



# **Low-Cost Manufacturing of Multilayer Ceramic Fuel Cells**

**Scott L. Swartz, Ph.D.  
Director of Technology  
NexTech Materials, Ltd.**

**2nd Annual SECA Workshop  
Arlington, Virginia  
March 29-30, 2001**

# **Low-Cost Manufacturing of Multilayer Ceramic Fuel Cells**

**DOE Contract No. DE-AC26-00NT40706**

**Program Manager: William Dawson, NexTech Materials**

**Principal Investigator: Scott Swartz, NexTech Materials**

**NETL Project Manager: Tom George**



# Program Plan

---

## Phase I (3 months)

**Manufacturing Cost  
and Risk Assessment**

**Michael A. Cobb & Co.  
Advanced Materials Technologies  
Gas Technology Institute**

## Phase II (12 months)

**Development of Fabrication  
Processes for Planar Cells**

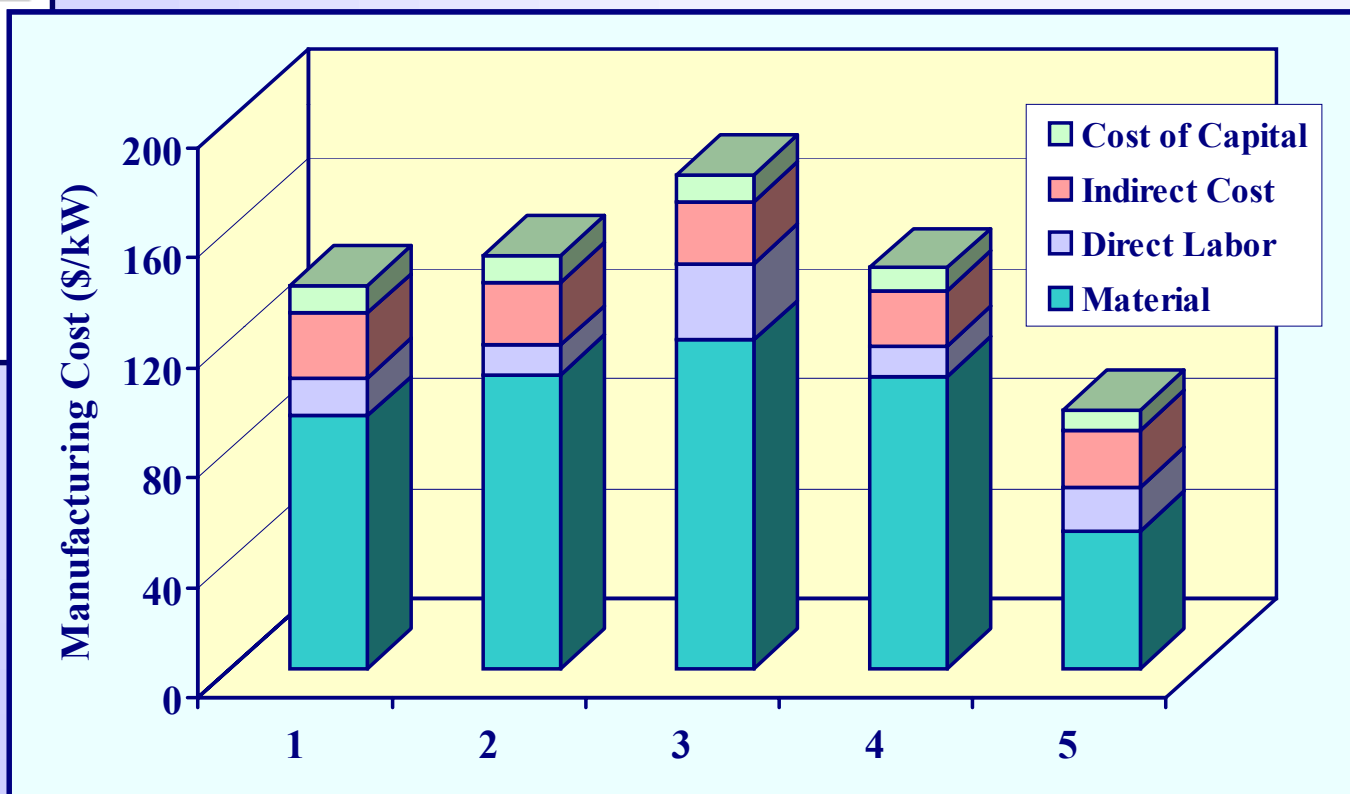
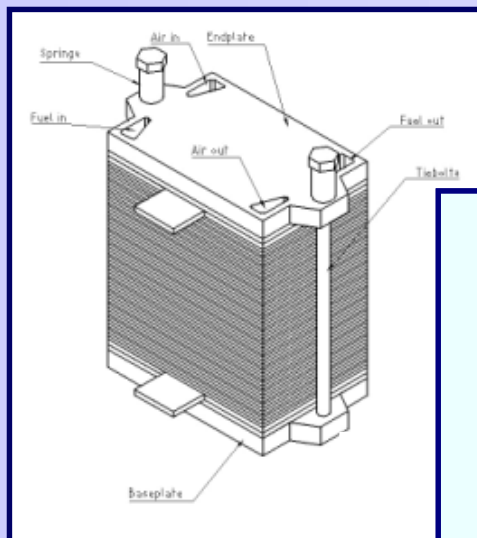
**NexTech Materials  
Oak Ridge National Laboratory  
University of Missouri-Rolla**

## Phase III (9 months)

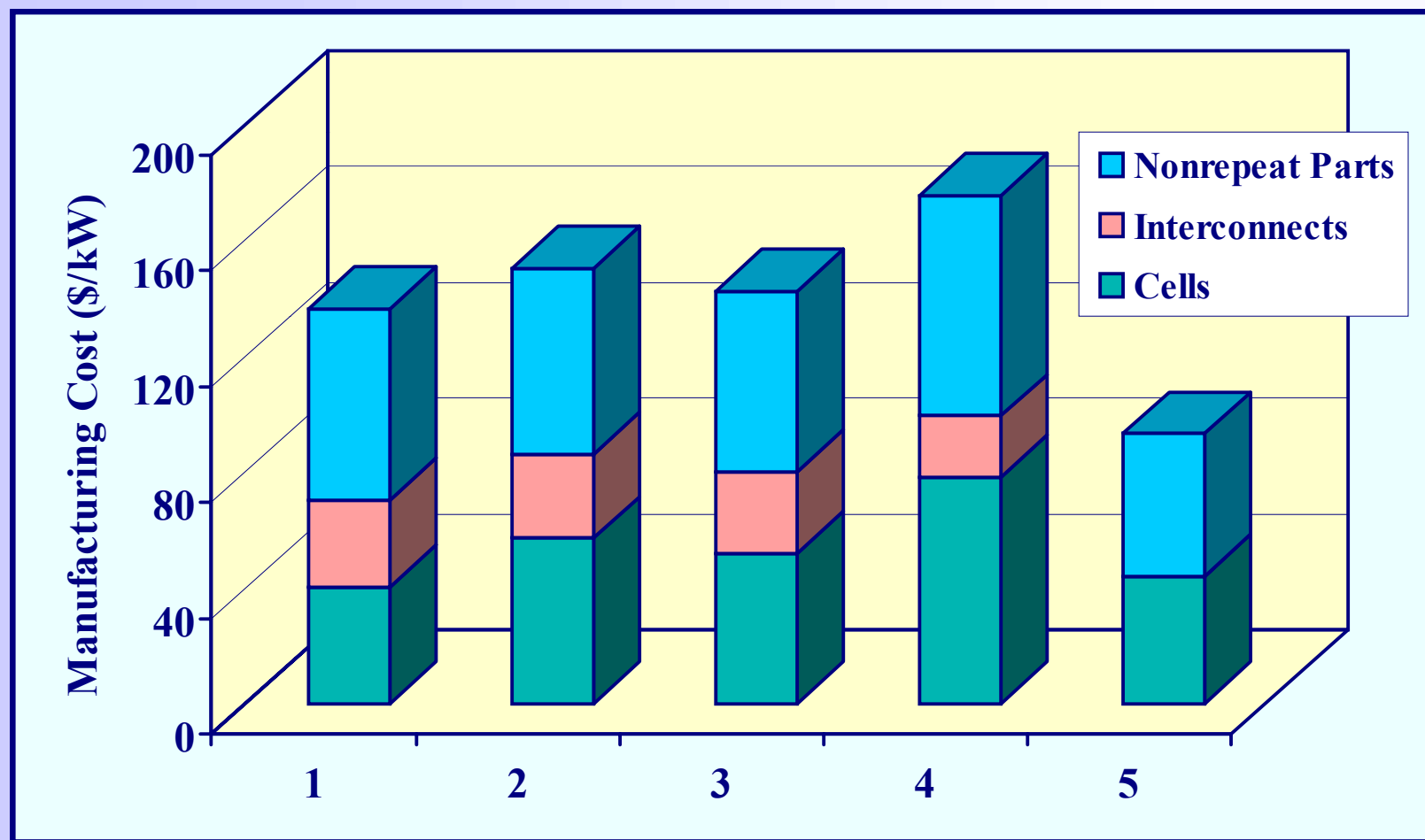
**SOFC Testing, Destructive  
and Non-Destructive Testing**

**Northwestern University  
Gas Technology Institute  
Ohio State, Iowa State**

# Manufacturing Cost



# Manufacturing Cost



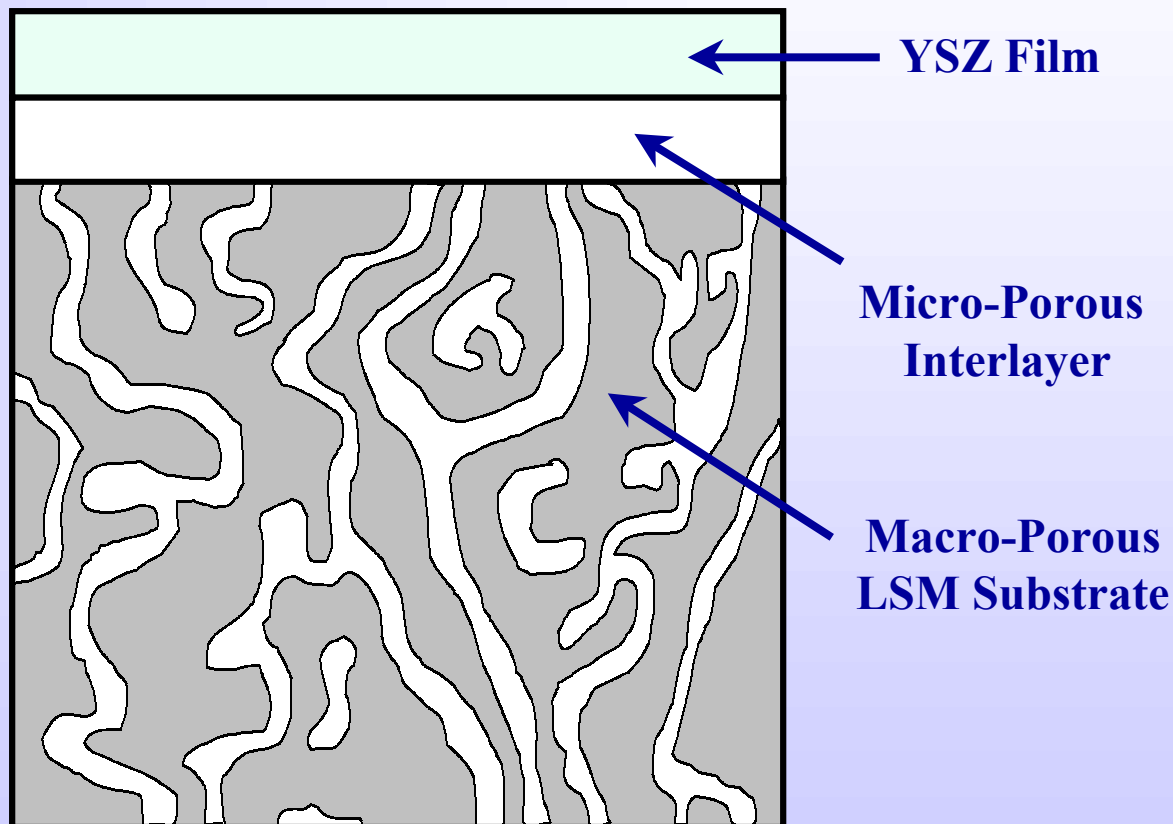
# Technical Approach

**Tape Casting  
(Cathode)**

**Colloidal Spray  
(Electrolyte)**

**Co-Sintering**

**Screen Printing  
(Anode)**

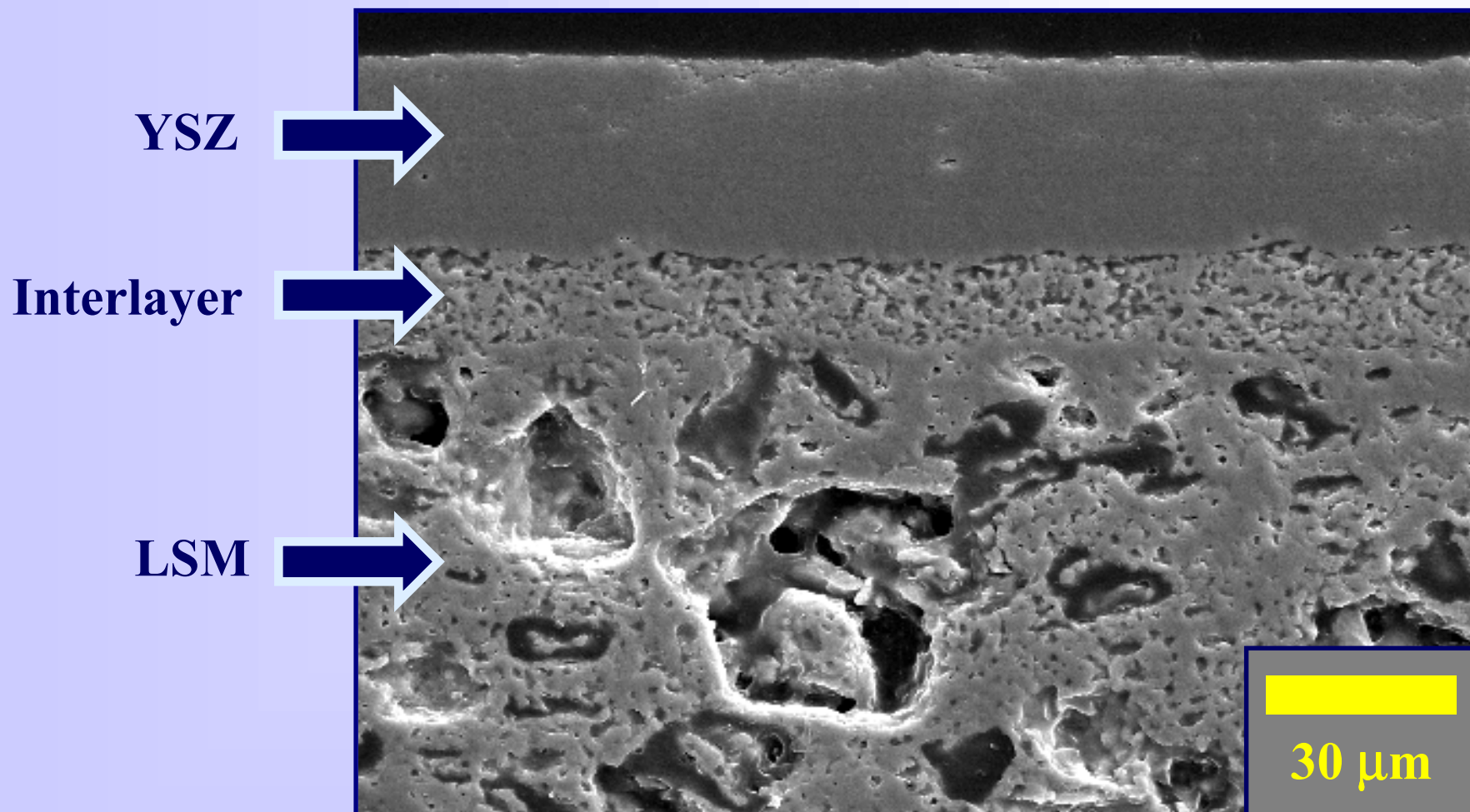


YSZ Film

Micro-Porous  
Interlayer

Macro-Porous  
LSM Substrate

# Current Status





# Technical Approach

**Tape Casting  
(Anode)**

**Screen Printing  
(Electrolyte)**

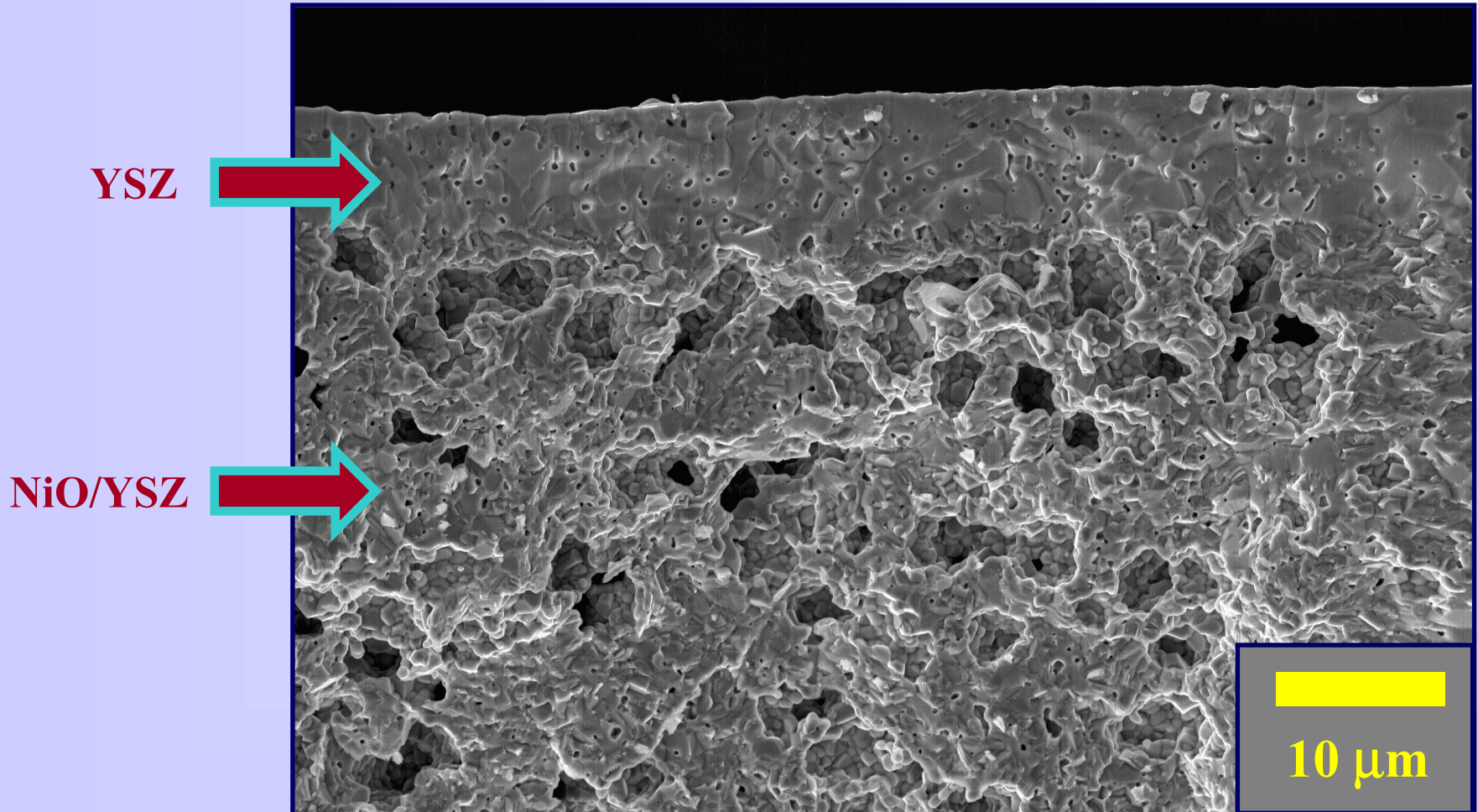
**Co-Sintering**

**Screen Printing  
(Cathode)**





# Current Status

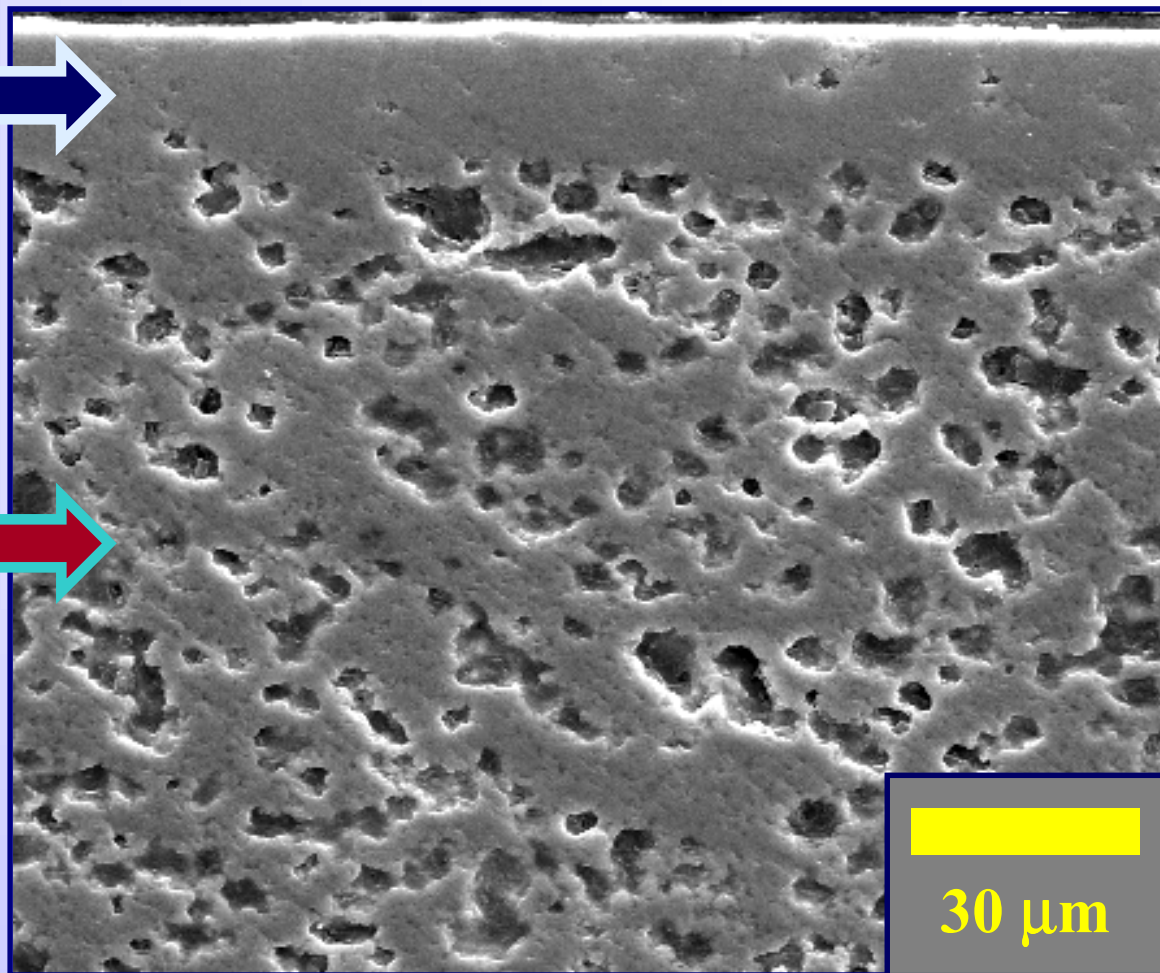
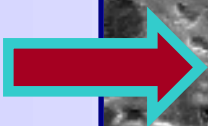


# Collaboration

Colloidally deposited  
YSZ Film (NexTech)



Tape Cast Anode  
Substrate (ORNL)



30  $\mu\text{m}$



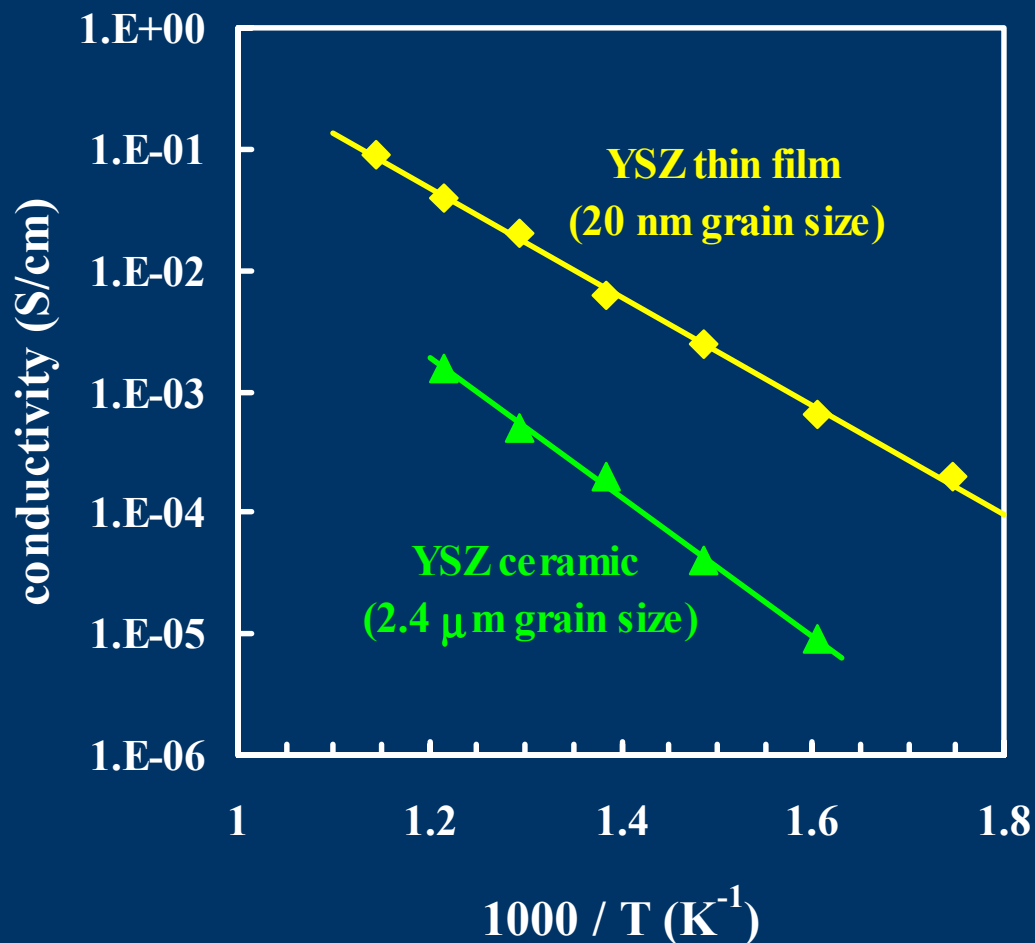
# Technical Approach

**Tape Casting  
(Cathode)**

**Sintering**

**Spin Coating  
(Electrolyte)**

**Screen Printing  
(Anode)**

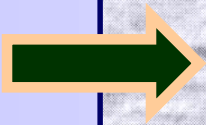




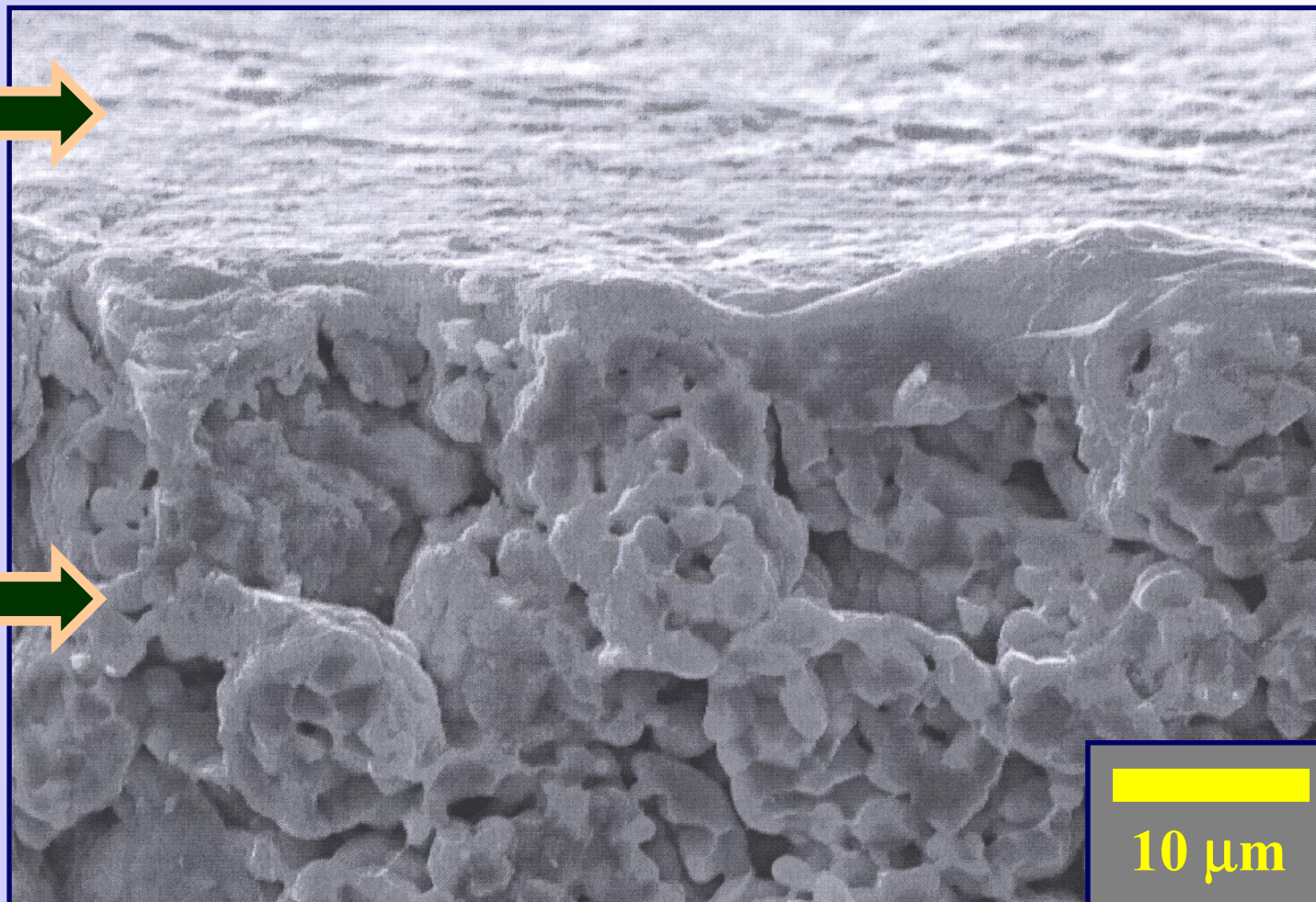
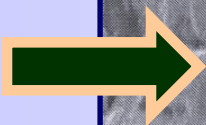


# Interlayer Development

Ceria



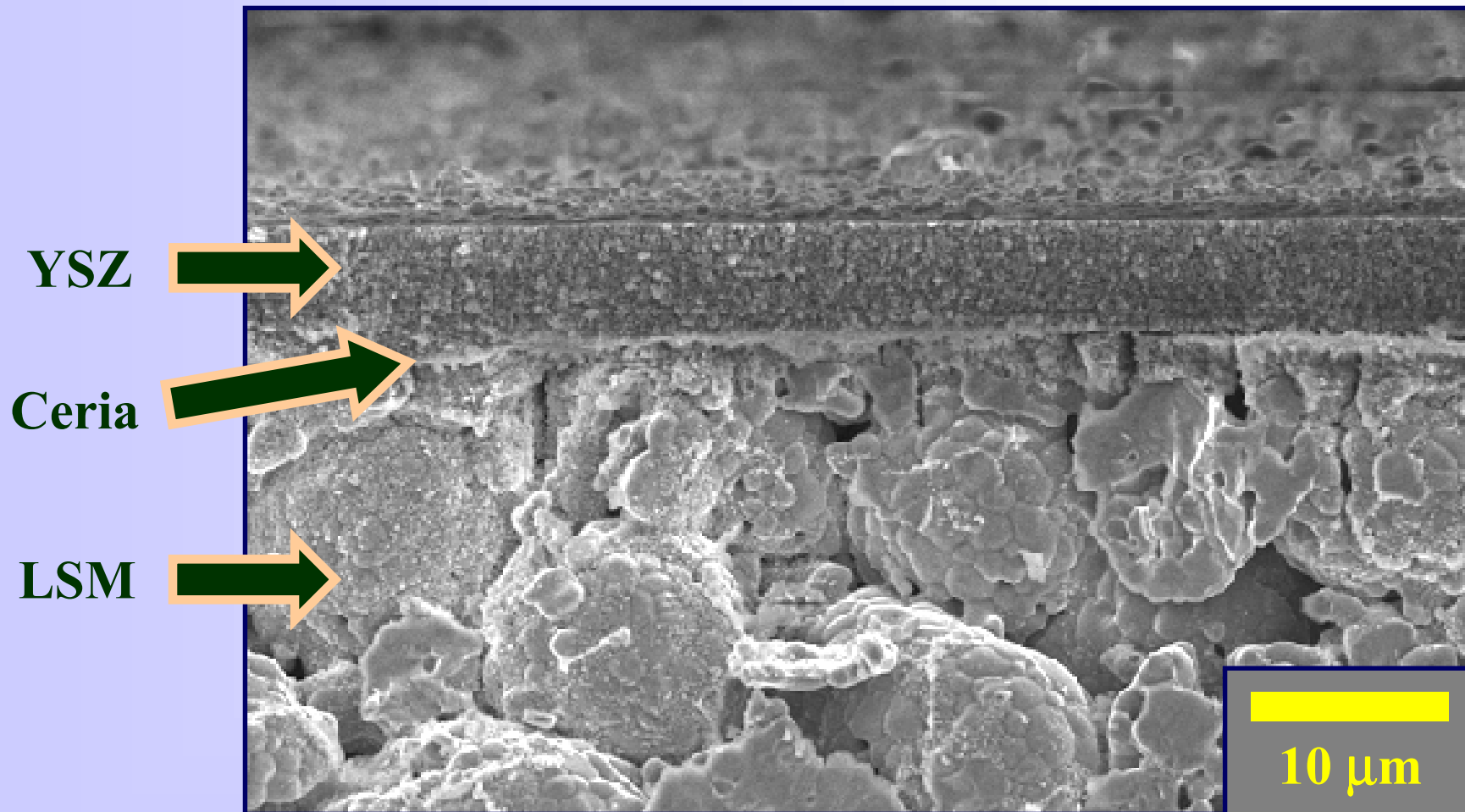
LSM



10  $\mu\text{m}$

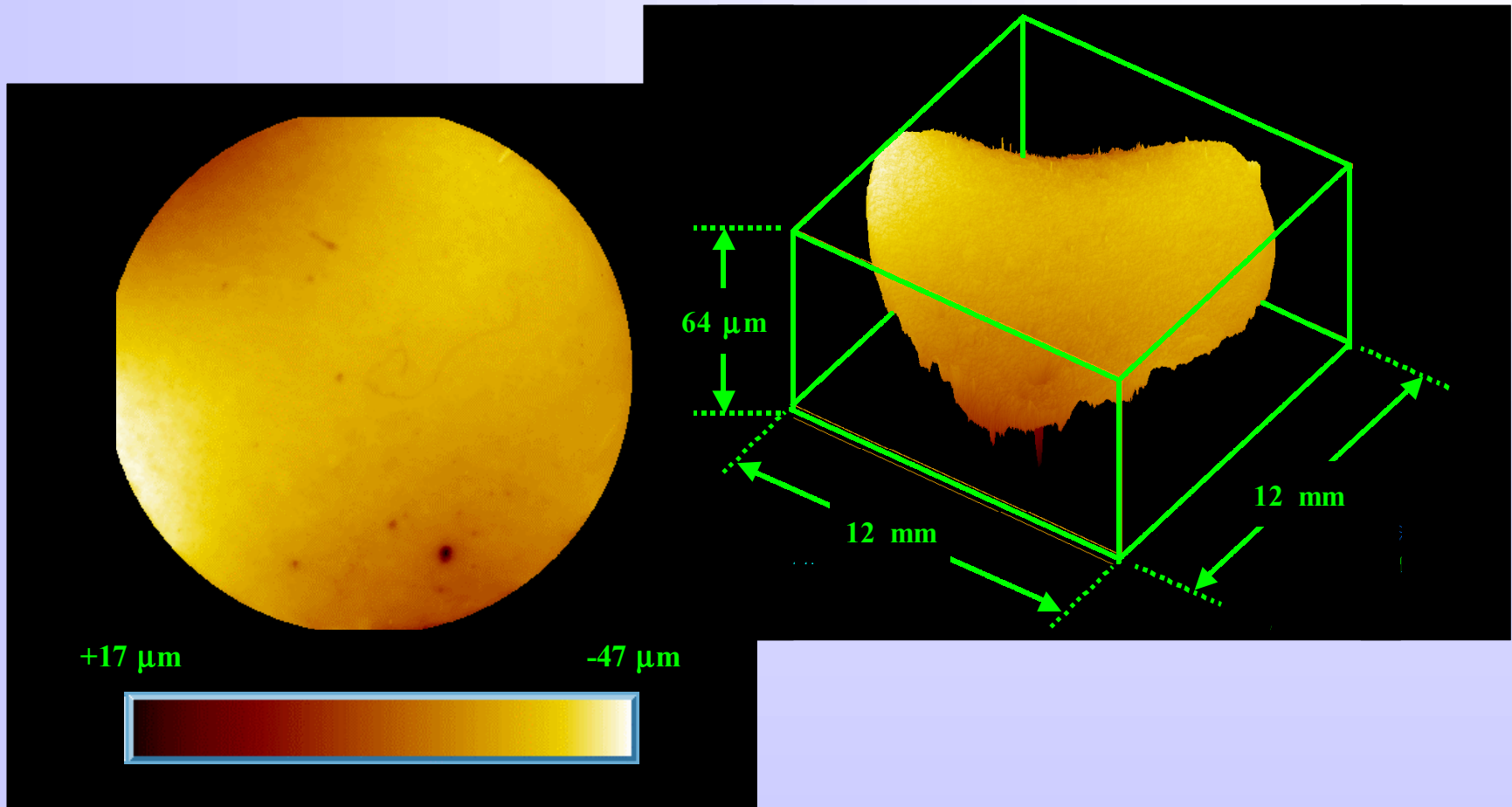


# Current Status





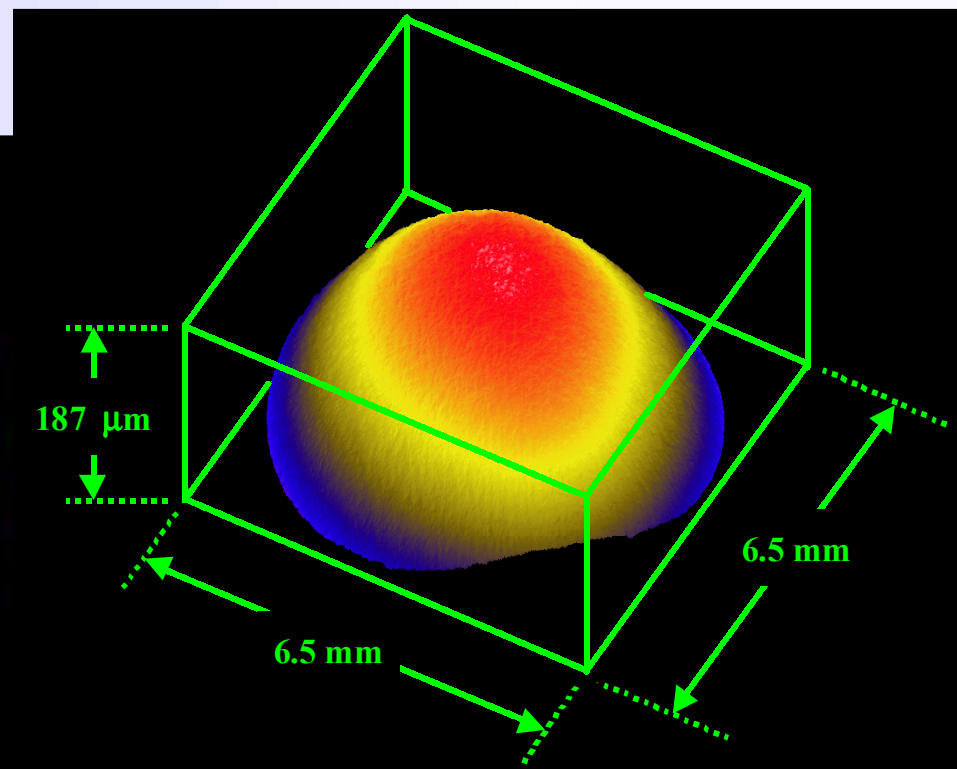
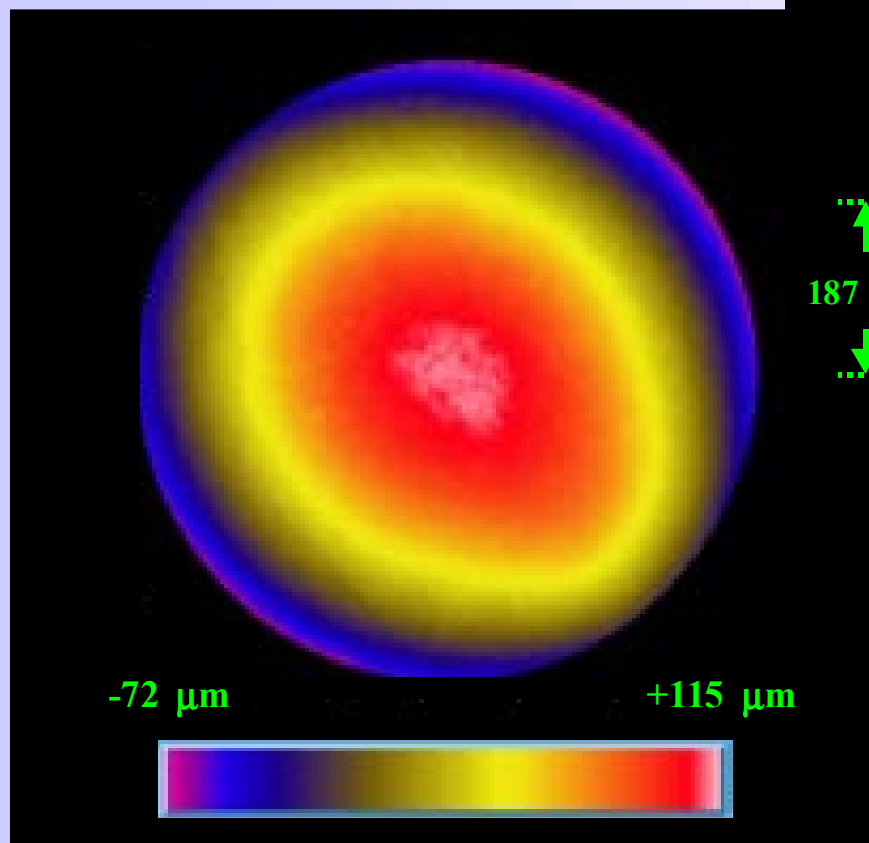
# Optical Profilometry







# Optical Profilometry





# Commercial Focus

---

- SOFC materials (cathodes, anodes, electrolytes).
- Evaluation of low-cost manufacturing methods for planar, thin-film electrolyte SOFCs.
- Co-sintering technology.
- Evaluation by SOFC developers.
- Listing of products on *FuelCellMaterials.com*.

- **Nanoscale YSZ and Ceria electrolyte powders.**
- **Nanoscale YSZ and Ceria coating suspensions.**
- **Low-temperature cathode powders and inks.**
- **Advanced anode powders and inks.**
- **Anode-supported planar elements.**
- **Cathode-supported planar elements.**

# Future Work

---

- **Scale-up of fabrication to 100-cm<sup>2</sup> areas.**
- **Screen printing of top electrodes.**
- **Single-cell and long-term SOFC performance testing to evaluate materials and process modifications.**
- **Development of non-destructive evaluation methods:**
  - **Optical profilometry**
  - **X-ray computed tomography**
  - **UV fluorescence spectroscopy**
  - **X-ray radiography**



# Acknowledgments

---

- **Mike Cobb and Kirby Meacham (Cobb & Co.)**
- **Jim Stephan (Advanced Materials Technologies)**
- **Bob Remick (Gas Technology Institute)**
- **Tim Armstrong (ORNL)**
- **Harlan Anderson and Wayne Huebner (UMR)**
- **Scott Barnett (Northwestern)**
- **John Lannutti (Ohio State University)**
- **Chris Schilling (Iowa University)**
- **Russ Bennett and Gary Kapp (EMTEC)**

**Thanks to DOE, NETL, and the State of Ohio!**