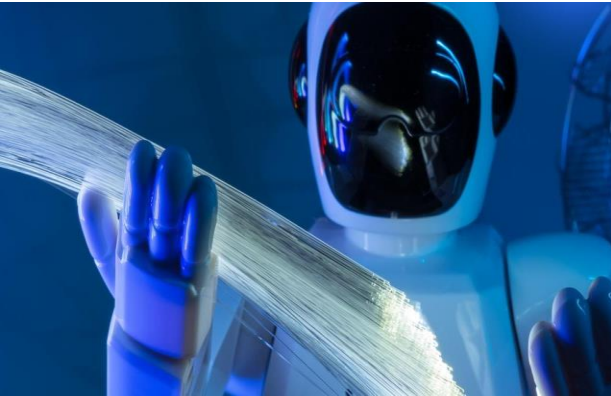


# Anwendungsorientierte Aktivitäten der Wasserstoff-Forschung auf dem EnergieCampus Goslar



apl. Prof. Dr. Eike G. Hübner

27.06.2023

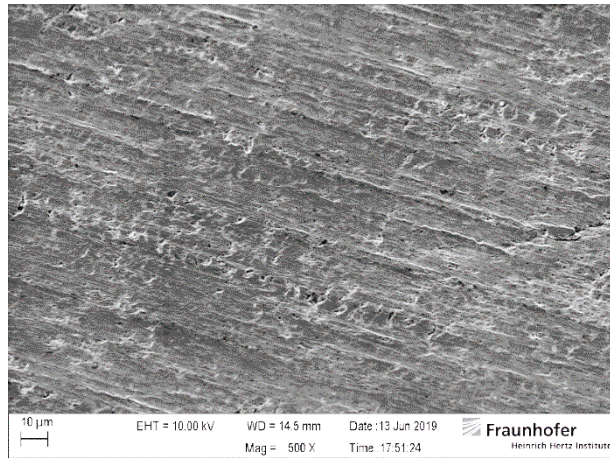
Fraunhofer Heinrich Hertz Institute, HHI

Department Fiber Optical Sensor Systems

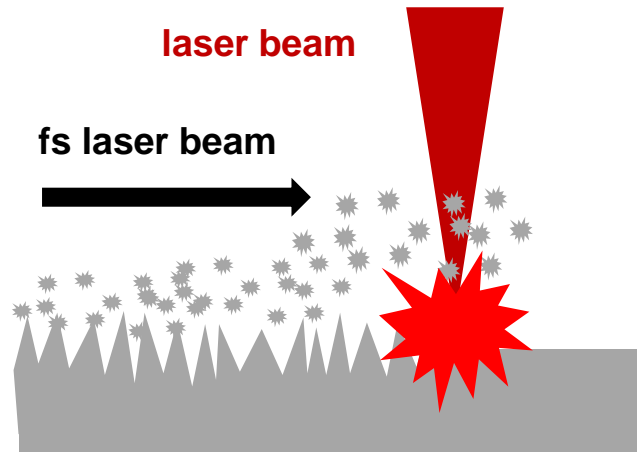
Surface Processing

# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

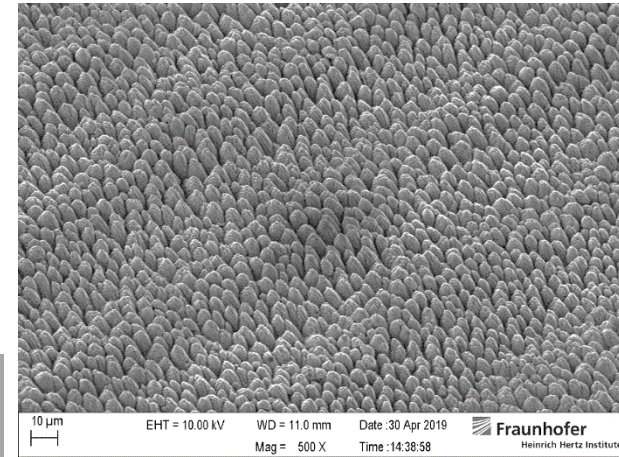
- $< 0,1 \text{ mm}^2$  Focus spot size:
  - fs-Laser: up to 5 GW for  $10^{-15} \text{ s}$
  - ns-Laser: 10 kW for  $10^{-9} \text{ s}$
- Local evaporation without heating of the bulk material



pristine



sketch of process



fs-laser structured

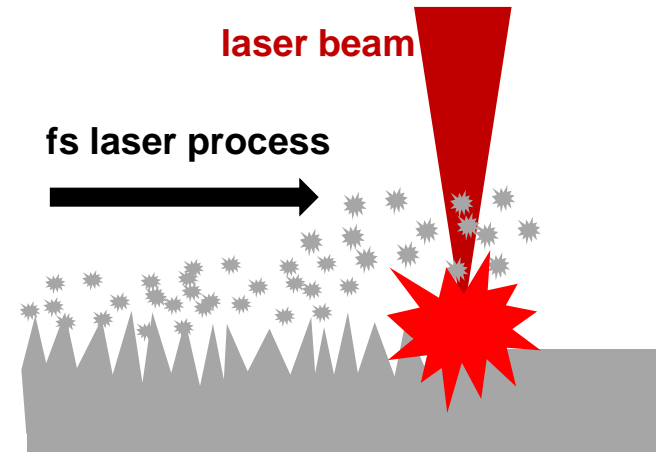
# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

## Structure Development

Number of laser pulses per spot on the surface<sup>[1]</sup>:

$N = 1 - 10 \rightarrow 10 - 25 \rightarrow 25 - 50 \rightarrow 50 - 100 \rightarrow \mathbf{100 - 250} \rightarrow \gg 1000$

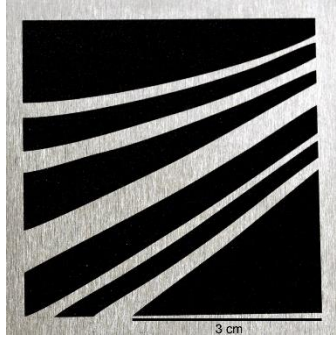
LIPSS  $\rightarrow$  ripples  $\rightarrow$  grooves  $\rightarrow$  cones  $\rightarrow$  cones (10  $\mu\text{m}$ )  $\rightarrow$  ?



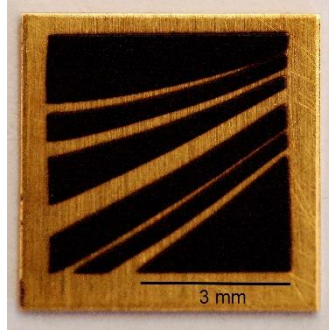
**surface enlargement**

# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

## Black Metals – Black Gold

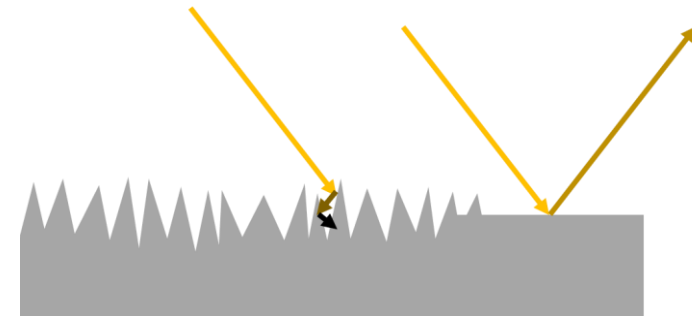


aluminum

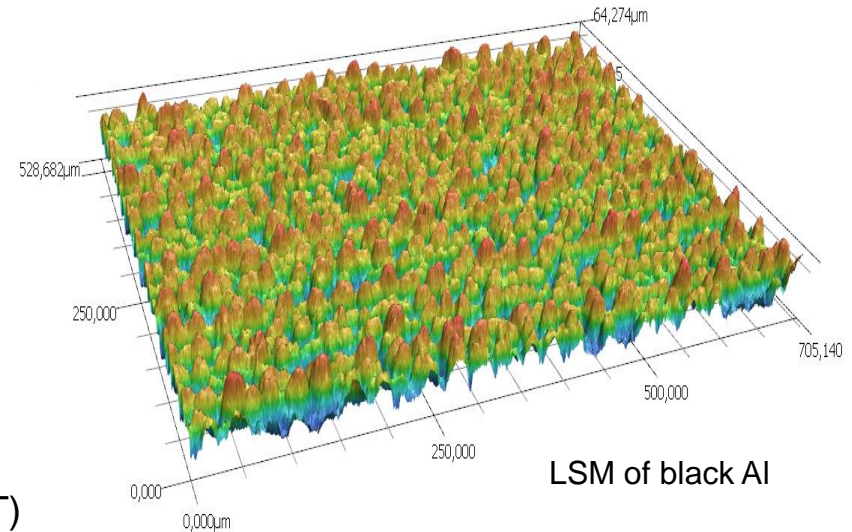


gold

- Jewellery
  - Motifs on plates, rings, ...
- Absorptivity required → **surface chemistry!**
  - N pulses<sup>[1]</sup> ~ 250
  - **Surface enlargement: ~ 10x – 20x (LSM/BET)**



Microcones act as light trap

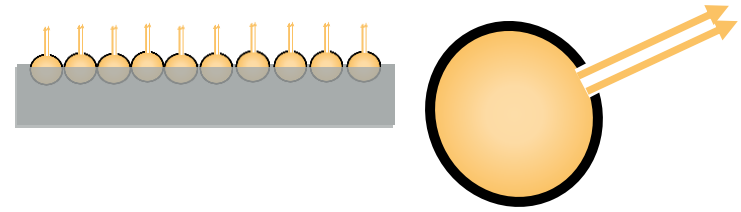
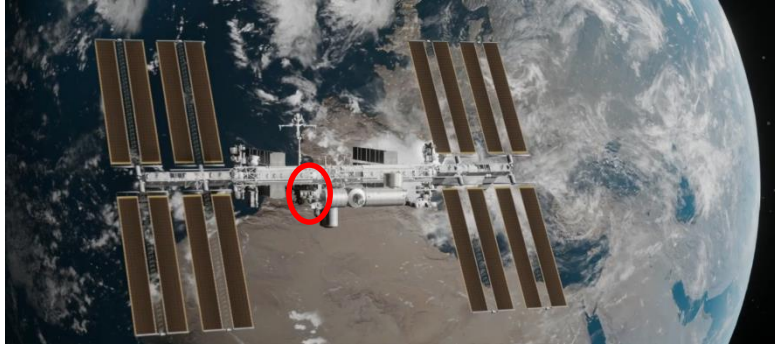


LSM of black Al



# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

## Maximized Thermal Emissivity



Cavity with a hole – Black Body Emitter

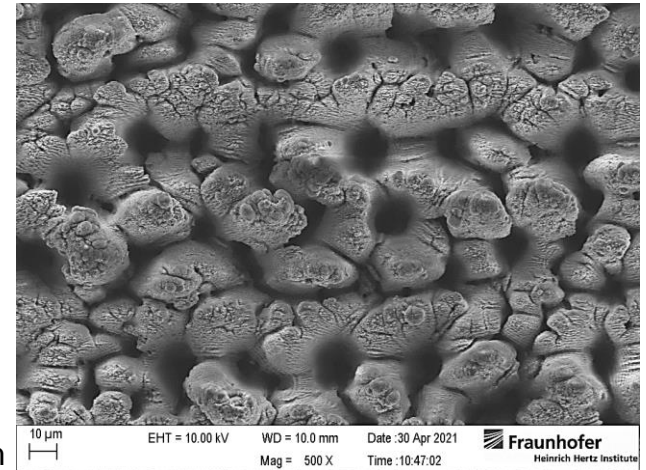
N pulses ~ 800<sup>[1]</sup>

Surface enlargement: ~ 20x/100x (LSM/BET)



- On the outside of the ISS from Dec. 2022
- Thermal emissivity on Al/Fe/Ti >90%
- Temperature stable
  - tested for Fe up to 650 °C

Thermographic image (100 °C)



Titanium

# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

## Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carriers (LOHC)

GEFÖRDERT VOM



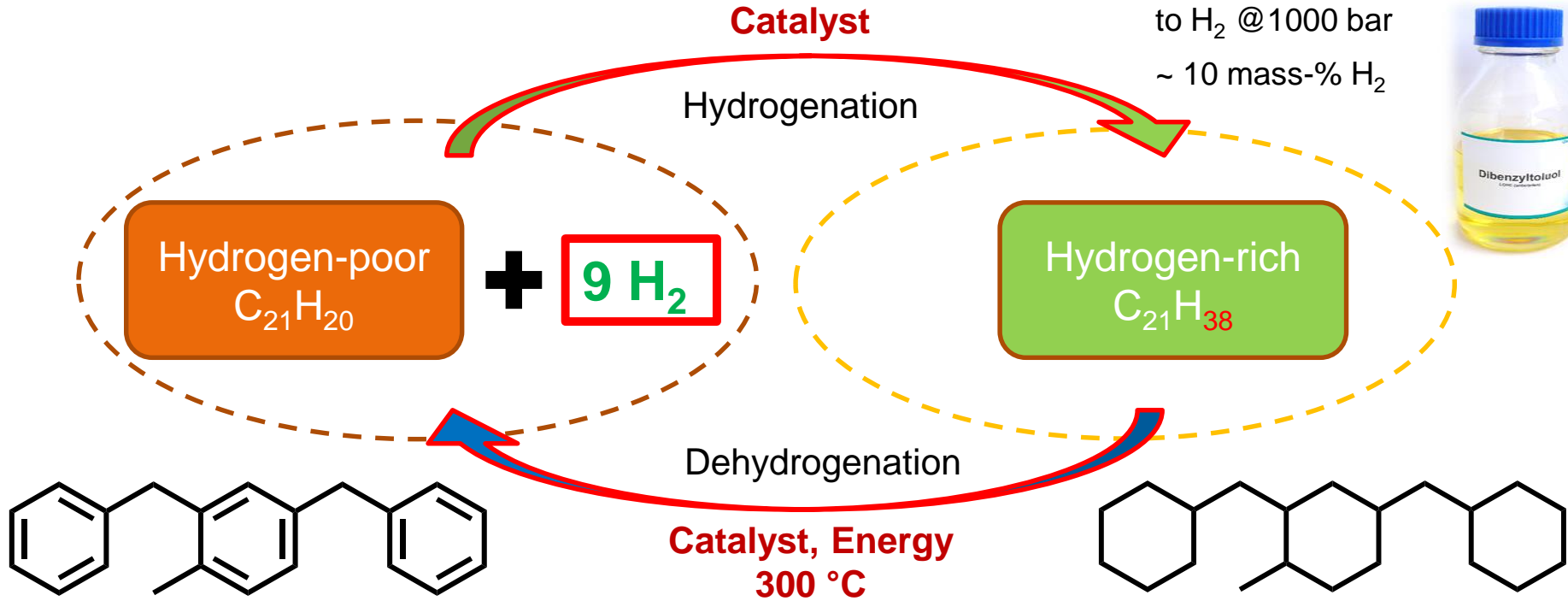
Bundesministerium  
für Wirtschaft  
und Energie

Gefördert durch



Bayerisches Staatsministerium für  
Wirtschaft, Landesentwicklung und Energie

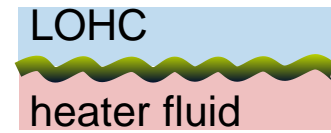
Storage density approx. eq.  
to  $H_2$  @ 1000 bar  
~ 10 mass-%  $H_2$



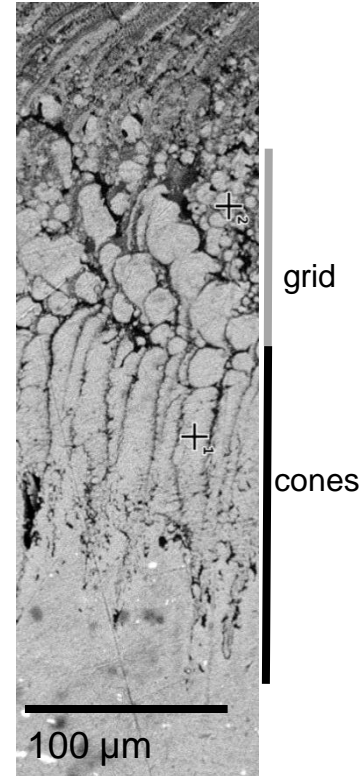
# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

## Liquid Organic Hydrogen Carriers

- Highly endothermic dehydrogenation reaction
  - Efficient heat transfer
- Expensive noble metals
  - Efficient catalysts (HI ERN)
- Femtosecond laser structured surfaces as catalyst carriers
  - Large surface area, stable surface structure, irregular structures



heat exchanger  
plate + catalyst



N pulses >  $\sim 10 \times 10\,000$ <sup>[1]</sup>

**Surface enlargement:  $\sim 1000x$  (BET)**

Thickness approx. 350  $\mu\text{m}$

“Micro”cones: 200  $\mu\text{m}$  (height) x 20  $\mu\text{m}$

Aluminum  
cross-section<sup>[2]</sup>

100  $\mu\text{m}$

# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

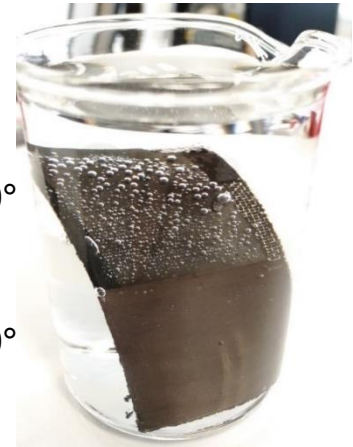
## Zinc-air Batteries

- Rechargeable zinc-air battery
- Key part: (bifunctional) gas diffusion electrode (GDE)
  - Ag/AgO ( $\text{Co}_3\text{O}_4$ ) and hydrophobic binder
- Femtosecond laser structuring to optimize surface structure and wettability

GEFÖRDEBT VOM

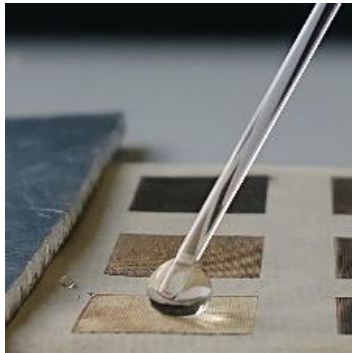


Bundesministerium  
für Bildung  
und Forschung



$\Theta \rightarrow 180^\circ$

$\Theta \rightarrow 0^\circ$



$\Theta \rightarrow 180^\circ$



$\Theta \rightarrow 0^\circ$



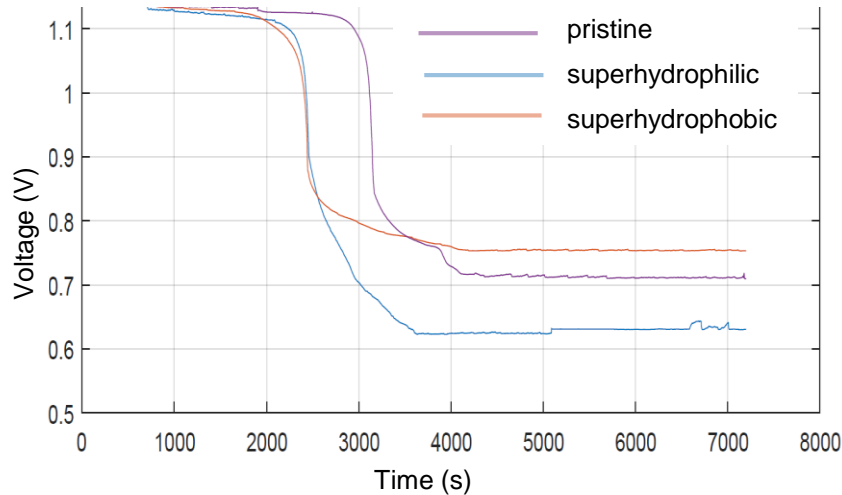
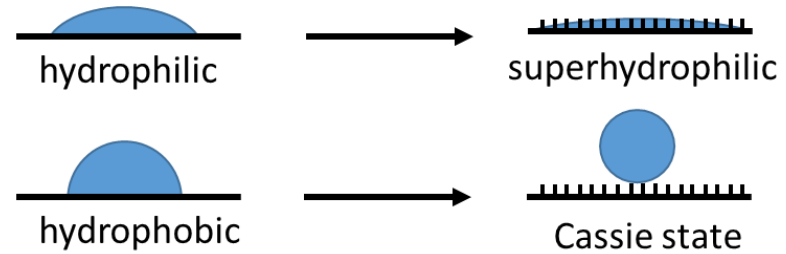
Video:  
Oxygen  
evolution



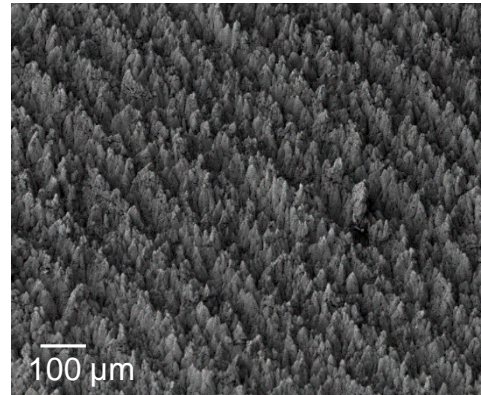
# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

## Controlling Wettability

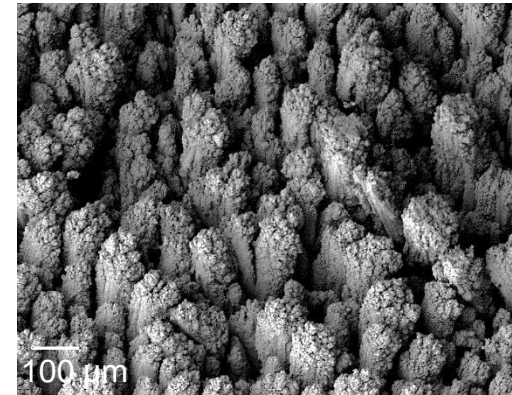
- Rechargeable zinc-air battery
- GDE water contact angle:  $0^\circ$  vs.  $130^\circ$  (pristine) vs.  $180^\circ$
- Improved oxygen consumption



➤ Cell voltage - 0.1 V ( $0^\circ$ )  $\rightarrow$  + 0.05 V ( $180^\circ$ )



$\Theta \rightarrow 0^\circ$

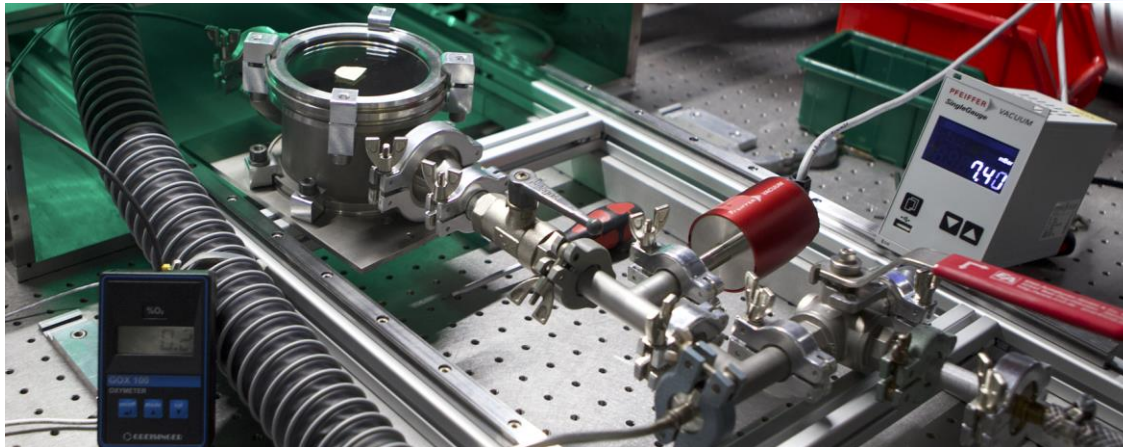


$\Theta \rightarrow 180^\circ$

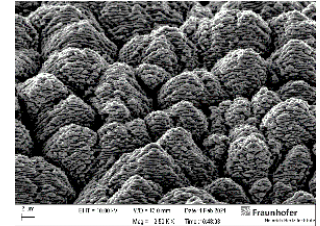
# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

## Controlling Surface Chemistry

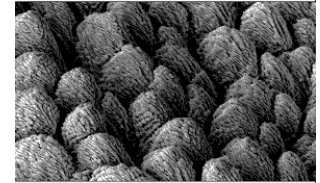
- To control wettability
- Optimized stoichiometry for catalysts
- Ar, N<sub>2</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>2</sub>, Cl<sub>2</sub>, Br<sub>2</sub>, I<sub>2</sub>, acetylene, ...



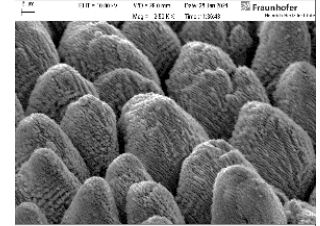
@ Argon:  
2.5 atom-% O



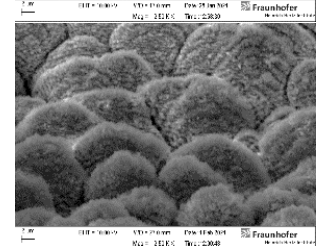
@ CO<sub>2</sub>:  
12 atom-% O



@ Air:  
36 atom-% O



@ O<sub>2</sub>:  
46 atom-% O



steel

# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

## Electrodes for Alkaline Water Electrolysis (AEL)

- Key Factor: Overpotential reduction

➤ Recent reviews define major aspects<sup>[1]</sup>:


- Specific surface area (Tafel equation: overpotential  $\eta$  (V)  $\sim$  current density  $i$  (A/cm<sup>2</sup>))
- Presence of gas bubbles on the surface of the electrode
- Electrocatalytic materials

- Surface enlargement


➤ Porosity

  
N pulses >1000

- Superhydrophilicity

  
N pulses >250  
processing at oxygen/air

- Nickel oxides

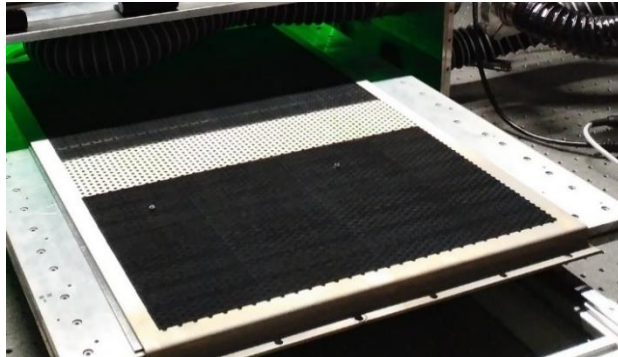
  
processing at oxygen/air



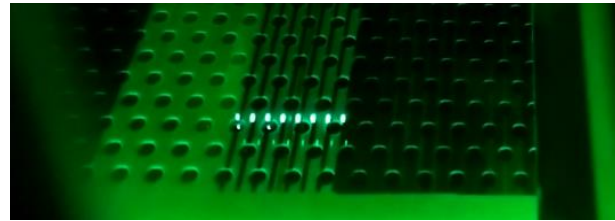


## Large Scale Electrodes<sup>[1]</sup>

- Base material: Steel coated with approx. 300  $\mu\text{m}$  nickel (MTV)
- 0.66 x 0.41 m<sup>2</sup> structured on both sides (0.54 m<sup>2</sup> per electrode)
- N pulses  $\sim 20 \times 2000$ <sup>[2]</sup>
- Processed at air
  - Porous microcones, nickel oxides, superhydrophilic surface



processing time:  $\sim 150$  h / electrode  
8-fold beam via diffractive element





# Femtosecond Laser Surface Structures

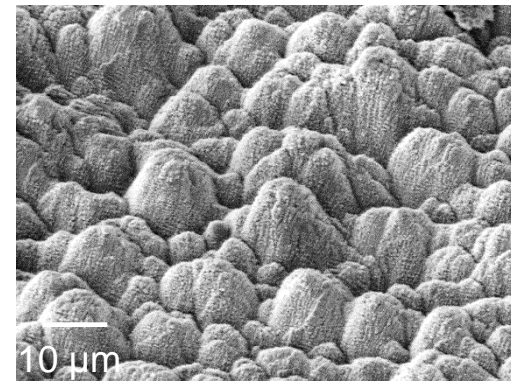
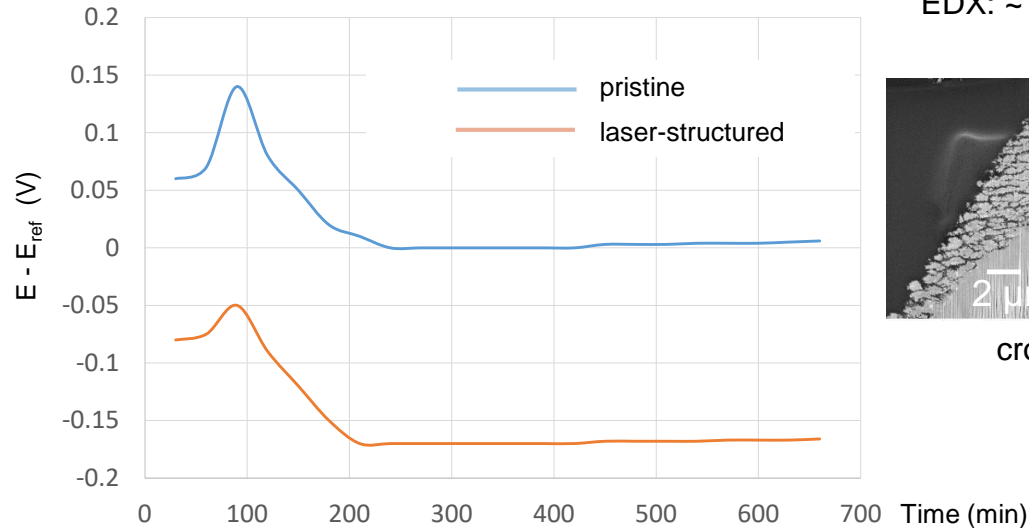
## Electrodes for Alkaline Water Electrolysis (AEL)

- Surface enlargement  $\sim 100\times$  (BET)
- Operation of electrodes at realistic conditions (Fraunhofer IFAM)
- 4 Electrodes laser-structured (both sides) vs. 4 pristine electrodes

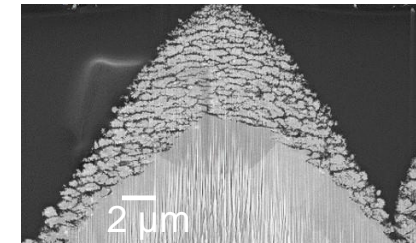
➤ 750 A per electrode  
300 mA/cm<sup>2</sup>

➤ Overpotential reduced  
by approx. 150 mV

➤ Process efficiency increased  
by approx. 10 %



EDX:  $\sim 30$  atom-% O



cross-section<sup>[2]</sup>

# Summary



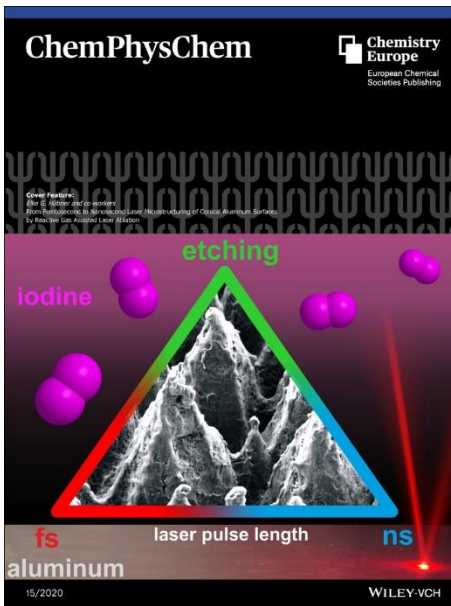
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HHI

Abteilung:  
Faseroptische Sensorsysteme

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