

# **Investigation of Characterization on Nano-Structured Thermal Barrier Coatings for Aerospace Applications**

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**Presented by,  
M. Mathanbabu  
Research scholar  
Department of Mechanical Engineering  
Government College of Engineering  
Bargur, Krishnagiri, Tamilnadu, India.**

# OUTLINE

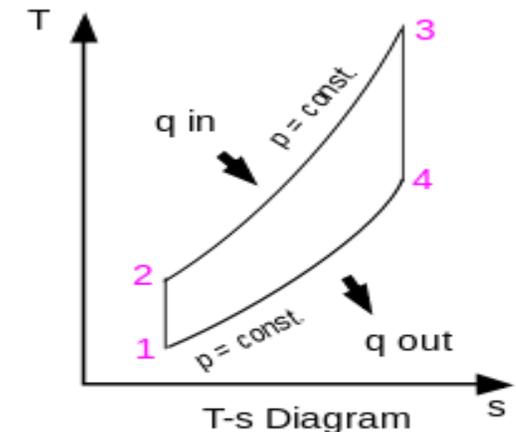
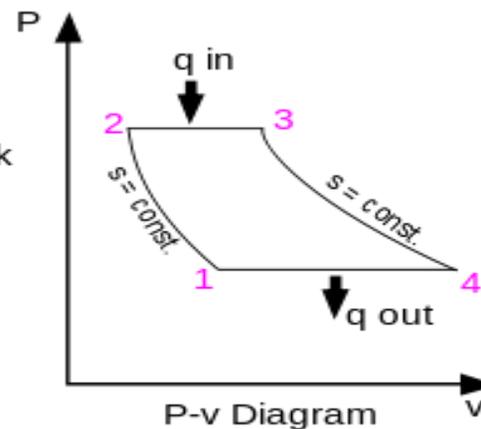
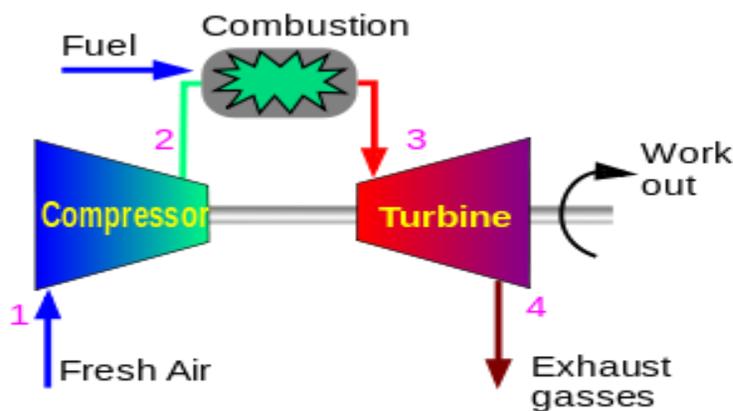
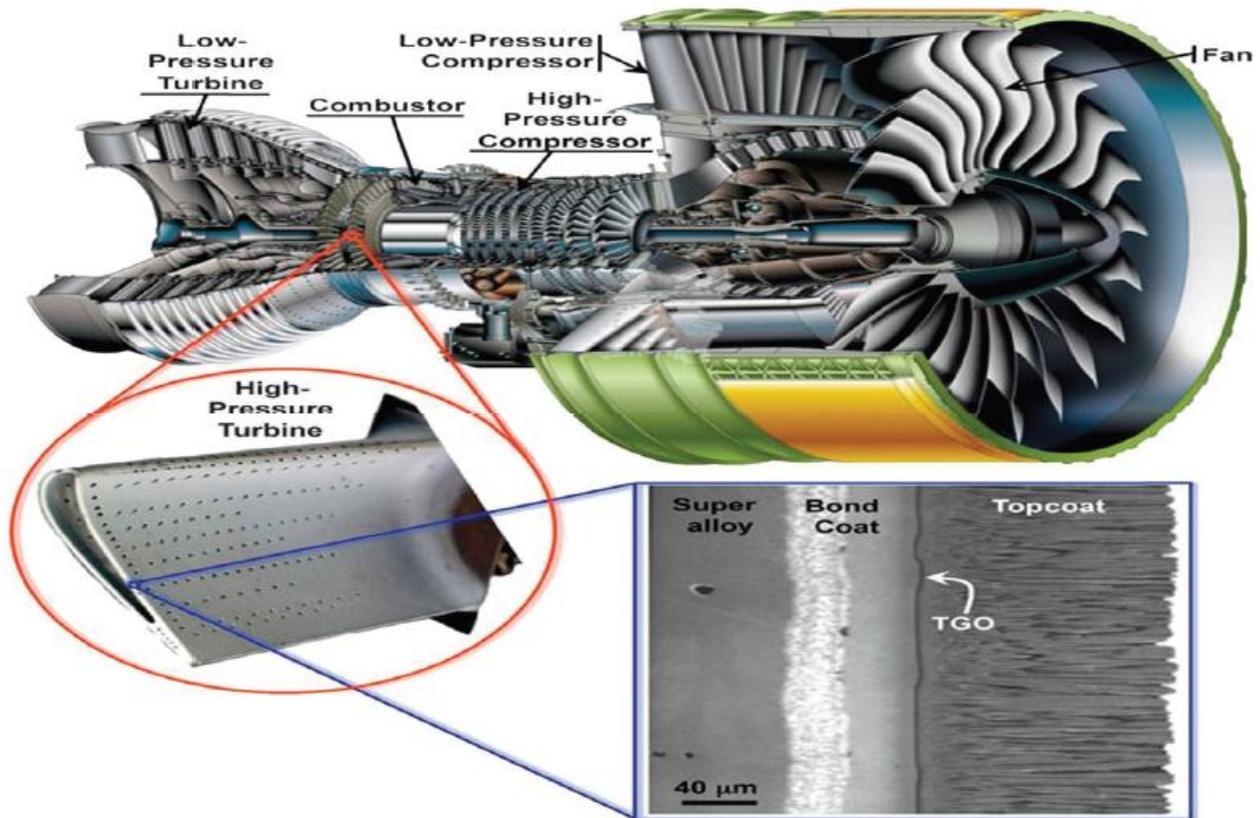
- Introduction
- TBC failures
- Motivation and objectives
- Preparation of Nano powder
- Testing of TBC failure
- Summary
- Acknowledgement
- Reference

# INTRODUCTION

- TBCs have been widely used in hot-section metal components in gas turbines either to **increase the inlet temperature** with a consequent improvement of the efficiency or to reduce the requirements of the cooling air.
- Hence, in this investigation was made to **synthesise, spheroidize and spray deposit LZ** material
- thermal plasma as a major materials processing technique and Suitable **characterization techniques** have been used to study the material modifications
- **Composite Layer** means mixed LZ and YSZ powders with selected volume ratios allow to combine advantages of LZ thermal insulating performance and YSZ thermal durability also reviewed.
- **future research** directions of lanthanum Zirconate for next-generation TBC applications in gas turbines are proposed.

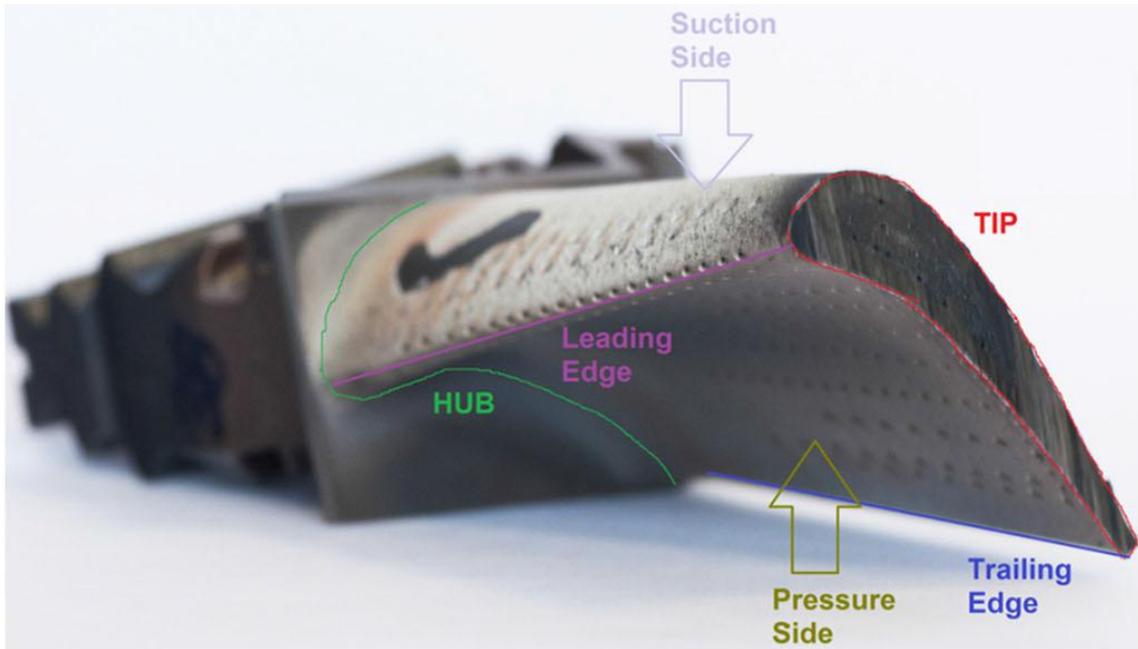
# AIRCRAFT GAS TURBINE ENGINE PROTECTED BY TBCS

- As we know that **increase in turbine inlet temperature** results in increased thermal efficiency
- reduce the requirements of the cooling air.
- TBC can be applied on both Turbine blades and combustion chambers.



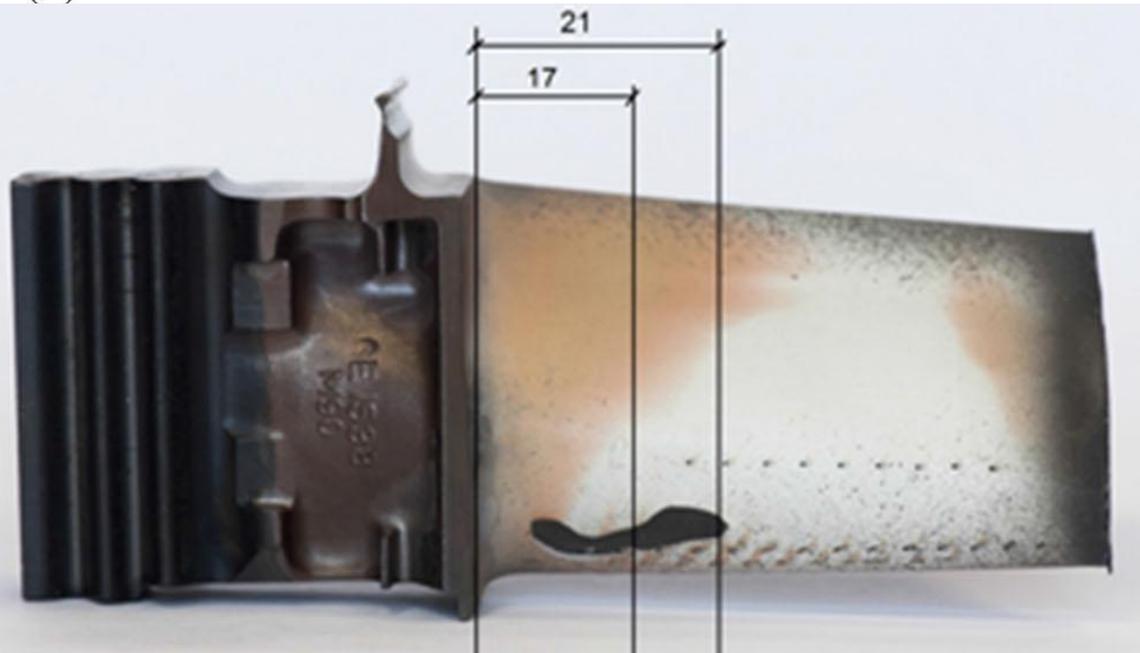
# TBC FAILURES

## COATING DECOHESION FAILURE



(a)

(b)

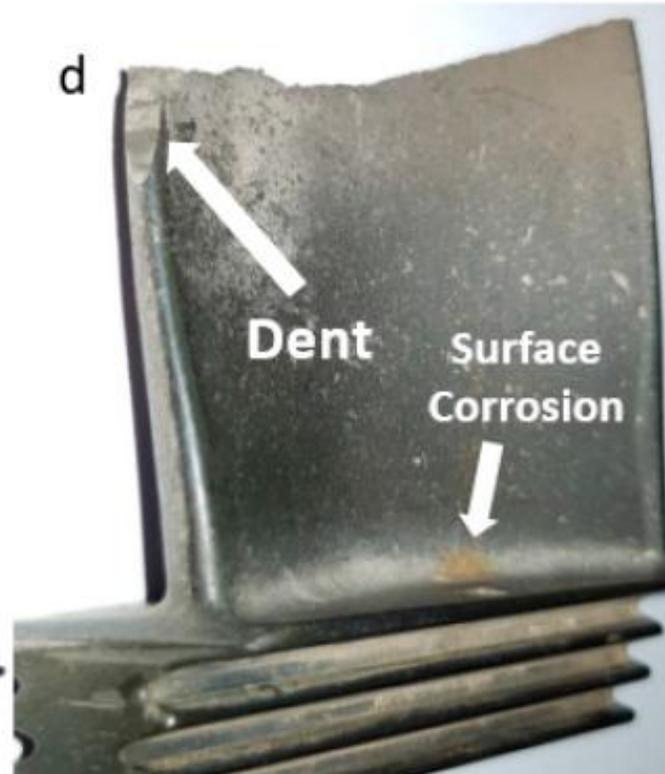
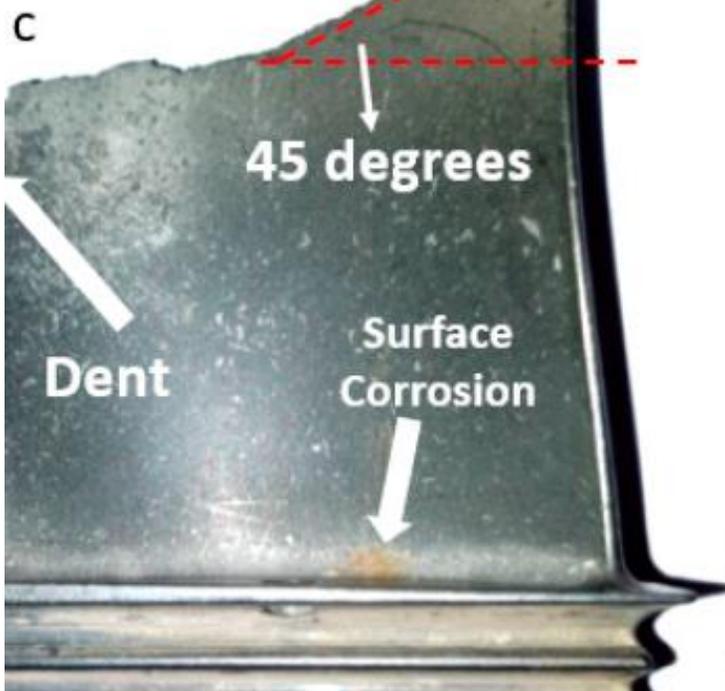


(a)

(b)

# TBC FAILURES

## VISUAL OBSERVATION OF BROKEN BLADE



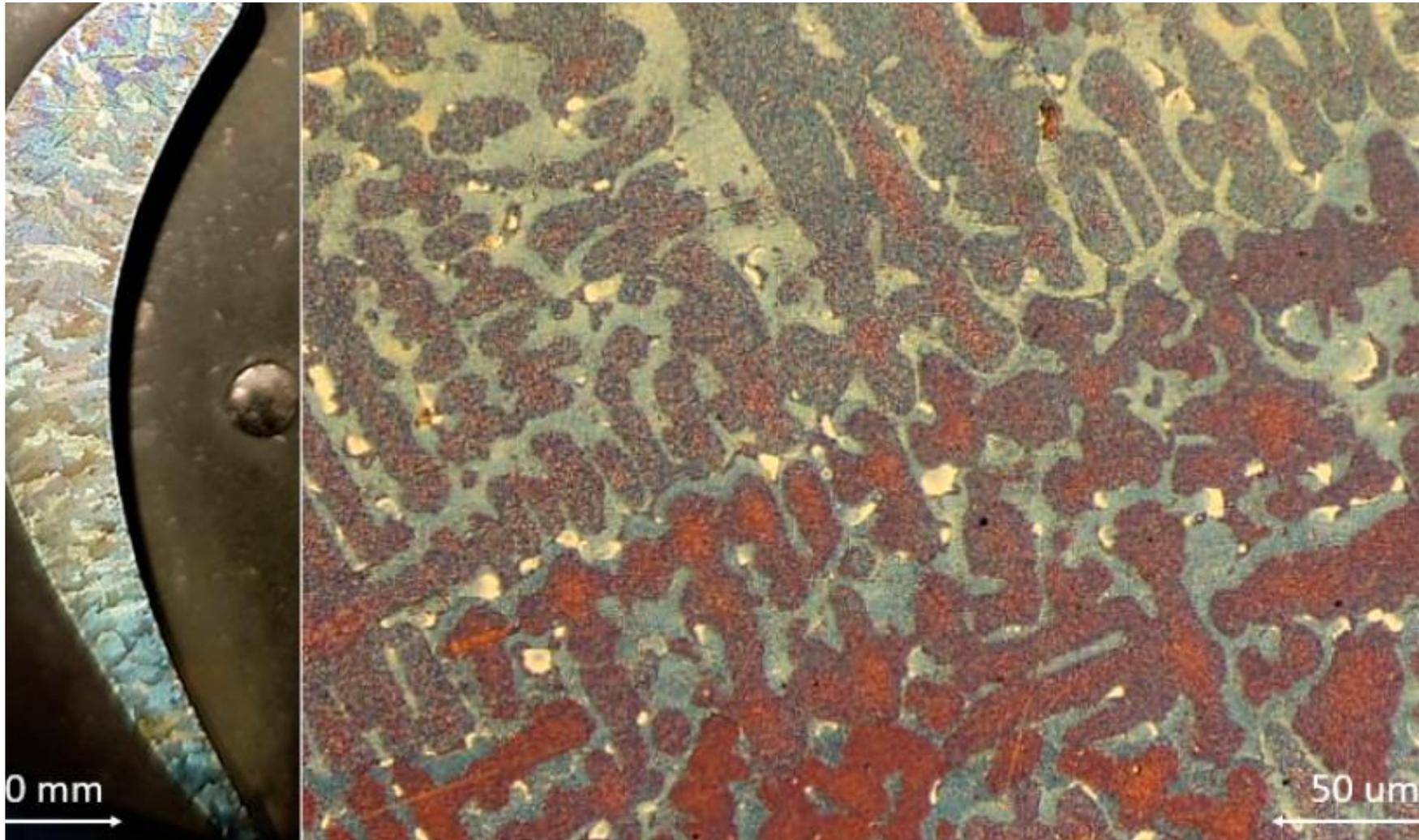
(a) blades in the assembled condition

(b) failed blade from the root

(c,d) broken blade from the airfoil

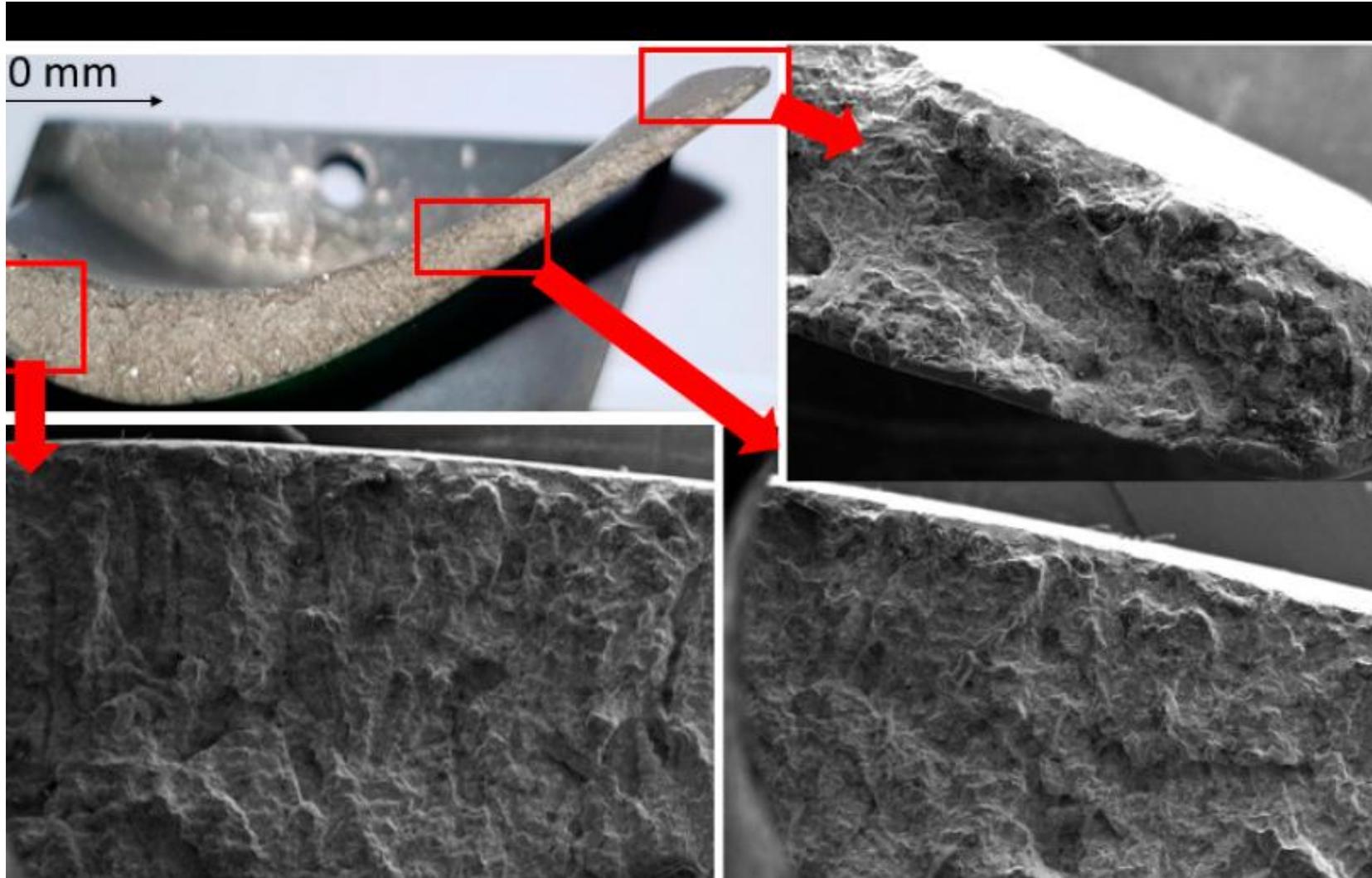
# TBC FAILURES

## Macro and optical microscope images of failed blades



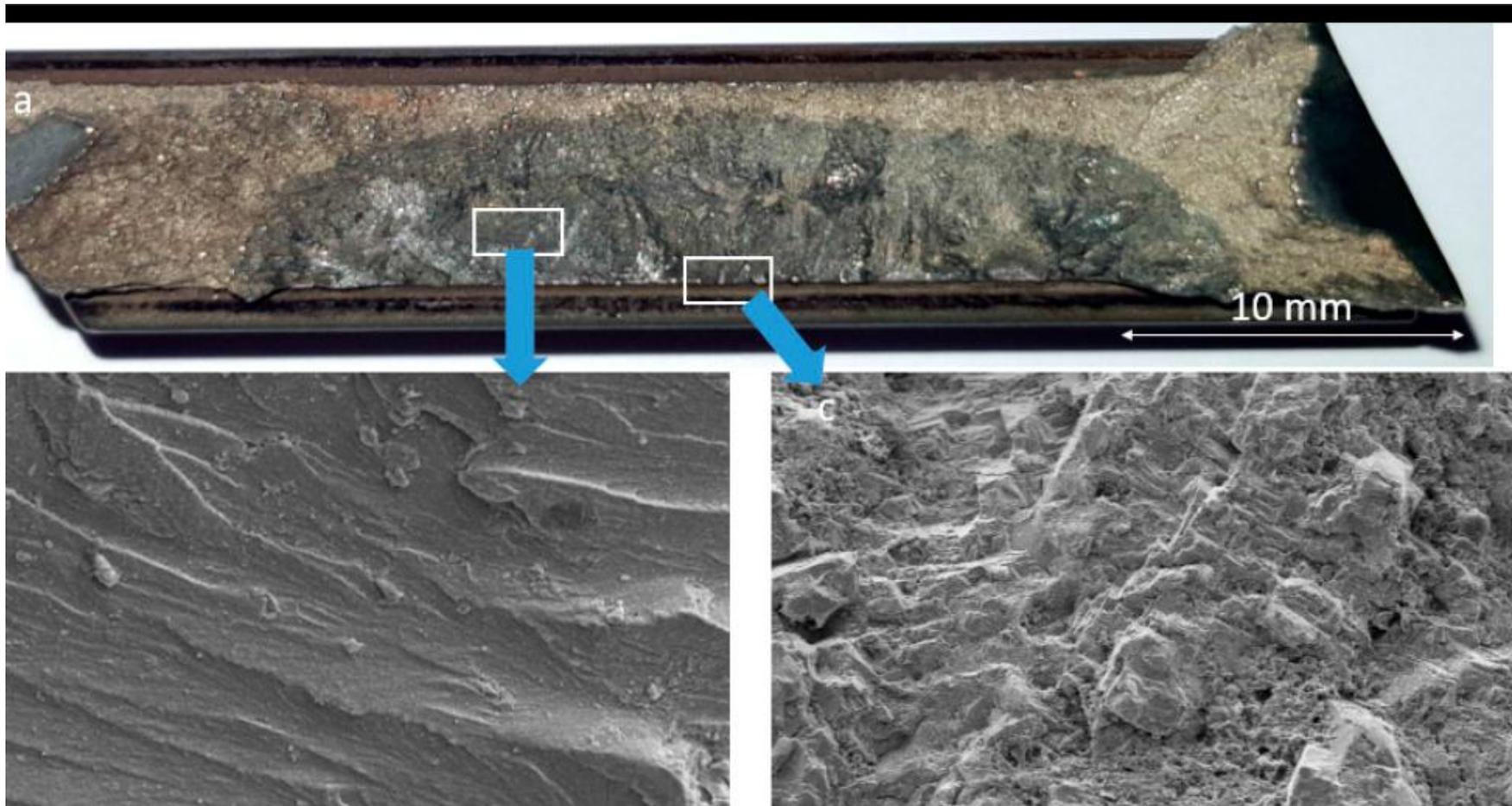
# TBC FAILURES

## Fracture Surface of the Blade, Broken From The Airfoil

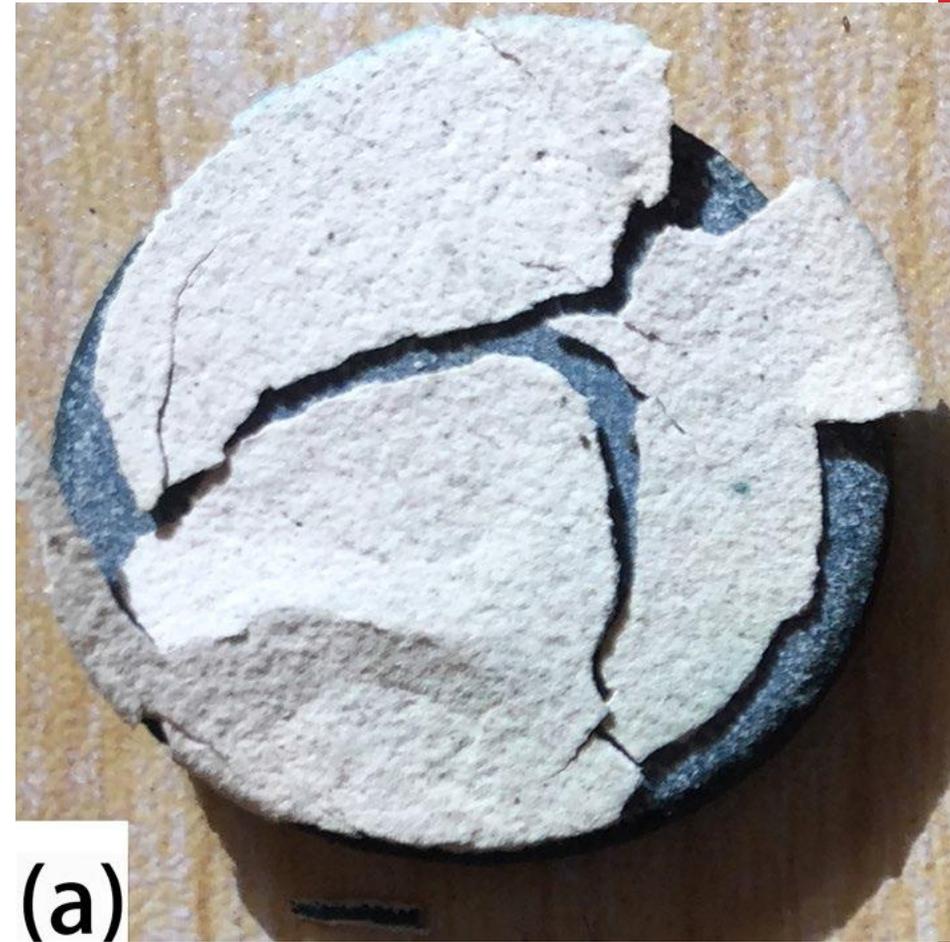
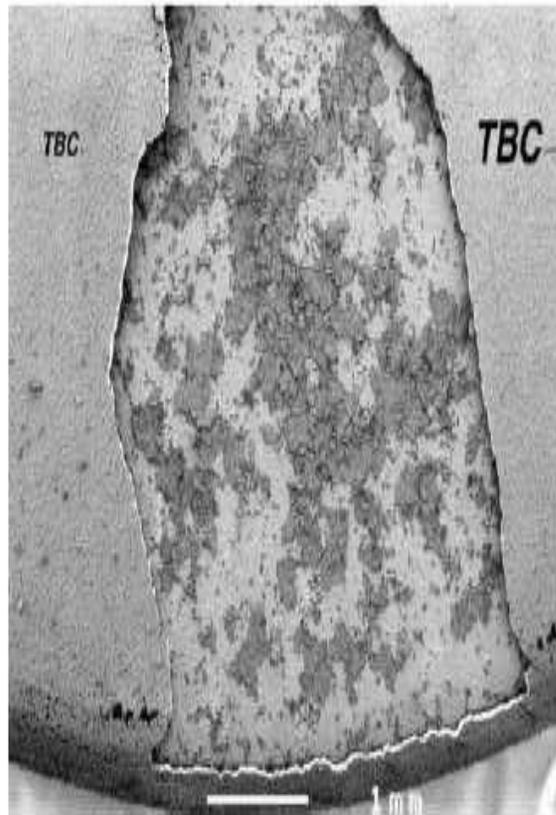
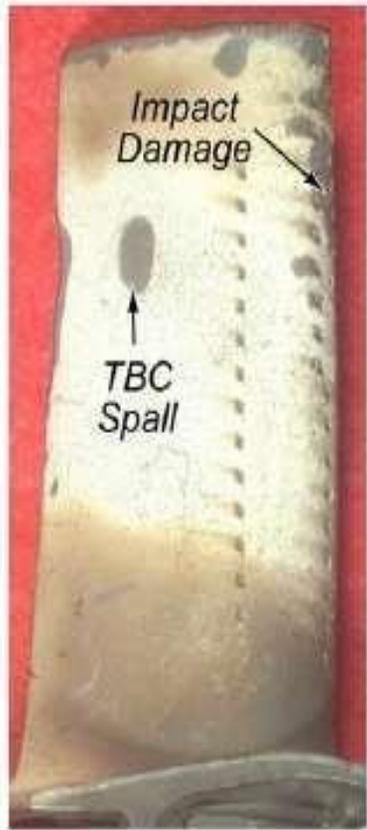


# TBC FAILURES

fracture surface of the blade, failed from the root



# TBC FAILURES (THERMAL CYCLING TEST)



# ADVANTAGES OF YTTRIA STABILIZED ZIRCONIA

- Zirconia partially stabilized with 7 wt% yttria (7YSZ) is the current state-of-the-art thermal barrier coating material.
- High Melting Point (oC)
- Coefficient of Thermal Expansion ( $\times 10^{-6}/K$ ) (@ 1000 oC)

# LIMITATION OF YTTRIA STABILIZED ZIRCONIA

- Zirconia partially stabilized with 7 wt% yttria (**7YSZ**) is the current state-of-the-art thermal barrier coating material.
- However, at temperatures higher than 1200 °C, YSZ layers are prone to **sintering**, which increases thermal conductivity and makes them less effective.
- Phase changed above 1200 °C.
- The sintered and densified coatings can also **reduce thermal stress and strain tolerance**, which can reduce the coating's durability significantly.

# MOTIVATION AND OBJECTIVE

- To further increase the operating temperature of turbine engines, alternative TBC materials with **lower thermal conductivity**, higher operating temperatures and better sintering resistance are required.
- The objective of the project is to develop a novel nano structured YSZ and lanthanum zirconate based multi-layer thermal barrier coating system.
- investigation was carried out to **synthesise, spheroidize and spray deposit** YSZ using the thermal plasma process.
- The ultimate goal is to develop pyrochlore oxide based coating with improved high-temperature properties.

# YSZ PROPERTY

Materials property	8YSZ
Melting Point (°C)	2680
Maximum Operating Temperature (°C)	1200
Thermal Conductivity (W/m-K) (@ 800°C )	2.12
Coefficient of Thermal Expansion (x10 <sup>-6</sup> /K) (@1000 °C)	11.0
Density (g/cm <sup>3</sup> )	6.07
Specific heat (J/g-K) (@1000 °C)	0.64

# PREPARATION OF YSZ

- The commercial 8YSZ) were used as starting materials.
- The 8YSZ feedstocks were fabricated by the nanopowder granulation method, i.e., ball milling, spray drying, sintering and plasma treatment.
- The 8YSZ nanopowder was first uniformly dispersed in deionized water and polyvinyl alcohol aqueous solution to form slurry under 24 h ball-milling. Subsequently, spray drying was carried out for granulation.
- After that, the spray dried powders were sintered at 1200 °C to enhance densification. Finally, the plasma treatment was necessary for spheroidization and further densification.

# PREPARATION OF YSZ

## Manufacturing criteria of feedstock powders

- (1) spherical shape powder,
- (2) uniform and fine particle size,
- (3) homogeneous composition,
- (4) high purity, and
- (5) low fabrication cost.

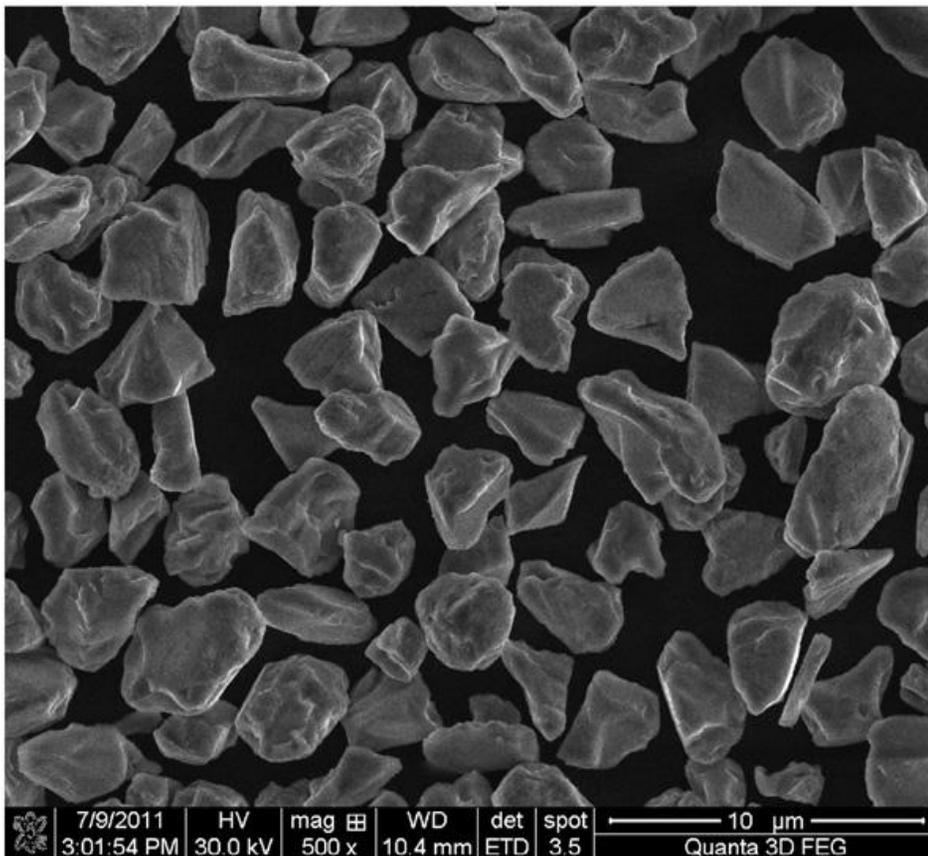
# PREPARATION

**Solid state reaction Method**

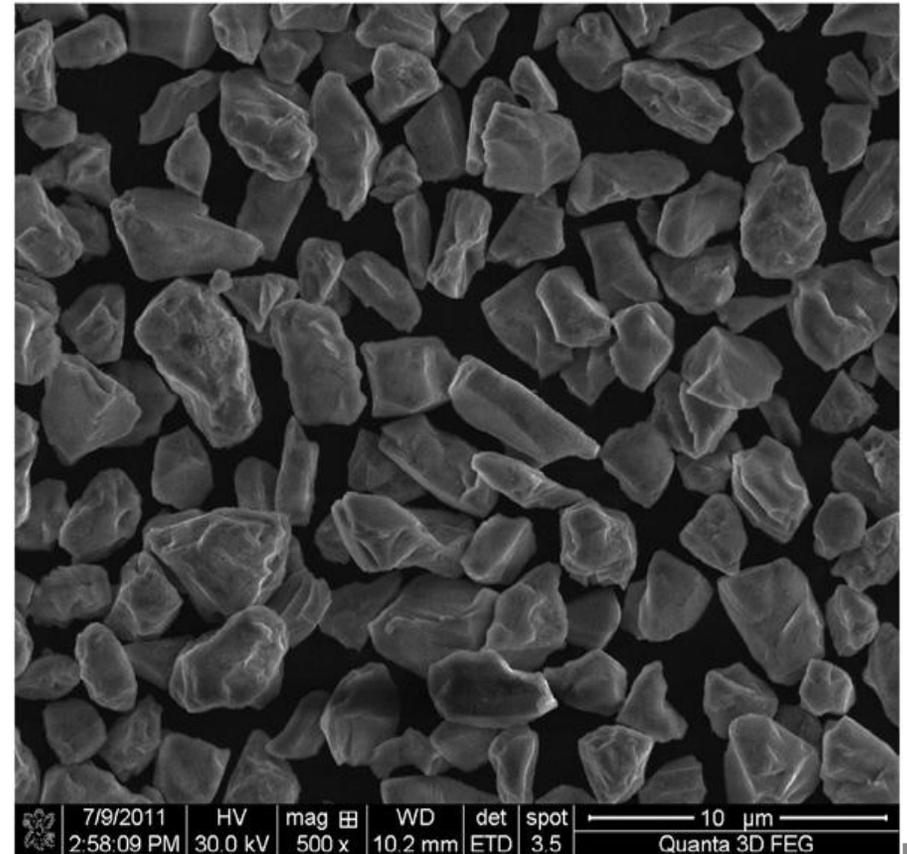
**Binder: polyvinyl pyrrollidone**

**Ball mill- Medium- water and zirconia balls as the mixing medium.**

**Cold press- Tubular furnace**

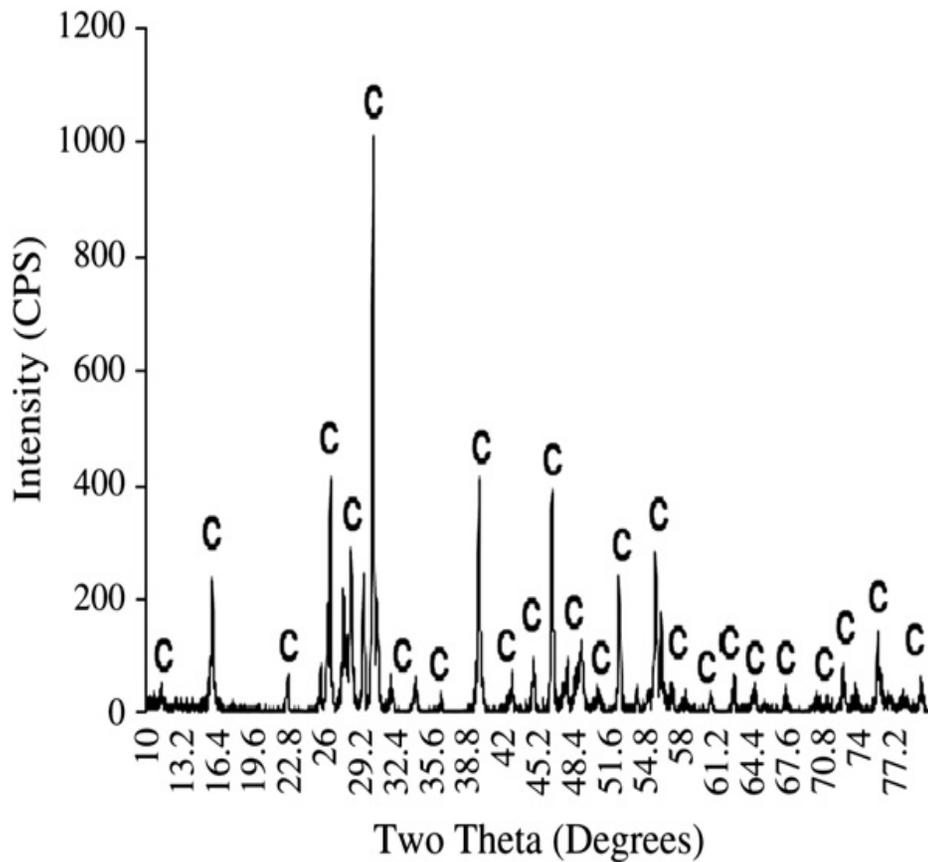


zirconium oxide powder.

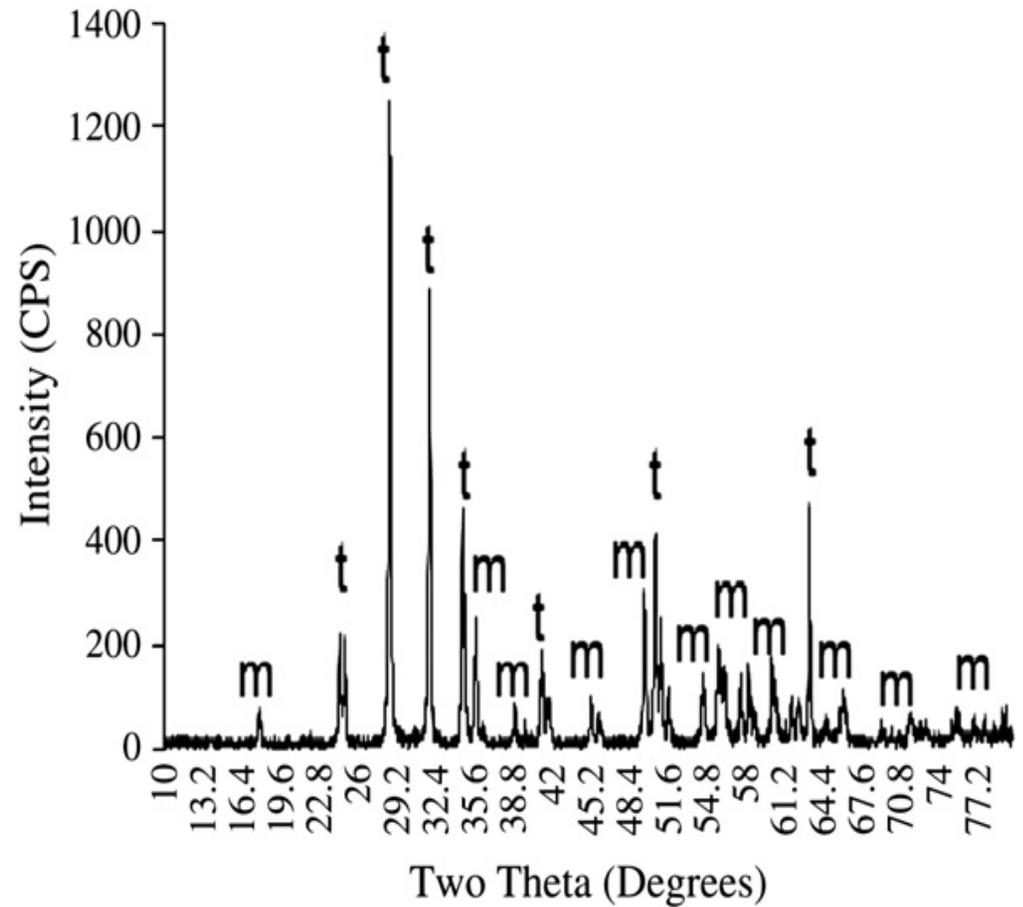


lanthanum oxide powder

# PREPARATION

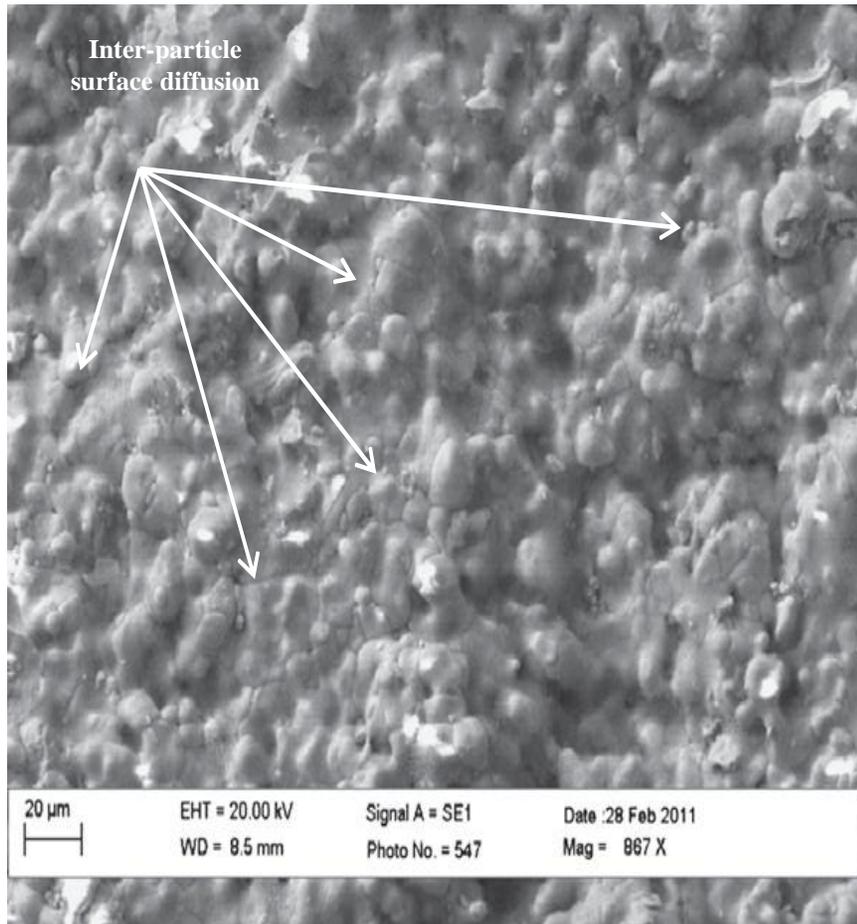


lanthanum oxide powder

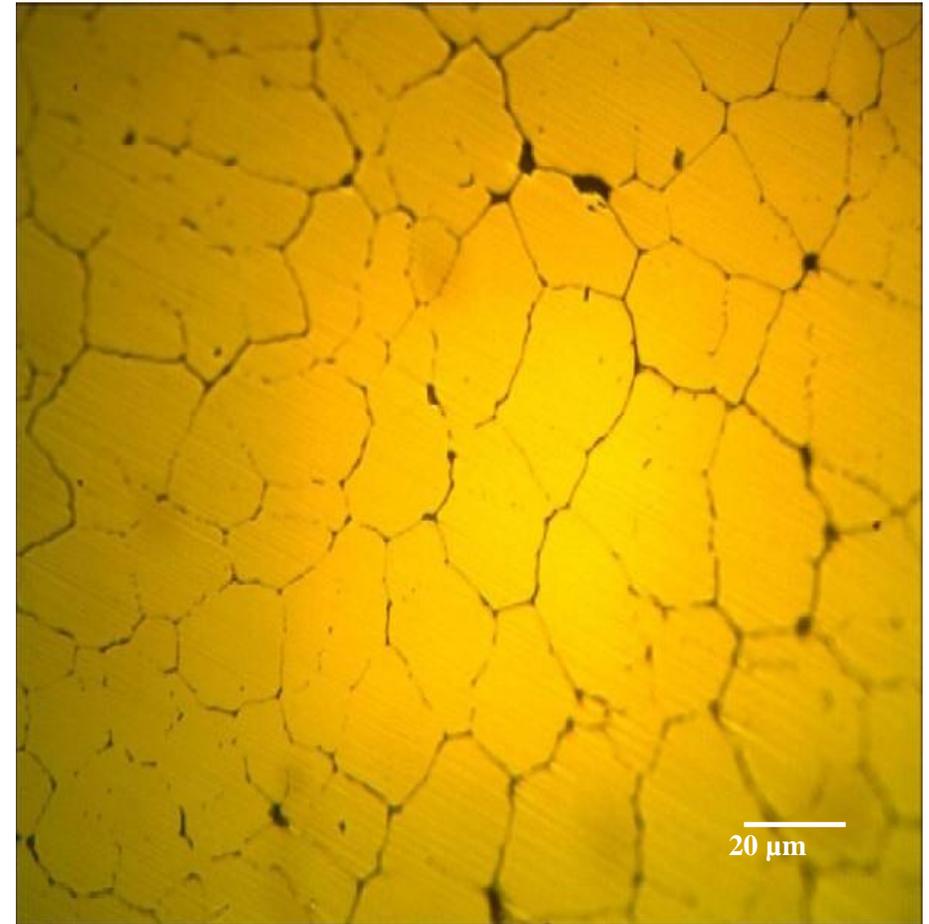


zirconium oxide powder.

# PREPARATION



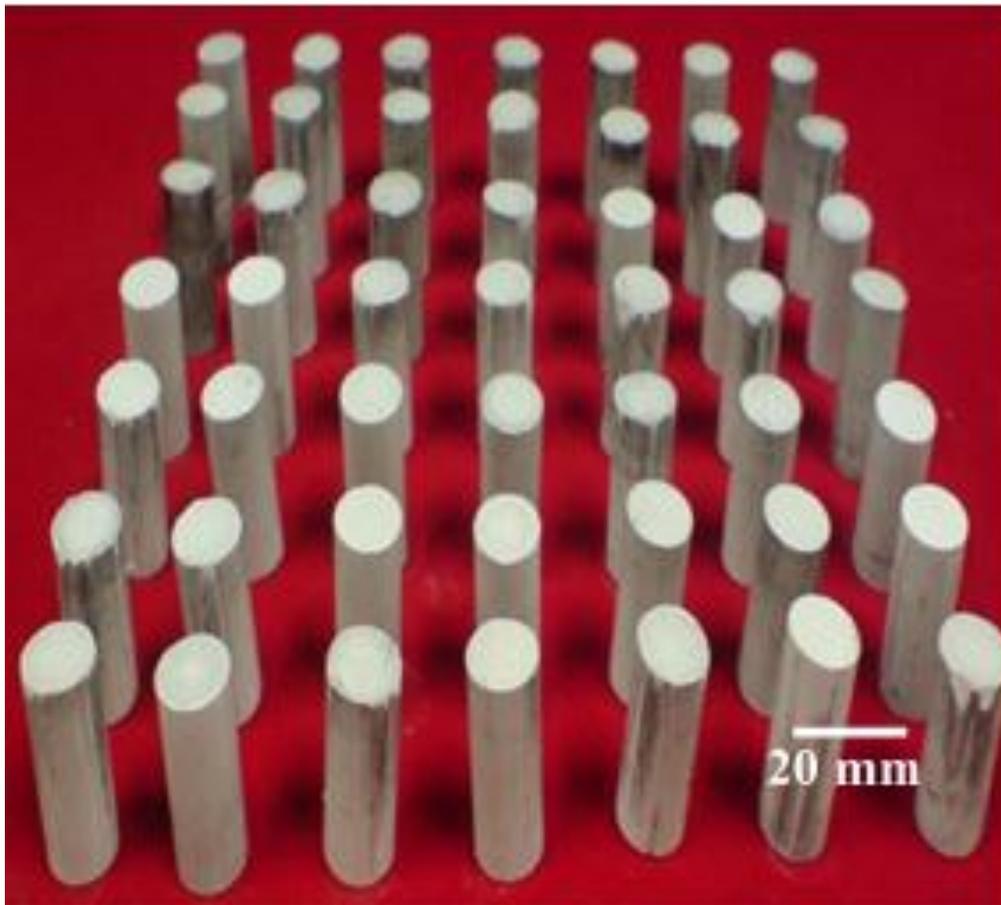
Top surface of sintered pellet. @ 1700 C for 10hours



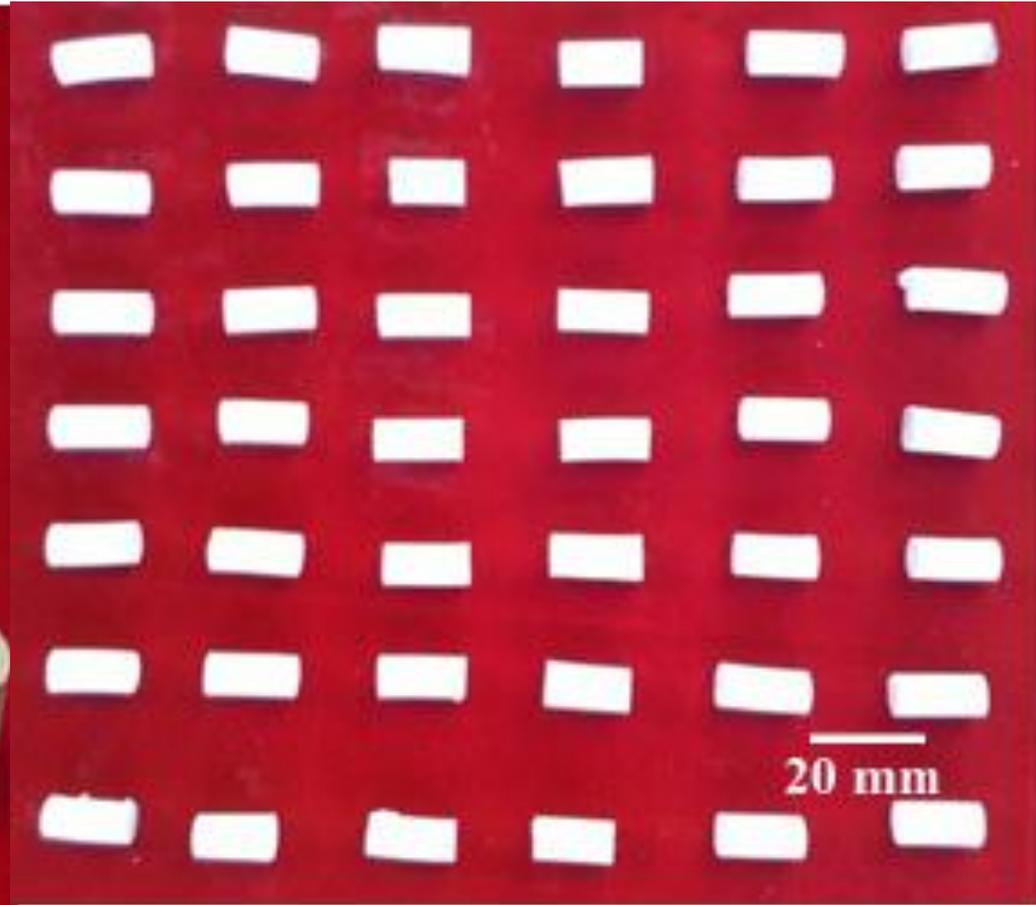
Grain evolution in sintered pellet

# PREPARATION OF LZ

- Transferred Arc Plasma (TAP) melting
- Plasma spheroidization
- Plasma spray deposition



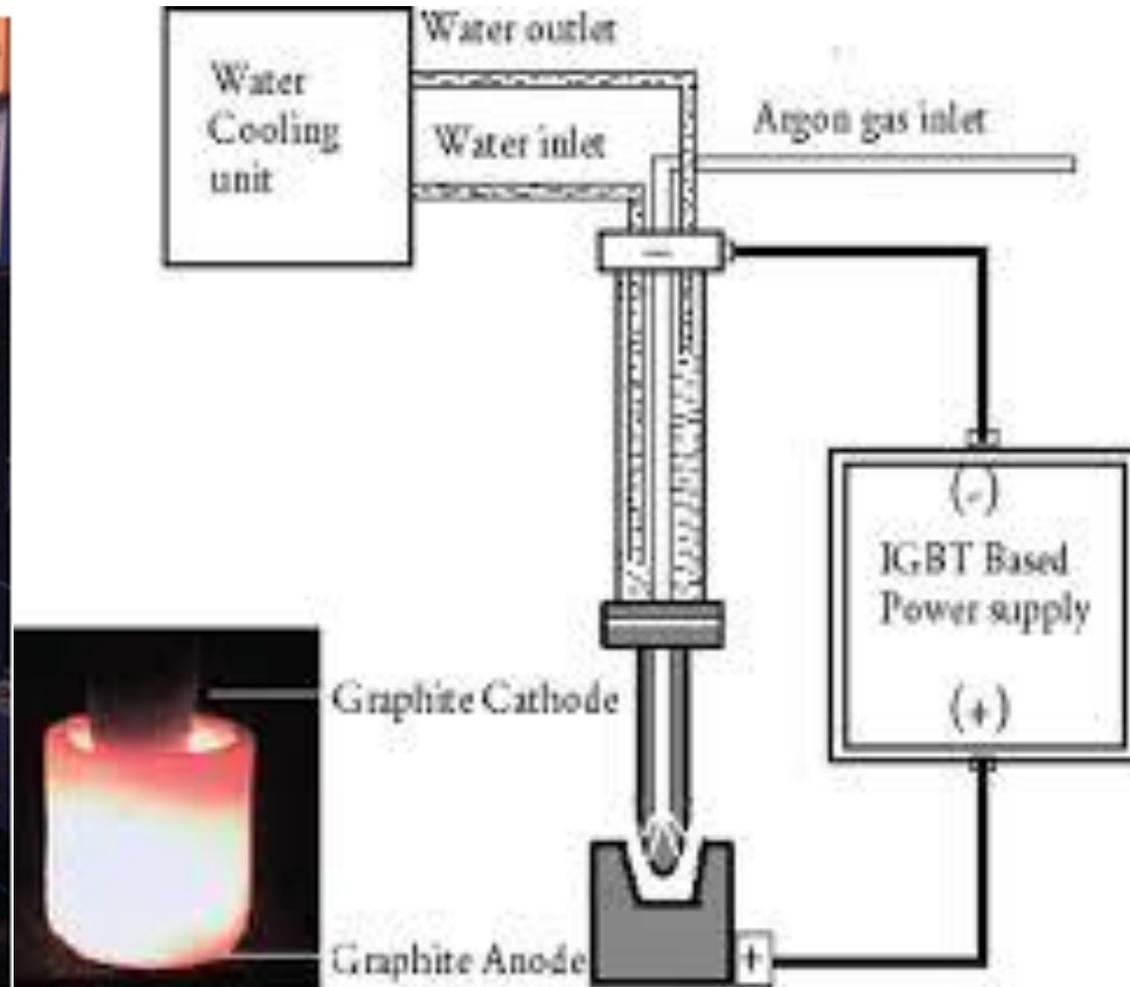
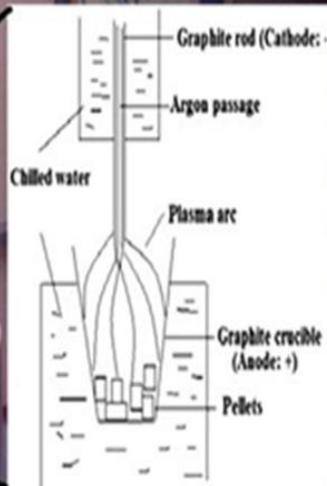
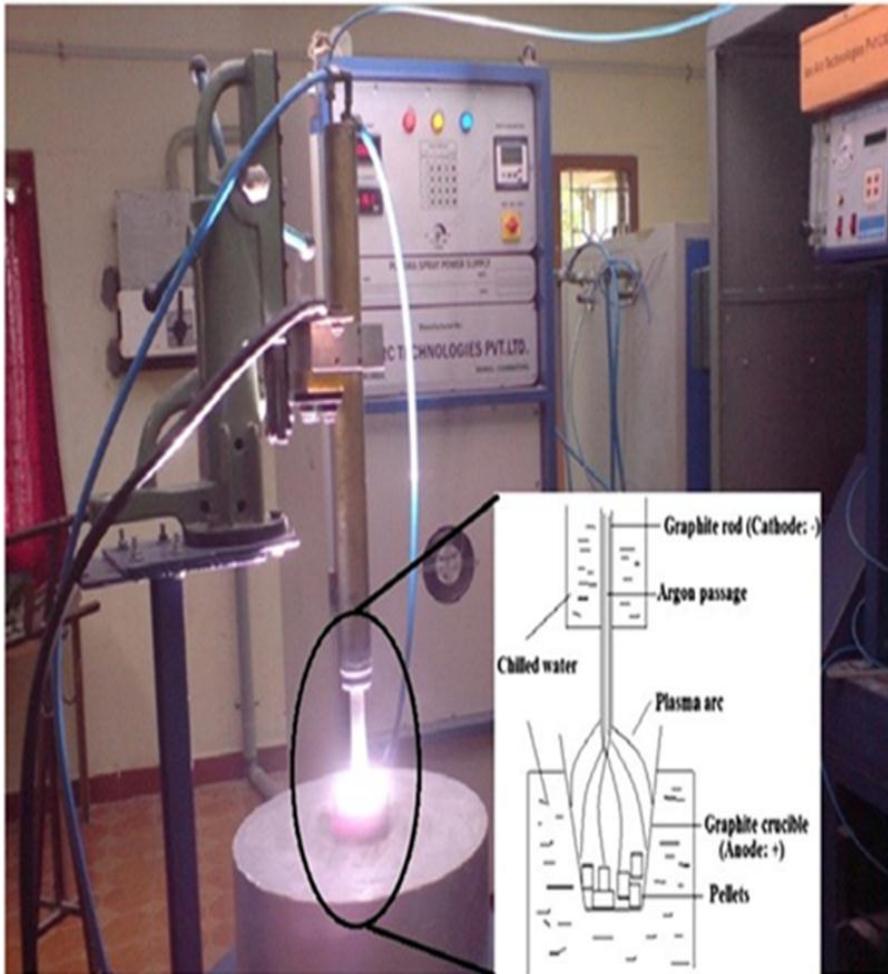
Stoichiometrically varied, mixed and cold pressed pellets.



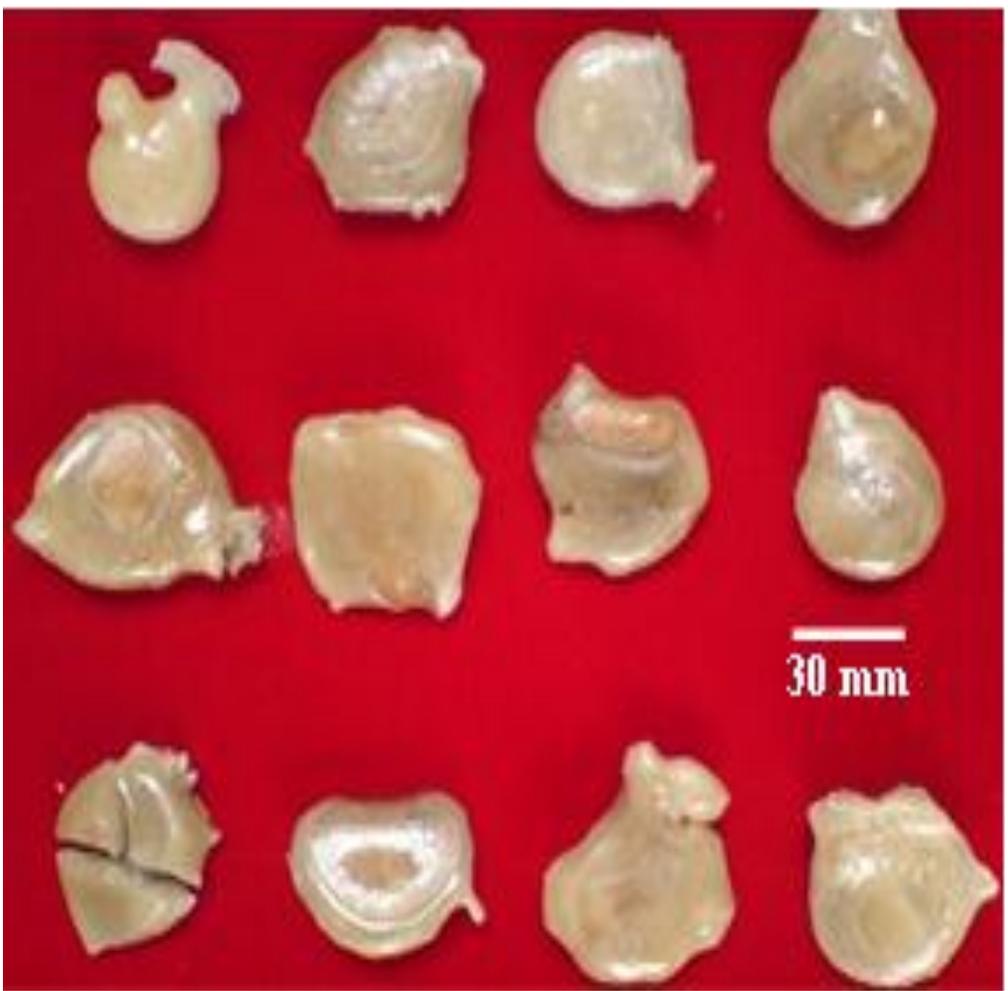
Pellets after sintering at 1700 °C for 10 hours.

# TRANSFERRED ARC PLASMA (TAP) MELTING

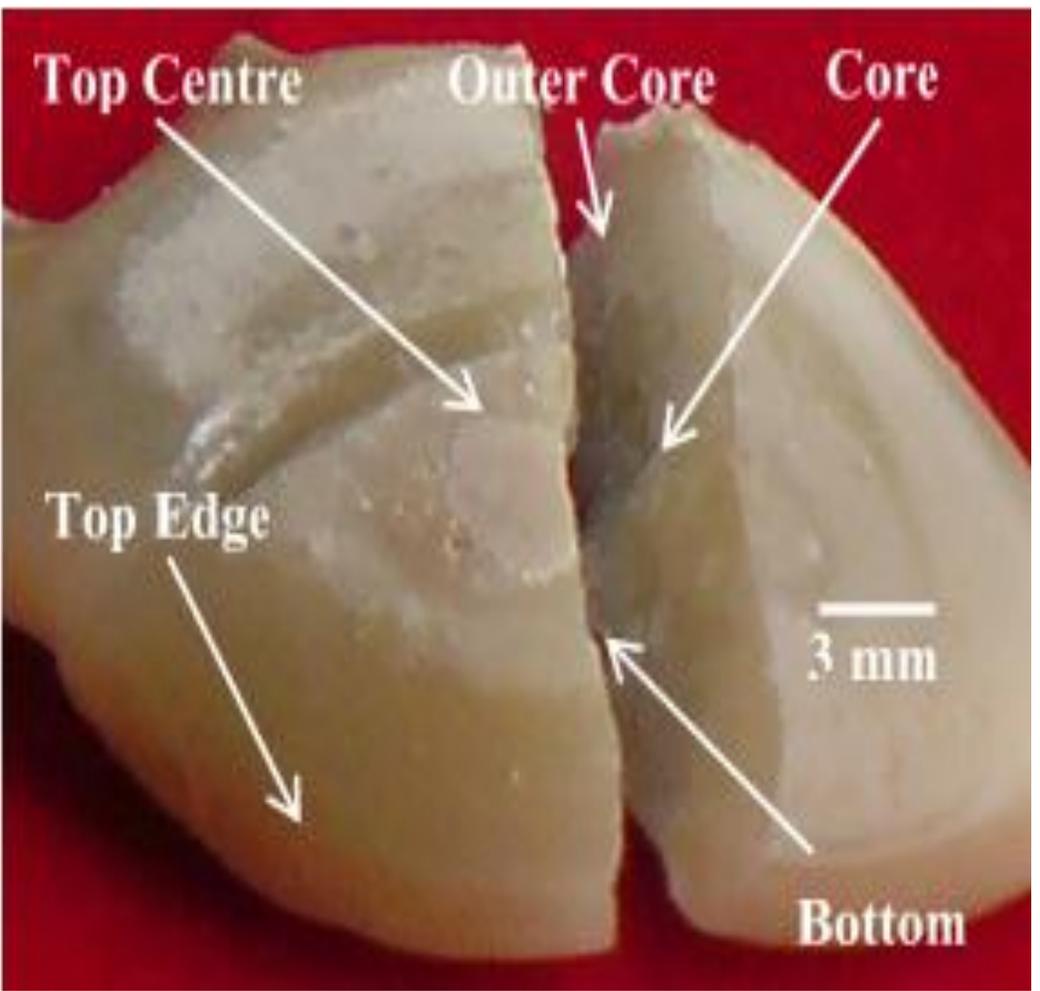
- synthesis of high melting point materials and to mass produce of powders.
- pellets were charged and fired.
- it takes 10 minutes to synthesise from 30 grams of pellets.



# TRANSFERRED ARC PLASMA (TAP) MELTING (CONT)



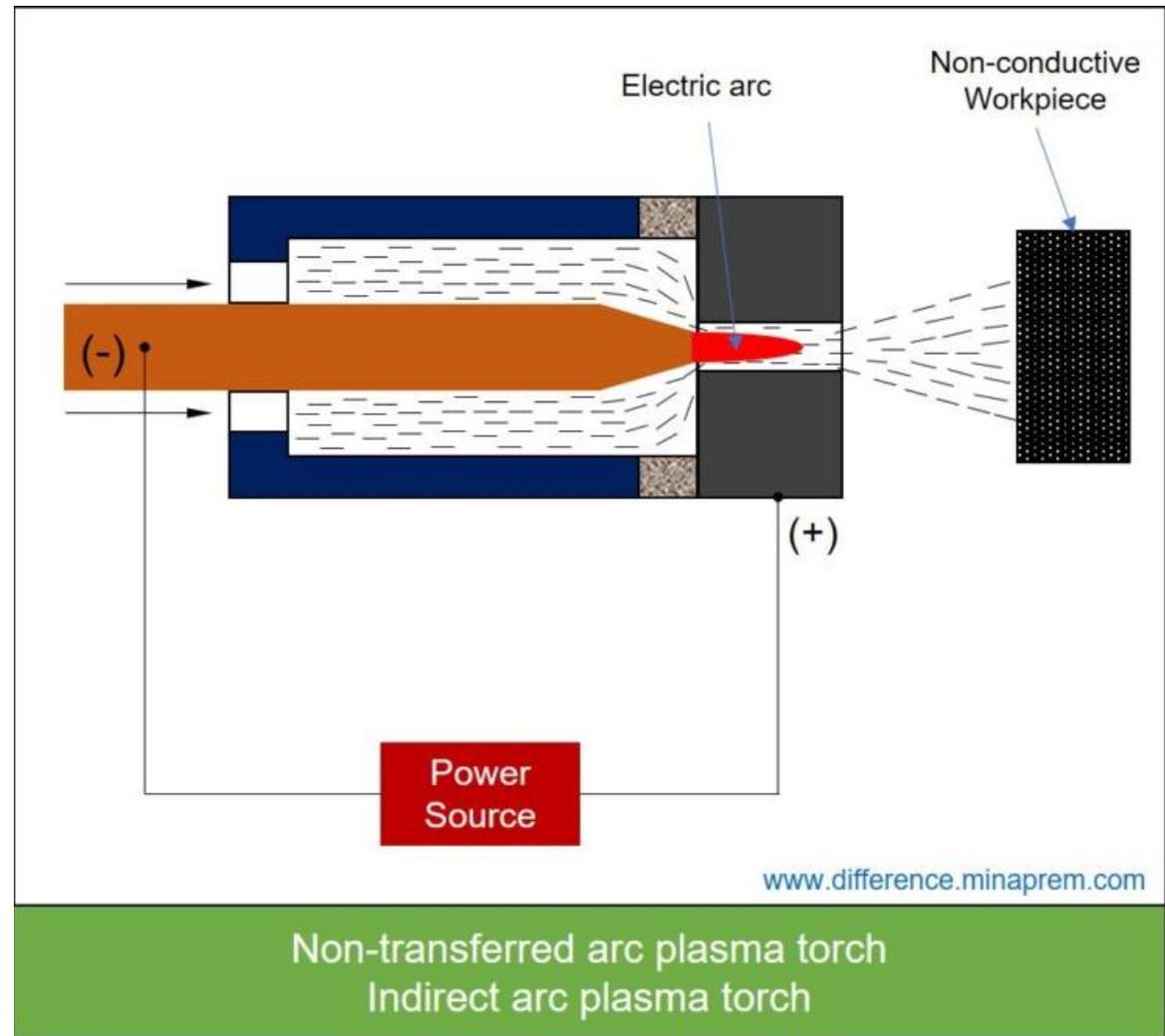
TAP melted nuggets.



locations of the nugget

# PLASMA SPHEROIDIZATION

- 10–45  $\mu\text{m}$  size
- thoriated tungsten-cathode
- Copper- anode

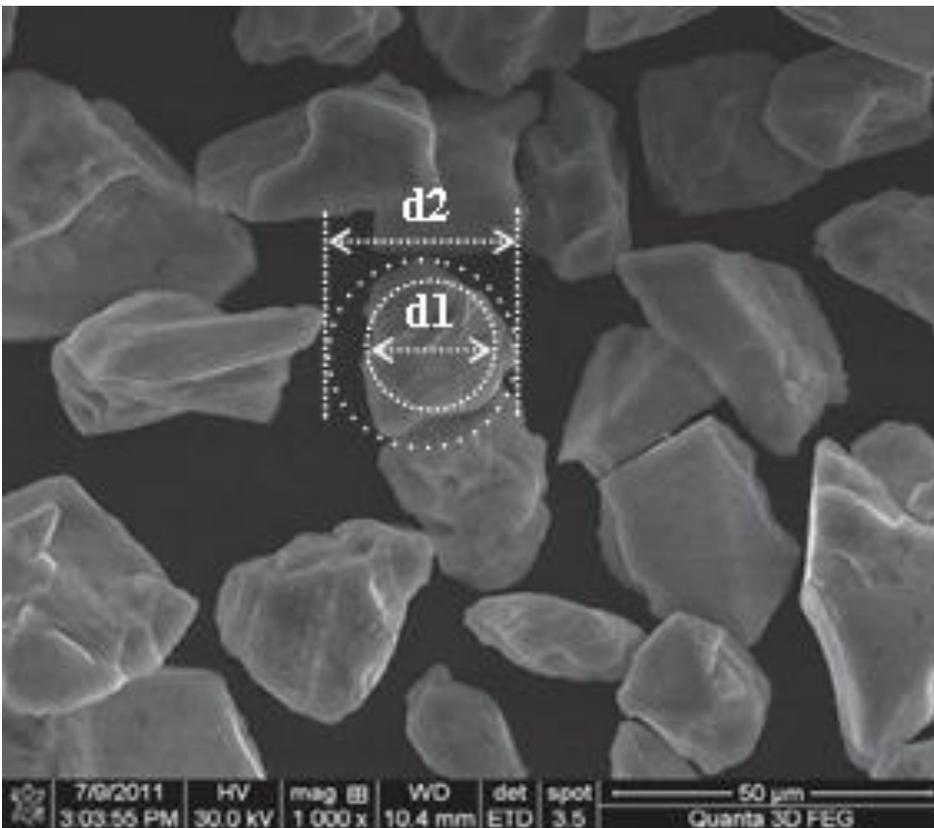


# PLASMA SPHEROIDIZATION (CONT)

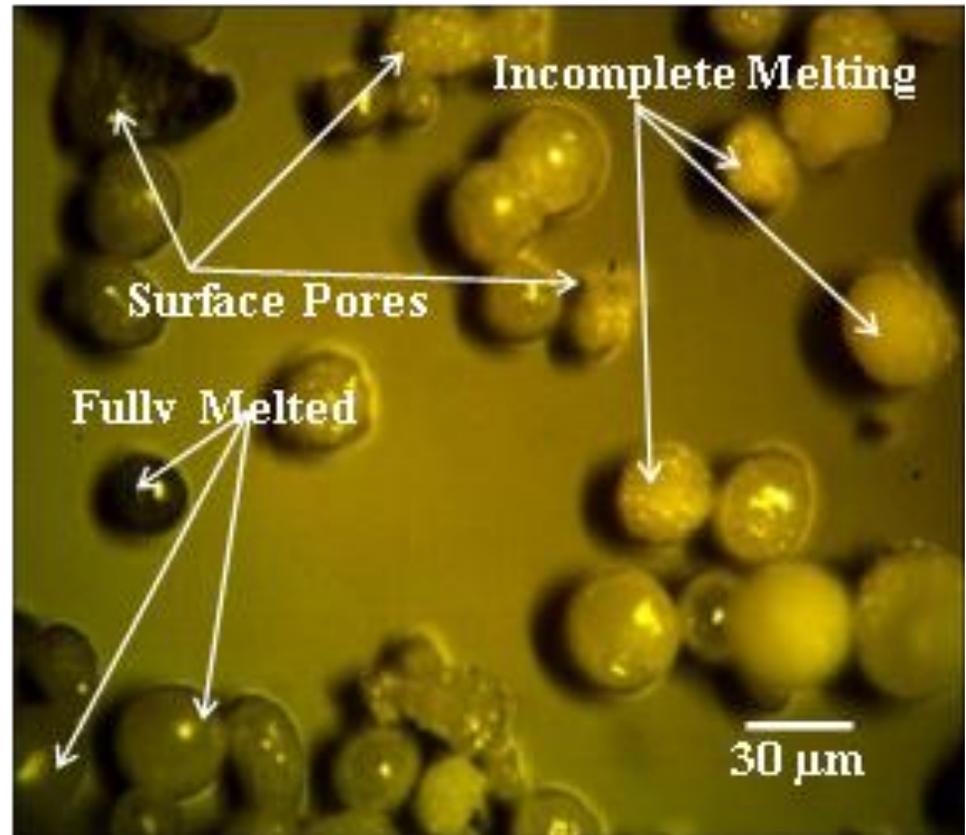
$IP = d1/d2$  ,  $IP = 1$  (Hexagonal),  $IP = 1.67$  (ELLIPSOID)

$S\% = B/A * 100$

A- No of Powder Particles, B- Amount of spherical particle

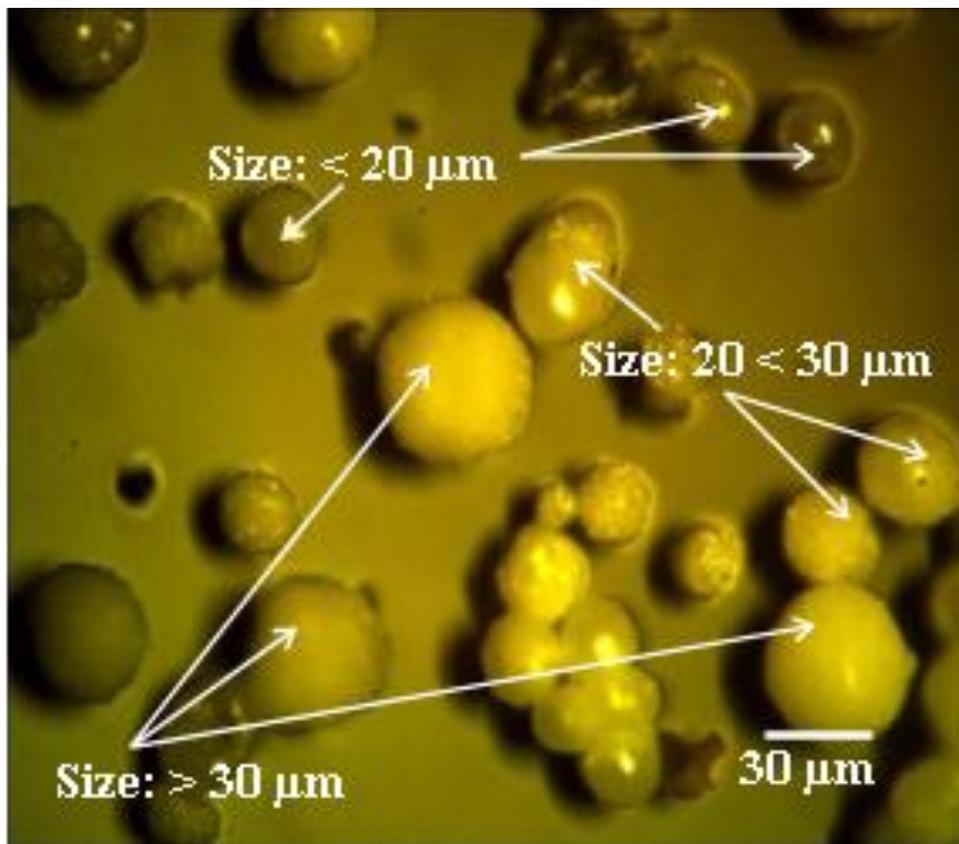


Raw powder.

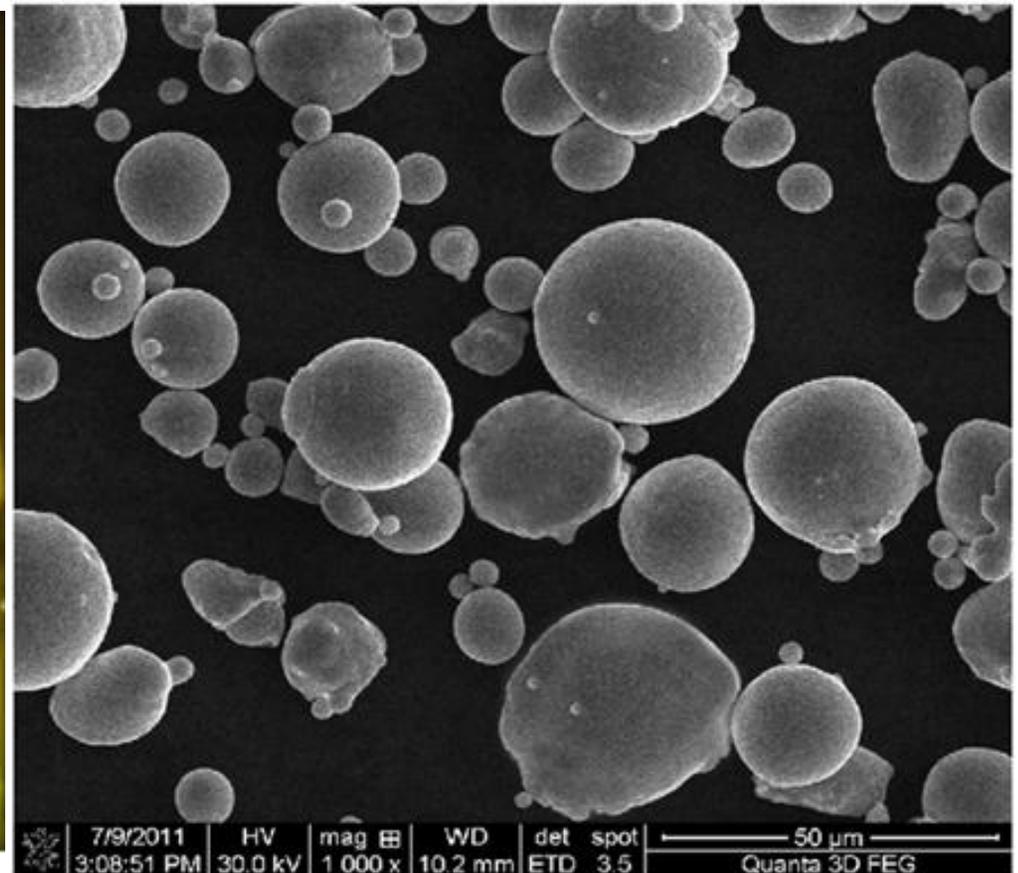


Spheroidized powder at 23 kW.

## PLASMA SPHEROIDIZATION (CONT)



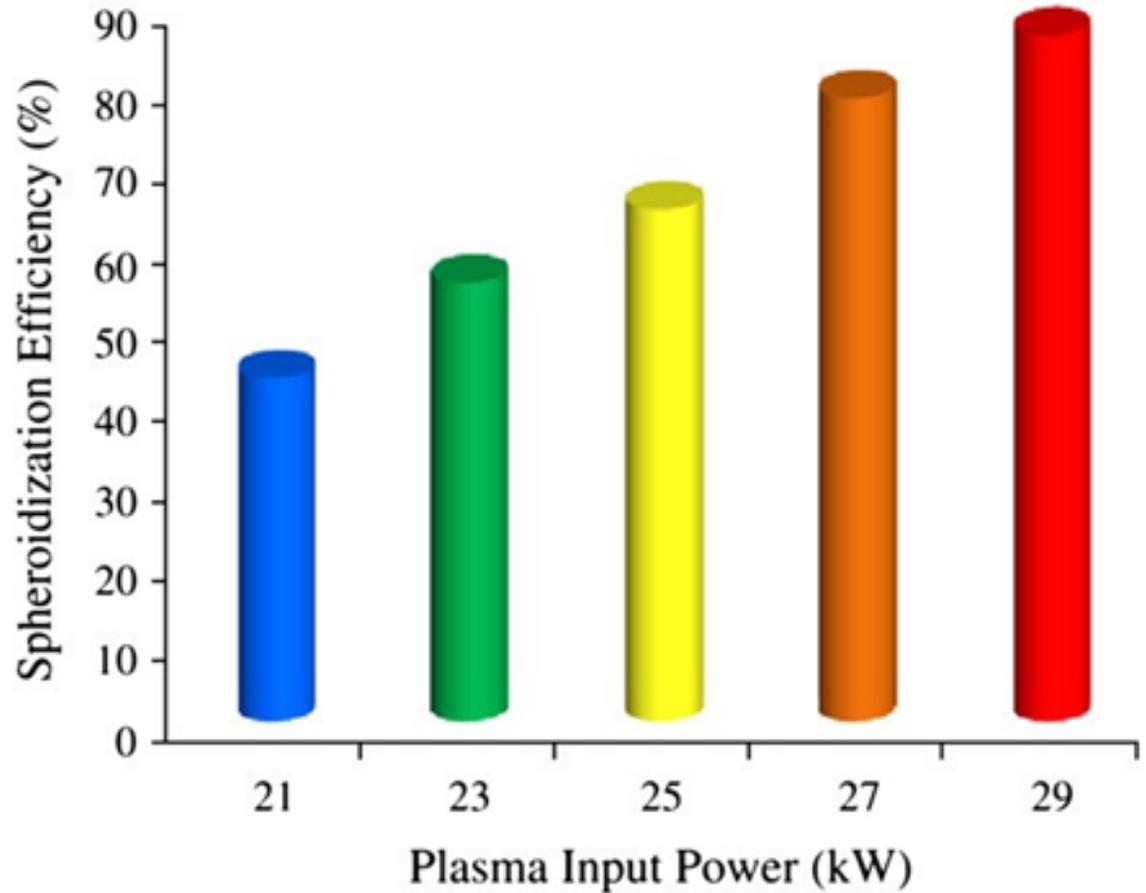
Spheroidized powder at 25 kW.



Spheroidized powder at 27 kW  
(Optimum Condition).

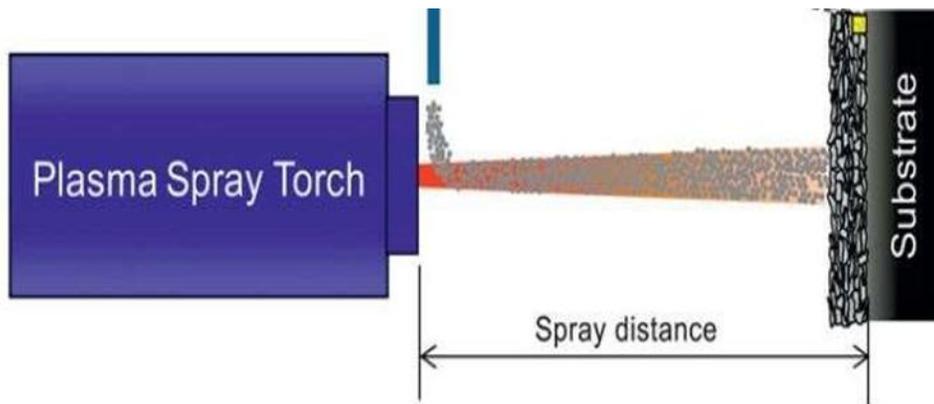
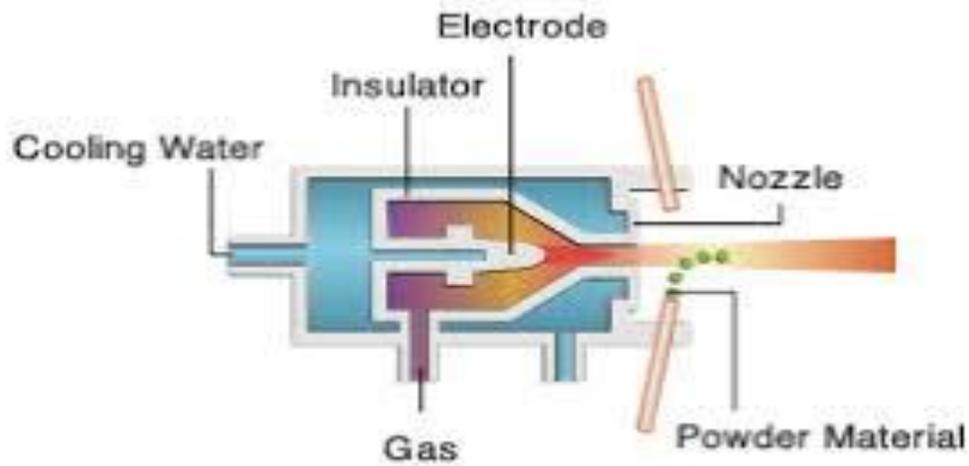
# PLASMA SPHEROIDIZATION (CONT)

- 27 kW-optimum parameter
- 78% of the powders-spheroidized.



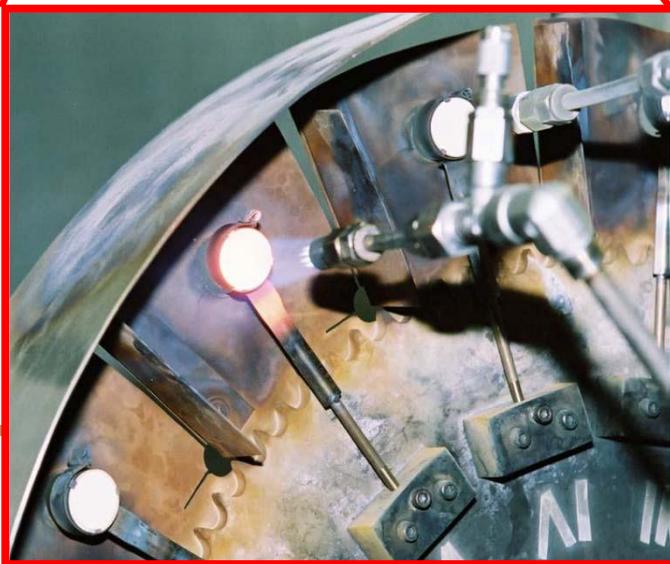
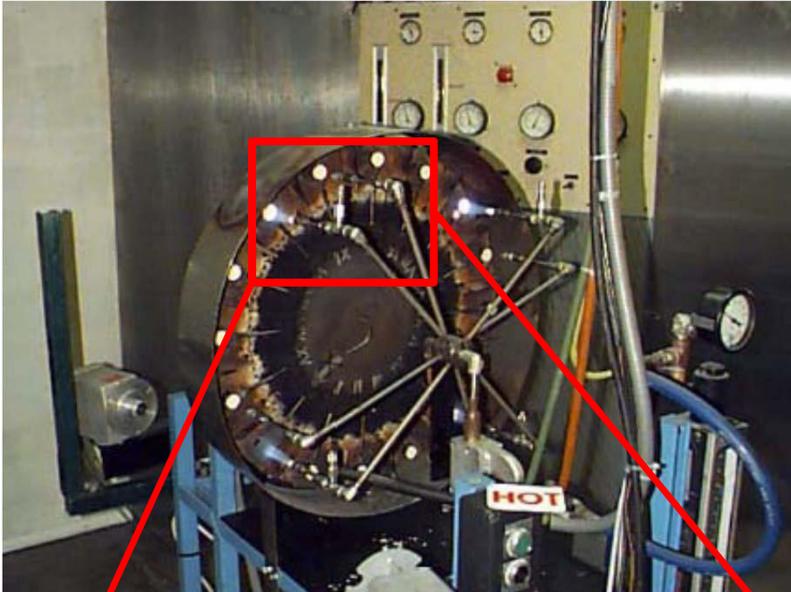
# PLASMA SPRAY DEPOSITION

- Inconel 738 (IN 738) -Nickel-based super alloy substrate
- bond coat was not used.
- 32 set of coating by process parameter
- 4 types of substrates



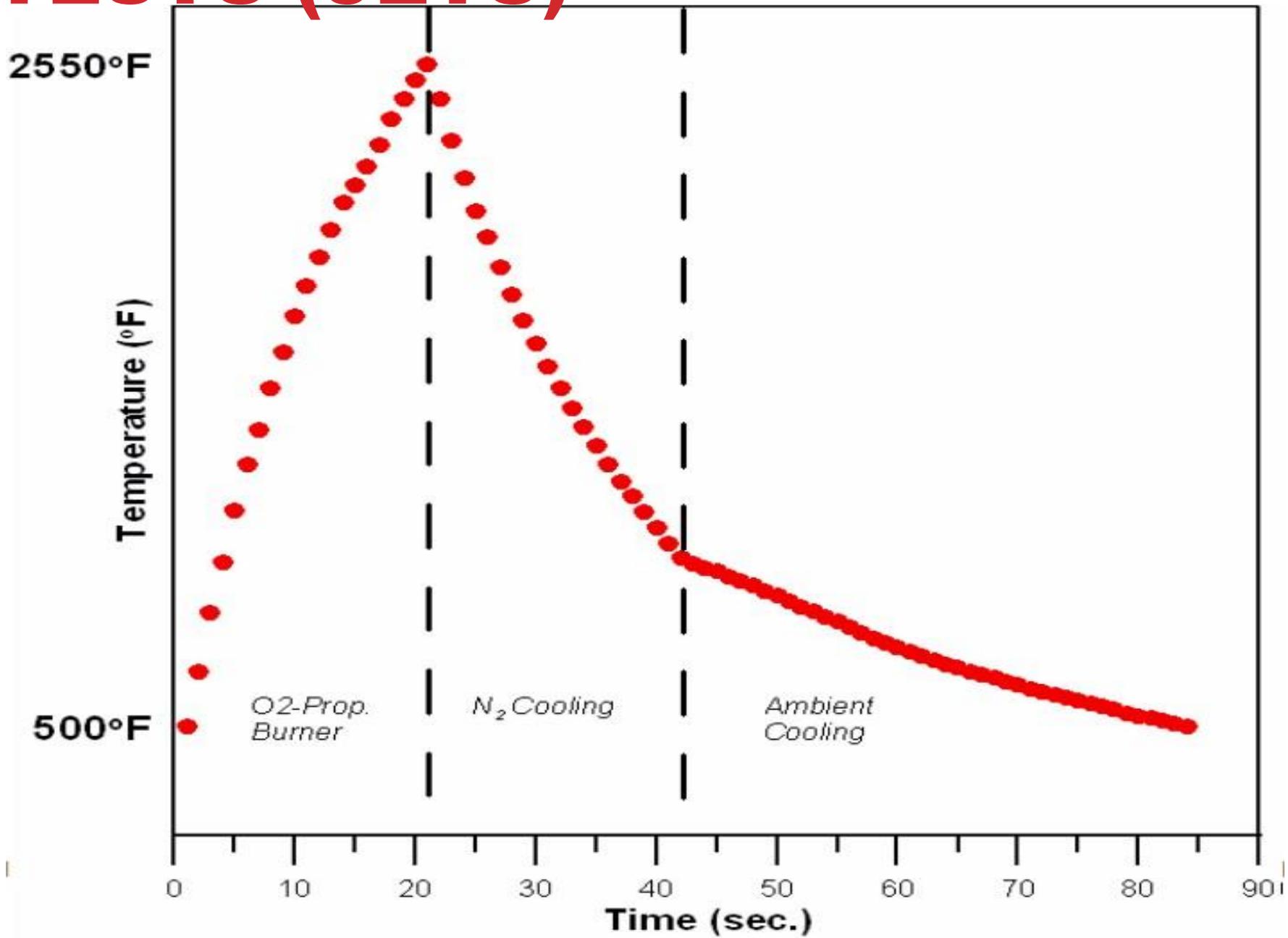
# TESTING OF TBC FAILURE

## JET ENGINE THERMAL SHOCK TESTS (JETS)



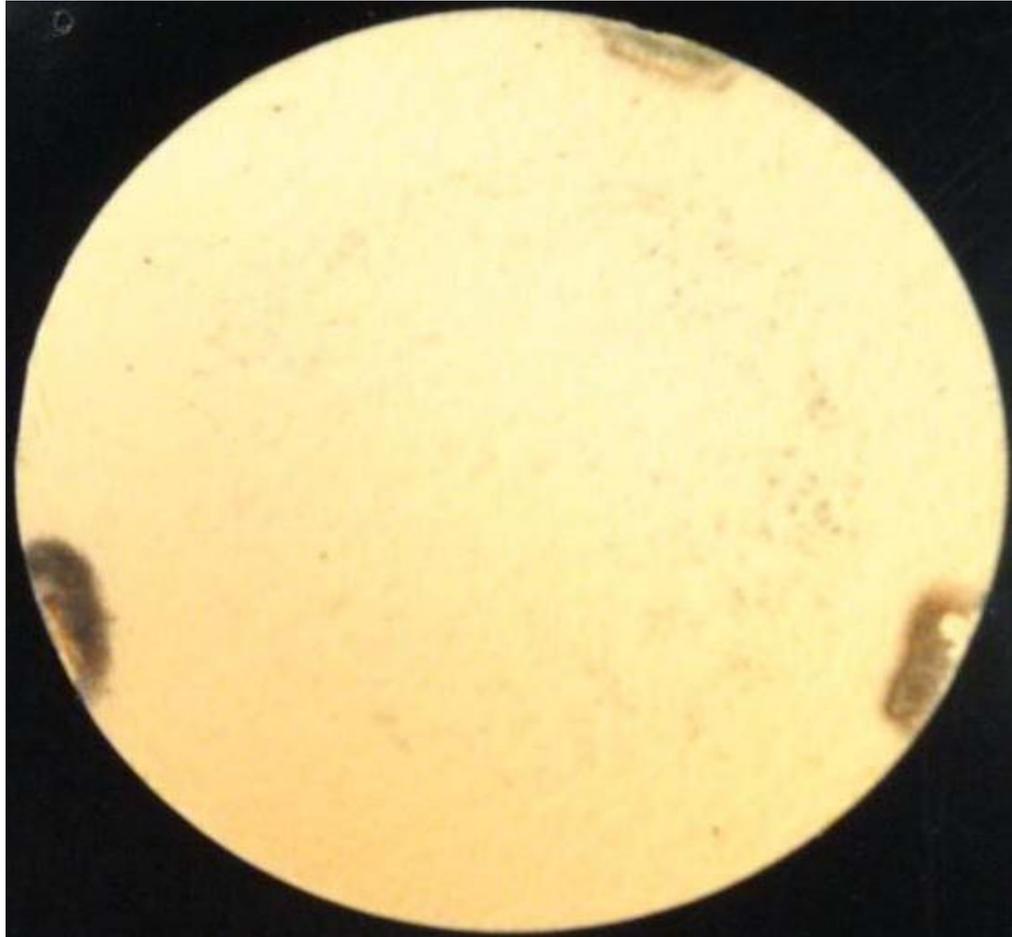
- Jet engine thermal shock (JETS) tests are conducted to investigate the thermal cycling performance.
- For ex. TBC samples are heated to 2250 oF (1232.2 oC) at the center for 20 s, and then cooled by compressed N<sub>2</sub> cooling for 20 s, and then ambient cooling for 40 s.
- Temperatures are measured by thermal couple and pyrometer.

# JET ENGINE THERMAL SHOCK TESTS (JETS)



# TESTING OF TBC FAILURE

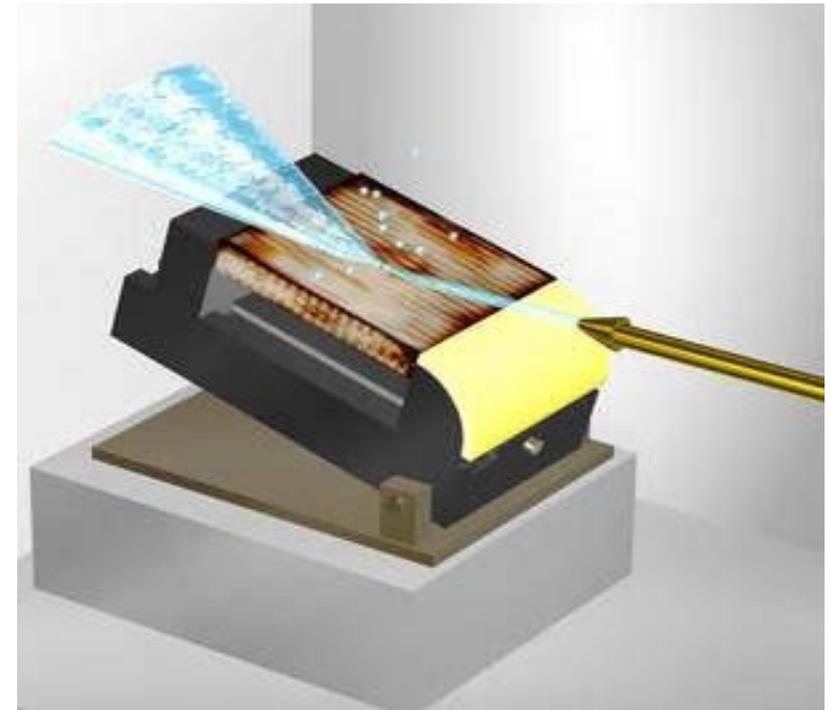
## JET ENGINE THERMAL SHOCK TEST (JETS) RESULTS



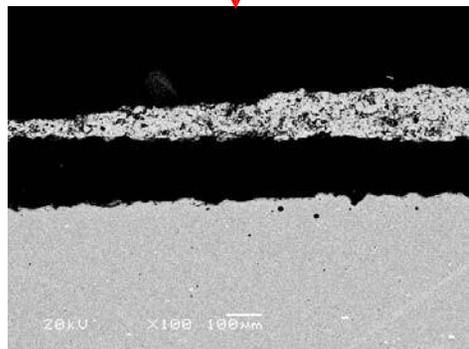
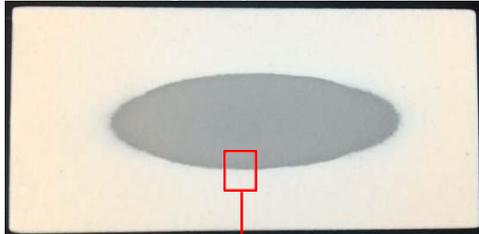
#2, Porous 8YSZ

# EROSION TEST

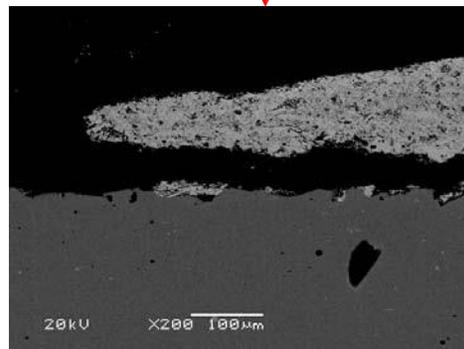
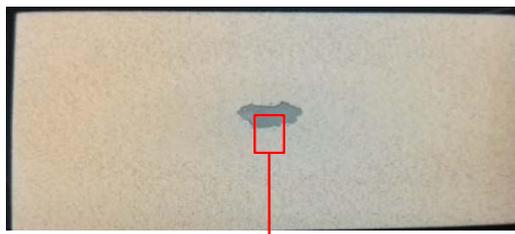
- Erosion is a secondary cause of TBC failure
- $600 \pm 0.2$ g alumina sands with a diameter of  $50 \mu\text{m}$
- Spray rate 6 g/s; duration 100 s; spray angle 200



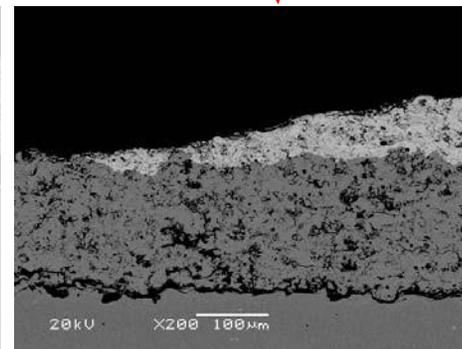
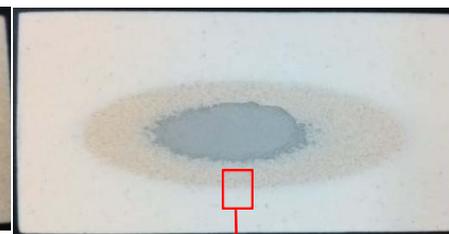
#1, Single layer  $\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$



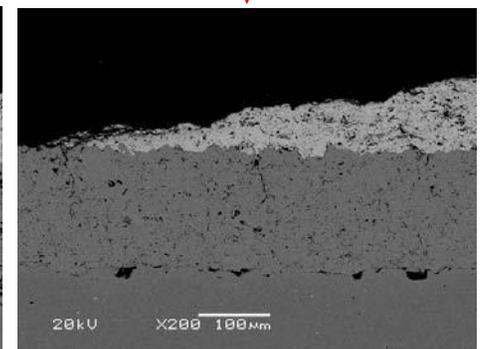
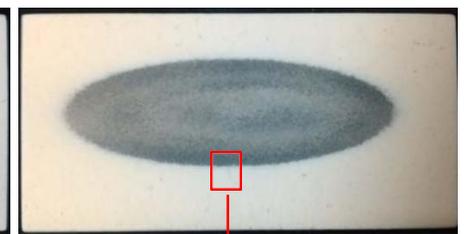
#2, Porous 8YSZ.



#3,  $\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ +Porous 8YSZ



#4,  $\text{La}_2\text{Zr}_2\text{O}_7$ +Dense 8YSZ

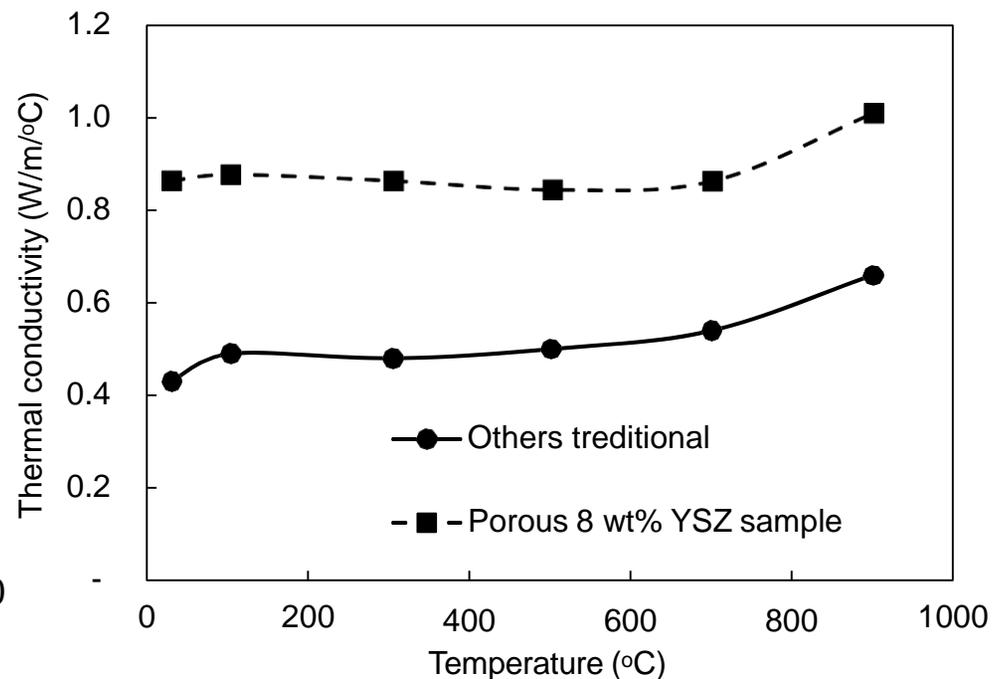
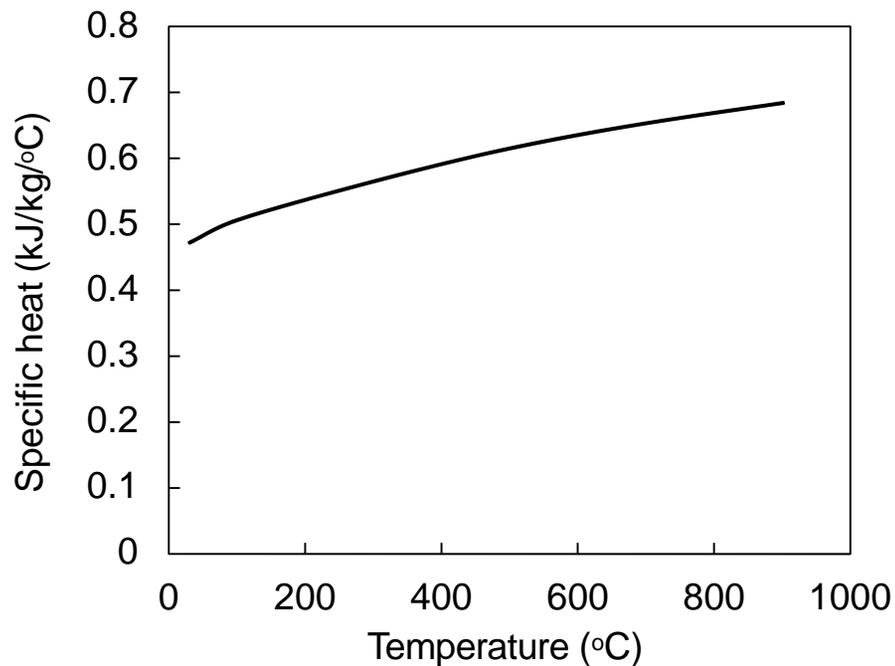


# THERMAL CONDUCTIVITY

Thermal conductivity is determined from thermal diffusivity  $D_{th}$ , specific heat capacity  $C_p$ , and measured density  $\rho$ :

$$k = D_{th} \cdot C_p \cdot \rho$$

Thermal diffusivity is measured using laser flash diffusivity system (TA instrument DLF1200). Specific heat is measured by analytical method (TA instrument DLF1200)



# SUMMARY

- YSZ powder, coating microstructure and chemistry characterizations show that is stable at high temperatures, which makes it suitable for TBC applications.
- double-layer coating with porous 8YSZ and have better thermal shock and thermal cycling performances
- The layered topcoat architecture is believed to be a feasible solution to improve thermal strain tolerance.

# REFERENCE

1. Ramachandran, C. S., Balasubramanian, V., & Ananthapadmanabhan, P. V. (2012). Synthesis, spheroidization and spray deposition of lanthanum zirconate using thermal plasma process. *Surface and Coatings Technology*, 206(13), 3017-3035.
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**THANK  
YOU**