



# HYDROGEN BASED ENERGY STORAGE USING METAL HYDRIDES

**Volodymyr Yartys**

*22 February 2018*

Interfacing Challenges

New Ideas

Renewable Energies

**New Knowledge Partnerships**

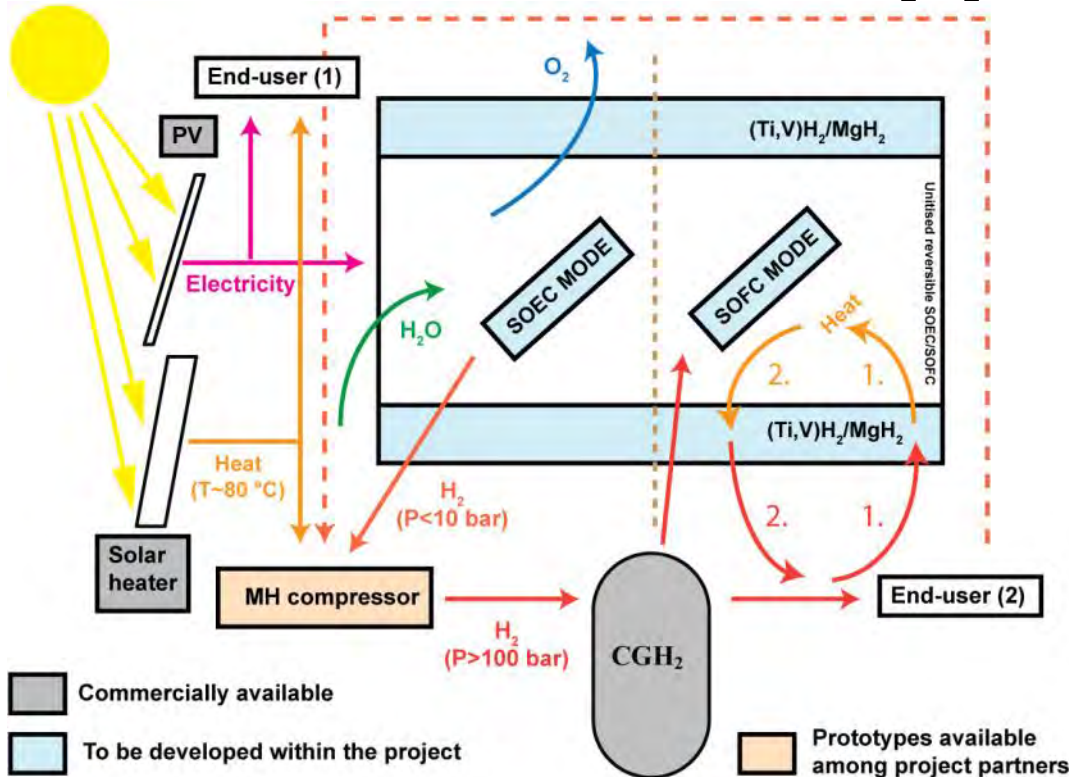
8.29 Million €

17 Projects 65 Institutions

18 Participating Countries

The **HENERGY project** contributes to the thematic field "Renewable Energies" of the EU ERAfrica FP7 programme and aims to join the best efforts of the European and African scientific communities targeting development of the advanced hydrogen energy systems. The work is collaboration between the leading European and African research institutions: Institute for Energy Technology, Norway (IFE); Hydrogen Storage and Systems, Norway (HSS); Prototech AS, Norway (PRO); University of the Western Cape, South Africa (UWC), Middle East Technical University, Turkey (METU) and Cairo University, Egypt (CU).

# Goal & Approach

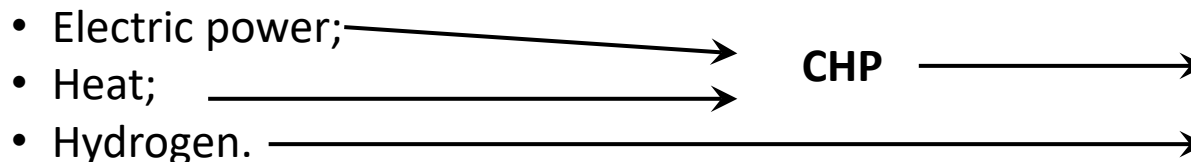


*The ultimate goal of the project is in creation of the prerequisites for the development of advanced energy systems utilising solar energy.*

- Advanced integrated Unitised Reversible Fuel Cell System (U-RFCS) based on Solid Oxide (SO) technology;
- High temperature hydrogen storage and supply system operating at 300-550 °C.

Primary energy source: solar

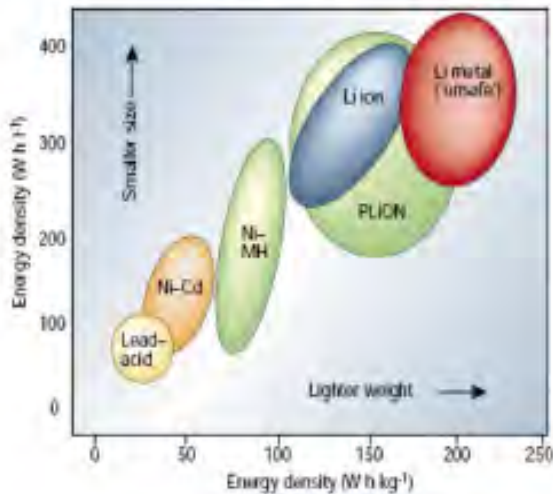
Outputs:



# Ni-Metal Hydride Batteries

*Commercial Hybrids: Exceptional Track Record of Success*

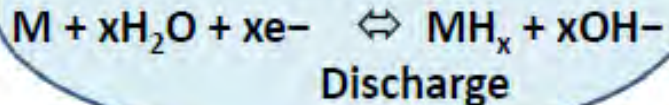
- Over 3 million hybrid cars sold with NiMH
- Proven safety, life time, reliability and cost



## GOALS:

- HIGH VOLUMETRIC AND GRAVIMETRIC ENERGY DENSITIES
- HIGH POWER DENSITY
- LOW COST + HIGH CYCLE LIFE

Negative electrode  
Charge



# GOAL:

**REDUCE / ELIMINATE USE  
OF RARE EARTH METALS AND Co**

**INSTEAD OF RE(Co,Ni)<sub>5</sub>**

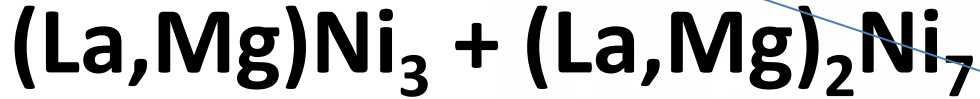
**(La, Pr, Nd)<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub>**

**LAVES TYPE (Zr/Ti)TM<sub>2</sub>**

# RARE EARTH-Mg-Ni MH ANODE ALLOYS

# La-Mg-Ni Alloys

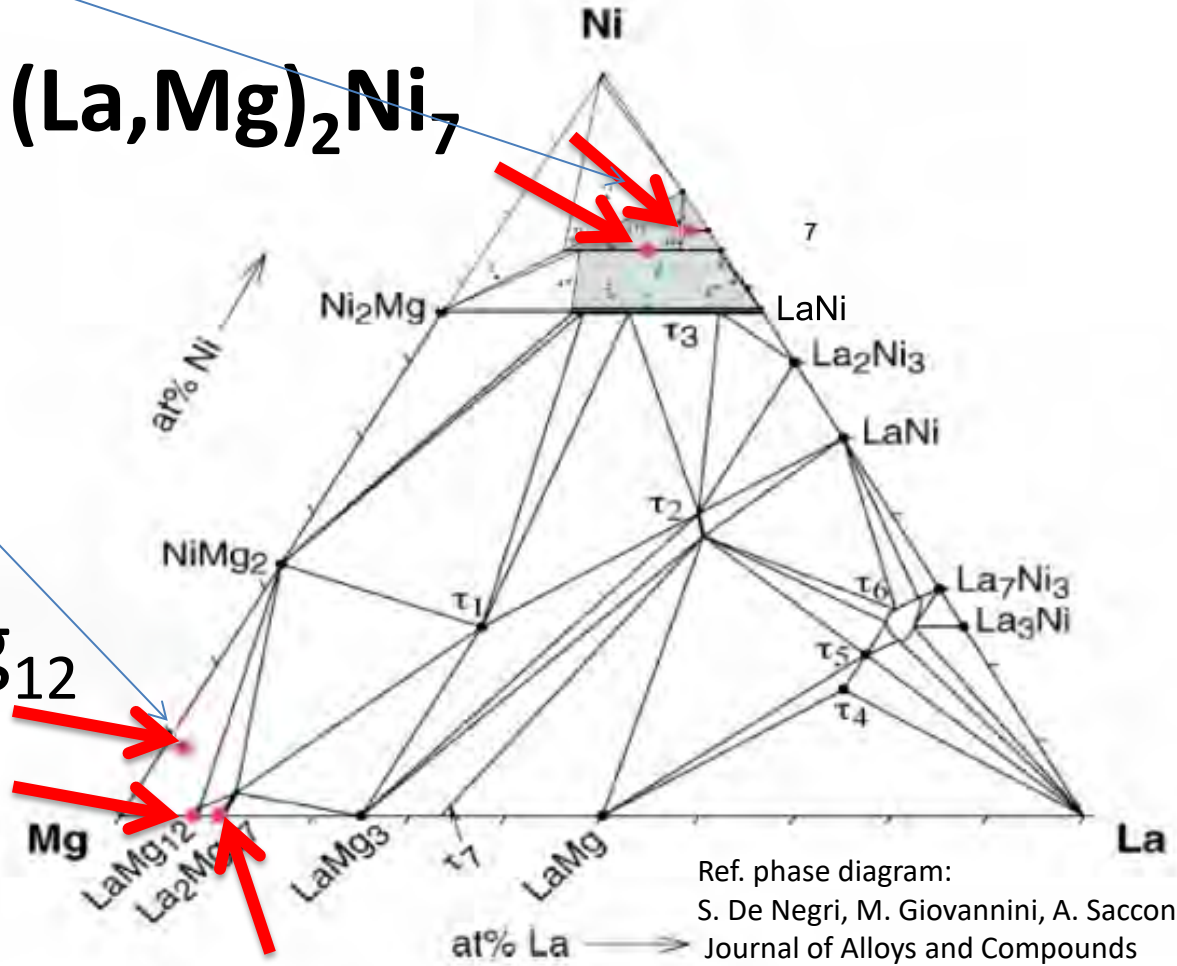
Ni-MH BATTERIES  
La → Mg SUBSTIT.



H STORAGE/  
FAST H KINETICS:  
Mg METAL

**Eutectic**

Mg + Mg<sub>2</sub>Ni + LaMg<sub>12</sub>  
88 at% Mg

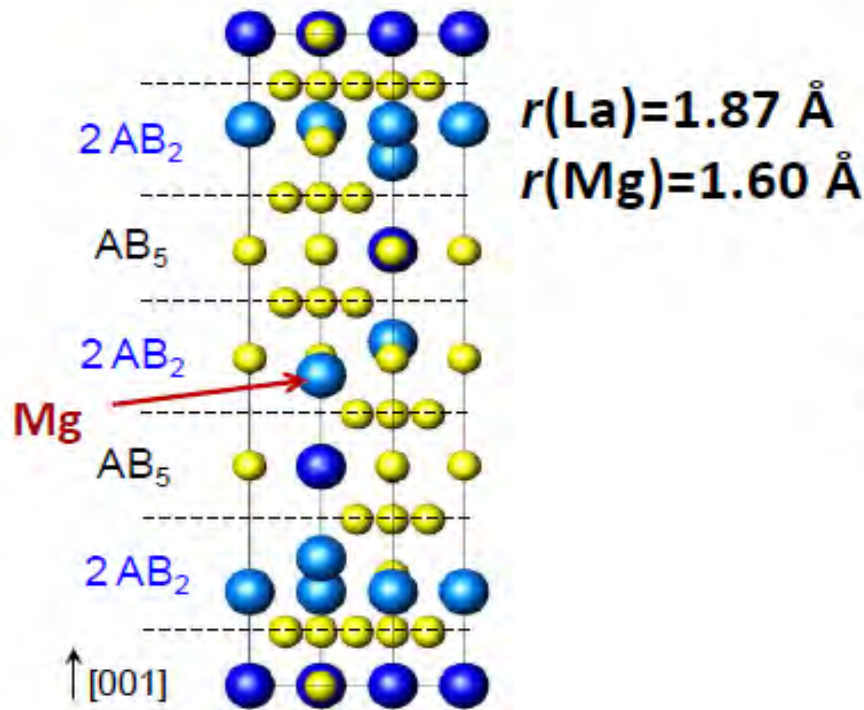


Ref. phase diagram:  
S. De Negri, M. Giovannini, A. Saccone,  
Journal of Alloys and Compounds  
397 (2005) pp. 126-134.

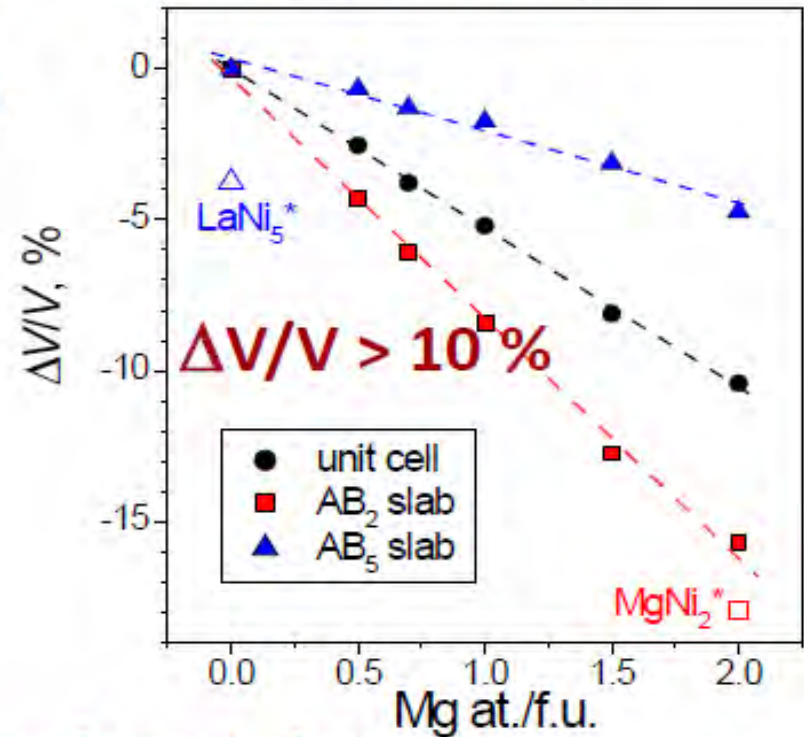




# Effect of Mg $\Rightarrow$ La substitution on the structure of $\text{LaNi}_3$



Volume of structure fragments  
in  $\text{La}_{3-x}\text{Mg}_x\text{Ni}_9$  vs.  $\text{LaNi}_3$



**Mg substitutes La exclusively in the  $\text{AB}_2$  layers**  
**Significant shrinking of both  $\text{AB}_2$  and  $\text{AB}_5$  layers**

# (La, Pr, Nd)<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub> BATTERY ANODES

Appl. Phys. A  
DOI 10.1007/s00339-015-9538-9

Applied Physics A  
Materials Science & Processing



INVITED PAPER

## Metal hydrides as negative electrode materials for Ni–MH batteries

V. Yartys<sup>a,1,2</sup> · D. Noreus<sup>a</sup> · M. Latroche<sup>a</sup>

Received: 3 October 2015 / Accepted: 15 December 2015  
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**Abstract** Structural, thermodynamical and electrochemical properties of metallic hydrides belonging to the pseudo-binary family A–Mg–Ni (A: rare earths) are reviewed and compared. Technology aspects of hipol cells are also discussed.

**Hydrogen Based Energy Storage**, in the area of the metal hydride batteries.

Metallic hydrides have been studied and developed during five decades for various energy storage and conversion systems (heat pumps, cryocooler, heat storage and batteries). Among these applications, the use of metal



## Modeling of metal hydride battery anodes at high discharge current densities and constant discharge currents

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### ABSTRACT

In present work we have developed a theoretical model for the description of the electrochemical discharge process in the metal hydride anodes of the metal hydride batteries at various current densities. The model is based on the description of the assembly of the spherically shaped metal hydride particles where the process of electrochemical discharge is fit using a shrinking core model, with a shell of the H storage alloy growing inside the particle by decreasing volume of the internal metal hydride core. The model accounts results of the D/G.S. calculations for La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub> intermetallic alloy and has been tested for this metal hydride anode material having an electrochemical discharge capacity of 400mAh/g and



## In operando neutron diffraction study of LaNdMgNi<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub> as a metal hydride battery anode

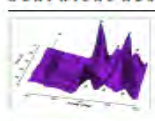
N.S. Nazer<sup>a,b</sup>, R.V. Denys<sup>a,b</sup>, V.A. Yartys<sup>a,b,c</sup>, Weikang Hu<sup>a</sup>, M. Latroche<sup>a</sup>, F. Cuevas<sup>d</sup>, B.C. Hauback<sup>a</sup>, P.F. Henry<sup>d</sup>, L. Arberg<sup>e</sup>

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### HIGHLIGHTS

- LaNdMgNi<sub>9</sub>H<sub>13</sub> systems showed an optimum for constant discharge.
- High performance anodes for high-rate discharge performance.
- NiMH cells as high-rate for metal-hydride systems as for electrochemical discharge.
- In situ neutron diffraction studies of metal hydride anodes showed no significant changes.
- It is shown that 7 types of intermetallic phases.

### GRAPHICAL ABSTRACT



Electrochimica Acta 96 (2013) 27–33



## Annealing effect on phase composition and electrochemical properties of the Co-free La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub> anode for Ni-metal hydride batteries

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Electrochemical energy conversion  
Ni–MH battery

### ABSTRACT

Present paper focuses on studies of the Co-free La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub> alloys as active materials of negative electrodes in nickel-metal hydride (NiMH) batteries. The effect of annealing treatment on the phase composition, microstructure, hydrogen absorption-desorption and electrochemical properties was investigated. The phase-structural composition, microstructures and morphologies of the phases were analyzed by X-ray diffraction and by scanning electron microscopy. Increase of the annealing temperature to 550 °C leads to a higher abundance of the La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub> and La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>14</sub> phases and an elimination of the present at lower temperatures LaNi<sub>5</sub> and LaMgNi<sub>4</sub> intermetallics. The hydrogen absorption-desorption behaviors, the electrochemical performance and electrochemical cycling stability significantly improve after the annealing. For pasted electrodes, the annealed alloys had a discharge capacity of 350–360 mAh g<sup>-1</sup> compared to 325 mAh g<sup>-1</sup> for the as-cast sample. The discharge capacity of the annealed samples remained high, almost 50% after 300 cycles with 100% depth of discharge (DOD) in half-cell tests. Pellet electrodes prepared from the annealed alloy and carbonyl nickel powder showed a discharge capacity of 396 mAh g<sup>-1</sup>. In present work we also report the performance of a small prototype NiMH cell where the annealed alloy was used as the active material in the negative MH electrode and a sintered Ni electrode acted as the positive electrode. After 300 cycles at charge/discharge rates of 0.2 C the cell showed a very good cycling stability with its capacity remaining on the level of 87%.

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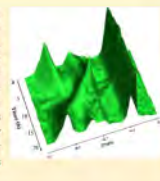
## Mechanistic and Kinetic Study of the Electrochemical Charge and Discharge of La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub> by in Situ Powder Neutron Diffraction

Michel Latroche<sup>a,1</sup>, Fermin Cuevas<sup>f</sup>, Wei-Kang Hu<sup>g</sup>, Denis Sheptyakov<sup>h</sup>, Roman V. Denys<sup>g</sup>, and Volodymyr A. Yartys<sup>a,1,2</sup>

<sup>a</sup> Institut de Chimie et des Matériaux Paris-Est, UPEC-CNRS, UMR 7182, 2 rue Henri Dunant, 94320 Thiais, France  
<sup>b</sup> Institute for Energy Technology, Department of Energy Systems, 2007 Kjeller, Norway  
<sup>c</sup> SINQ/HRPT, Paul Scherrer Institute, 5232 Villigen, Switzerland  
<sup>d</sup> Norwegian University of Science and Technology, 7491, Trondheim, Norway

### Supporting Information

**ABSTRACT:** The intermetallic La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub> has been investigated as negative electrode material for NiMH battery by means of in situ neutron powder diffraction. This hydride-forming compound exhibits suitable plateau pressures ranging within the practical electrochemical window and leads to significant reversible electrochemical capacities. Charge and discharge of the composite electrode have been performed in beam following various current rates and galvanostatic intermittent titration. From the diffraction data analysis, phase amounts and cell volumes have been extracted, allowing the interpretation of the hydride formation and decomposition. From the evolution of the diffraction line widths, differences are observed between charge and discharge with the possible formation of an intermediate γ phase on charge. The electrode readily responds to current rate variations and does not show any kinetic limitation in the range C/10 and C/5 (C/n: full capacity C in n hours). This material shows excellent properties regarding electrochemical storage of energy.



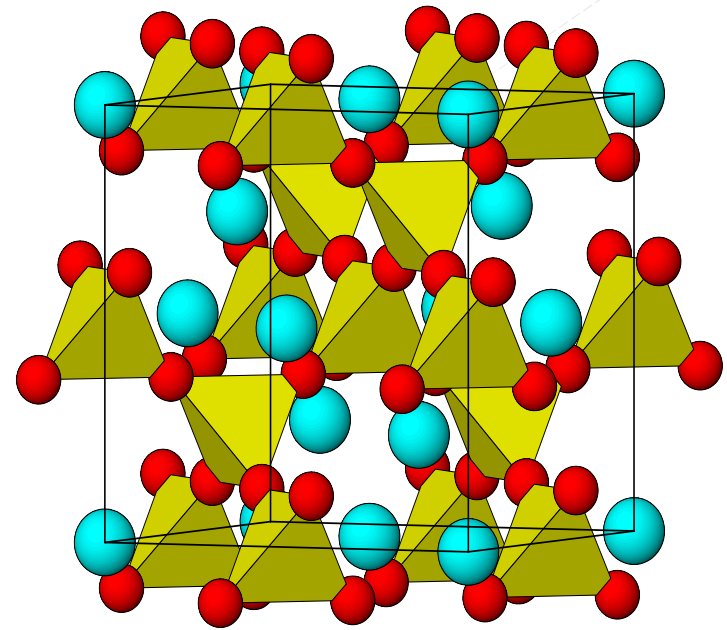
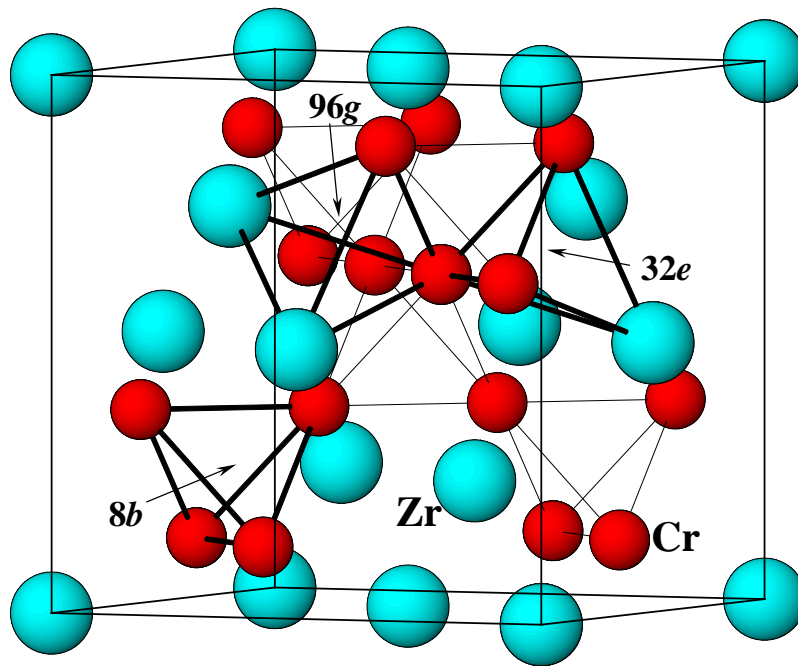
400 mAh/g

>300 cycles

Adjustable stability and diffusion rate by La/Pr/Nd

# Zr/Ti BASED MH ANODE ALLOYS

# C15 Laves type structure



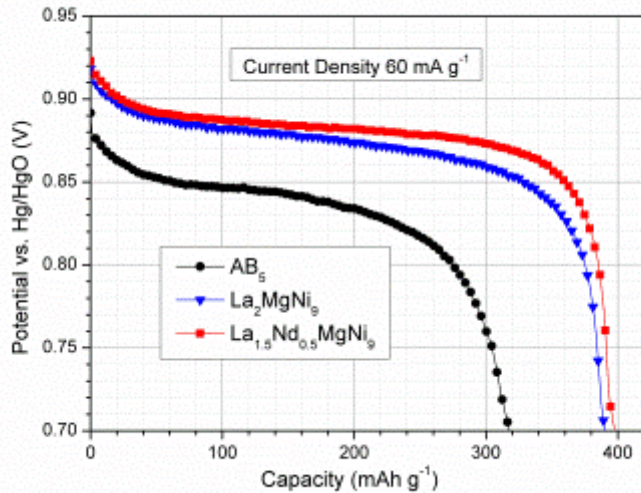
**8a site: A, A+B; 16d site: B**

**$A_2B_2 - 96$ ;  $AB_3 - 32$ ;  $B_4 - 8$**

# STRATEGY IN THE SELECTION OF THE Zr/Ti BASED MH ANODE ALLOYS

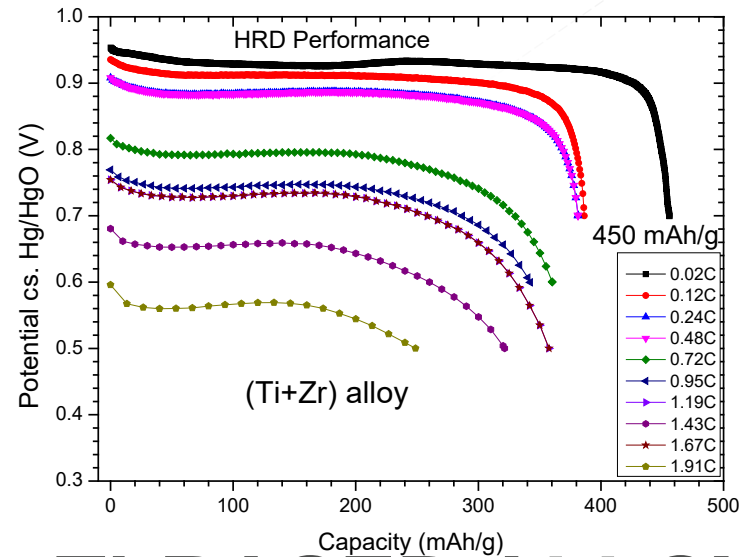
- Use Laves type solid solutions between  $\text{TiTM}_2$  and  $\text{ZrTM}_2$
- $\text{H}_2$  equilibrium pressure should be close to 1 bar
- C15 / C14 structures
- Stoichiometric  $\text{TM}/(\text{Ti}+\text{Zr}) = 2$  as compared to the overstoichiometric compositions with  $\text{TM}/(\text{Ti}+\text{Zr}) > 2$
- Cyclic stability as related to Ti / Zr content
- Choice of transition metals: Ni / Mn / V / Fe
- Achieve easy activation of the alloys

# STATUS AND FUTURE



**Mg-BASED ALLOYS:**  
**>500 mAh/g**

**IMPROVED Ni  
ELECTRODE**



**Ti-BASED ALLOYS:**  
**450 mAh/g**

**Dr. Chubin Wan**  
**Dr. Alexey Volodin**  
**Dr. Roman Denys**



***In operando* neutron scattering  
investigation of a commercial Li-ion  
battery at variable current densities**

# TIME RESOLUTION 3-5 MINUTES @ PSI SWITZERLAND

**METAL HYDR.  
AT PRESSURES UP  
TO 1000 BAR D2**

**COMMERCIAL BATTERY  
DURING CHARGE AND  
DISCHARGE**

**IN SITU  
STUDIES USING  
NEUTRON  
SCATTERING**

**EQUILIBRIA IN  
MAGNESIUM  
ALLOYS AT  
TEMPERATURES  
UP TO 1000 C**

**METAL HYDRIDE BATTERY  
ANODES DURING CHARGE  
AND DISCHARGE**



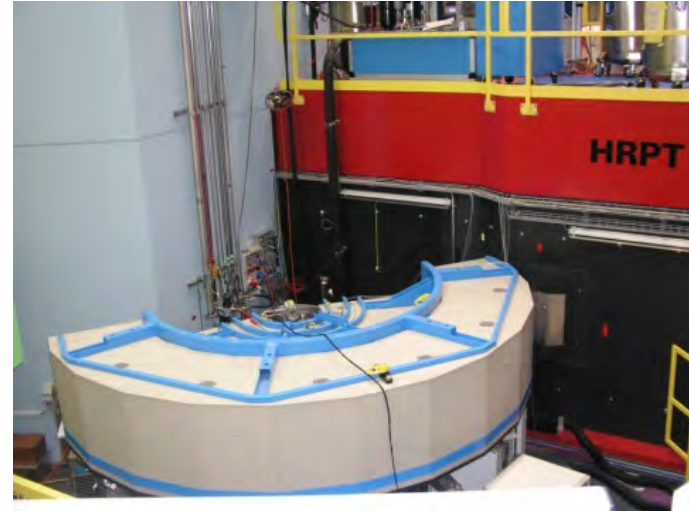
# LARGE SCALE FACILITIES: FREE ACCESS VIA QUALITY PROPOSALS

*In situ* powder diffraction (SXRD, NPD)



SXRD

SNBL, ESRF,  
France



PND

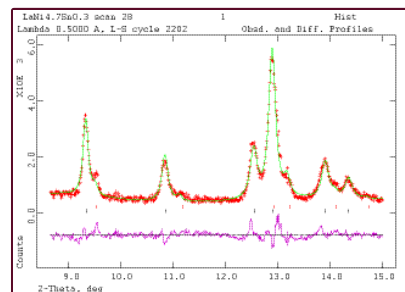
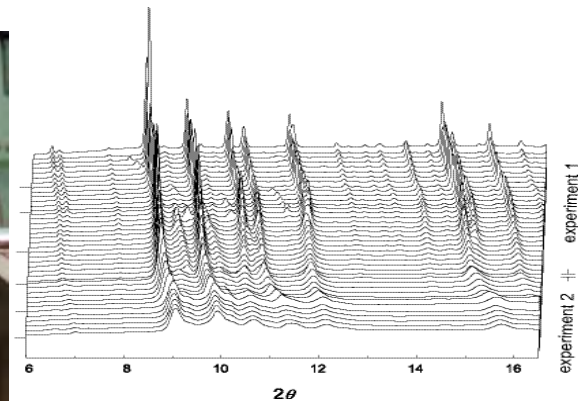
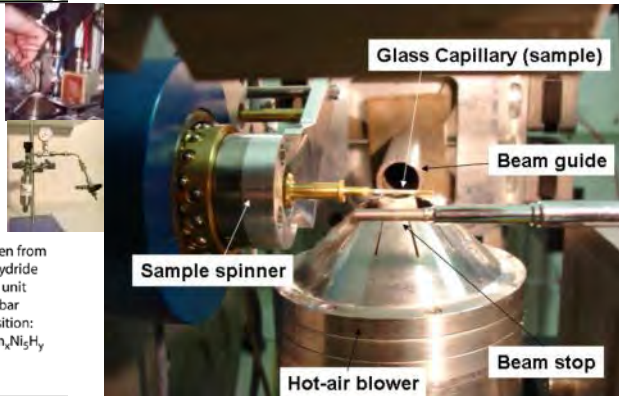
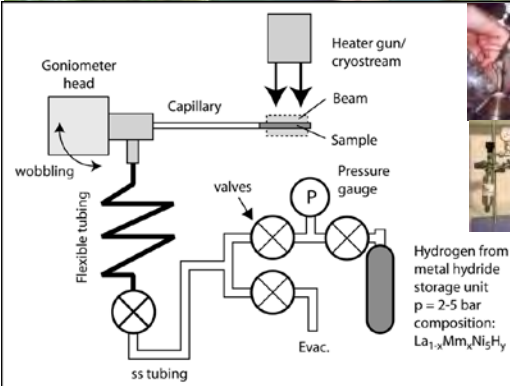
D1B @ ILL, Grenoble  
SINQ, PSI, Switzerland

HIGH FLUX BEAM.  $10^6$  MORE INTENCE AS COMPARED TO A CONVENTIONAL DIFF

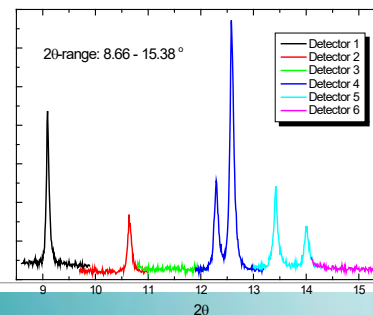
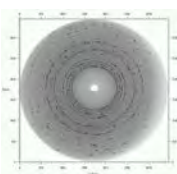
**PROBING OF THE KINETICS AND MECHANISM OF  
THE METAL-HYDROGEN INTERACTIONS**



***In situ studies:***  
**Swiss-Norwegian Beam Line, ESRF**  
**50 bar H<sub>2</sub> / vacuum @ 800 °C**  
**Gas mixtures: H<sub>2</sub>+CO; Cryostream;**  
**High pressures (GPa)**



**BM01**

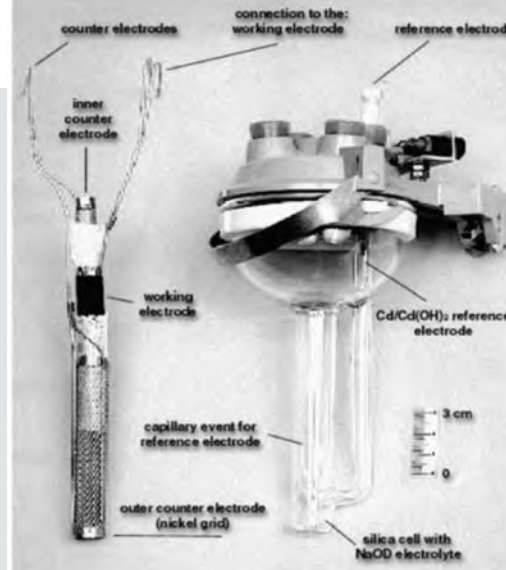


**BM31**

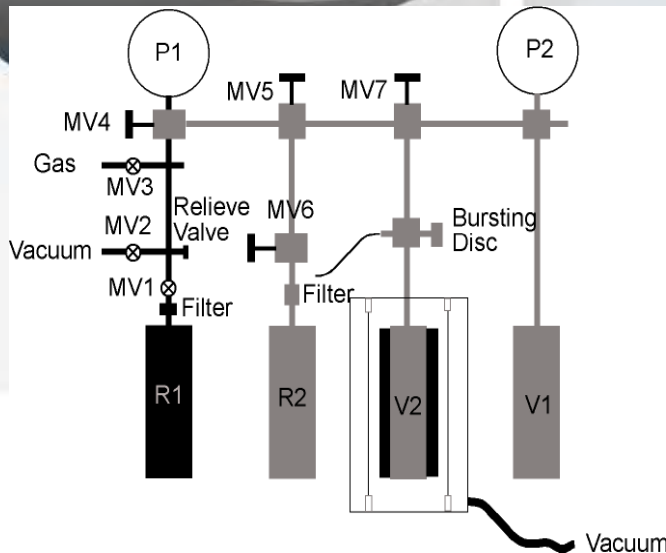


**Tantalum furnace**  
**375K ... 1400K**  
 Sample holder  
 diam.: 50mm

**Orange cryostat**  
**1.5...320 K**  
 Sample holder  
 diameter: 50 mm



Electrochemical cell mounted on the HRPT diffractometer at Paul Scherrer Institute  
 Collaboration with ICMPE, CNRS, France  
**Dr. M. Latroche and Dr. F. Cuevas**



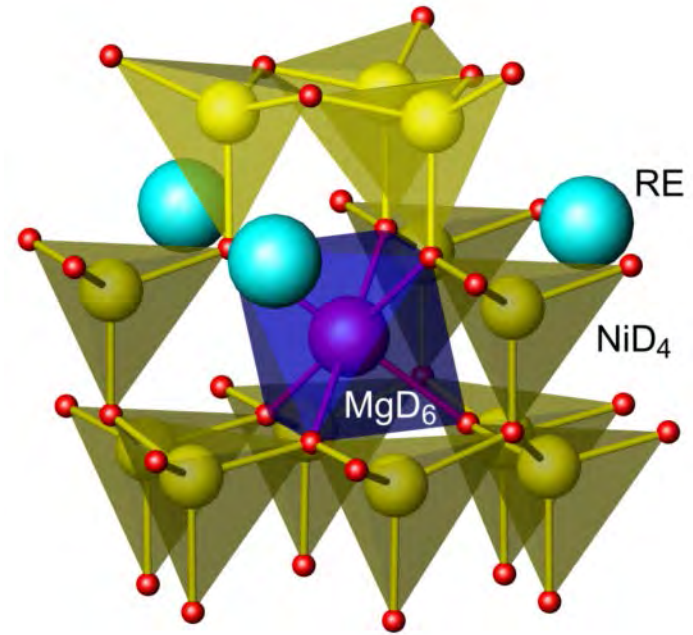
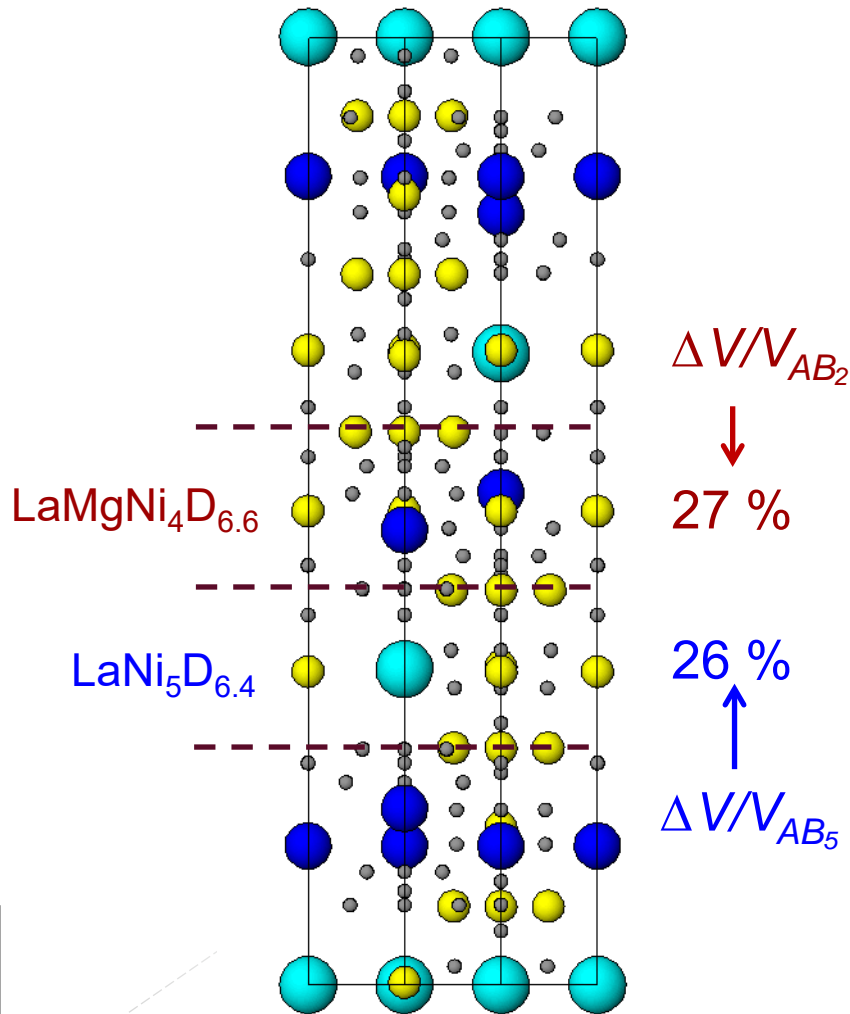
**High pressure  
 Zr-Ti  
 sample cell**

Collaboration with Griffith University, Australia

**Prof. Evan Gray,  
 Dr. Jim Webb,  
 Dr. Timothy Webb**



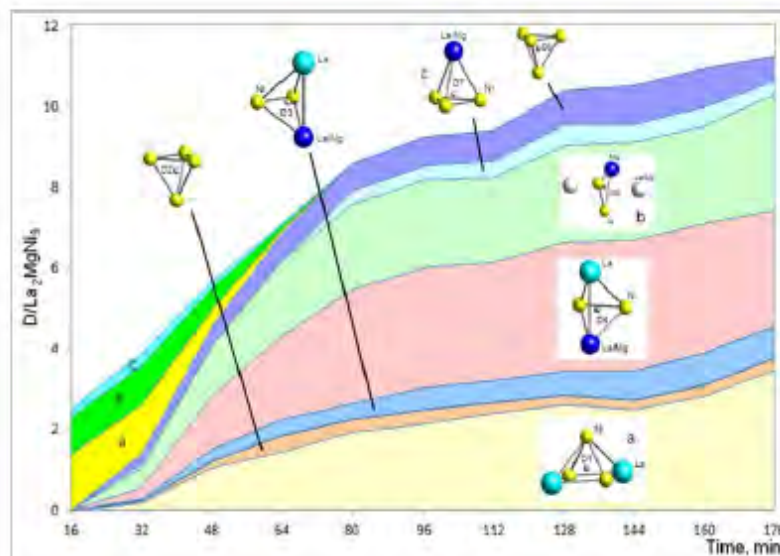
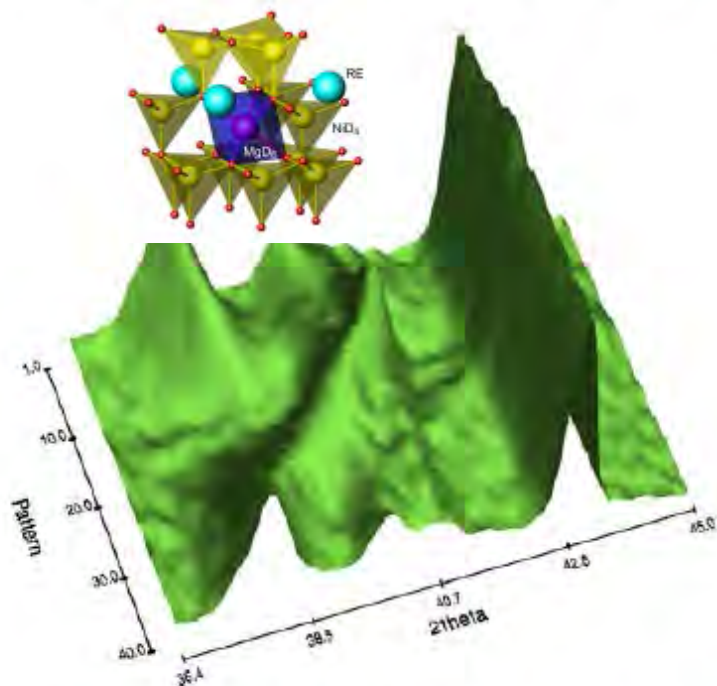
# Structures of $\text{La}_{3-x}\text{Mg}_x\text{Ni}_9$ hydrides



Filling of both  $\text{AB}_5$  and  $\text{AB}_2$  layers at all Mg/La substitutions

# La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub> EL CHARGE-DISCHARGE (PSI)

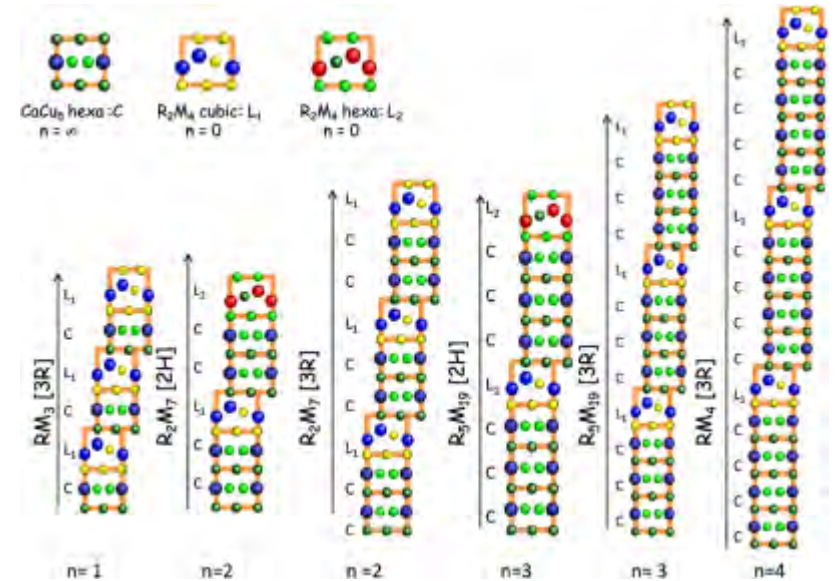
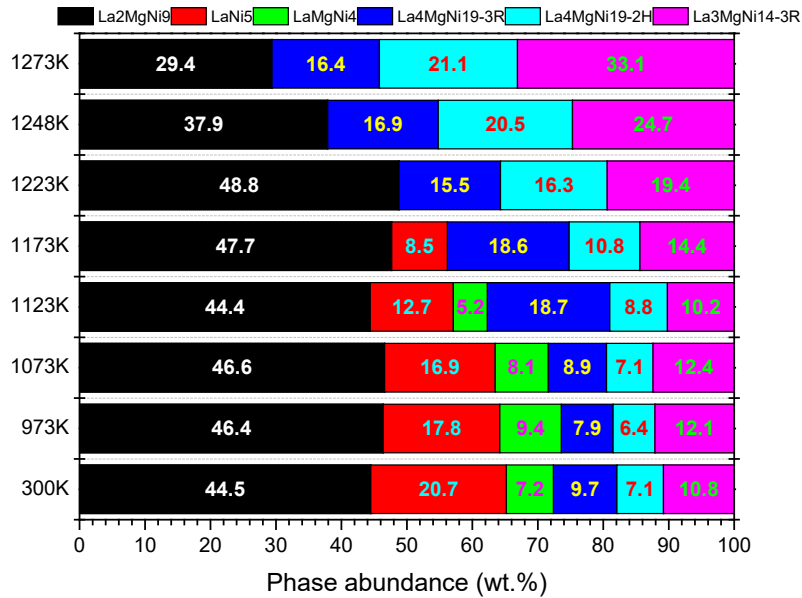
Collaboration with Michel Latroche and Fermin Cuevas (ICMPE, CNRS, France)



3D view of the ND pattern evolution as function of time during the first discharge-charge cycle (C/10) of the electrode La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub> at 150 mA.g<sup>-1</sup>.

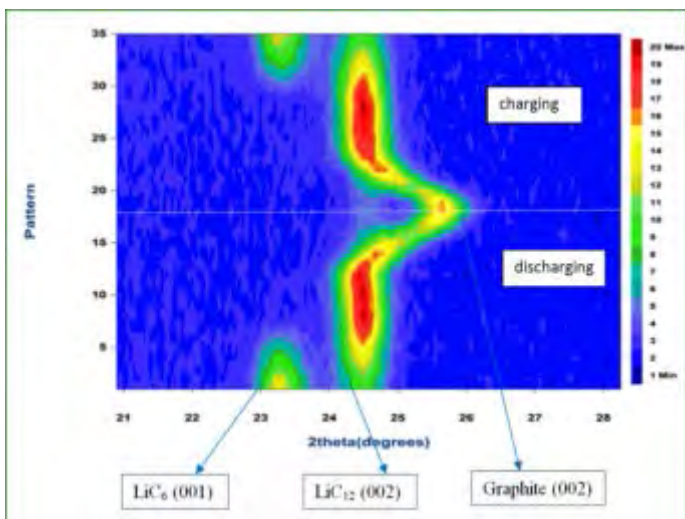
Michel Latroche, Fermin Cuevas, Wei-Kang Hu, Denys Sheptyakov, Roman V. Denys and Volodymyr A. Yartys.  
Mechanistic and kinetic study of the electrochemical charge and discharge of La<sub>2</sub>MgNi<sub>9</sub> by in situ powder neutron diffraction.//  
*J. Phys. Chem. C*, **2014**, *118* (23), pp 12162–12169. DOI: 10.1021/jp503226r.

# HIGH TEMPERATURE IN SITU STUDIES @ $\leq 1000$ C



Dr. Chubin Wan  
Dr. Roman Denys

# HIGH POWER BATTERIES PROBED BY NEUTRON SCATTERING

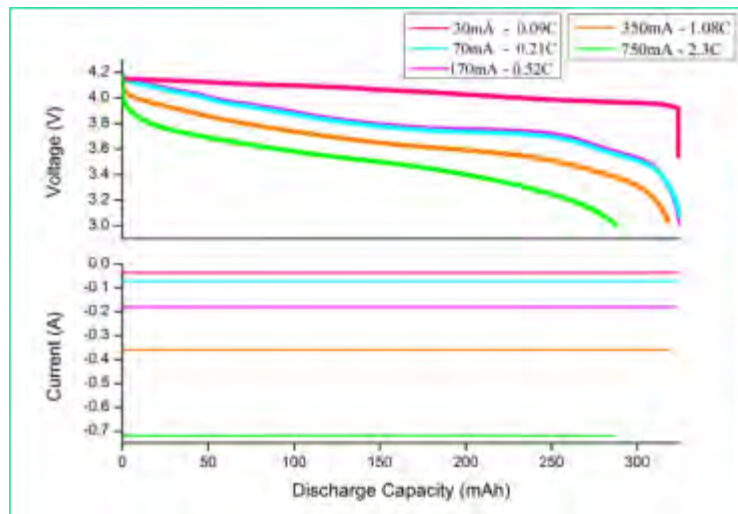


## DISCHARGE:

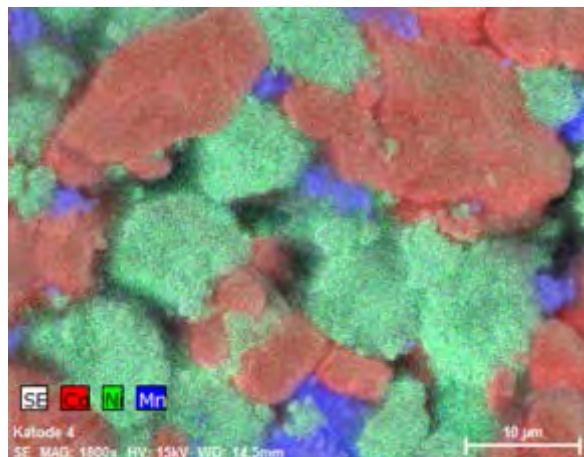
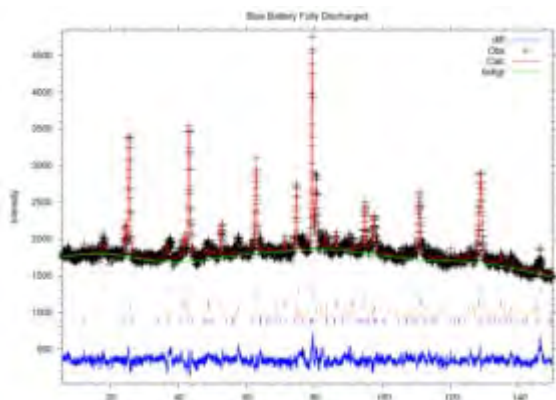
$\text{LiC}_6 / \text{LiC}_{12} \rightarrow \text{C (graphite)}$

## CHARGE:

$\text{C (graphite)} \rightarrow \text{LiC}_{12} \rightarrow \text{LiC}_6$



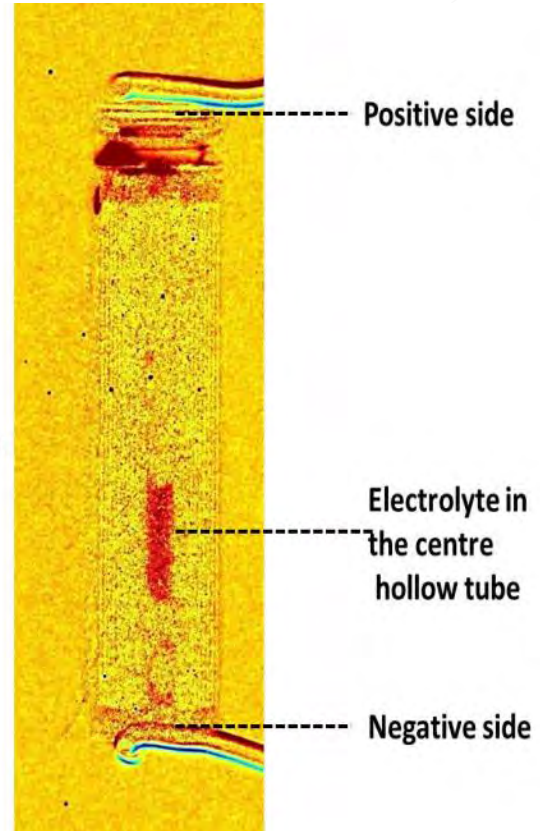
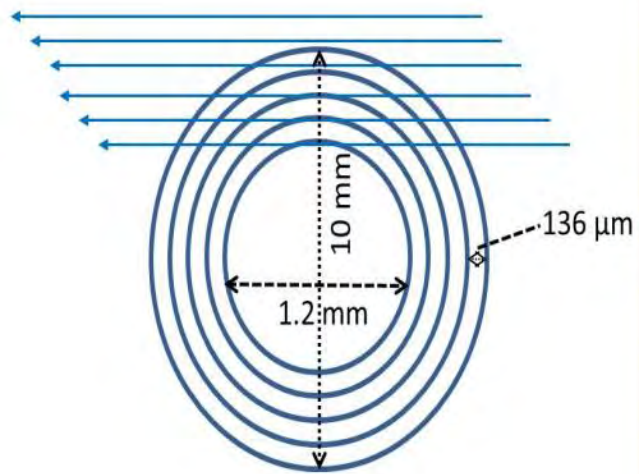
## NMC Li ION BATTERY



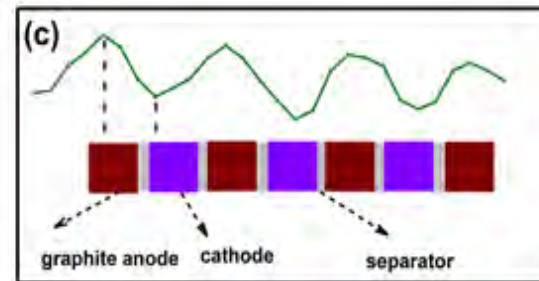
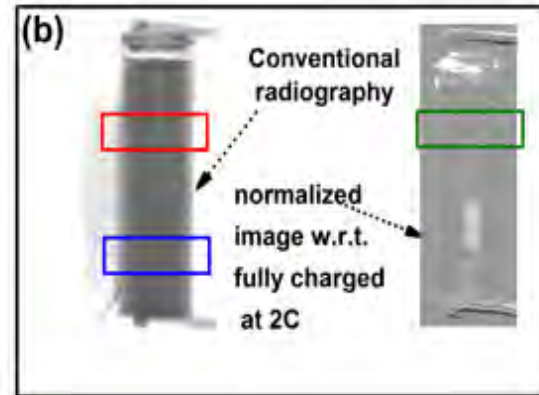
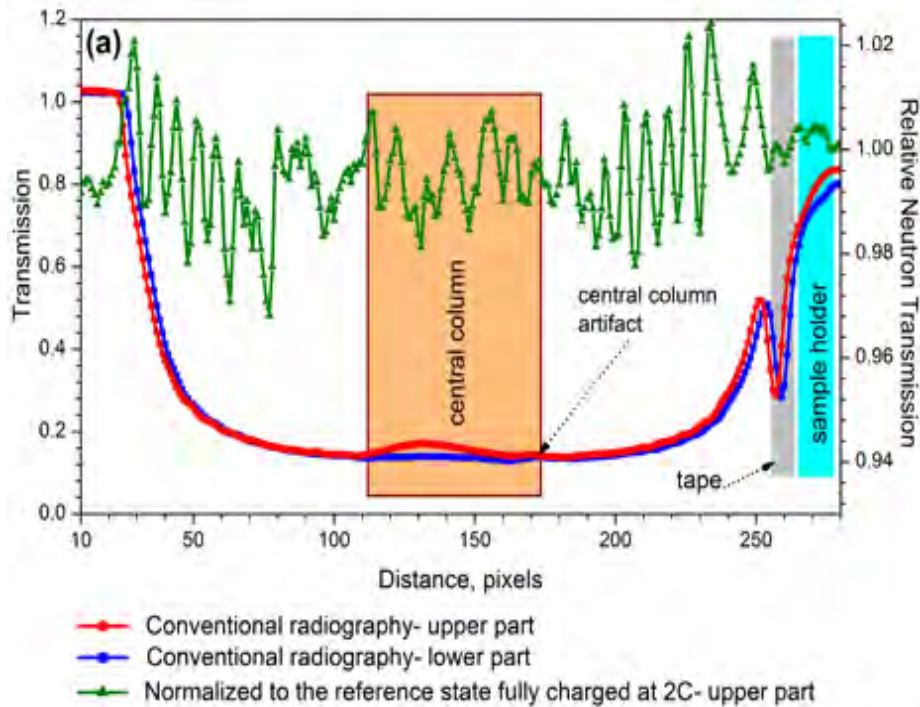
PhD project  
Nazia S. Nazer  
Cosupervisors  
Lars Arnberg &  
Volodymyr  
Yartys

In situ charge/discharge data from SINQ neutron source, Paul Scherrer Institute, Switzerland.

$\text{Li}_{1-x}(\text{Ni}, \text{Mn}, \text{Co})\text{O}_2$  mixed oxide cathode









**Thank you for your attention**