

**NEXTECH**

**MATERIALS**

# **SOFC Materials Technology Development in Support of SECA**

**William J. Dawson  
Managing Director  
NexTech Materials, Ltd.**

**SECA Core Technology Workshop  
Pittsburgh, PA  
November 16, 2001**

# Overview

## ☐ NexTech Background

## ☐ Multilayer Fuel Cell Program

- Technical Accomplishments
- Current Status and Future Plans

## ☐ Commercialization Plan

- Our Mission
- Where we fit within SECA
- How we will get there

## ☐ Closing Comments

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# NexTech SOFC History

Ceria-Based SOFCs

MLFC

*FuelCellMaterials.com*

Cathode Supported SOFCs

YSZ Coating Process

Ceria-Based Electrolytes

Ceramic Electrolytes

Started Business Operations

1996

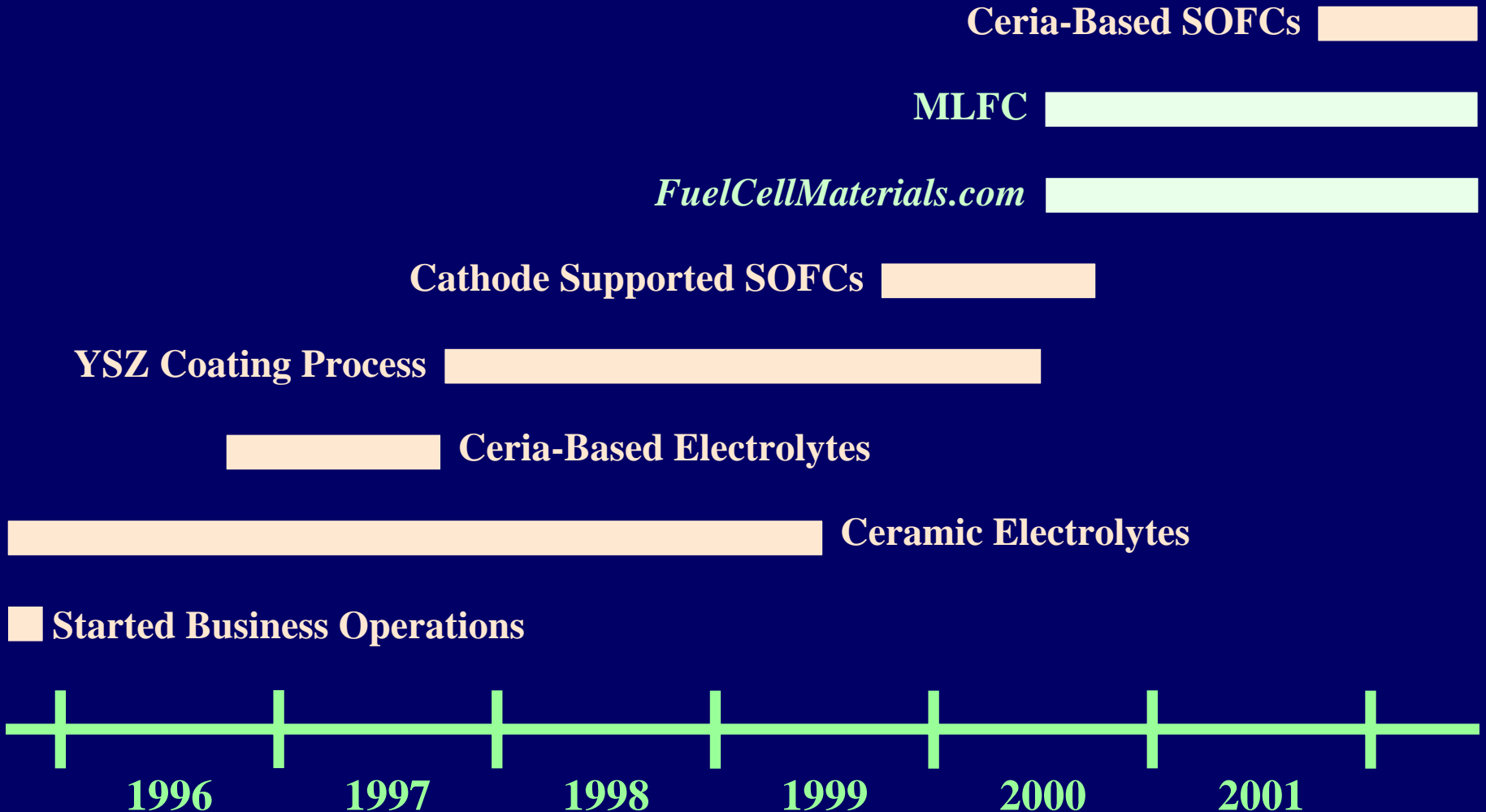
1997

1998

1999

2000

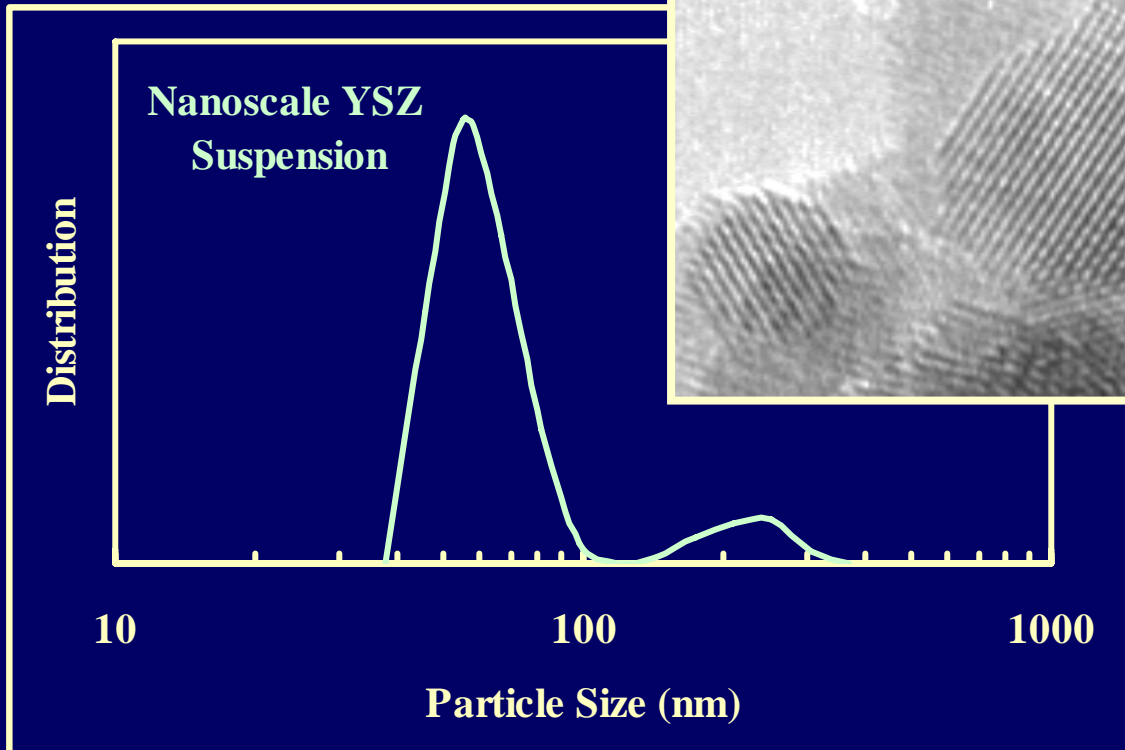
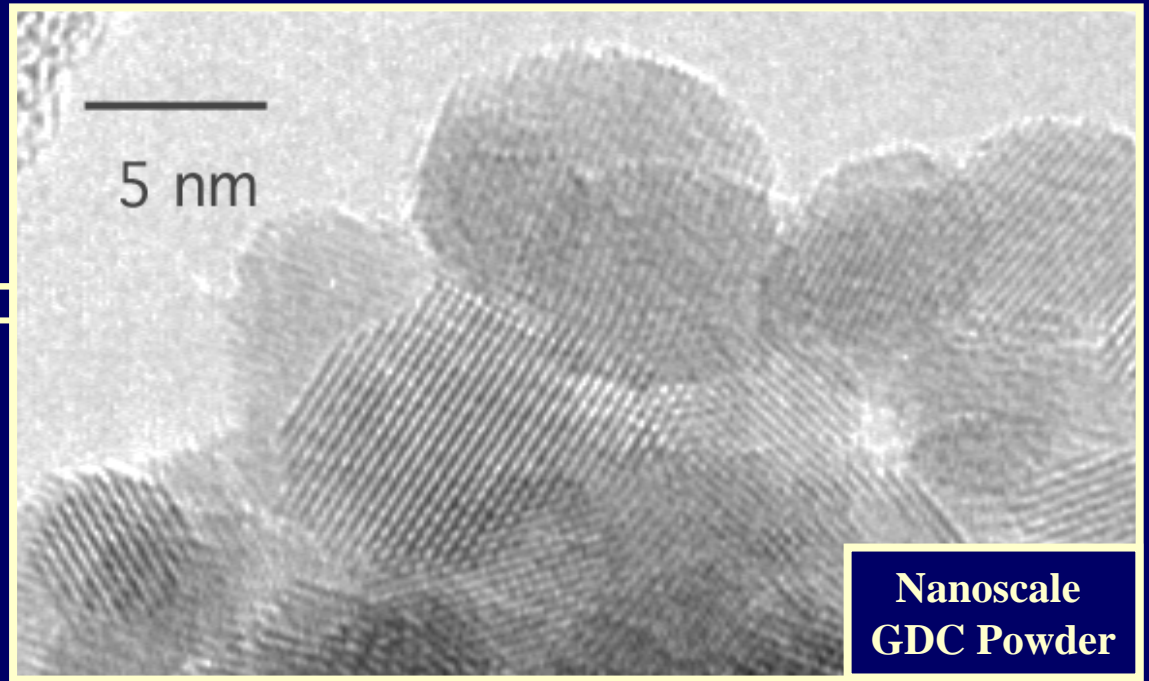
2001



# SOFC Core Competencies

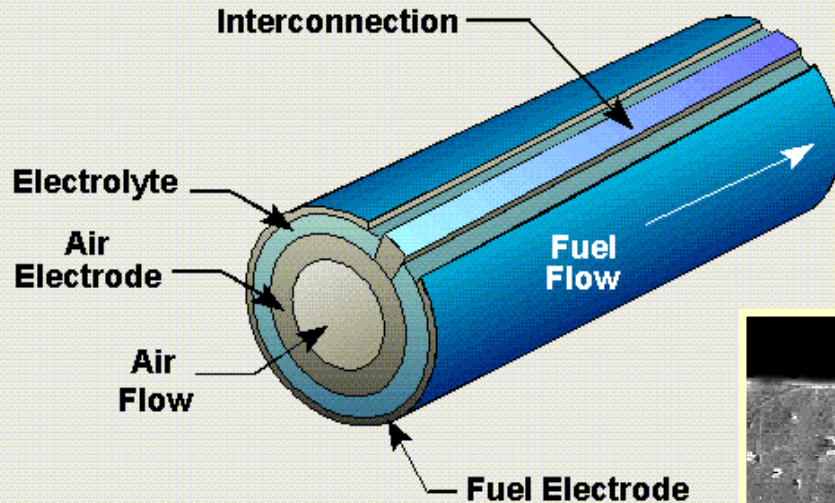
- ❑ **Electrolytes – A range of high performance, innovative ceramic powders and coatings**
- ❑ **SOFC Materials: Low-temperature cathode and composite anode materials**
- ❑ **Ceramic Technology: Powder processing, tape casting, screen printing, and co-sintering of ceramic multilayers**

# Nanoscale Electrolytes



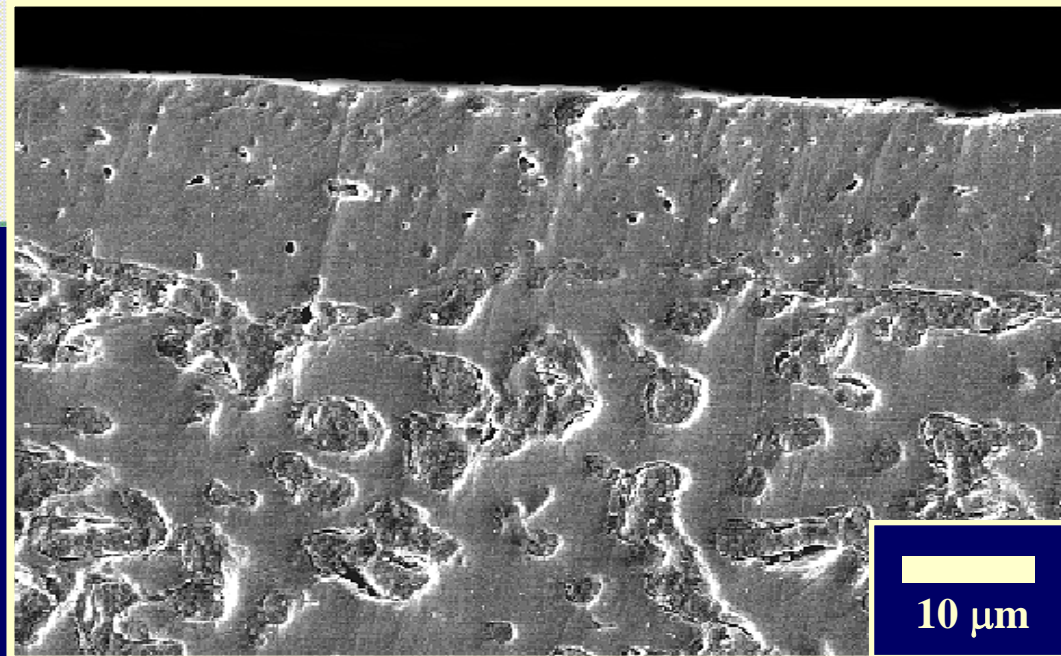
# YSZ Coating Process

**Tubular Solid Oxide Fuel Cell**



**Tailored nanoscale suspension allows for preparation of dense YSZ coatings in a single deposition and sintering cycle.**

**U.S. Patent Pending**





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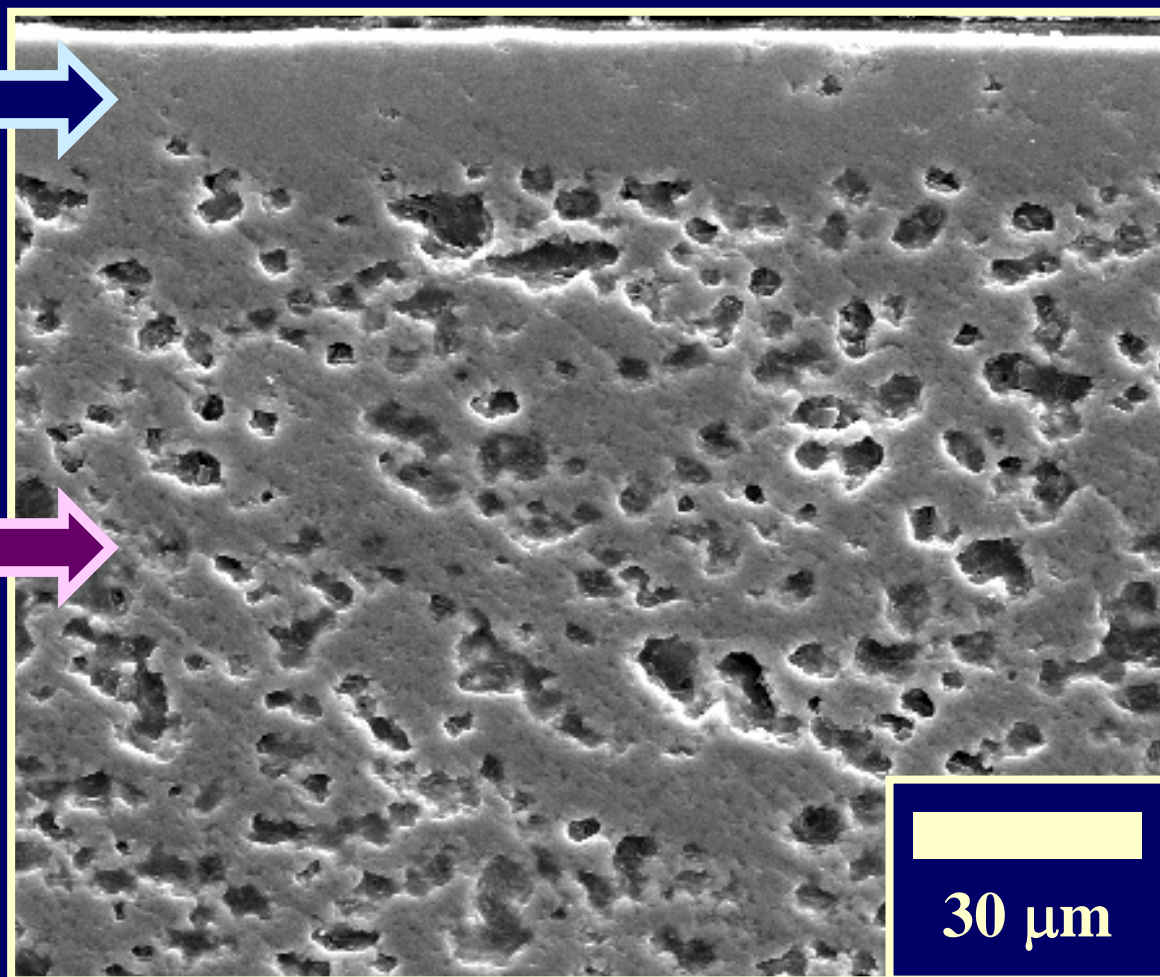
ornl

# Anode-Supported Cells

Colloidally deposited  
YSZ Film (NexTech)



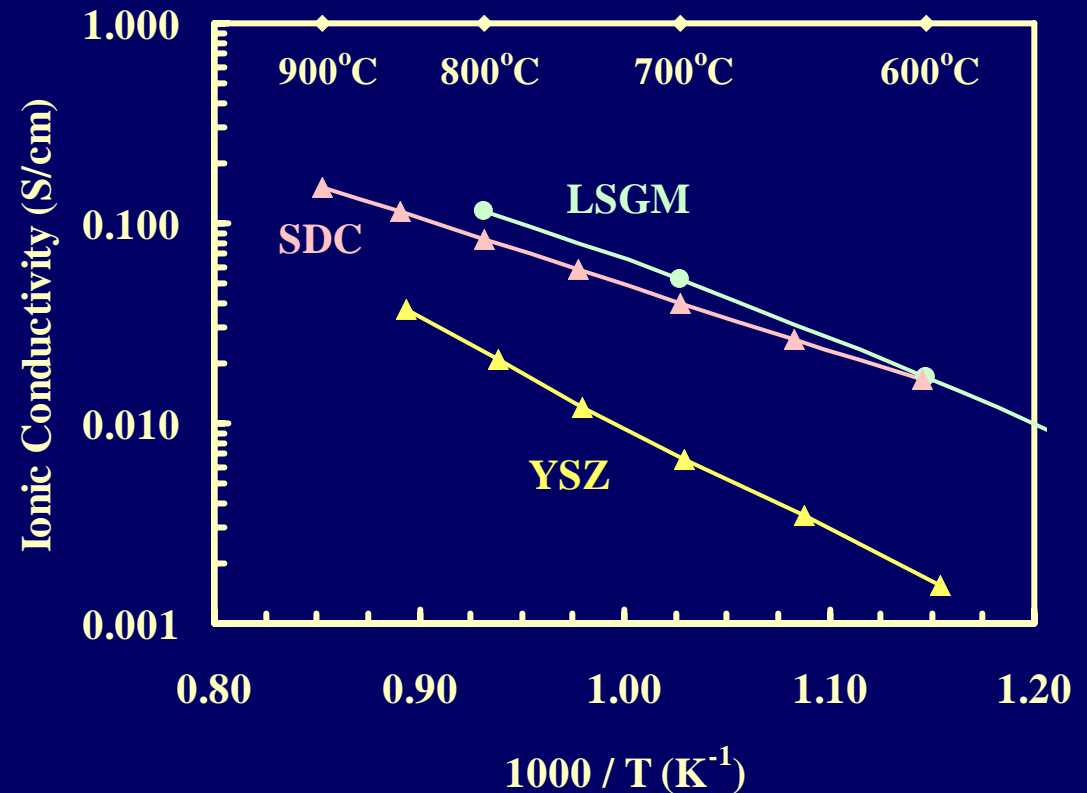
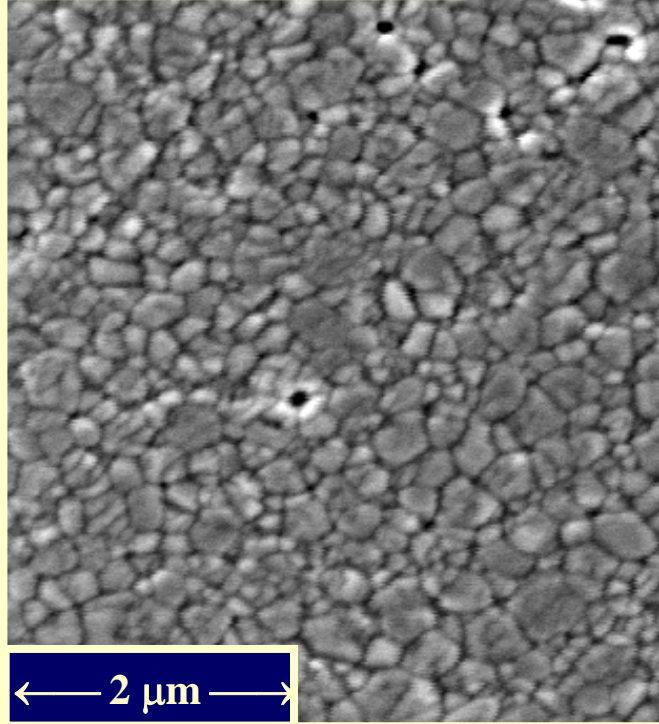
Tape Cast Anode  
Substrate (ORNL)



30  $\mu\text{m}$

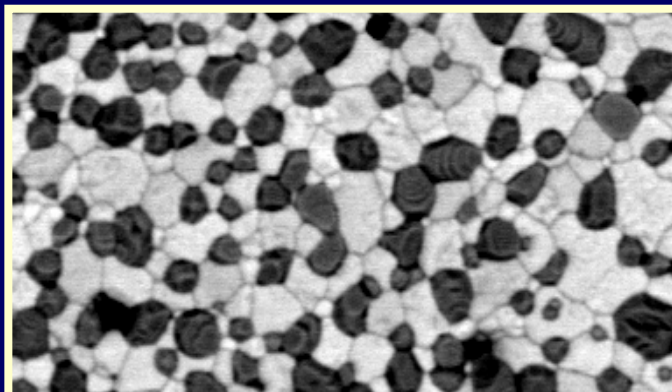
# Ceramic Electrolytes

GDC Ceramic (1250°C)



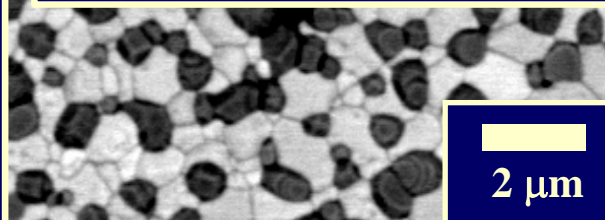
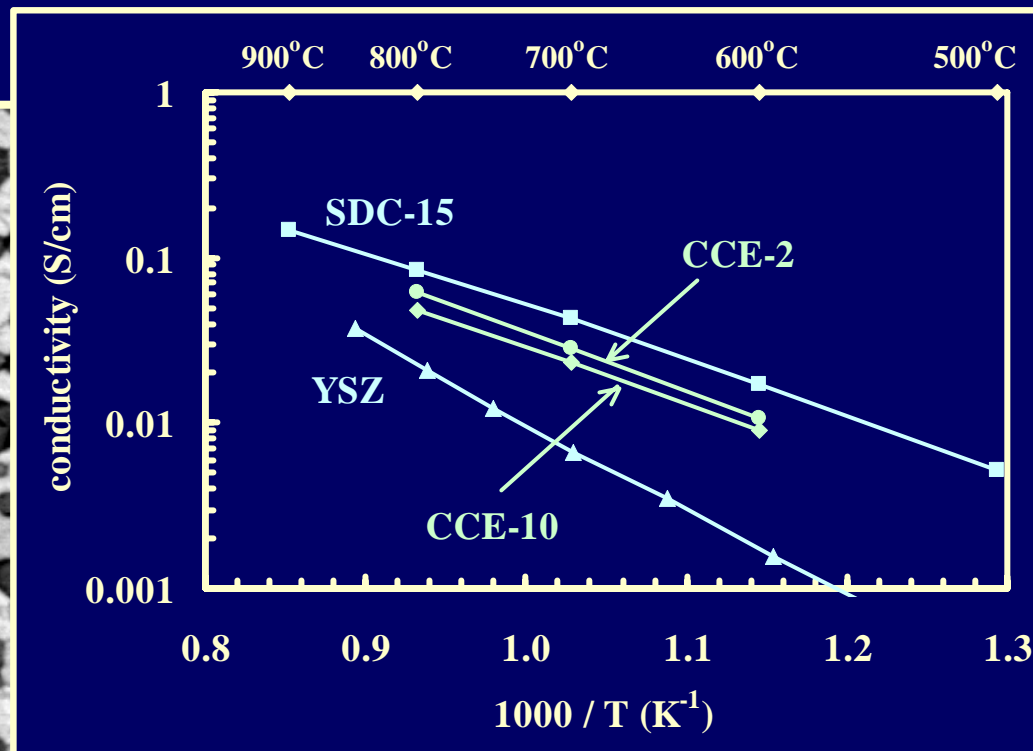


# Composite Ceria Electrolyte



## Mechanical Properties

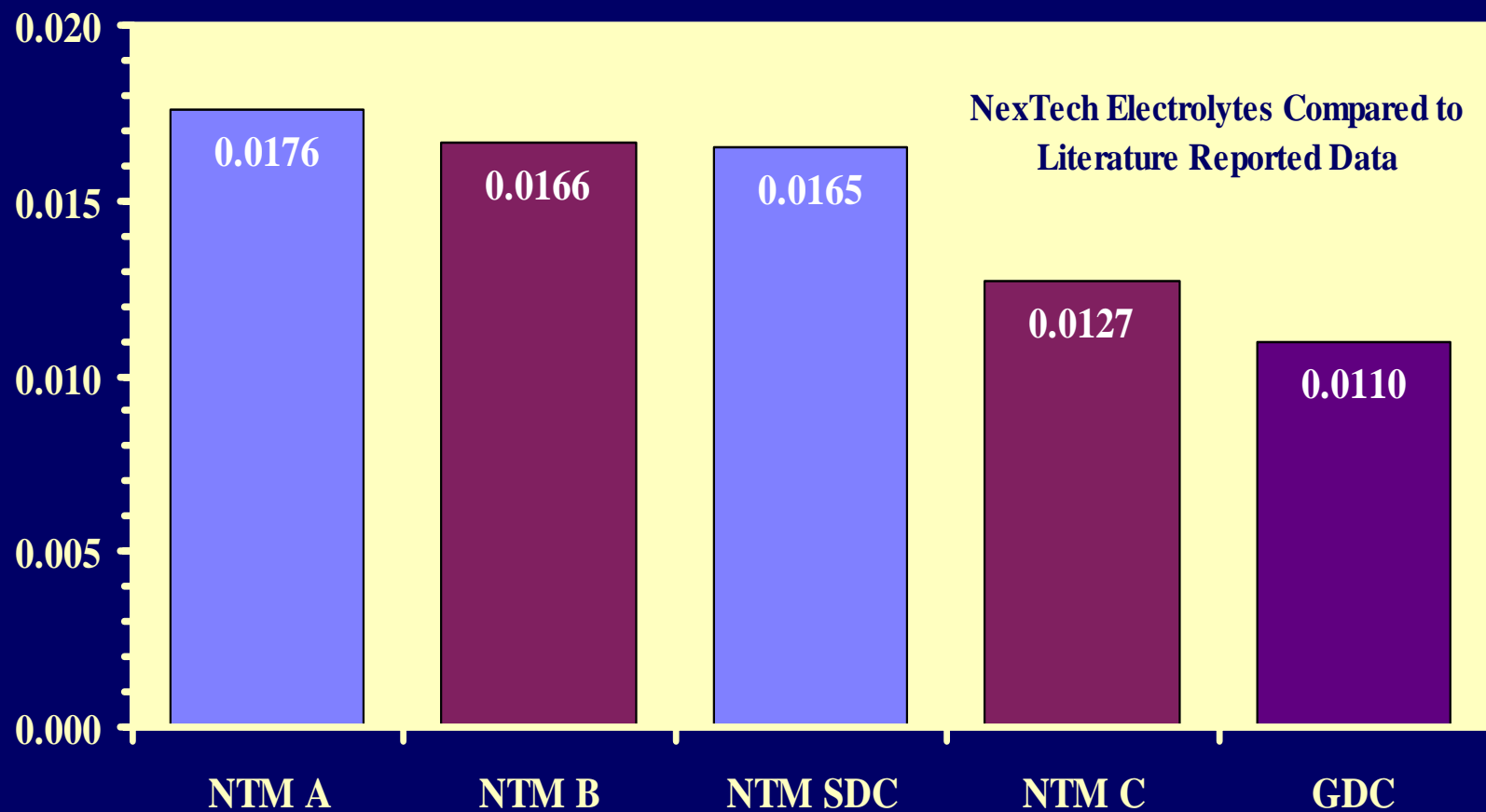
<u>Property</u>	<u>SDC</u>	<u>CCE-10</u>
Hardness (Hv, kg/m <sup>2</sup> )	780	940
Strength (MPa)	65	86
Toughness (K <sub>IC</sub> , MPa-m <sup>1/2</sup> )	0.9	1.8



2 μm

# Proprietary Ceria Electrolytes

## Ionic Conductivity at 600°C (S/cm)

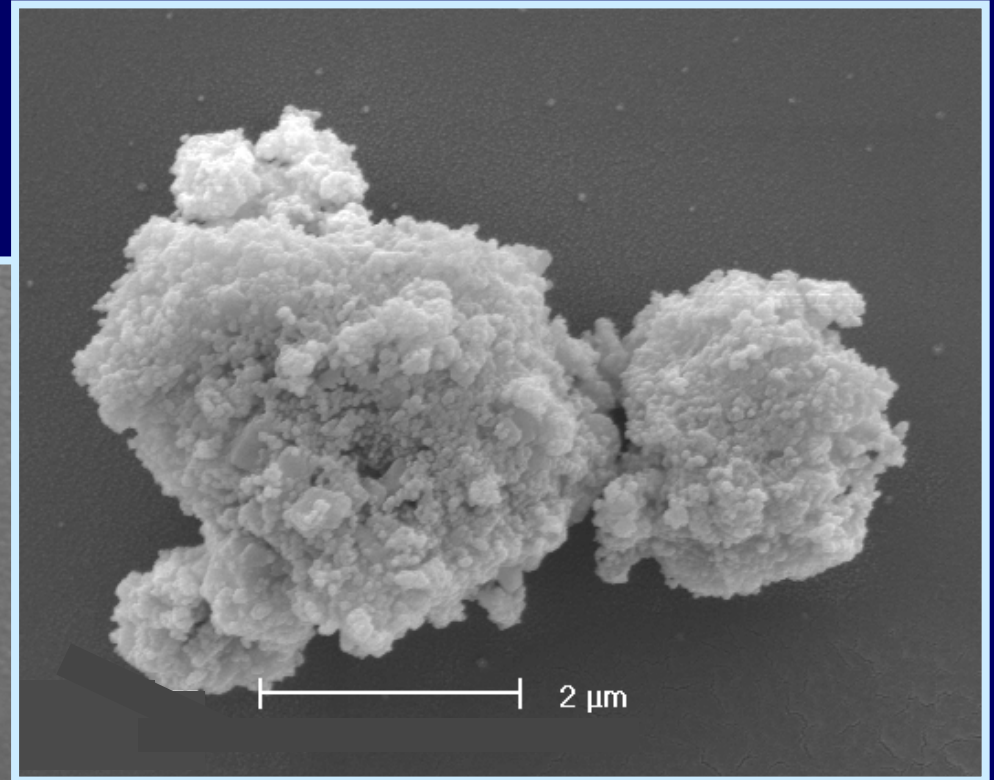
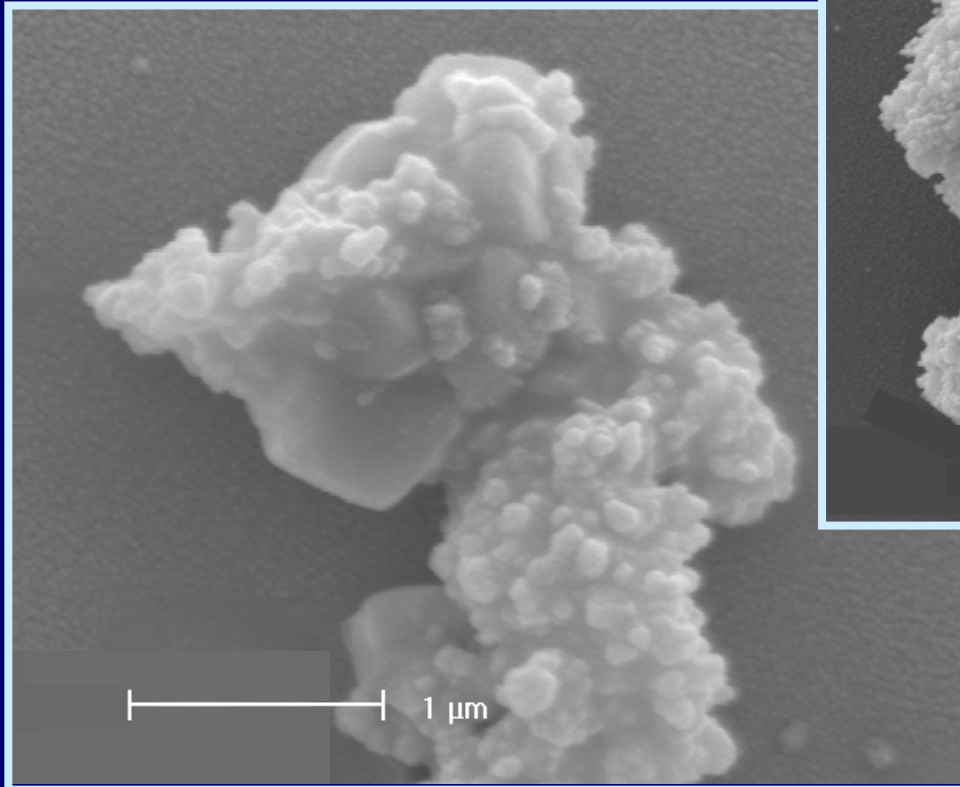


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# Nano-Composite Electrodes

**Conventional Method**



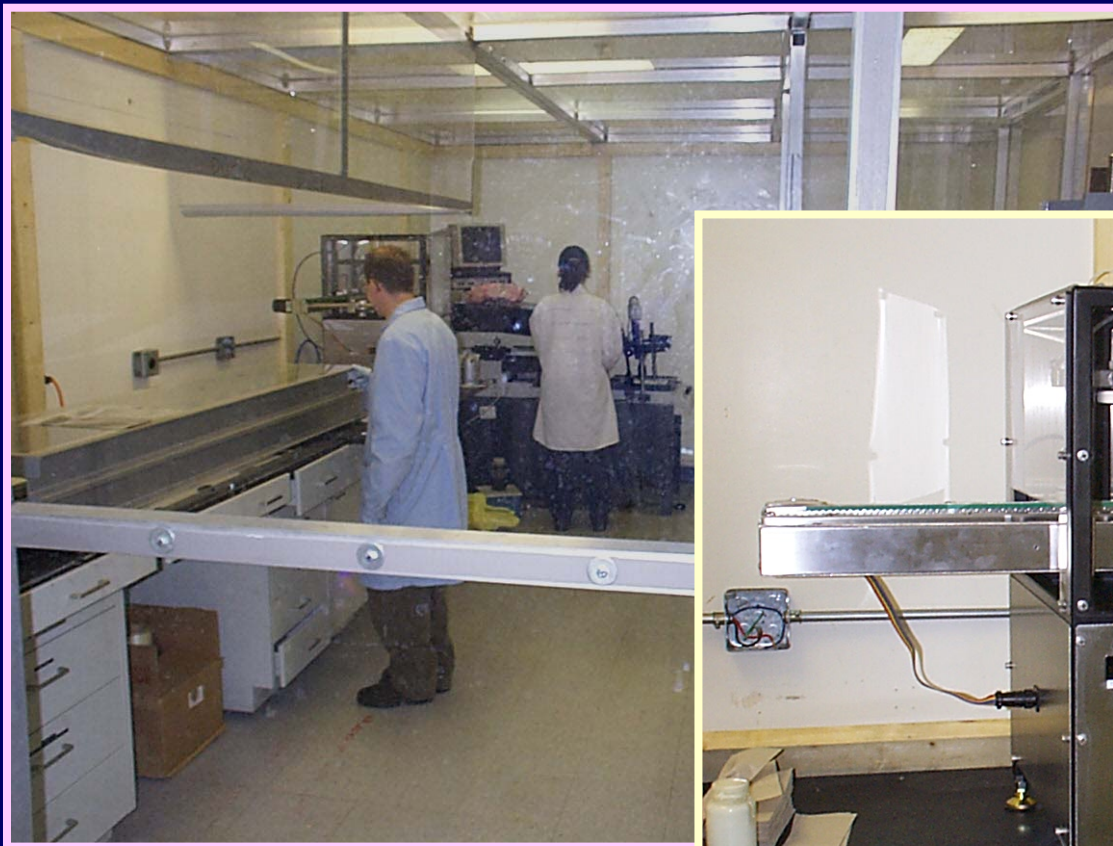
**New Method**

**U.S. Patent Pending**

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# MLFC Fabrication Facility



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

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

**Program Manager: Bill Dawson**

**Principal Investigator: Scott Swartz**

**Project Manager: Don Collins**



# 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 University**



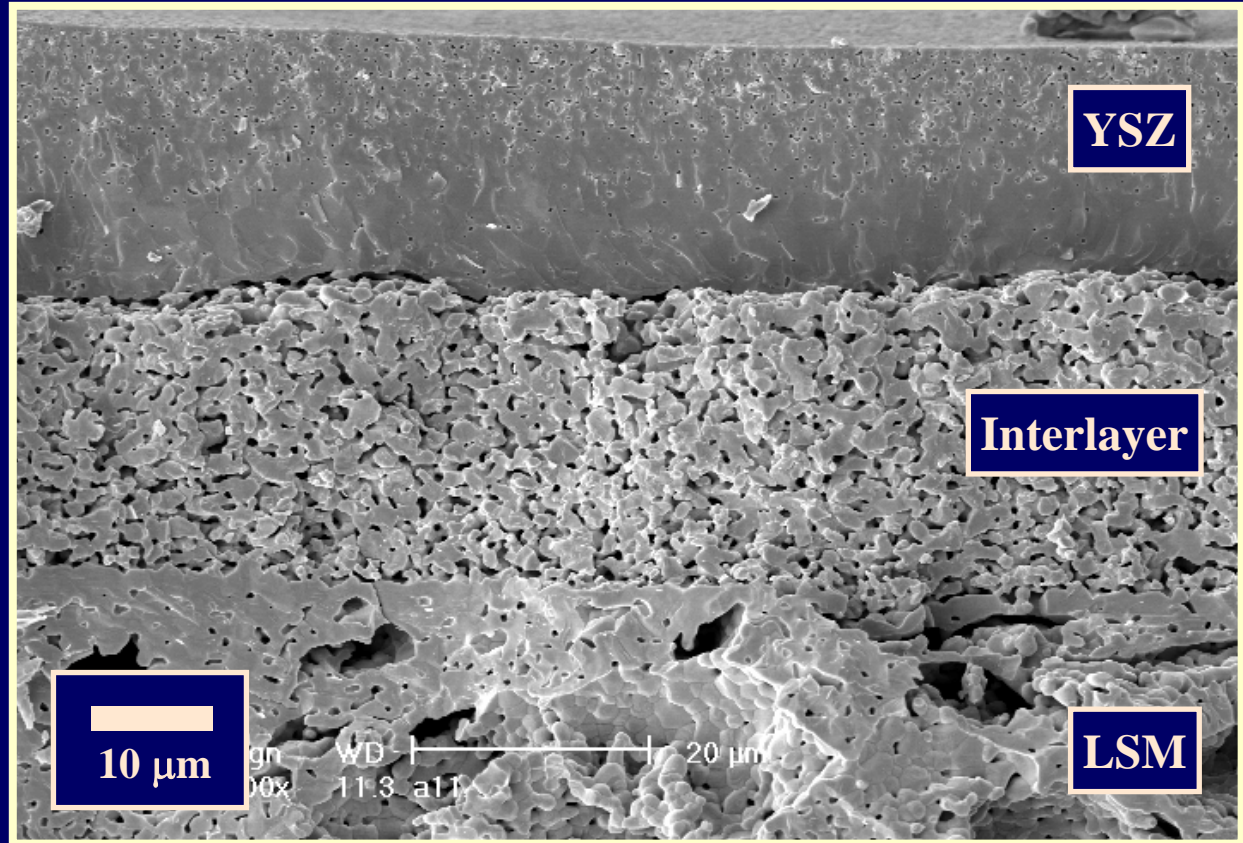
# Cathode Supported Cells

**Tape Casting  
(Cathode)**

**Colloidal Spray  
(Electrolyte)**

**Co-Sintering**

**Screen Printing  
(Anode)**





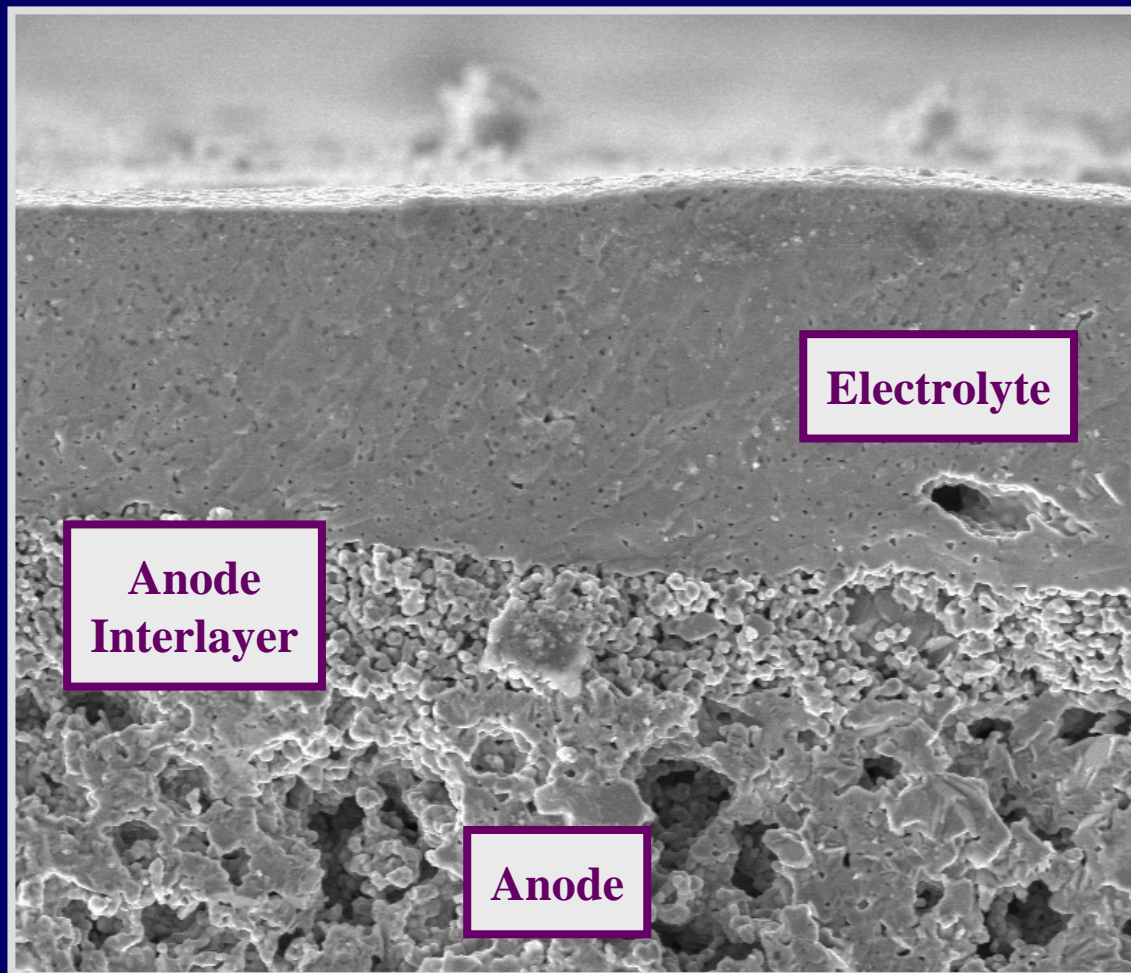
# Anode-Supported Cells

**Tape Casting  
(Anode)**

**Screen Printing  
(Electrolyte)**

**Co-Sintering**

**Screen Printing  
(Cathode)**





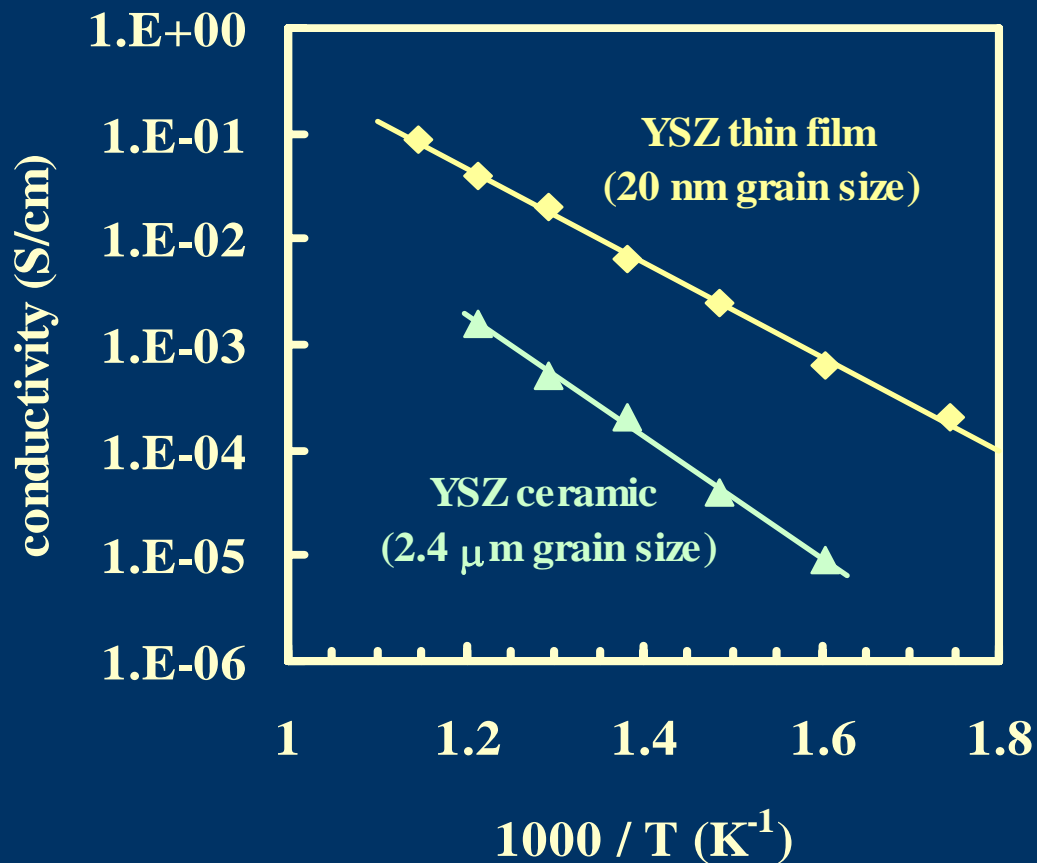
# Spin-Coated Electrolytes

**Tape Casting  
(Cathode)**

**Sintering**

**Spin Coating  
(Electrolyte)**

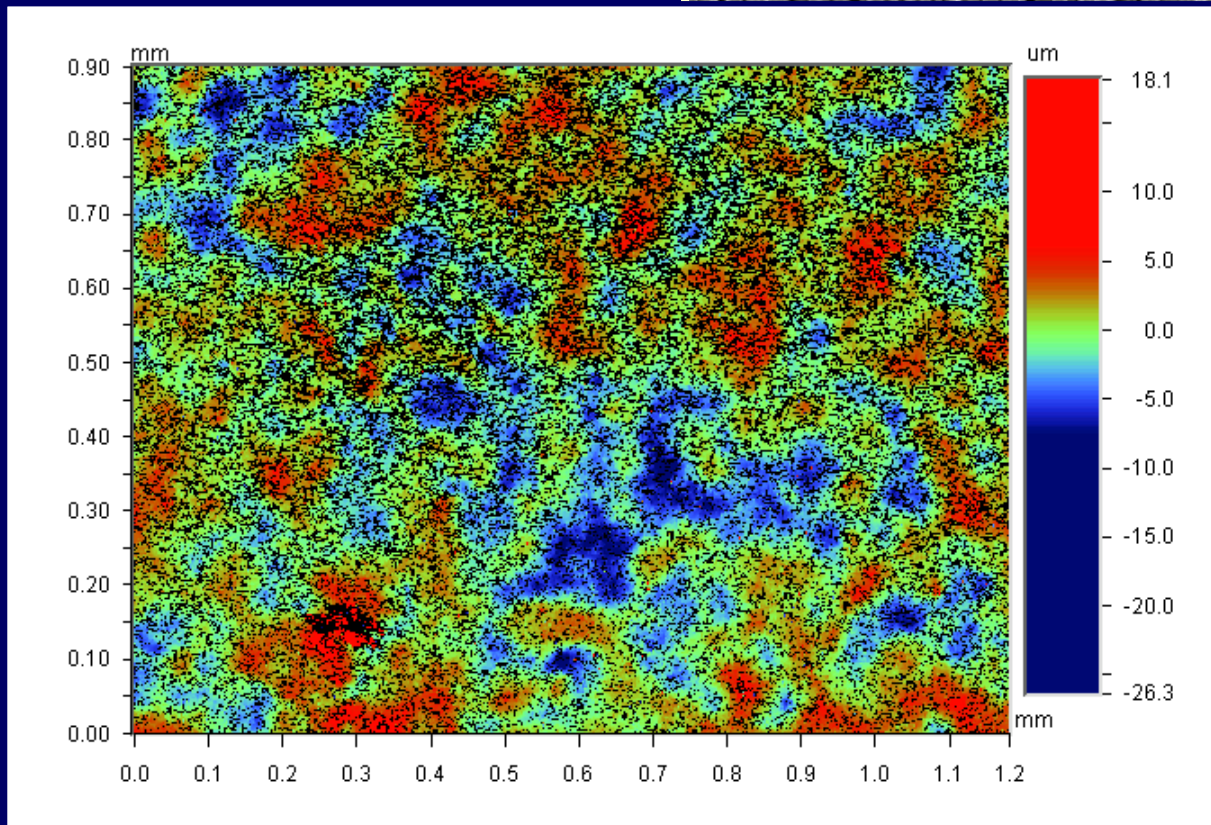
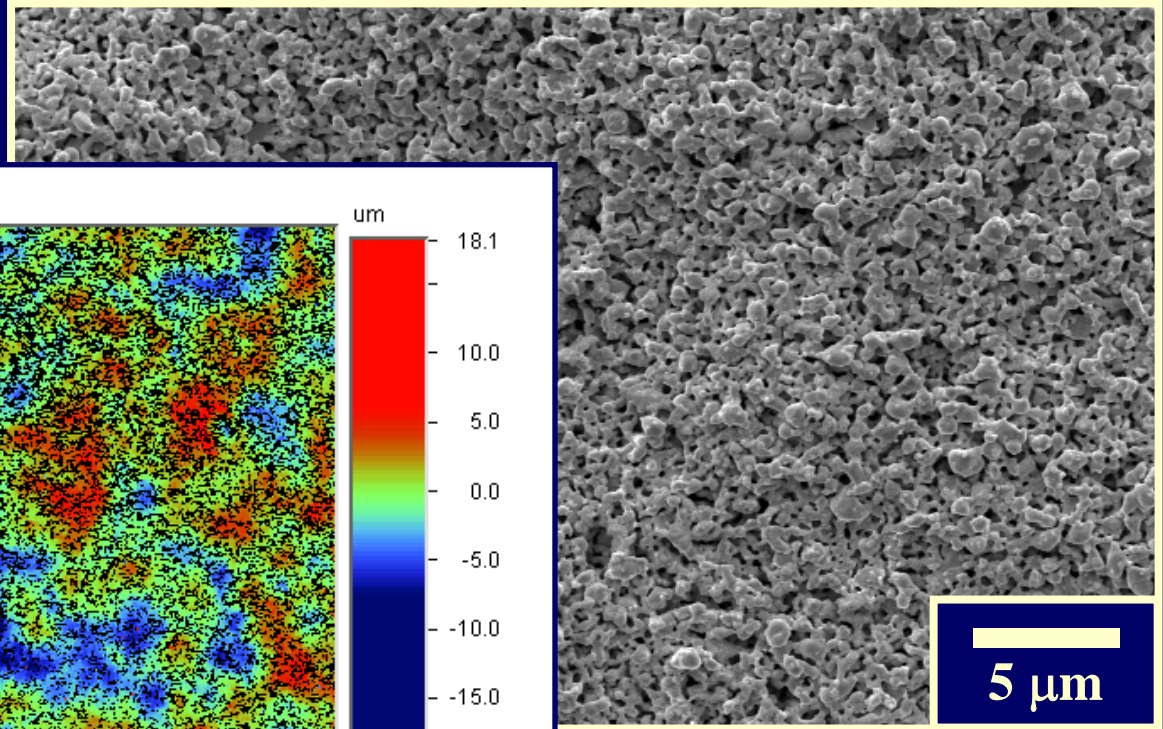
**Screen Printing  
(Anode)**



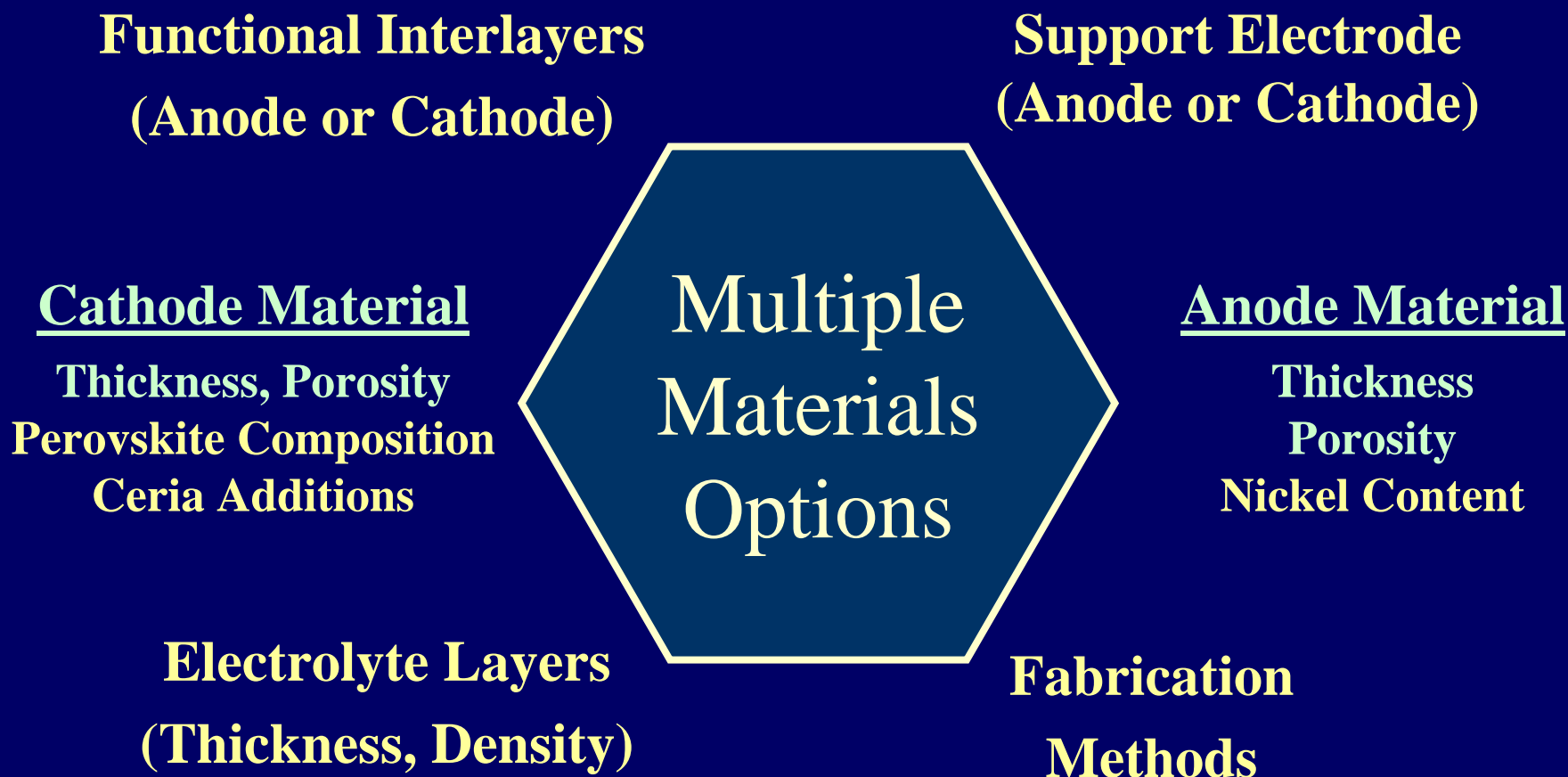




# Optical Profilometry



# Phase III Test Plan



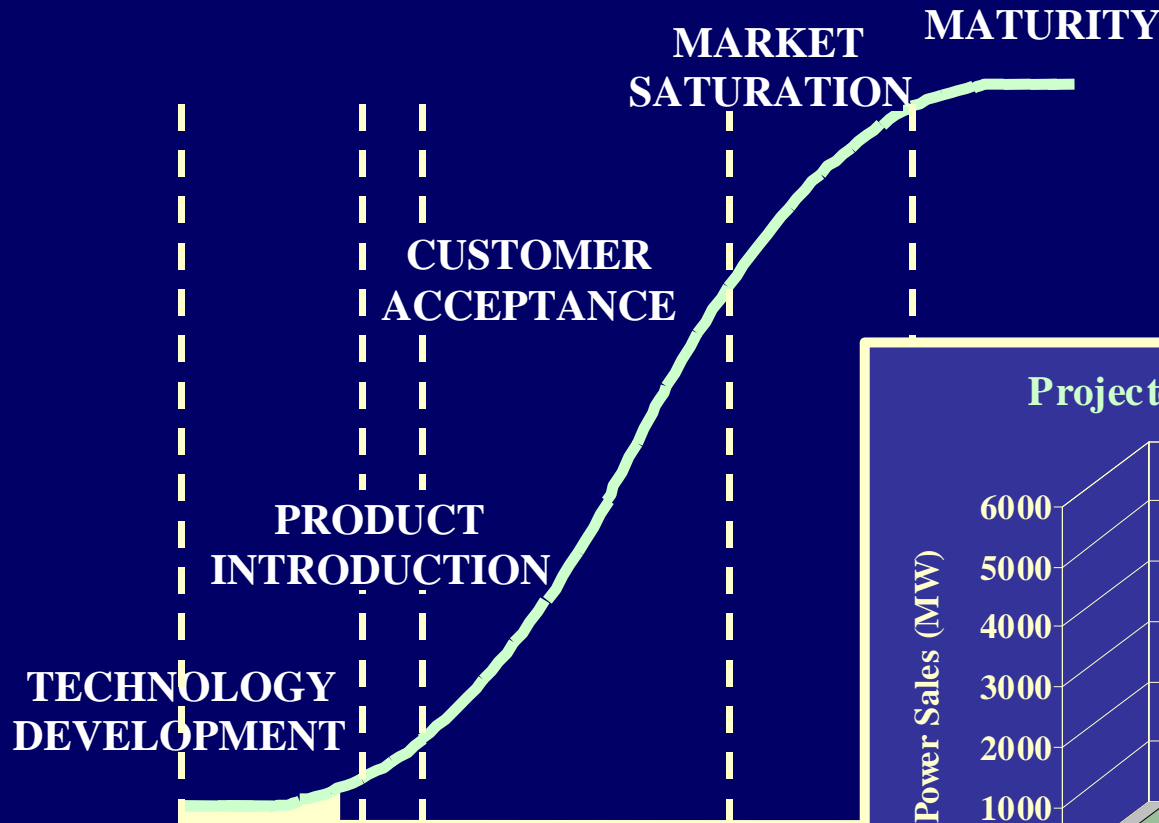
# SOFC Business Plan

## □ *Our Mission:*

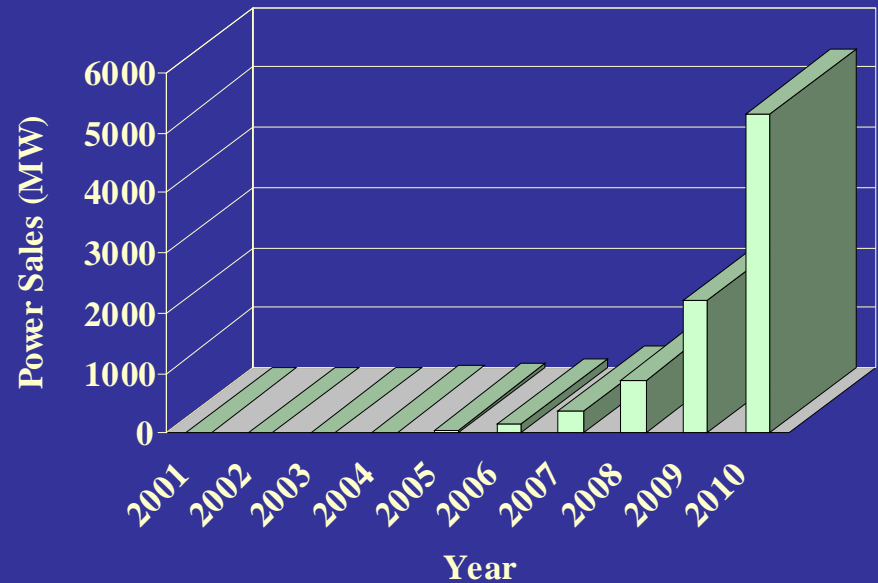
- *Become leading supplier of innovative SOFC materials and manufacturing technology*
- *Be materials leader in cost reduction, product reliability, and commercial implementation*
- *Be recognized worldwide for technical excellence, integrity, and cooperation*



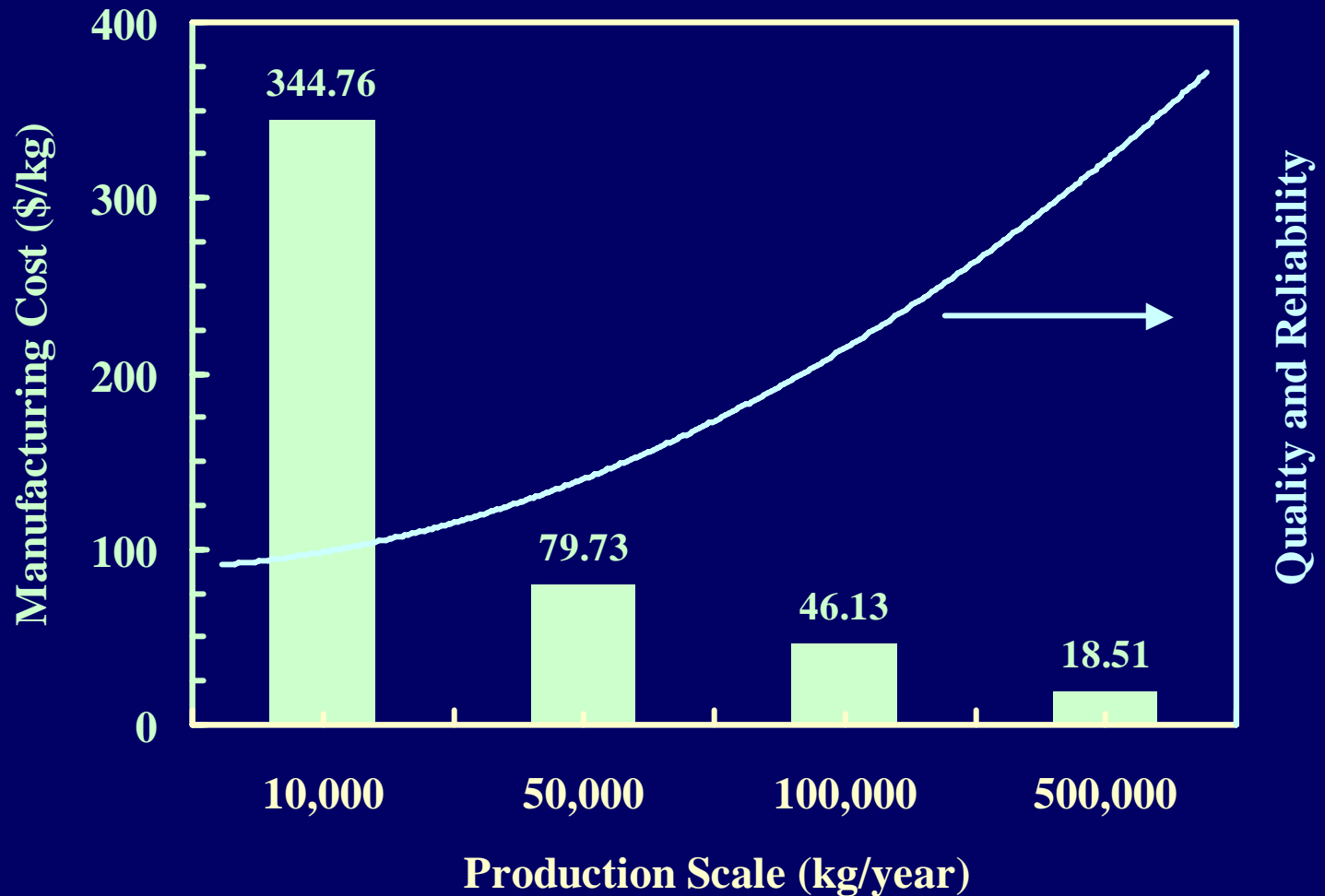
# Market Opportunity



Projected Stationary SOFC Market



# Scale-Up of YSZ Production



# How to Get There?

- ☐ Supplying materials for qualification to developers in 15 countries
- ☐ Beginning scale-up activities
- ☐ Currently seeking investors/strategic partners for scale-up/market penetration
- ☐ SECA participation

# *FuelCellMaterials.com*

## Electrolyte Products

- **Nanoscale Powders**
  - YSZ
  - Sc-doped Zirconia
  - Ceria-Based Formulations
- **Nanoscale Suspensions**
  - YSZ
  - Ceria-Based Formulations
- **Conventional Powders**
  - LSGM
  - Bismuth-Based Formulations
- **SOFC elements (coming soon)**

## Electrode Products

- **Cathode Powders**
  - LSM, LSF, LSCF, etc.
  - LSM/YSZ, LSF/GDC, etc.
  - Custom Formulations
- **Porous LSM Substrates**
- **Anode Powders**
  - NiO/YSZ, NiO/GDC
  - CuO/GDC
  - Custom Formulations
- **Screen printing inks**

# Why Work With Us?

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- ☒ **Innovative Products**
- ☒ **Products Engineered for Applications**
- ☒ **Knowledge of Manufacturing**
- ☒ **Path to Cost Reduction**

# Acknowledgments

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

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