile hydrogen generators. Systematic research work with respect to compact reformers, catalyst development for LPG (propane/butane) steam reforming, partial oxidation and autothermal reformation, the further development of these catalysts towards long term stability and robustness formed a sound basis for our projects.



#### HYDROGEN AND FUEL CELL TECHNOLOGIES FOR ROAD TRANSPORT

(Project HYTRAN, 1/2004 to 3/2012) Milestone in "APU development"

The reliable and environmentally friendly energy supply of trucks during stoptimes is highly required especially in the US, where drivers need electric power for air conditioning, communication and entertainment when not driving. Instead of relying on a diesel generator the use of a reformer/fuel cell system (auxiliary power unit, APU) to transform diesel into hydrogen and finally into electricity is the more eco-friendly option. Within the EU-FP7 project HyTRAN a fuel processor composed of a diesel reformer, a watergas shift reactor, a preferential oxidation reactor as well as microstructured plate heat exchangers was developed as part of a 5 kW APU. A dedicated test rig allowed for testing each component individually as well as the entire system.



#### SUSTAINABLE PRODUCTS FROM ECONOMIC PROCESSING OF BIOMASS IN HIGHLY INTEGRATED BIOREFINERIES

(Project SUPRA-BIO, 2/2010 to 7/2014) Milestone in "biomass utilization"

In order to ensure the competitiveness and sustainability of the processes to produce fuel and chemicals from biomass, critical technologies had to be developed. The main objective of the EU-FP7 project "Sustainable products from economic processing of biomass in highly integrated biorefineries" SUPRABIO was to research, develop and demonstrate novel intensified unit operations which can be integrated into economic and sustainable biorefineries for the production of second generation biofuels, intermediates and high value products, together with assessment of the outcomes to enable sustainable implementation. Thereby, negative cost aspects associated with smaller scale production of microreactors had to be overcome. The focus of IMM was mainly on syngas conversion technologies.

### CURRENT PROJECTS



CATALYTIC PARTIAL OXI-DATION OF BIOGAS AND REFORMING OF PYROLYSIS OIL (BIO-OIL) FOR AN AU-TOTHERMAL SYNTHESIS GAS PRODUCTION AND CONVERSION INTO FUELS

(Project BioGO, 12/2013 to 11/2017) Milestone in "developing decentralized plants"

In the scope of the large scale EU-FP7 project BIO-GO-For-Production which was co-ordinated by Fraunhofer IMM, a decentralized plant concept was developed for the conversion of pyrolysis oil and biogas into synthetic gasoline. The process chain involves the reforming of pyrolysis oil and biogas to synthesis gas, its conversion to methanol and finally the Methanol-to-Gasoline (MtG) step. Fraunhofer IMM researched and developed advanced nano-catalysts, which were allied with advanced reactor concepts to realize modular, highly efficient, integrated processes for the sustainable production of fuels from renewable sources.

Reactors with integrated heat removal were designed for the methanol synthesis and gasoline synthesis processes. The 4-year project culminated in the integration of the entire process chain at mini-plant scale starting from bio-oil and biogas feedstocks in a containerized environment.



#### DEVELOPMENT OF A DE-CENTRALIZED SYSTEM FOR THE CONVERSION OF RENE-WABLE ENERGY SOURCES INTO NATURAL GAS

(Project MethGas, 10/2015 to 10/2017) Milestone in "resource efficiency"

Natural gas supply is either based on connection to a natural gas grid or the use of liquefied natural gas (LNG). Whenever the consumption rate is sufficiently high the so-called "boil-off" is not a significant problem for LNG. But there are numerous scenarios when the LNG losses make the operation of a LNG tank unattractive. Aim of the project was the development of catalysts and of a decentralized plant concept for providing synthetic natural gas from renewable resources such as alcohols which can be stored as long as desired. The use of microstructured reactors allows increasing the compactness of such a plant.



#### DEVELOPMENT OF A COM-PLETE REFORMER FOR PRO-PYLENE GLYCOL / INVESTI-GATION OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS AND REFORMING PROCESSES

(Projects PROGLENA (Diana) / GetPower, 4/2012 to 12/2015 / 1/2016 to 9/2019) Milestone in "reforming technology"

The increasing power demand of aircrafts will create problems in future for the power supply through the main turbine or the auxiliary power unit (APU). IMM develops under the lead of Diehl Aerospace GmbH and together with the German Aerospace Center an independent power supply unit, which can be introduced into passenger planes several times, e.g. into the kitchen (galley) and which is shaped into a regular trolley.

The galleys are one of the main power consumers in passenger aircrafts. The system is based upon fuel cell technology and propylene glycol was chosen as fuel owing to its non-toxic nature and non-flammability. The hydrogen for the fuel cell is extracted from this fuel in our fuel processor.



# INTELLIGENT SENSORS/ANALYSIS SYSTEMS FOR INDUSTRIE 4.0

The business field "Intelligent Sensors/Analysis Systems for Industrie 4.0" is mainly dealing with the development of sensors and analytical systems to monitor parameters of intermediates and products in process industries (process analytical technology) and the properties of fluids utilized in plants or machines. One target is the optimization of fabrication processes to avoid waste and reduce shutdown periods. The other target is the minimization of maintenance and service costs for machines by enabling truly predictive maintenance. Our technological capabilities address chemical, physical and biological parameters of fluids such as compound concentration, dynamic viscosity or bacterial contamination and many more. Target applications range from continuous or batch production in food or industrial chemistry to lubricants in engines, generators, gears, drives or other process media in industrial fabrication. Besides optimization those sensors and systems in particular support monitoring of equipment which is not easy to access like in offshore windfarms. From early on our component and system development is designed to identify and optimize cost-effective solutions which are compatible with standard manufacturing methods. Our research focusses on miniaturization of sensor concepts and analytical procedures and the seamless integration of the resulting microsystems in a macroscopic environment. To realize such sensors and systems we combine the expertise of natural and engineering sciences and utilize a broad range of microfabrication technologies.

### FROM SINGLE SENSORS TO FULLY AUTOMATED PROCESS ANALYTICAL AND CONTROL TECHNOLOGY



# 2010

Sensor backside with piezo resistors and bond pads/ Piezo-resistive three-axial force transducer









Low-cost VIS spectrometer made from injection molded parts.





Gas massflow sensor for use in a micro-analytical system.





Market launch of the Inficon Protec P3000 leakage detector using the innovative membranebased He sensor jointly developed by Inficon and IMM.





Tactile force sensor for use in neuroprosthetics and robotics.



Miniaturized, electrostatically actuated U-tube resonator chip for density measurement of liquid media.

2017

Graphical user interface/ system prototype





On-line system for condition monitoring of Dilute Sulfuric Peroxide Solutions (DSP).









On-line device for determination of the size distribution in nanoparticle

suspensions.



satellite mission.



2014

Multi-parameter oil sensor

Optical sensor for on-line oil condition monitoring in landfill gas engines and wind turbines.

2015

Monolithic silicon double-slit

Precision entrance double slit assembly for the EnMAP hyperspectral

2016 Opto-fluidic chip



First demonstrator of miniaturized opto-fluidic chip device for monitoring of engine oils.

### **MILESTONES**



#### FLOW-THROUGH DEVICE FOR THE DENSITY MEASUREMENT IN CRUDE OIL ANALYSIS

(Project SEVEN, 12/2006 to 10/2008) Milestone in "precise components for in-line quality control"

The measurement of density using off-line lab analysis devices and in-line procedures is a widely used method for monitoring and quality control of media, processes and products in many fields of industrial production. Applications with limited space or sample volume, however, require miniaturized solutions. The measurement principle of this device is based on a miniaturized, silicon-based vibrating U-tube resonator perfused with the specimen. A change in density will result in a changed overall mass of the resonating feature, thus shifting its resonance frequency.



#### MODULAR SENSOR PLATFORM FOR CIVIL SECURITY IN PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

(Project ORGAMIR, 2/2008 to 3/2011) Milestone in "sensor platform technology"

The goal of the research project was the development of a tool that allows to determine the existing and developing contamination of the air by volatile hazardous agents in subway systems. For this purpose, a modular analysis platform for the detection of volatile compounds has been developed and integrated into the forecast system to continuously provide passengers, rescue services, and operators of the public transportation with purpose and goal-directed instructions. The universal applicability of the concept is supposed to provide important contributions to the design of interfaces in marketable microstructure-based analysis systems.



#### DEVELOPMENT AND ADAPTATION OF A CRUCIAL SUBPROCESS OF A THIN FILM BOLOMETER WITH LARGE ABSORBER HEIGHT

(Project CALORI, 2/2008 to present) Milestone in "sensor technology for harsh environments"

As fossil energy sources are of finite nature novel processes for generating energy have to be developed. The ITER project, dedicated to gain all relevant knowledge for operating a fusion power plant, is one prominent approach. IMM is working on the bolometer sensors which are needed to monitor the plasma confinement in the reaction chamber. These chips are measuring the photon spectrum emitted by the plasma ranging from infrared to x-ray. The material needs to be highly radiation resistant and needs to withstand the impact of fusion neutrons as well as high temperatures up to 450 °C.

### CURRENT PROJECTS



#### DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING OF A MULTI PARAMETER SENSOR DEMONSTRATOR FOR GENERATOR OIL

(Project MULSENG, 5/2013 to 6/2014) Milestone in "compact, integrated and costefficient on-line measurement"

High quality lubricating oils are required for a functional operation in many applications. Quality control usually either leads to time consuming lab analysis or just a preventive change of oil. In order to gain a specific number of condition parameters via on-line analysis infrared measurements are the method of choice. By means of non-dispersive, filter-based spectroscopy the realization of a compact on-line sensing device is possible. Although the accuracy of a profound lab analysis cannot yet be met completely, the advantages of decreasing down-times as well as reducing costs speak for themselves. Key for the market success will be the availability of costefficient MEMS based fabrication technologies.



#### CONTROLLED CONTINUOUS SYNTHESIS OF NANO-PHOSPHATES BY ON-LINE PROCESS ANALYSIS BASED ON LIGHT SCATTERING

(Project NANOSTREAM/NANOPHAT, 4/2016 to 12/2016) Milestone in "particle measuring technology"

Dynamic Light Scattering (DLS) is a very powerful and well-established method for the characterization of particles in dispersion as well as for polymers in solution. As the method is not relying on special properties of the analyte it is applicable on a wide spectrum of materials and solvents. Although the correct data analysis is not trivial in DLS, the measurement itself is simple and modern instruments are easy to use. The technology we have developed for measuring DLS continuously and in flow meets the need for fast and cost effective in-line/on-line particle sizing easy-to-use devices.



DEVELOPMENT, DESIGN AND REALIZATION OF A DEMONSTRATOR FOR THE QUANTIFICATION OF H<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub> AND H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub> IN DILUTE SUL-FURIC PEROXIDE (DSP) SOLUTION BY LED-BASED OPTICAL ABSORPTION SPECTROSCOPY

(Project DSPOAS, 7/2006 to 3/2018) Milestone in "on-line process control"

IMM, in cooperation with ATI Korea, has developed a measuring device for the on-line monitoring of (Dilute Sulfuric Peroxide) DSP solutions which are frequently used in cleanroom environments of semiconductor industries for wafer cleaning. To ensure a stable process performance the composition of the DSP solution has to be monitored carefully. For that purpose IMM has developed a fast, simple and robust dispersionless optical measuring technology which correlates optical transmission in selected wavelength bands with corresponding concentrations of the DSP constituents. The device with integrated flow-through cell allows for an independent and simultaneous measurement of the DSP constituents' concentration with an accuracy of  $\Delta c/c = 0.02$ .

# SENSORS AND ANALYTICS FOR PEOPLE

The business field "Sensors and Analytics for People" is mainly dealing with analytical and diagnostic systems for personalized healthcare and patient monitoring (liquid biopsy, point-of-care systems, glucose monitoring) as well as with environmental analysis, particularly in form of pathogen detection, water analysis and nanotoxicology. Main target is the miniaturization and automation of complex laboratory procedures and equipment to give access to a wide range of biological data of a specimen (genes, cells, enzymes, ...) very fast and directly on-site for example in a doctor's office or at the water pipe. Our research concentrates on challenging microtechnological key components particularly in precision microfluidics (lab-on-chip) for the handling, analyzing and detection of cells or for fully automated and ultrafast ELISA and PCR technologies. From early on our component and system development is focused on optimized protocols which are cost-effective and compatible with microfluidic technologies. To realize such fully automated analytical systems we combine the expertise of natural and engineering sciences and utilize a broad range of microfabrication technologies.



### FROM CREDIT CARD SIZED POLYMER-BASED LABS TO AUTOMATED FAST, RELIABLE, AND SIMPLE ON-DEMAND ANALYSIS SYSTEMS



**2002** 

Setup of different lab-on-achip components





### 2000 Injection molding tool





2D electrophoresis chips for protein analysis made by injection molding with LIGA-based tool.





First prototype chips (made by high precision milling) with integrated photoelectric sensors and fluidic filters (structure covering by manual bonding).





Modular lab based on microstructured lab-ona-chip components, first use of a standard chip size.



Use of in-house developed valves integrated on a chip.





Development of a system for the determination of gluten concentrations in food.

### 2006 Injection molded chip /

complete prototype device

Development of a mini-

aturized fully automated system for integrated

nucleic acid analysis of

sputum.



Prototype / microfluidic chip





Early diagnosis and treatment of lower respiratory tract infections by pathogen screening and analysis of antibiotic resistance.

Development of a lab-on-

a-chip system for myco-

toxin detection in animal

feed.

2010

Complete device / microfluidic chip





2013

Microelectrode probe



Neuroprosthetic interface systems for restoring motor functions.



2016

device prototype

Part of microfluidic chip /



Automated instrument for fast, reliable, and simple on-site detection of Legionella contaminations.

### **MILESTONES**



#### MICROFABRICATION OF POLYMERIC LAB-ON-A-CHIP WITH INTEGRATED OPTICAL DETECTION

(Project MICROFLUID, 6/2008 to 10/2011) Milestone in "integrated sample preparation"

Mycotoxins are health hazardous metabolites (carcinogenic, genotoxic or targeting kidney and liver) of some mold fungi species growing on foodstuffs or animal feed that can neither be destroyed by heat treatment or by freezing processes. Therefore, it is of vital importance to have sensitive, accurate and affordable rapid tests for the detection and quantification of mycotoxins. One important step in this direction is a fully automated device performing an ELISA test with subsequent optical detection that was developed at IMM within this project. This system with integrated shredder allows to process raw material such as maize, seeds or pellets directly.



#### INTEGRATED PLATFORM ENABLING THERANOSTIC APPLICATIONS AT THE POINT OF PRIMARY CARE

(Project THERAEDGE, 3/2008 to 8/2012) Milestone in "chip-based analytical platform technology"

By simultaneous testing for different pathogens and their antibiotic resistance the project aimed for a more effective and timely diagnosis of community-acquired lower respiratory tract infections. The core component of the TheraEDGE platform is a chip-based analytical platform that supports screening for multiple pathogens applying amplification-free detection technologies. Starting from swab samples, the system implements a full sample preparation protocol that does not require any manual user operation except from sample insertion and starting the analysis. After fragmentation of the extracted nucleic acids and pathogen-sequence specific fluorescence labelling in a hybridization step, an optical characterization of the sample material is performed.



#### DEVELOPMENT AND REALIZATION OF THE PREPARATION OF HIGHLY VISCOUS SAMPLES COMBINED WITH A MOLECULAR DIAGNOSTIC LATERAL FLOW DETECTION

(Project NALF, 10/2009 to 9/2012) Milestone in "fully automated device operation"

Many products in chemical industry need to be tested for possible contaminations with microorganisms. Typically, cultivation techniques are applied and the products need to be stored until the negative result is confirmed. Within the project a molecular lateral flow chip for rapid on-site quality control has been developed as robust platform which allows to perform all steps required for molecular diagnostics (such as pipetting and signal detection) integrating established lateral flow dipstick technologies with microfluidic chip technologies. The preparation is performed fully automatic and the operator does not need to have any molecular diagnostic knowledge.

### CURRENT PROJECTS



#### NEUROPROSTHETIC INTERFACE SYSTEMS FOR RESTORING MOTOR FUNCTIONS

(Project NEUWALK, 6/2010 to 11/2014) Milestone in "neuro recording and stimulation techniques"

In the course of the EU-FP7 NEUWalk project a new therapy approach was developed which can prospectively allow restoration of motor functions after severe spinal cord injury. The procedure is based on electrical stimulation of the neural pathways in the spinal cord beneath the impaired section. IMM has realized specific mulitchannel microelectrode arrays that are epidurally implanted in the lumbar region on the spinal cord. Positioning of the microelectrodes is done close to the roots of the nerve cords which are responsible for activation of those muscles involved in locomotion. Walking motor functions can be triggered by feeding in pulse patterns in a certain time and spatial sequence and thereby be modeled in their flow.



#### AUTOMATED INSTRUMENT FOR FAST, RELIABLE, AND SIMPLE ON-SITE DETECTION OF LEGIONELLA CONTAMINATIONS

(Project LEGIOTECTION, 1/2015 to 6/2017) Milestone in "fast on-site testing"

Within the Project a fully automated instrument capable of reliably detecting and counting bacteria such as Legionella in drinking water within one hour has been developed. This will reduce the time-to-result by two orders of magnitude compared to standard plating techniques available today and will pave the way for a mobile, fast and reliable on-site test. Moreover, a distinction between living and dead cells will be possible. The instrument works with a consumable microfluidic cartridge on which the sample handling, separation, purification, and counting is performed. The system is expandable to detect other pathogens.



#### FAST MULTIPLEX BASED POINT OF CARE DETECTION OF PATHOGENS WITH PANDEMIC POTENTIAL

(Projects PANPLEX / SIMPLEX, 11/2015 to 10/2018) Expected milestone in "sample multiplexing"

The project work aims at the development of a mobile, autonomously working platform for near patient diagnostics of influenza allowing to determine the infection status of the patient as well as the subtype of the influenza virus. This information yield will help to rapidly control the spread of the disease. The working principle of the detection system is a PCR-based nucleic acid amplification. The patient material is collected with a swab and initially put into a sample container. After lysis the buffer solution is transferred into several reaction chambers in which the multiplex detection reactions take place. The fluorescence that occurs during the assay is recorded via detectors included in the system and then finally is analyzed.



## **EXTENSION BUILDING**

Our construction project is literally getting more tangible. The bare brickwork gradually reveals the implementation of the planning. Ambling through the freshly stripped walls you can already imagine the great potential of this extended infrastructure to move things forward. For us as future users everything cannot happen fast enough.

The current construction schedule however forces us to practice patience until the end of 2019 when the usage is supposed to begin. Up to this date the additional space provided in external containers will fulfill its intended purpose. And we currently focus on thoroughly planning the laboratory equipment for the new building so that we get to work immediately once the handover has taken place. With the opening of the extension building 2000 additional square meters of main usable area will be available comprising offices, labs, technical facilities and, thus, offering the opportunity to realize a selective increase of capabilities as required by our customers.

The concept of the extension building closely follows the concept of optimum functionality, ensuring a high safety standard for experiments, high economic efficiency, innovation and sustainability in a combined lab and technology center concept, direct connection to the existing building as well as functional and representative entrance area. The project is primarily focused on an infrastructural enhancement of Fraunhofer IMM's areas of competence, on a significant extension of existing competencies by establishing infrastructure and on building new capacities. The extension building will be characterized by newly created, high-grade lab and technical facilities. This is supposed to be the appropriate way to answer all currently evident customer inquiries meeting our portfolio in a future-oriented way and to develop our core competencies further. This refers in particular to demonstrating technical and process engineering solutions as well as to showcasing complete process and procedure chains as tool and motor for further innovation impulses in cooperation especially with industry. The creation and strengthening of a working environment for well-equipped working groups guarantees a strong and competitive position for the coming years. The realization of a research and development infrastructure for the investigation and adaptation of pilot plants and large-scale chemical process engineering reactors will significantly improve Fraunhofer IMM's technology position in energy and chemical technology as well as the position of the entire Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft. This will be especially true for the demonstration and preparation for implementing innovations in cooperation with project partners and customers.

2000 additional square meters of main usable area will be available



Furthermore, the potential of the research landscape in Rhineland-Palatinate will be sustainably strengthened in the sense of Rhineland-Palatinate's innovation strategy and an important regional impetus will be set. The extension building is a technology intensive research infrastructure with a high number and physical density of laboratory fume hoods in a safe environment allowing to work with various technical gases, chemicals as well as bio materials. A comprehensive technical equipment for the building primarily related to gas supply, ventilation, cooling technology and air conditioning guarantees high-grade working possibilities for cutting-edge research in energy, chemistry, functional materials as well as in analytic and sensor solutions for people and Industrie 4.0.

This construction project is funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Science, Education and Culture Rhineland-Palatinate and the European Regional Development Fund.



View of the construction site (facing east)

# APPENDIX

# FAIRS & EVENTS 2017/2018

Fraunhofer IMM supports the process of acquisition through an intense presence at fairs and exhibitions, organizing an average of 15 appearances per year. The focus lies on activities in Germany with a share of more than 50% while the rest of the activities is almost equally distributed between Europe, North America and Asia.

Industry branch events of central importance are, for instance, the Hannover Messe, Sensor + Test, analytica and ACHEMA. In discussions with our scientists we regularly identify new exhibition opportunities which are offering an appropriate framework for our innovations.

Fair/event	when	where
SLAS2017	February 4 - 8, 2017	USA/Washington DC
Flow Chemistry Europe	February 7 - 8, 2017	UK/Cambridge
FC EXPO	March 1 - 3, 2017	Japan/Tokyo
OPRD Organic Process Research and Development	March 6-8, 2017	USA / Pasadena
PITTCON	March 5 - 9, 2017	USA / Chicago
microTEC Südwest Clusterkonferenz 2017	March 27 - 28, 2017	Germany / Freiburg
Open House "Flow Chemistry Demonstration Workshop"	May 11, 2017	Germany/IMM



Fair/event	when	where
HANNOVER MESSE	April 24 - 28, 2017	Germany/Hanover
SENSOR + TEST	May 30 - June 6, 2017	Germany/Nuremberg
Mainzer Wissenschaftsmarkt	September 9 - 10, 2017	Germany/Mainz
10th World Congress of Chemical Engineering	October 1 - 5, 2017	Spain / Barcelona
Open House "On-line Process Analytics"	October 10, 2017	Germany/IMM
COMPAMED	November 13 - 16, 2017	Germany / Düsseldorf
Flow Chemistry Europe	February 6 - 7, 2018	UK / Cambridge
MD&M West	February 6 - 8, 2018	USA/Anaheim
PITTCON	February 26 - March 1, 2018	USA / Orlando
FC EXPO	February 28 - March 2, 2018	Japan / Tokyo
JEC World 2018	March 6 - 8, 2018	France / Paris
Anuga FoodTec	March 20 - 23, 2018	Germany/Cologne
analytica	10 13.4.2018	Germany/Munich
HANNOVER MESSE	2327.4.2018	Germany/Hanover

### **CONFERENCES** 2017/2018

Fraunhofer IMM regularly presents results from its innovation fields and from current research projects to a specialist audience. Our scientists are well-received guest speakers at international conferences. We as well regularly invite external scientists from industry and research to join our in-house colloquia. This intensive exchange of experiences and knowledge between industry and research serves not least to initiate international cooperations.

Conference	when	where
Flow Chemistry Europe 2017	February 7 - 8, 2017	England / Cambridge
37th Organic Process Research and Development - Conference and Exhibition	March 6 - 8, 2017	USA / Pasadena
NCCC 2017	March 6 - 8, 2017	The Netherlands / Noordwijkerhout
Processnet-Jahrestreffen Mikroverfahrenstechnik und Hochdruck- verfahrenstechnik	March 8 - 10, 2017	Germany/Frankfurt
50. Jahrestreffen Deutscher Katalytiker	March 15 - 17, 2017	Germany/Weimar
Transferinitiative RLP - Workshop Additive Manufacturing	March 16, 2017	Germany/Ludwigshafen
5th Annual Conference of AnalytiX 2017	March 22 - 24, 2017	Japan/Fukuoka
PharmaForum	March 23, 2017	Germany/Mainz
microTEC Südwest Clusterkonferenz	March 27 - 28, 2017	Germany/Freiburg
1. Statuskonferenz CO <sub>2</sub> Net+	April 17, 2017	Germany/Berlin
International Workshop on Magnetic Particle Imaging	April 23 - 24, 2017	Czech Republic/Prague



Conference	when	where
COMPAMED Frühjahrsforum	May 3, 2017	Germany/Frankfurt
2nd Green & Sustainable Chemistry Conference	May 14 - 17, 2017	Germany / Berlin
International Symposium on Mixing in Industrial Processes IX	June 25-28, 2017	England/Birmingham
XXXVI Biennial Meeting of the Spanish Royal Society of Chemistry (RSEQ): Flow Chemistry Symposium 2017	June 25 - 29, 2017	Spain / Sitges
HYPOTHESIS XII	June 28-30, 2017	Italy/Syrakus
CTRS 4 Conference - CATALYSIS FOR RENEWABLE SOURCES: FUEL ENERGY, CHEMICALS	<sup>′</sup> September 4-8, 2017	Italy/Gabicce Mare
Organic Process Research and Development	September 27 - 29, 2017	Sweden / Stockholm
10th WCCE/11th ECCE 2017	October 1 - 5, 2017	Spain / Barcelona
CATSA 2017 - 28th annual conference of the Catalysis Society of South Africa	November 19-22, 2017	South Africa / Pilanesberg
Flow Chemistry Europe 2018	February 6 - 7, 2018	England / Cambridge
2nd International Conference on Catalysis and Chemical Engineering	February 19-21, 2018	France / Paris
μFlu´18 NEGF18 μFluidics and Non-Equilibrium Gas Flows 2018 Conference	February 28 - March 2, 2018	France / Strasbourg
51. Jahrestreffen Deutscher Katalytiker	March 14 - 16, 2018	Germany/Weimar
Fachtagung Klebetechnik in der Fahrzeug-Produktion	March 20, 2018	Germany / Pirmasens
microTec Südwest Clusterkonferenz	April 16 - 17, 2018	Germany/Freiburg
Polymer Forum Aschaffenburg	April 17, 2018	Germany / Aschaffenburg

### **PUBLICATIONS** 2017/2018

#### **PUBLICATIONS IN REFEREED JOURNALS**

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- Sanchez, J.L.A.; Joda, H.; Henry, O.Y.F.; Solnestam, B.W.; Kvastad, L.; Akan, P.S.; Lundeberg, J.; Laddach, N.; Ramakrishnan, D.; Riley, I.; Schwind, C.; Latta, D.; O'Sullivan, C.K.:
   ELECTROCHEMICAL GENETIC PROFILING OF SINGLE CANCER CELLS

In: Analytical Chemistry 89 (2017) 6, 3378-3385

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- 04| Shanmugam, V.; Zapf, R.; Hessel, V.; Pennemann, H.; Kolb, G.: NANO-ARCHITECTURED CeO2 SUPPORTED RH WITH REMARKABLY ENHANCED CATALYTIC ACTIVITY FOR PROPYLENE GLYCOL REFORMING REACTION IN MICROREACTORS In: Applied Catalysis B 226 (2018), 403-411
- Haliburton, J.R.; Kim, S.C.; Clark, I.C.; Sperling, R.A.; Weitz, D.A.; Abate, A.R.:
   EFFICIENT EXTRACTION OF OIL FROM DROPLET MICROFLUIDIC
   EMULSIONS
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