

## **Ceramic Applications in the Automotive Industry**

Michael. J. Hoffmann

Institute for Applied Materials - Ceramics in Mechanical Engineering



KIT – University of the State of Baden-Württemberg and National Large-scale Research Center of the Helmholtz Association

www.kit.edu

#### Ceramics components in automotive applications



filter, catalyst carrier





#### **Functional Ceramics**

spark and glow plugs, oxygen sensor, knocking sensor, parking distance control, PTC heaters, fuel injection systems

#### Ceramics components in automotive applications



filter, catalyst carrier





#### **Structural Ceramics**

pump components (sealings), brake discs, catalyst support, particulate filter,

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### Projection of Total Energy Demand and Energy Mix



#### Energy Demand (x10<sup>18</sup> J)



- Liquid fuels will still significantly contribute to up-coming energy demands
- Combustion engines are necessary in the next decades
- Individual transport: long range distance, trucks, hybrids

## European Fuel-Economy Goal up to 2025





#### Downsizing concept





Downsizing is based on the principle of a reduction in engine size in order to reduce consumption without affecting power.

#### Measures:

- Reduction of number of cylinders
- Supercharging (use compressed air)
- Direct injection systems

#### **Challenges and Needs:**

- Injection control system
- High pressure fuel pump
- High thermal and mechanical loading

Downsizing can reduce the  $CO_2$  emissions between 5% for diesel models and 40% for gasoline models by 2020. These engines should be able to remain dominant for a long time in the car market.

#### Downsizing concept





Downsizing is already reality in the present US market



# Outline

- High pressure pump systems for gasoline engines
- Spark plugs
- Porous ceramics for local reinforcement of metal matrix composites
- Piezoelectric injection systems
- PTC heating elements
- General conclusions

**Piezoelectric Driven Common Rail Fuel Injection Technology** 





Piezo technology increases efficiency and reduces emission  $\rightarrow$  already used in Diesel systems, but with a high potential for gasoline systems

#### **Piezoelectric Driven Common Rail Fuel Injection Technology** 14 metal parts droplet size SMD [µm] 12 ceramic parts 10 8 -40 % 6 4 0 10 20 30 50 60 40 fuel injection pressure [MPa] Pfister et al. Cer. Trans. (2011) High fuel injection pressure is needed to reduce droplet size (-40%), $\rightarrow$ decrease of fuel consumption and pollutant emissions (-80%)

## Fuel evaporation in combustion chamber





### 3-Piston High Pressure Pump for Gasoline Engines





Cam/sliding-shoe contact is tribological highly loaded due to an insufficient lubrication of petrol with increasing pressure  $\rightarrow$  ceramic components can be a solution

#### Friction coefficient in the cam/sliding-shoe contact





Silicon carbide and SiAIONs indicate a similar behaviour with a very low friction coefficients at a system pressure of 50 MPa

### Effect of surface texturing of the cam/sliding-shoe contact





The texture significantly improves the performance of self-mated silicon carbide at low speed or low contact force



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## Gasoline direct injection system





Source: KIT / IFKM, Spicher

An ignitable mixture for low and high loads is only formed in a very narrow spatial zone

### Future trends for spark plugs in fuel-efficient engines







#### **Challenges**

- Distance between electrodes will increase
- Higher voltage will be applied
- $\rightarrow$  longer spark
- Pressure increase in combustion chamber
  - $\rightarrow$  higher thermal and mechanical loading
- reduction in size

# Strength distribution and typical failure mechanisms of commerical spark plugs



Strength distribution reflects also the electric breakthrough behaviour  $\rightarrow$  Most current commercial materials do not match the requirements

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#### Future trends for spark plugs in fuel-efficient engines





#### Challenges:

- $\mbox{ \bullet smaller diameter } \rightarrow \mbox{ higher thermal and mechanical loading }$
- $\rightarrow$  strength must be increased by enhanced processing conditions
- adjustable resistance
- high voltage  $\rightarrow$  increase in electrical breakthrough



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Metal Matrix Composites for Highly Loaded Engine Parts

# Karlsruhe Institute of Technology

#### Engine part manufactured by pressure die casting of Al-based alloys



Inhomogeneous cooling causes thermal stresses that can be minimized by a local reinforcement with ceramics (preform concept).

## Local reinforcement of pressure die-casted Al-MMCs





#### Preparation of Porous Ceramic Preforms



#### Pore filler concept



Porosity: up to 75% Pore size and shape depend on filler Freeze casting



Porosity: 20-85% Ice crystals form final pores

#### Ceramic foams



Porosity: 85-95% cell size depends on polymer foam

Mattern et al., JECS (2004).

Different types of ceramic preforms can be manufactured by using powder technology processes.

#### Preparation of freeze-casted AI-MMCs





Waschkies et al., JACS (2009)



2 mm

#### Estimation of failure probability for different perform types 1E-9 foams · MPa] freeze casting permeability · strength [m<sup>2</sup> 1E-10 E-11 with pore fillers Failure region E-12 1E-13 pressure squeeze 0.0 ve melt velocity [n casting casting Mattern et al., JECS (2004).

Freeze casted preforms can be used for pressure casting, while preforms with pore fillers and bottle neck pores will break



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Typical strain of a donor-doped Pb(Zr,Ti)O<sub>3</sub> ceramic (PZT): 0.15 - 0.2 % at 20-30 kV/cm  $\rightarrow$  Multilayer device

#### Piezoelectric Driven Common Rail Fuel Injection Technology







#### Requirements for piezoelectric actuators for fuel injection systems

- cofiring with internal electrodes (multilayer device)
- high strain
- operating temperatures from -40 to 150 °C
- small temperature dependence of strain
- high reproducibility (mass production)
- "low cost"
- challenge: replacement of PZT by lead free ferroelectrics

#### Comparison of Pb(Zr,Ti)O<sub>3</sub> and a lead-free ceramic





Lead-free ceramics show a lower strain for a similar electric field strength and exhibit a much stronger temperature dependence of strain



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#### Heat deficiency for car heating systems with efficient engines





Diesel and Gasoline direct injection (12V)

#### 400W- 2.000W

Mild Hybride, Start-Stop Systems with 42-144V







Full Hybride, E-Cars, Fuell cell driven cars with up to 500V power supply

source: eberspächer catem, Germany

The increasing efficiency of fuel saving cars requires a supplementary heat system based on functional ceramics showing a positive temperature coefficient resistance (PTCR) effect.



- PTC-effect is based on the temperature depended potential barrier at the grain boundary → high electrical resistance above T<sub>C</sub>
- $\cdot$  The ferroelectric phase equals the charge of the potential barrier below  $\rm T_{\rm C}$ 
  - $\rightarrow$  low electrical resistance



Highly efficient cars do not produce enough "waste energy" for heating

## PTC effect in donor-doped BaTiO<sub>3</sub>-based ceamics





OEMs favour different local heating elements to reduce total energy consumption



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#### Requirements and Challenges for Materials Research







 $\rightarrow$  Reduction of product development time due to shorter product life cycles





"This could be the discovery of the century. Depending, of course, on how far down it goes."