

# *What Universities Can Do To Help Make $sCO_2$ a Commercial Reality?*

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# *Exploration of Robust, High-Temperature Ceramic Composites*

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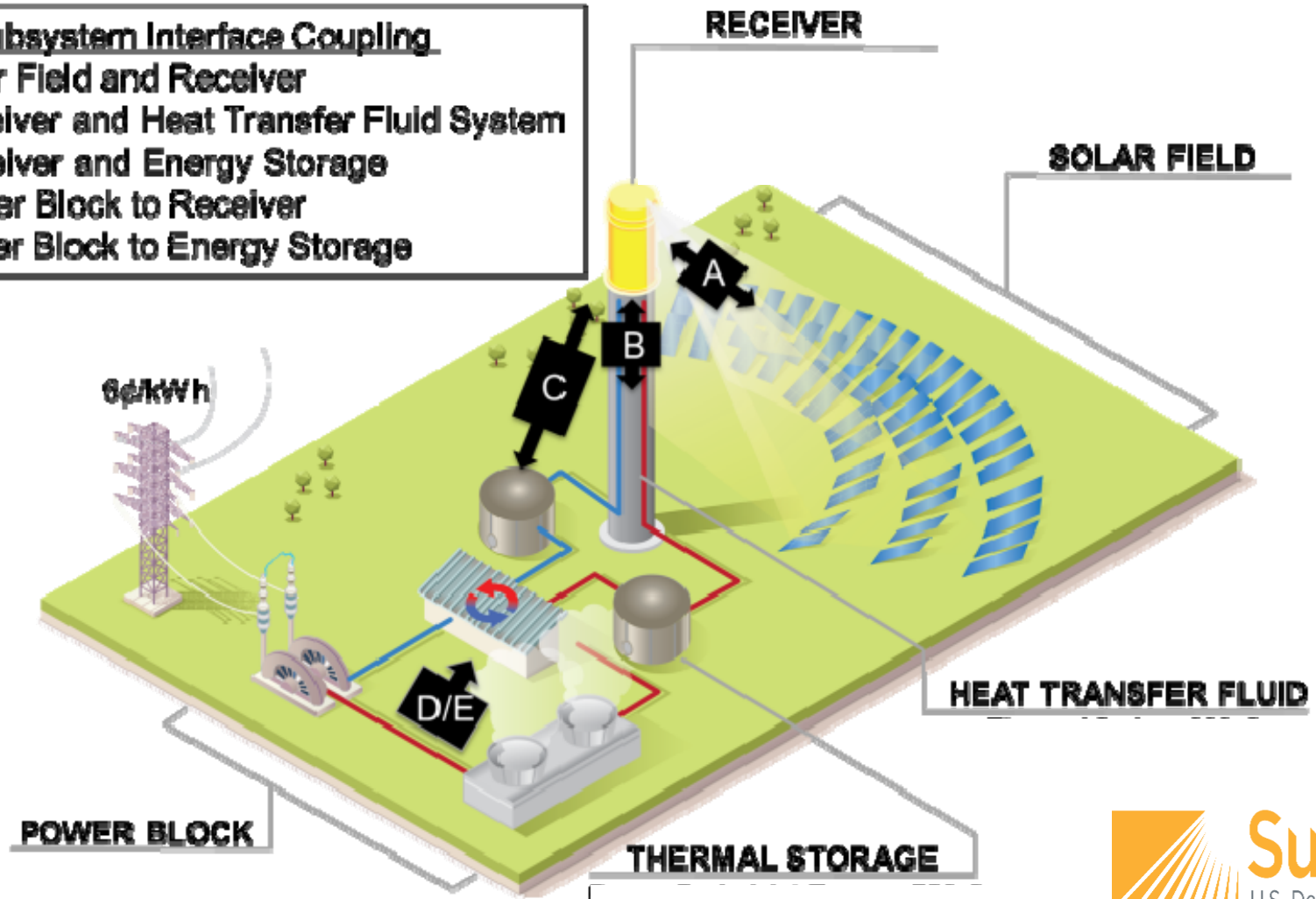
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# Concentrated Solar Power Tower

## CSP Subsystem Interface Coupling

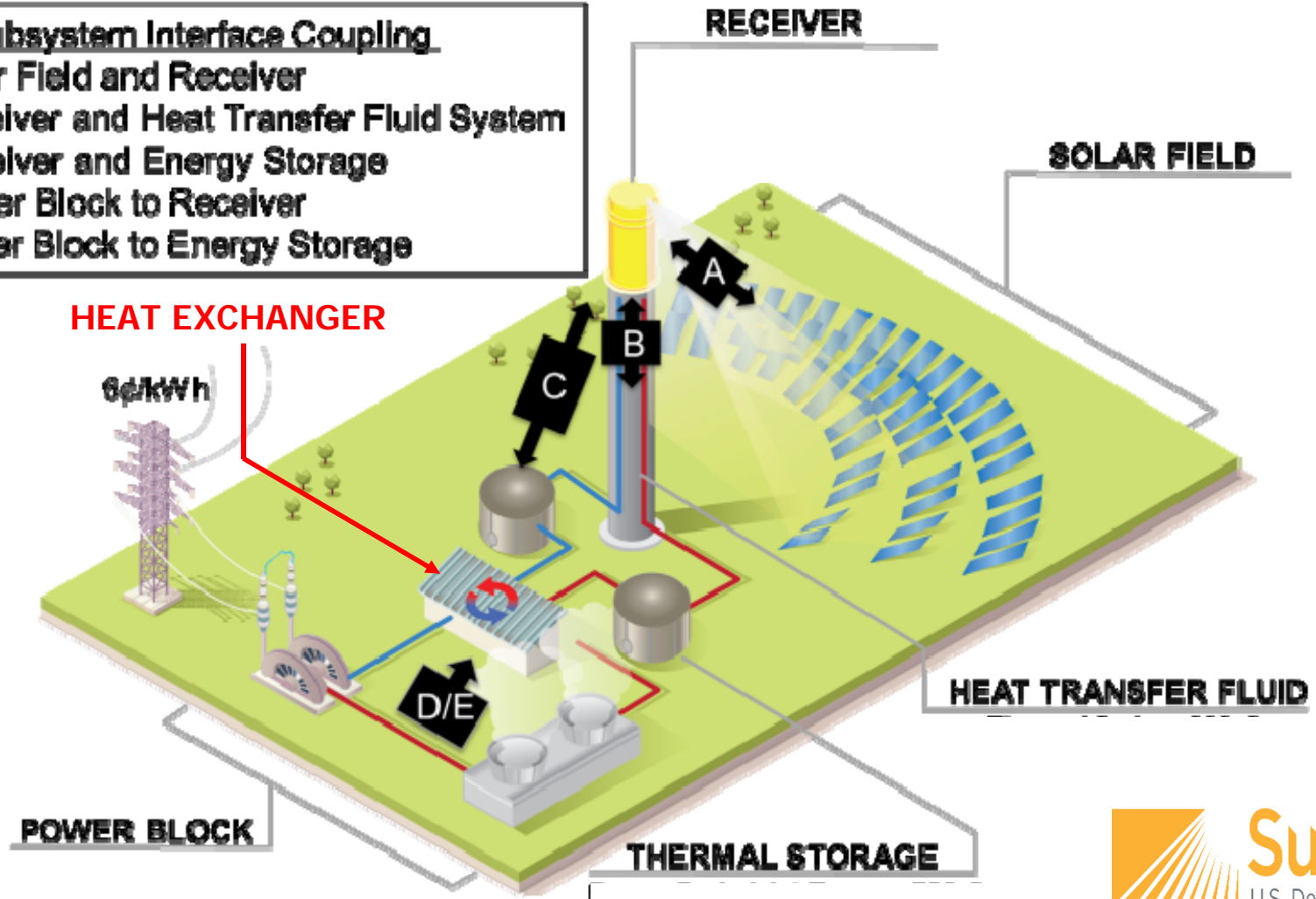
- A: Solar Field and Receiver
- B: Receiver and Heat Transfer Fluid System
- C: Receiver and Energy Storage
- D: Power Block to Receiver
- E: Power Block to Energy Storage



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# *Some Limitations of Fe-, Ni-based Alloys*

## ◆ Modest melting points

( $T_{\text{Solidus}} \leq 1400^{\circ}\text{C}$  for IN617/Ni-Cr-Co-Mo<sup>1</sup>, IN740H/Ni-Cr-Co<sup>2</sup>, 304SS/Fe-Cr-Ni-Mn<sup>3</sup>, 316SS/Fe-Cr-Ni-Mo-Mn<sup>4</sup>)

## ◆ Significant strength decline at $>650^{\circ}\text{C}$

(10,000 h rupture strength decreases from 345 MPa at  $600^{\circ}\text{C}$  to 116 MPa at  $760^{\circ}\text{C}$  to 69 MPa at  $815^{\circ}\text{C}$  for IN617<sup>1</sup>)

1. <http://www.specialmetals.com/assets/smc/documents/alloys/inconel/inconel-alloy-617.pdf>.
2. <http://www.specialmetals.com/assets/smc/documents/alloys/inconel/inconel-alloy-740-h.pdf>
3. <http://asm.matweb.com/search/SpecificMaterial.asp?bassnum=mq304a>
4. <http://asm.matweb.com/search/SpecificMaterial.asp?bassnum=mq316a>
5. Y. S. Touloukian, R. K. Kirby, R. E. Taylor, P. D. Desai, *Thermal Expansion: Metallic Elements and Alloys, Thermophysical Properties of Matter*. Vol. 12. Plenum Press, 1975.

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## ◆ Modest thermal conductivities at $800^{\circ}\text{C}$

(at  $800^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $\kappa = 25.6$  W/m-K for IN617<sup>1</sup>, 22.1 W/m-K for IN740H<sup>2</sup>, 26.3 for 304SS<sup>5</sup>, and 23.4 W/m-K for 316SS<sup>5</sup>)

1. <http://www.specialmetals.com/assets/smc/documents/alloys/inconel/inconel-alloy-617.pdf>.
2. <http://www.specialmetals.com/assets/smc/documents/alloys/inconel/inconel-alloy-740-h.pdf>
3. <http://asm.matweb.com/search/SpecificMaterial.asp?bassnum=mq304a>
4. <http://asm.matweb.com/search/SpecificMaterial.asp?bassnum=mq316a>
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## ◆ Photochemical etching of channel patterns can be a relatively slow and expensive process for mass production of standardized patterns (compared to fast forming processes, such as stamping<sup>6-8</sup>)

6. D. M. Allen, "Photochemical Machining: From "Manufacturing's Best Kept Secret" to a \$6 Billion per Annum, Rapid Manufacturing Process," *CIRP Ann.*, 53 (2) 559-572 (2004).
7. D. M. Allen, H. J. A. Almond, F. Gaben, S. Impey, "The Causes and Prevention of Smut on Etched AISI 300 Stainless Steels," *CIRP Ann.*, 54 (1) 187-190 (2005).
8. P. N. Rao, D. Kunzru, "Fabrication of Microchannels on Stainless Steel by Wet Chemical Etching," *J. Micro-mech. Microeng.*, 17, N99-N106 (2007).

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( $K_{1C} = 3 \text{ MPa}\cdot\text{m}^{1/2}$  for  $\geq 95\%$  dense,  $7 \mu\text{m}$  (ave.)  $\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_2\text{O}_{13}$  (mullite)<sup>1</sup>;  $3\text{-}5 \text{ MPa}\cdot\text{m}^{1/2}$  for  $\geq 90\%$  dense,  $4\text{-}8 \mu\text{m}$   $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ <sup>2</sup>;  $3.9\text{-}4.6 \text{ MPa}\cdot\text{m}^{1/2}$  for  $\geq 94\%$  dense,  $4\text{-}10 \mu\text{m}$  Hexoloy  $\text{SiC}$ <sup>3</sup>)

1. Superior Technical Ceramics, <https://www.ceramics.net/sites/default/files/files/Mullite%20Material%20Property%20Chart%201page.pdf>.
2. CoorsTek, <https://www.coorstek.com/media/1715/advanced-alumina-brochure.pdf>
3. Saint-Gobain Ceramic Materials, <https://www.refractories.saint-gobain.com/sites/imdf.hpr.com/files/hexoloy-norbide-noralide-alnimax-products-en-1027-bro.pdf>



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## ◆ Low-to-modest thermal conductivity at 800°C

( $\kappa \leq 4 \text{ W/m}\cdot\text{K}$  for  $\geq 89\%$  dense  $\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_2\text{O}_{13}$ <sup>4,5</sup>,  $\leq 7 \text{ W/m}\cdot\text{K}$  for  $\geq 92\%$  dense polycrystalline  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ <sup>5</sup>,  $\leq 45 \text{ W/m}\cdot\text{K}$  for dense sintered polycrystalline  $\text{SiC}$ <sup>6</sup>)

## ◆ Poor-to-fair thermal shock resistance

( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  and  $\text{Al}_6\text{Si}_2\text{O}_{13}$  are worse than  $\text{SiC}$ <sup>7,8</sup>)

4. B. Hildmann, H. Schneider, "Thermal Conductivity of 2/1-Mullite Single Crystals," *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 88 (10) 2879-2882 (2005).

5. W. D. Kingery, J. Francl, R. L. Coble, T. Vasilos, "Thermal Conductivity: X, Data for Several Pure Oxide Materials Corrected to Zero Porosity," *J. Am. Ceram. Soc.*, 37 (2) 107-110 (1954).

6. L. Sigl, "Thermal Conductivity of Liquid Phase Sintered Silicon Carbide," *J. Euro. Ceram. Soc.*, 23, 1115-1122 (2003).

7. H. Wang, R. N. Singh, "Thermal Shock Behavior of Ceramics and Ceramic Composites," *Int. Mater. Rev.*, 39 (6) 228-244 (1994).

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## ◆ Fabrication of dense ceramics in complex, tailorable, and precise shapes is non-trivial and can be expensive

(high firing temperatures; sintering shrinkage and distortion<sup>9</sup>)

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9. A. Sommers, Q. Wang, X. Han, C. Tjoen, Y. Park, A. Jacobi, "Ceramics and Ceramic Matrix Composites for Heat Exchangers in Advanced Thermal Systems - A Review," *Appl. Thermal Eng.*, 30, 1277-1291 (2010).

# *Ceramic/Metal Composites:*

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(ave. linear CTEs for RT-1000°C:  $16.3 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  for IN617/Ni-Cr-Co-Mo,  $9.0 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  for  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ;  $4.8 \times 10^{-6}/^{\circ}\text{C}$  for SiC)

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(*liquid metal processing*: poor wetting of the ceramic by the liquid metal, metal melting temperature; *powder processing*: high sintering temperatures, shrinkage and distortion)

# *Robust Cost-Effective ZrC/W Composites*

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- ◆ **Retention of stiffness and strength at  $800^{\circ}\text{C}$**   
( $E \geq 28 \times 10^6$  psi/193 GPa;  $\sigma_F \geq 50 \times 10^3$  psi/350 MPa at RT and at  $800^{\circ}\text{C}$ )
- ◆ **Enhanced toughness w.r.t. conventional monolithic ceramics**  
( $K_{1C} = 9.4$  MPa·m<sup>1/2</sup> vs.  $\leq 0.8$  MPa·m<sup>1/2</sup> for Pyrex,  $\leq 1.4$  MPa·m<sup>1/2</sup> for concrete,  $\leq 4.8$  MPa·m<sup>1/2</sup> for Hexoloy SiC)

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- ◆ **Formable porous preforms, net-shape/size reactive conversion process**  
(pressing, green machining, 3-D printing, stamping, casting; pressureless reactive melt infiltration at  $\leq 1350^{\circ}\text{C}$ )

# *Near Net-Shape/Net-Size Reactive Conversion*



1 cm

**CNC-Machined 50%  
Porous WC Nozzle**

# *CNC Machining of a Porous WC Preform*

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Model 7300 Prototyping and Production Mill  
(Flashcut CNC, Deerfield, IL)

# *3-D Printing of a Porous WC Preform*

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Model 310 3-D Printer, Z-Corp., Burlington, MA



# *Near Net-Shape/Net-Size Reactive Conversion*



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1 cm

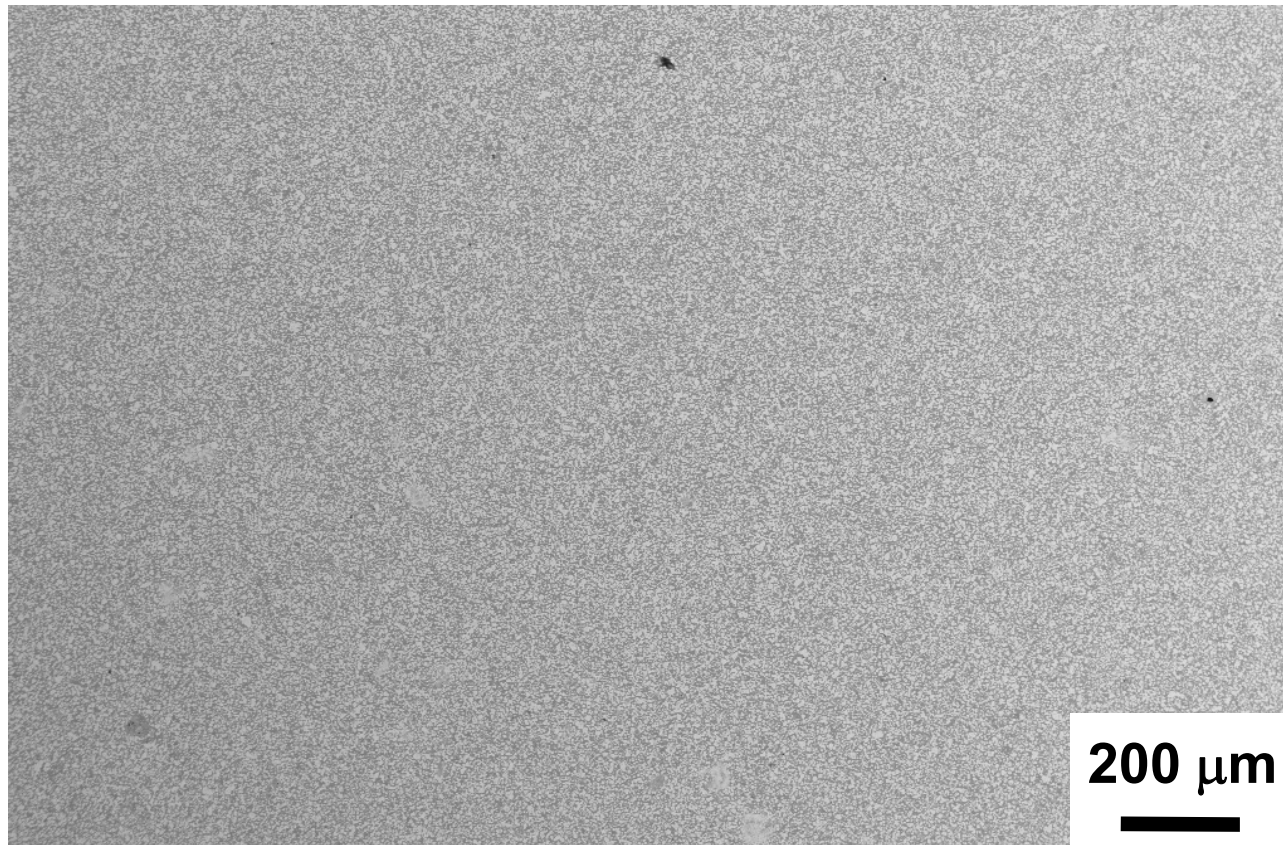


Dense ZrC/W Nozzle

Shape- and size-preserving reactive melt infiltration:



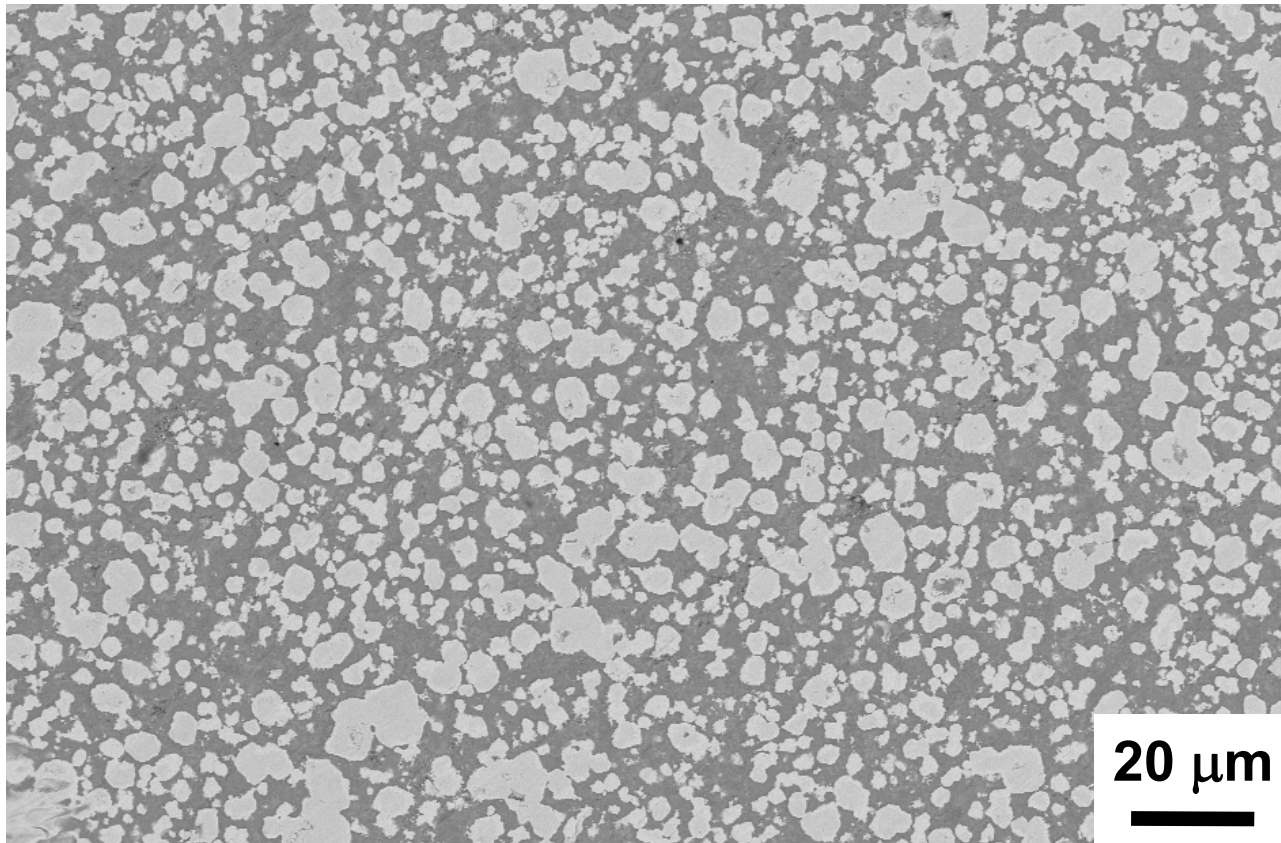
# *Dense DCP-derived ZrC/W Composite*



Backscattered  
electron  
images

Polished cross-section of a dense, reactively-  
converted ZrC/W composite

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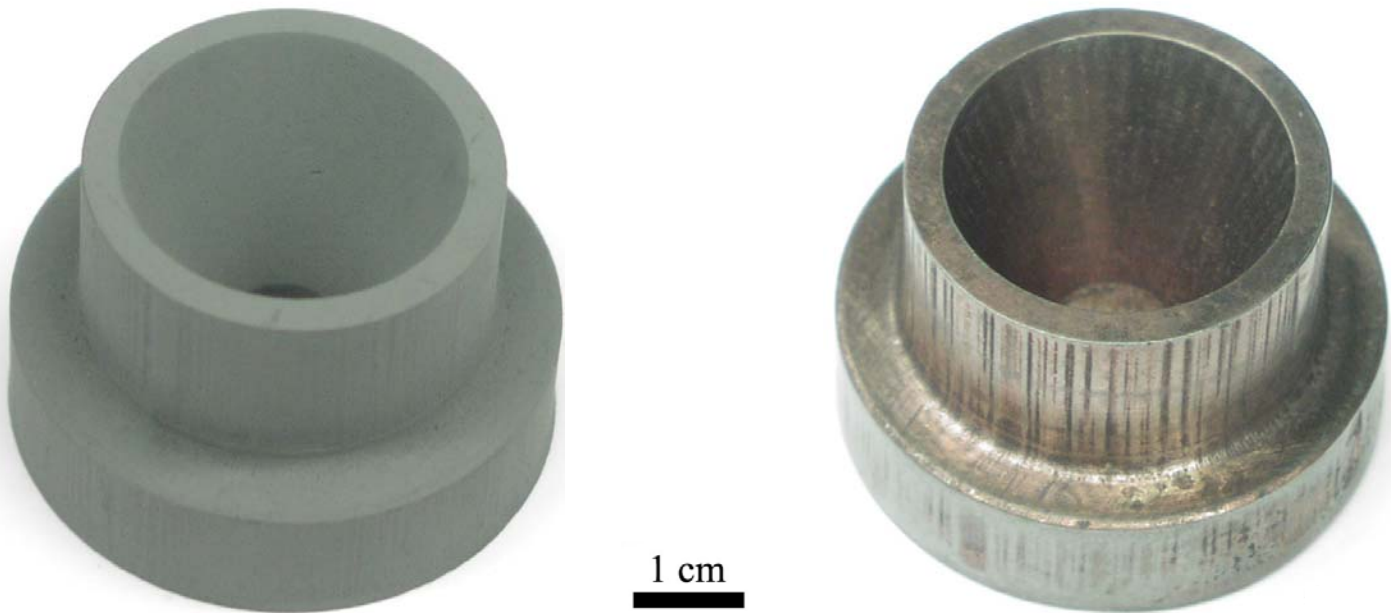


Backscattered  
electron  
images

Polished cross-section of a dense, reactively-converted ZrC/W composite



# *Near Net-Shape/Net-Size Reactive Conversion*



Specimen	Nozzle Exit Outer Diameter	Nozzle Entrance Outer Diameter	Nozzle Height
WC Preform (left)	50.65 $\pm$ 0.09 mm	37.50 $\pm$ 0.08 mm	32.13 $\pm$ 0.22 mm
ZrC/W Nozzle (right)	50.32 $\pm$ 0.16 mm	37.23 $\pm$ 0.07 mm	32.00 $\pm$ 0.30 mm
	$\Delta D/D_0$ : -0.6 $\pm$ 0.1%	$\Delta D/D_0$ : -0.7 $\pm$ 0.1%	$\Delta H/H_0$ : -0.4 $\pm$ 0.2%

# *Solid Fuel Rocket Nozzles*

- ◆ Temperatures in excess of 2500°C within 1 sec
- ◆  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3(\text{l})$  and gas products traveling at supersonic speeds ( $\geq 2,500$  m/s)
- ◆ New materials that are:
  - high melting
  - thermal shock resistant
  - erosion resistant
  - lightweight
  - non-porous
  - inexpensive (raw material, nozzle fabrication)are needed



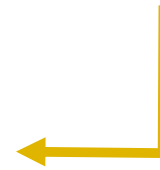
# *Gel Casting of Porous WC Preforms*



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# *Rigid, Porous WC Nozzle Insert Preforms*

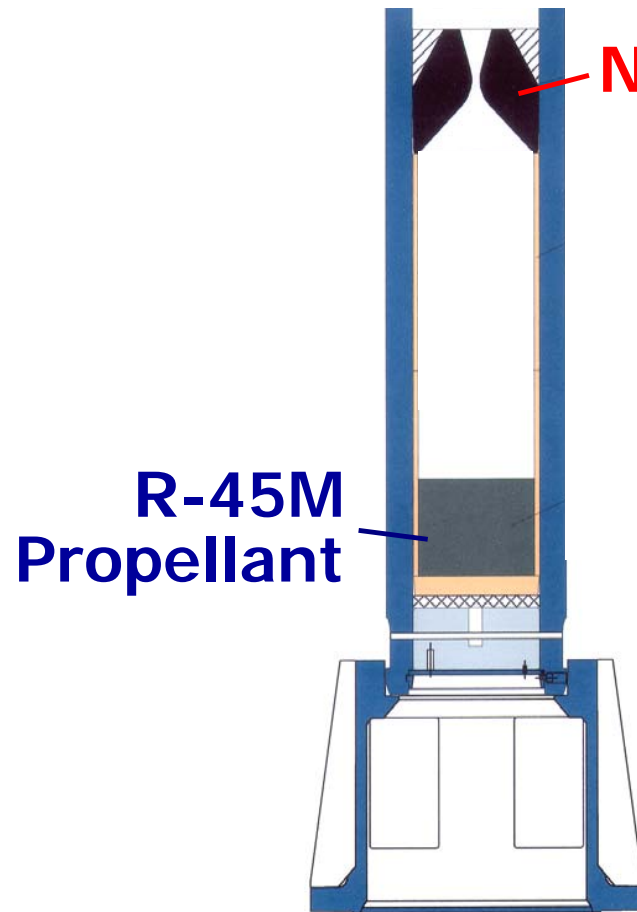


# *Dense ZrC/W-based Rocket Nozzle Inserts*



$(\Delta D/D_0 = -0.4\% \pm 0.2\%:$   
9.65 to 9.63 cm, 3.05 to 3.03 cm)

# *Pi-K Rocket Nozzle Test (Edwards AFB)*



(19 wt% Al propellant,  
burn pressure = 3.5 MPa)

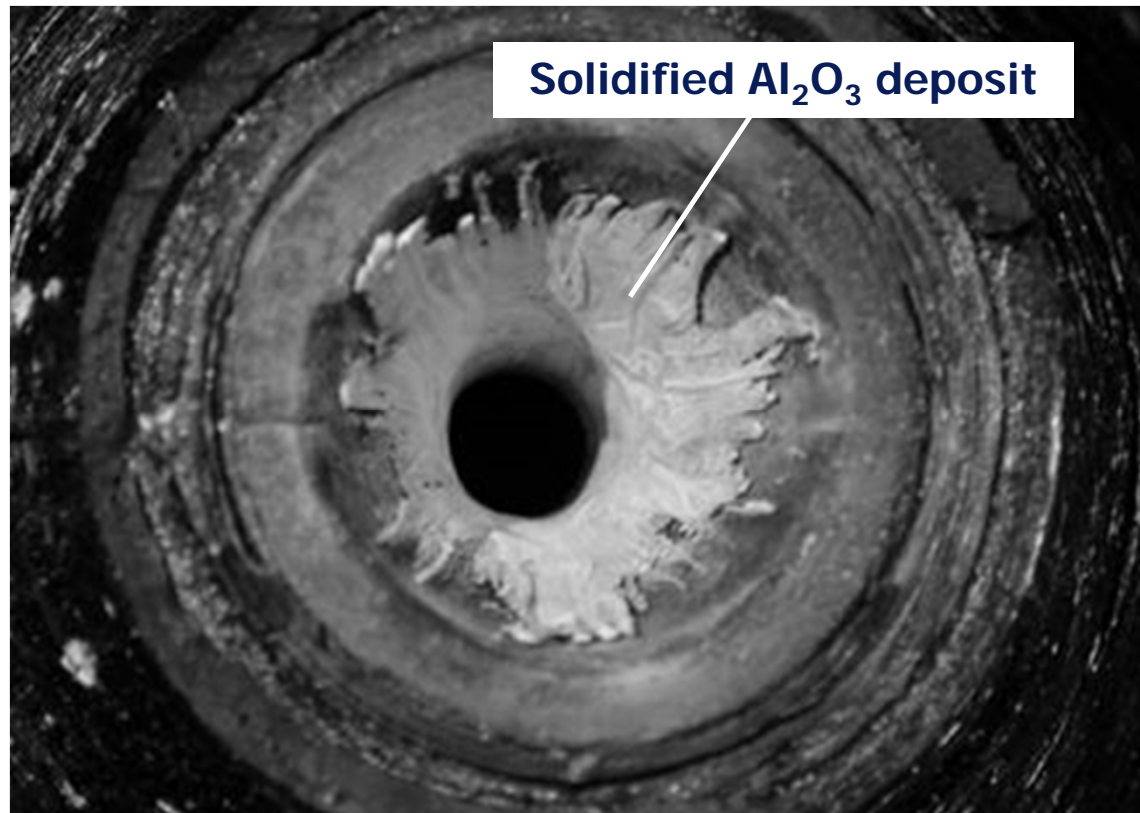
(with Wes Hoffman, EAFB)

# *Pi-K Rocket Nozzle Test (Edwards AFB)*



**(19 wt% Al propellant,  
burn pressure = 3.5 MPa)**

# *Pi-K Rocket Nozzle Test (Edwards AFB)*



**Top-down view into ZrC/W nozzle  
after the Pi-K rocket test**

# *Future sCO<sub>2</sub>/Cermet Research (University+)*

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- ◆ **Design and fabrication of robust net-shape/net-size cermet components tailored for other sCO<sub>2</sub> systems**  
(collaborative research for nuclear, natural gas, other power systems)

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(with National Laboratory, industry, and government partners)
- ◆ **Interface design and integration of high-temperature cermet components with structural metal alloys**  
(chemical/structural tailoring of robust interfaces; development of bonding methods)



# *Future sCO<sub>2</sub>/Cermets Research (University+)*

- ◆ **Design and fabrication of robust net-shape/net-size cermet components tailored for other sCO<sub>2</sub> systems**  
(collaborative research for nuclear, natural gas, other power systems)
- ◆ **Further thermomechanical testing, and coding, of high-temperature cermets**  
(with National Laboratory, industry, and government partners)
- ◆ **Interface design and integration of high-temperature cermets components with structural metal alloys**  
(chemical/structural tailoring of robust interfaces; development of bonding methods)
- ◆ **Scaleup of cermet component manufacturing and systems testing**  
(forming, reactive conversion, bonding; with product development, manufacturing, and application partners)

# *Processing and Properties of Robust Ceramic/Metal Composites for Heat Exchangers Operating at $\geq 750^{\circ}\text{C}$ with Supercritical $\text{CO}_2$*

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# Questions?

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# *High-Temperature Corrosion Resistance to sCO<sub>2</sub>*

- ◆ Oxidizable materials (e.g., ZrC/W, stainless steels or other metal alloys) can be endowed with enhanced high-temperature oxidation resistance in sCO<sub>2</sub>-based fluids via use of a new concept (PCT/U.S. Patent Appln<sup>1</sup>):

*a supercritical buffered (reducing) CO-CO<sub>2</sub> fluid*

- ◆ Modest CO additions to CO<sub>2</sub> can dramatically lower the equilibrium oxygen fugacity,  $f_{O_2}$ , of the CO<sub>2</sub>-based fluid:



⇒ the addition of just 10 ppm CO in CO<sub>2</sub> at 750°C yields an equilibrium  $f_{O_2} = 1.7 \times 10^{-10}$  atm (1 atm total pressure)<sup>2</sup>

- ◆ Relatively noble metals, such as copper, can be rendered inert in sCO/CO<sub>2</sub> fluids with modest CO contents

1. K. H. Sandhage, "Method for Enhancing Corrosion Resistance of Oxidizable Materials and Components Made Therefrom," PCT/U.S. Patent Application, 2017 (U.S. Provisional Patent Application, 2016).

2. I. Barin, *Thermochemical Data of Pure Substances*, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edn, VCH Verlagsgesellschaft mbH, Weinheim, Germany, 1995.