



Up-scaling green synthesis and processing of advanced materials: opportunities for knowledge transfer toward innovative SMEs

RADU ROBERT PITICESCU

*National R&D Institute for Nonferrous and Rare Metals-IMNR,
102 Biruintei Blvd, Pantelimon, Ilfov, Romania*

Corresponding author: rpiticescu@imnr.ro , telephone +40213522048

PRESENTATION CONTENT



1. General presentation of IMNR
2. Research directions and approach
3. Green chemistry synthesis:
hydrothermal/solvothermal chemistry
4. EB-PVD coating technology
5. Additive Manufacturing & regenerative
medicine

1. General presentation of IMNR



**NATIONAL RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE
FOR NON-FERROUS AND
RARE METALS – IMNR**



102 Biruintei Bvd., Pantelimon, Ilfov County,
Romania

(T) +4021.352.20.46; (F) +4021.352 20 49

imnr@imnr.ro; www.imnr.ro

WHO WE ARE

BACKGROUND

01 July 1966

IMNR is established from:

- ICEM research team
- ICECHIM research team
- IPRAN design team

1990-2004

IMNR S.A. is a state-owned company

24 December 2004

IMNR becomes National R&D Institute



GENERAL ACTIVITY (1966-2004)

RESEARCH

- technologies for obtaining metals from Romanian primary resources:
Cu, Zn–Pb, Al, TR, Mg, Li
- technologies for secondary resources reuse:
In, Bi, Cd, Au, Ag, Sb, Se, Mo, W
- **Actually: emerging technologies for new materials in: aeronautics, chemistry, medicine, energy and machine building**

DESIGN

- technological installations for the recovery of: Cd, Se, In, Au, Ag, Sb
 - application of licenses: Outokumpu (Cu), ISP (Zn-Pb), Pechiney (Al), Kowa Seiko (pyrite ashes)
- ZIROM Giurgiu Factory**

SMALL MANUFACTURE

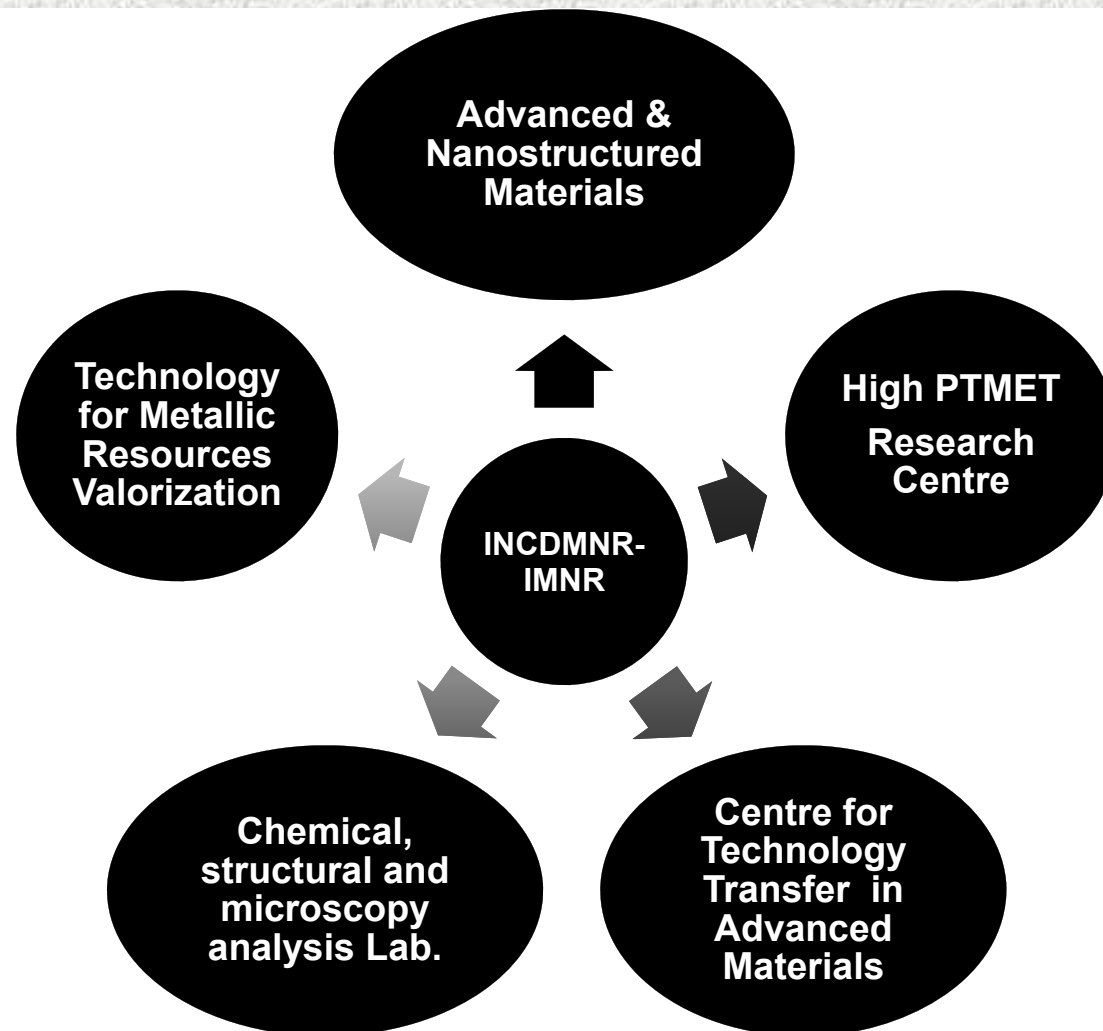
- non-ferrous alloys
- custom made products: EB-PVD coatings

SCALE





MAIN RESEARCH COMPARTMENTS

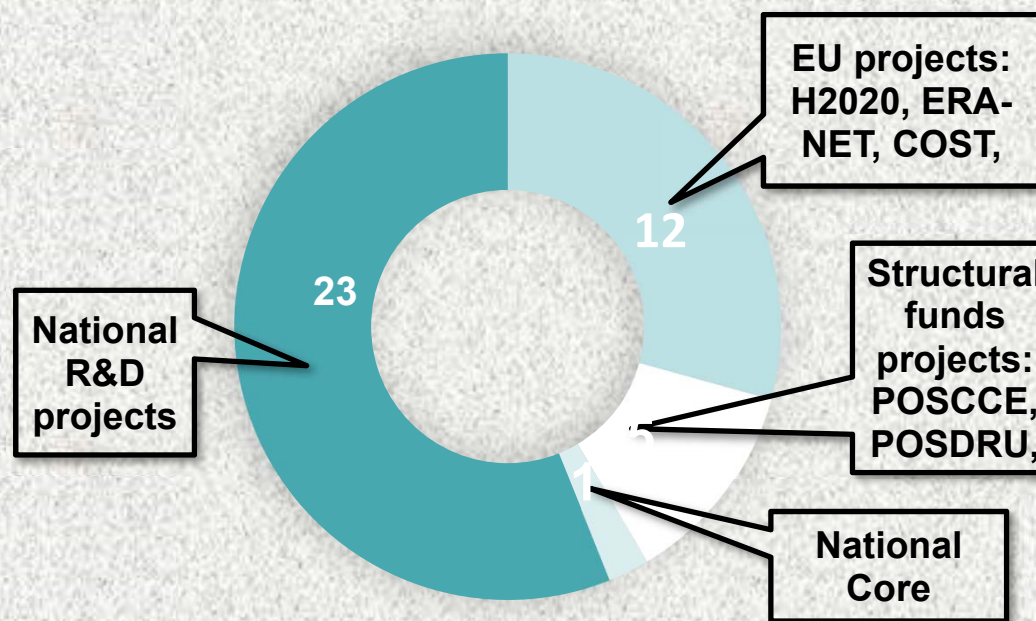




41 R&D PROJECTS

2013-2017

R&D PROJECTS



2 NATIONAL CLUSTERS

- [ROHEALTH](#) – Medicine
- [MHTC Magurele](#) – Physics & Engineering

3 EU NETWORKS (COST)

2016-2020

- [HERALD](#): Hooking together European Research in Atomic Layer Deposition (MP14102)
- [CRM EXTREME](#): Replacement of Critical Raw Materials for Extreme Environmental Conditions (CA15012)
- [BIONECA](#): Biomaterials and Advanced Physical Techniques for Regenerative Cardiology and Neurology (CA16122)

4 EU PLATFORMS

- ETP Raw Materials
- [EIP Raw Nanovalue](#)
- [ETP Nanomedicine](#)
- [JTI Nanofutures](#)

NANOSTRUCTURED MATERIALS RESEARCH

EQUIPMENT EXPERTISE

- **nano-bio-materials** (ceramics, composites, hybrid inorganic-organic systems) for regenerative medicine and tissue engineering
- **thin films and advanced coatings** by hydrothermal – electrochemical processes for sensors
- **functionally graded materials** for non-conventional energy
- **new materials and functionalities** for creative manufacturing
- **thermodynamic and kinetic modelling and simulation**



3D Bioscaffolder



drop shape analyzer



SEM Quanta 250

computer-controlled hydrothermal / electrochemical system



freeze dryer



spin coater + UV cure



high T chamber and tubular furnaces



spray-dryer



autoclave with in-situ RAMAN monitoring



DSC Maya F3 Netzsch



FT-IR spectrometer



Zetasizer ZS90

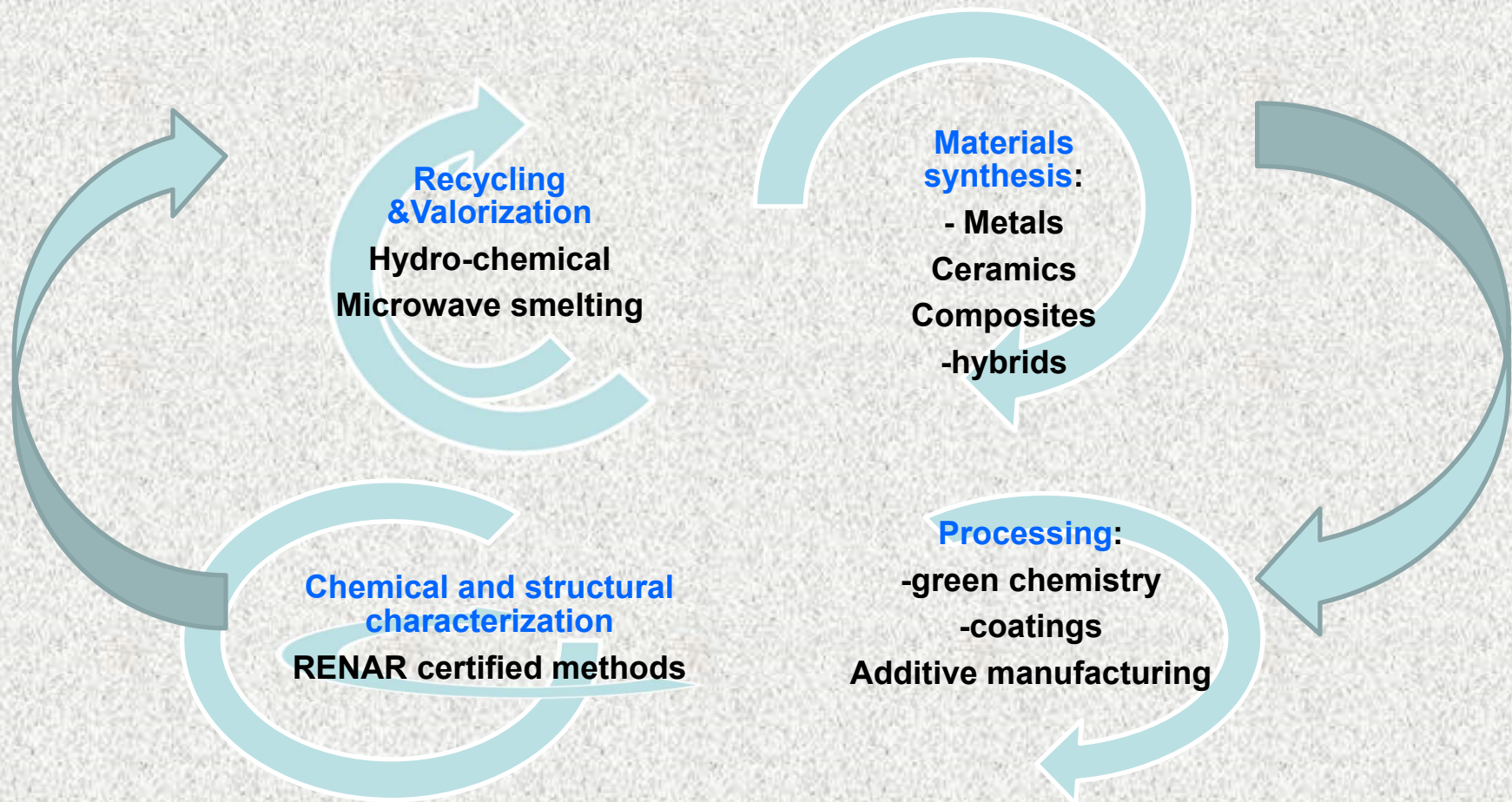


scratch test / AFM



Zortrax M-200

2. Research directions and approach



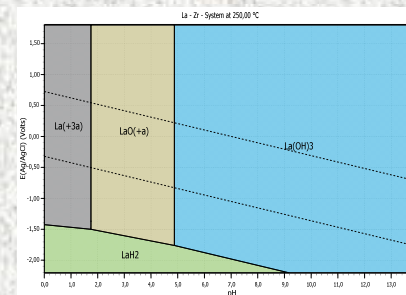
3. Green chemistry: hydrothermal/solvothermal chemistry



Laboratory & Pilot scale autoclaves
From 200 mL to 20 L
From 200 to 4000 MPa:
From RT to 250 deg. C

Main advantages:

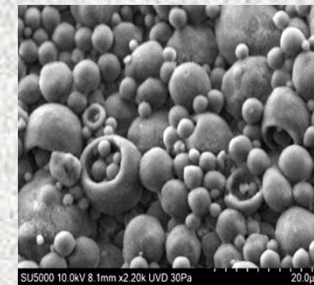
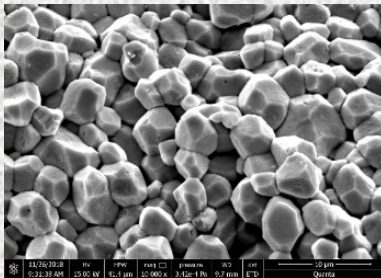
- ✓ Closed systems, reduced environmental impact
- ✓ Nano-crystalline powders, no thermal treatment needed
 - ✓ Homogeneous distribution of dopants
- ✓ Pressure control to low temperatures: hybrid organic-inorganic biomaterials



3. Green chemistry: hydrothermal/solvothermal chemistry

Application domains-Synthesis of nanocrystalline powders:

- ▶ **YTZP, YSZ, doped ZrO₂ for coatings and sintered products**
- ▶ **doped TiO₂ for photocatalytic films**
- ▶ **Ag-ZnO – antiseptic/antifungal**
- ▶ **doped ZnO/TiO₂ for superhydrophobic coatings**
- ▶ **Transition metal doped ZnO & TiO₂**
- ▶ **Doped-BST: gas sensors**
- ▶ **Doped PZT: piezoelectric materials**
- ▶ **Core-shell composite powders**
- ▶ **Hybrid materials for biomedical applications: HAP – polymer for regenerative medicine – special formulated for A.M.**
- ▶ **Other nanopowders on demand**



3. Green chemistry: hydrothermal/solvothermal chemistry

Up-scaling of green chemistry processes for nanopowders synthesis

Synthesis route	Solid state	Co-precipitation	Hydrothermal	Sol-gel	Spray pyrolysis
Composition control	Poor	Good	Excellent	Medium	Excellent
Morphology control	Poor	Medium	Good	Medium	Good
Particle size (nm)	> 1000	> 100	10-100	>10	>10
Hard agglomerates	Medium	High	Low	Medium	Low
Impurities (%)	0.5-1	Max. 0.5	Max. 0.5	0.1-0.5	0.1-0.5
Additional steps	Calcinations, Milling	Calcinations, Milling	No	Calcinations, Milling	No
Scalability	Industrial	Industrial	Demonstration	Demonstration	R&D
Environmental impact	High	Moderate	Low	High	Moderate

4. EB-PVD coating technology

Materials in service under extreme environments:

a) metallic: refractory metals, stainless steels, high-temperature alloys

+	-
- well studied - commercially available	- corrosion problems - critical materials

b) ceramic: UHTC (ultra high temperature ceramics), oxide materials, composites.

+	-
- less corrosion - low heat transfer - replace critical materials	- less studied - structure integrity

4. EB-PVD coating technology

Oxide coatings for extreme environments

(advantages and disadvantages of these materials compared with YSZ)

Materials	Advantages	Disadvantages
Alumina	High corrosion-resistance High hardness Not oxigen-transparent	Phase transformation (1273 K) High thermal conductivity Very low thermal expansion coefficient
7-8 YSZ	High thermal expansion coefficient Low thermal conductivity High thermal shock resistance	Sintering aboce 1473 K Phase transformation (1443 K) Corrosion Oxygen-transparent
YSZ + CeO2	High thermal expansion coefficient Low thermal conductivity High thermal shock resistance High corrosion-resistance Less phase transformation between m and t than YSZ	Increased sintering rate CeO ₂ precipitation (> 1373 K) CeO ₂ -loss during spraying

4. EB-PVD coating technology

Oxide coatings for extreme environments
(advantages and disadvantages of these materials compared with YSZ)

Materials	Advantages	Disadvantages
La ₂ Zr ₂ O ₇	Very high thermal stability Low thermal conductivity Low sintering Not oxygen-transparent	Relatively low thermal expansion coefficient
Mullite	High corrosion-resistance Low thermal conductivity Good thermal-shock resistance below 1273 K Not oxygen-transparent	Crystallization (1023-1273 K) Very low thermal expansion coefficient
Silicates	Cheap, readily available High corrosion-resistance	Decomposition into ZrO ₂ and SiO ₂ during thermal spraying Very low thermal expansion coefficient

Test the limits of your mind

Today's imagination is tomorrow's innovation



- Substrate IR Heater: 16kW
- Water Cooling System: Five Closed Loop Water Chillers- 10kW
- E-Beam Power Supplies: 10kW each
- Cryo Pump Compressor: 5.5kW- Two Totaling 11kW
- Mechanical Pumps- Both Electron Beam & Thermal
- Evaporation System – 5kW
- Other ancillary components – approximately 5kW

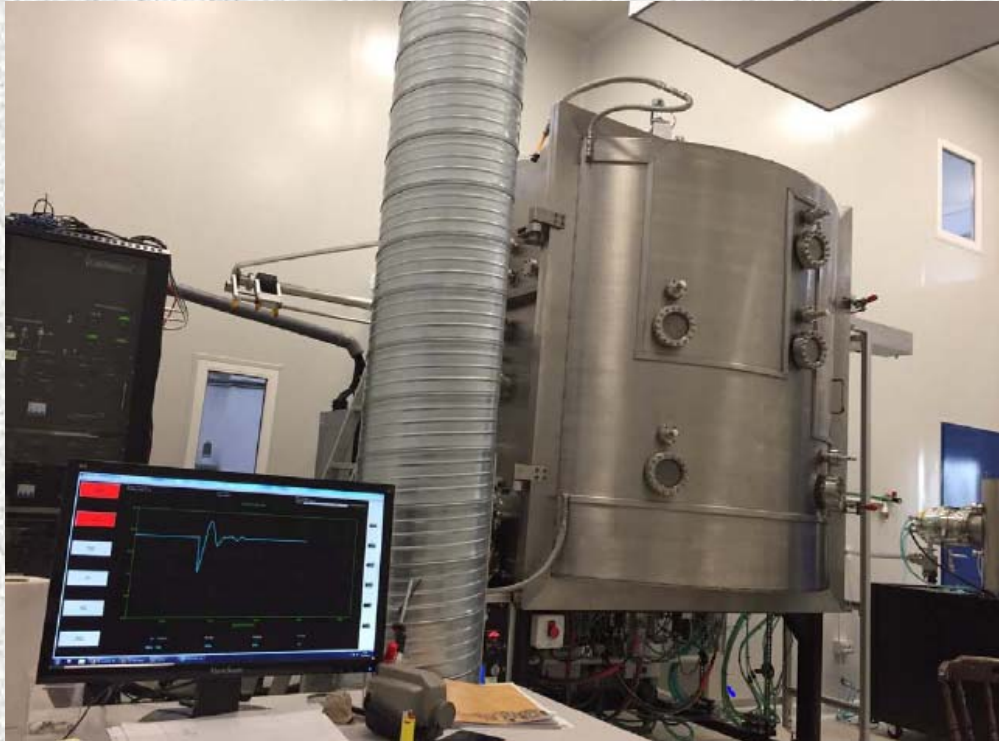
Test the limits of your mind

Today's imagination is tomorrow's innovation

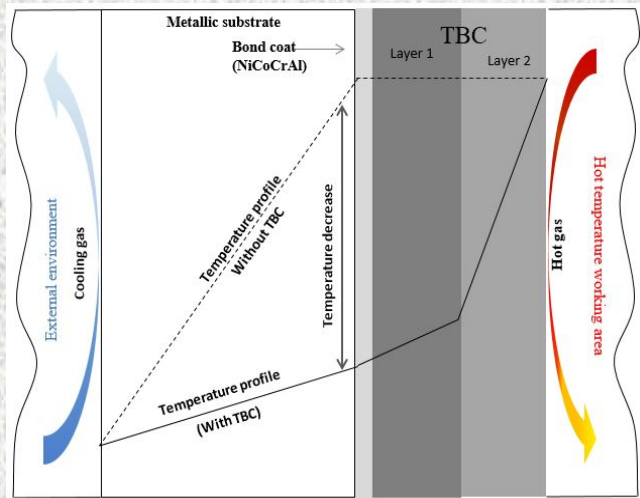


SOFTWARE LAYOUT FOR IMNR MULTI E-BEAM

4. EB-PVD coating technology

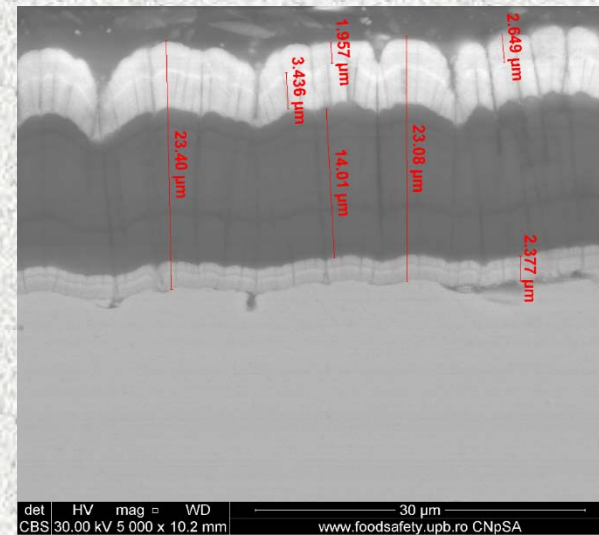
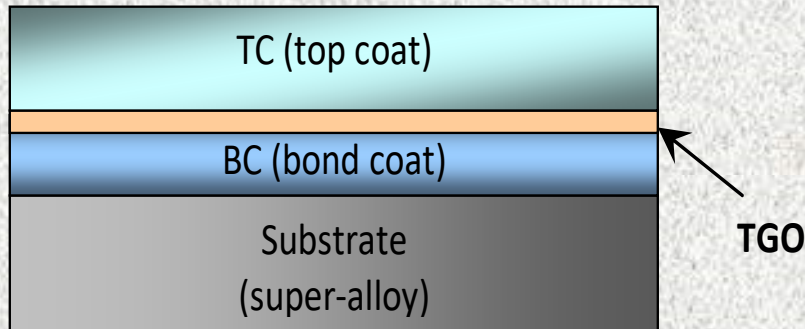


4. EB-PVD coating technology



Designed coatings architectures:

- Multilayer architectures
- Different materials
- Up to 16 different materials may be deposited
- In situ controlled thickness



NiCrYAl/ Al₂O₃/REOs-doped ZrO₂/La₂Zr₂O₇ coatings on NIMONIC 80

5. Additive manufacturing & regenerative medicine

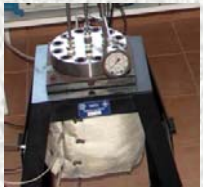
Integration of solvothermal & AM

Processing

Application



HP Systems autoclave



CORTEST autoclave

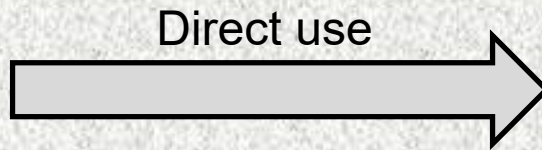


BERGHOF autoclave



equiped with

RAMAN QE Pro spectrometer, Ocean Optics



Direct use



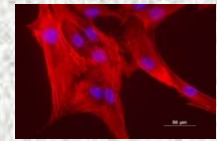
Aqueous injectable solutions



in vitro tests



in vivo tests



Personalized medicine

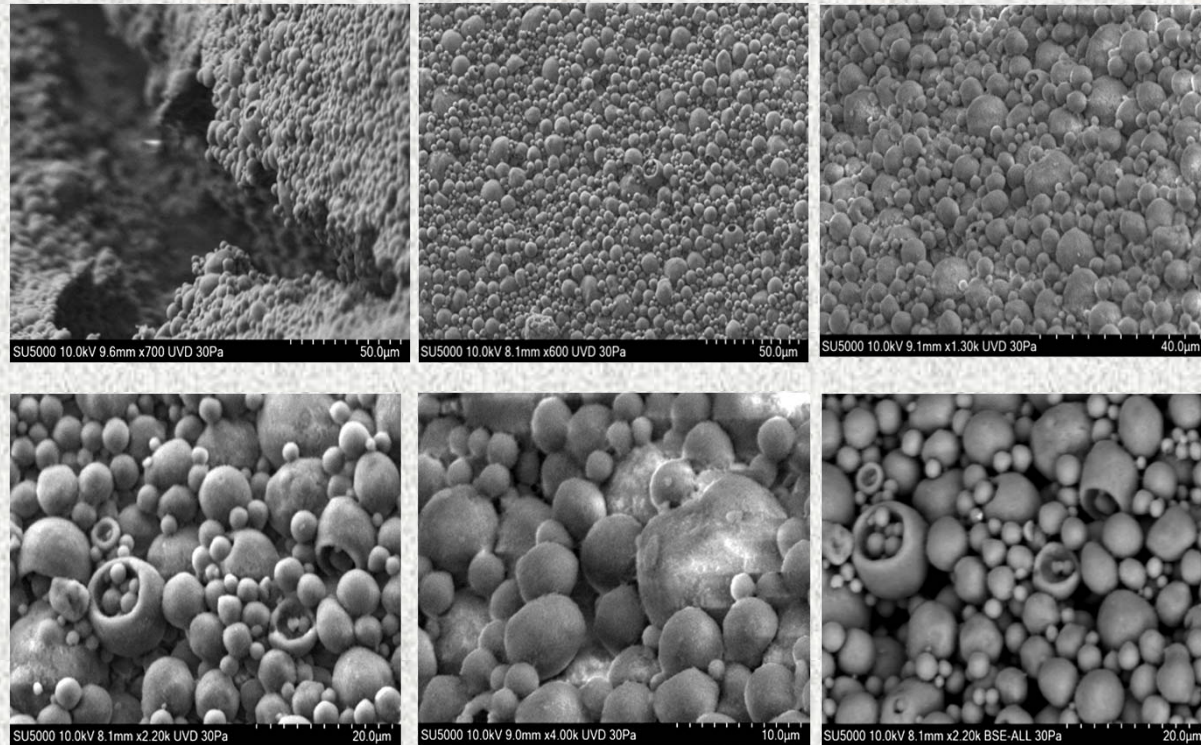
powders



BioScaffolder

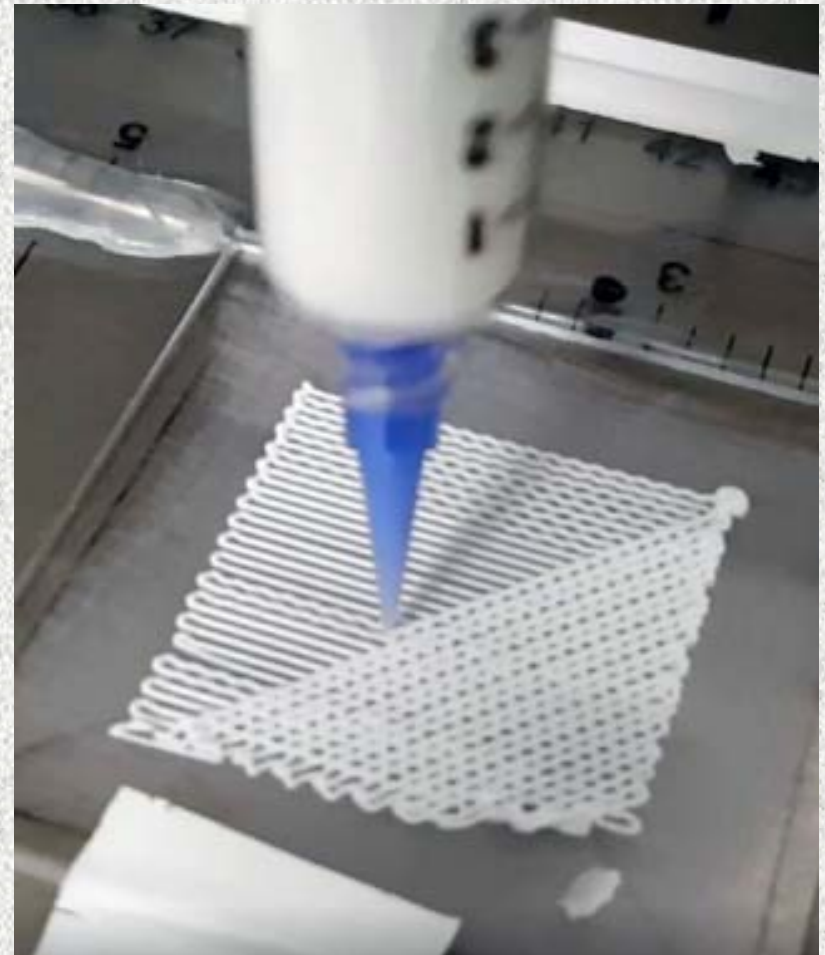
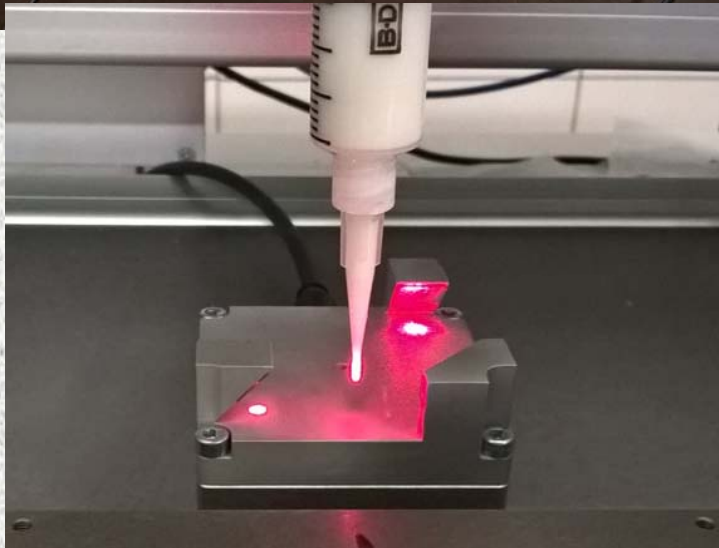
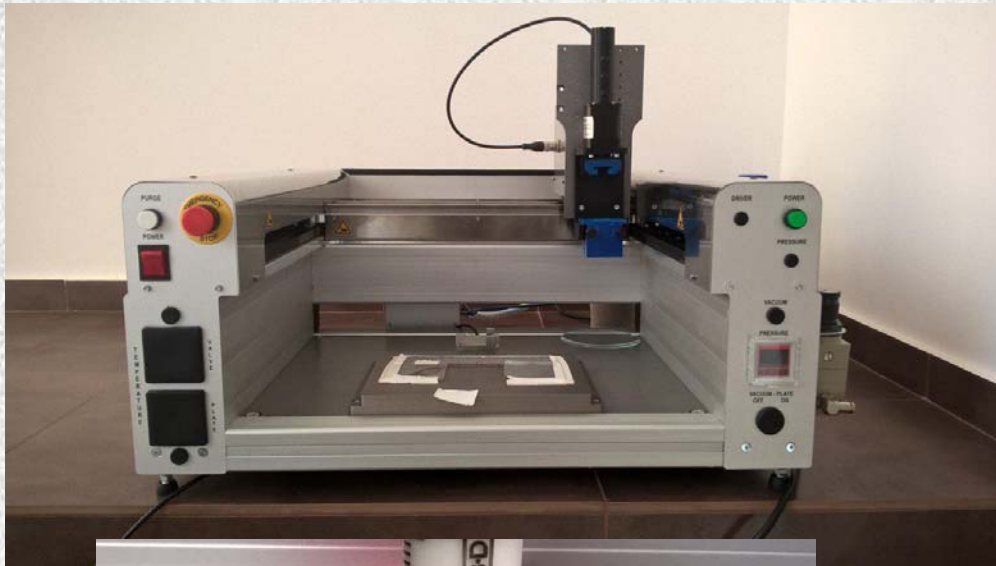


5. Additive manufacturing & regenerative medicine



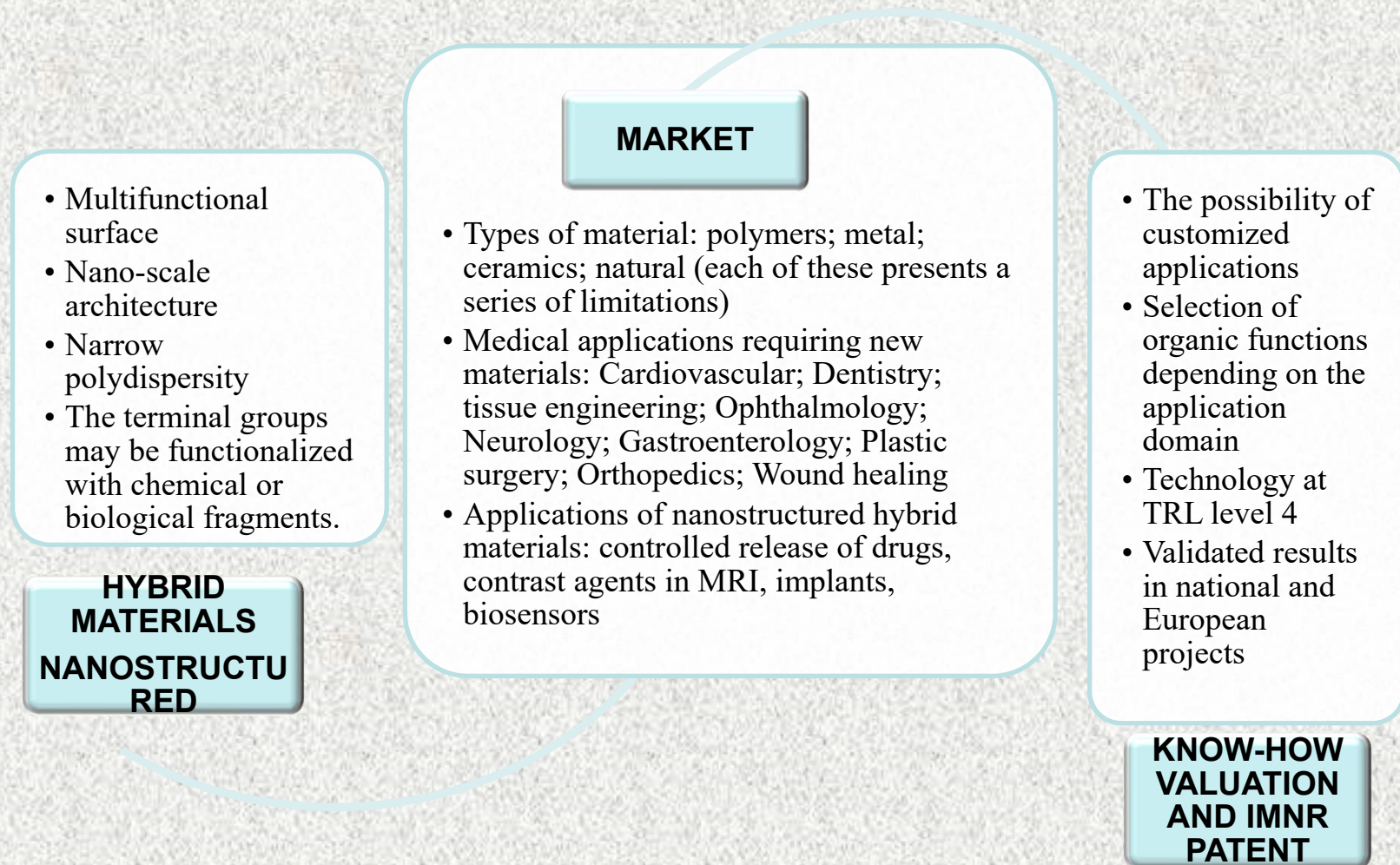
SEM pictures of a 3D sample based on Hap and commercial PU

5. Additive manufacturing & regenerative medicine



3D Bioscaffolder in use at the IMNR

5. Additive manufacturing & regenerative medicine





Acknowledgements:

STRUCTURAL FUNDS Infrastructure Project “High PTMET Research Centre”

H2020 Grant 692216 Virtual Centre for Synthesis and Processing of Advanced Materials under Extreme Conditions-SUPERMAT

ERAMIN II-COFUND -Grant ID 87 ctr. 50/2018 MONAMIX financed by UEFISCDI

EURONANOMED - Grant 1/2017 NANOVIBER financed by UEFISCDI

Program Nucleu PN 19 19 04 01 financed by Romanian Ministry for Scientific Research and Innovation.

RDI Programme for Space Technology and Advanced Research - STAR, project number 528 –Acronym Androtech

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION