

OPERA COST Action Training School 2025

Applications and Characterization of Epitaxial Materials



The poster for the 4th OPERA COST Action Training School (hybrid event) titled "Applications and Characterization of Epitaxial Materials" is set against a background of a city skyline at sunset. The top banner features the OPERA logo, a night view of a building, a person in a lab, and a map of Europe. The main text provides details about the event dates (3rd to 6th June 2025), location (Faculty of Science at Masaryk University, Brno), and technical sessions (at CEITEC, Brno University of Technology). It also includes a registration deadline (30th April 2025), a QR code, and logos for the European Union, MUNI Faculty of Science, CEITEC, and the University of Technology.

4th OPERA COST Action Training School (hybrid event)
Applications and Characterization of Epitaxial Materials

For on-site participants at:
Faculty of Science (Kotlářská Campus)
Masaryk University
Brno, Czech Republic

with technical session at:
CEITEC, Brno University of Technology

Deadline for registration: 30th April 2025

No attendance fee

Chair: Lenka Zajíčková
E-mail: lenkaz@physics.muni.cz
<https://cost-opera.eu/>

Funded by the European Union
MUNI FACULTY OF SCIENCE
CEITEC
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY

COST Action CA20116



European Network for Innovative
and Advanced Epitaxy

Presentation of OPERA COST action

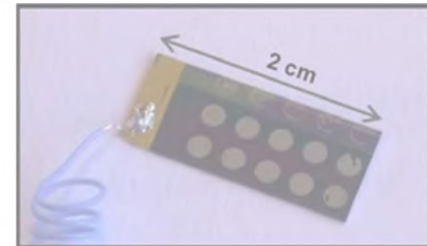
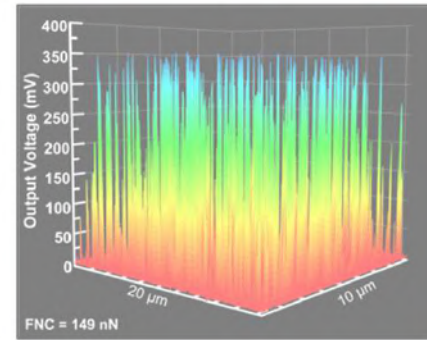
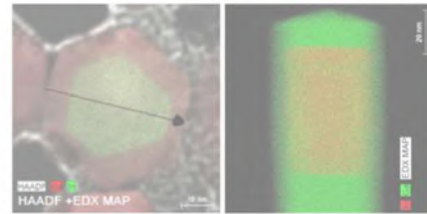
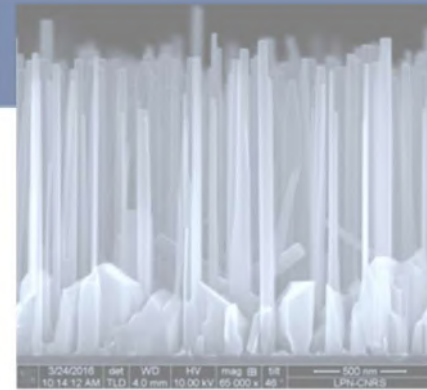
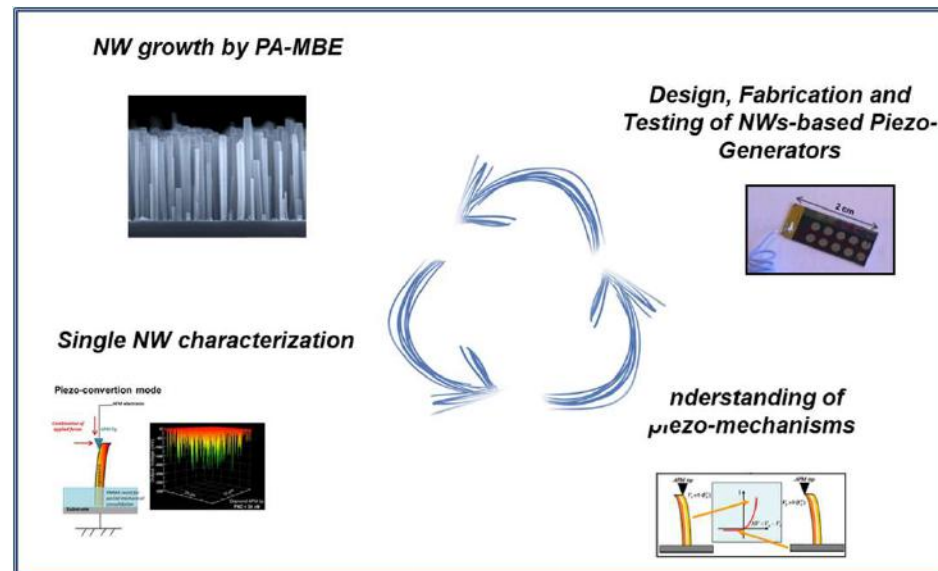
Presentation of OPERA COST action

Dr. Noelle Gogneau - Chair
Dr. Yamina André – Scientific Grant Holder

Dr. Noëlle Gogneau



Development of high-efficient and ultra-compact piezo-transducers based on III-N NWs for supplying μ -sensors and medical implants





université
PARIS-SACLAY



410

PERSONNES



120

CHERCHEURS ET
ENSEIGNANTS-
CHERCHEURS



80

INGÉNIEURS, TECHNICIENS
ET ADMINISTRATIFS



18 000 m²

DONT 2 900 M² DE SALLES
BLANCHES



*Innovation is essential
for the R&D of
tomorrow!*

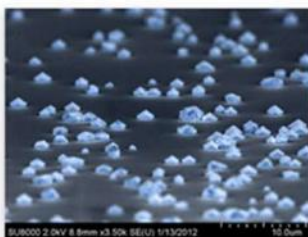


4 DEPARTMENTS



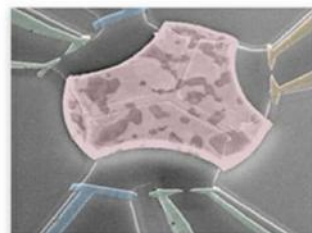
Photonics Dept.

*From fundamental
research to the
development of new
photonic devices*



Materials Dept.

*Epitaxy of materials and
study of the properties of
new structures with
advanced functionalities*



Electronic Dept.

*Understanding of
phenomena and
realization of devices at
the nanometric scale*



Microsystem & Microfluidic Dept.

*Study and understanding
of innovative micro / nano
devices*

6 PLATFORMES



PIMENT

PLATEFORME D'INNOVATION EN MICRO ET NANO-TECHNOLOGIES

POEM

PLATEFORME D'ELABORATION DE MATÉRIAUX

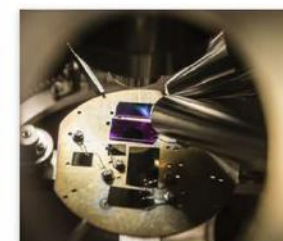
PANAM

PLATEFORME D'ANALYSE DES MATÉRIAUX

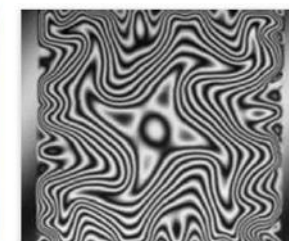
**Technology
platform**



Expérimentation RF et
optique



Instrumentation



Plateforme multi-
physique



Clermont-Ferrand

A central position in Europe... and in France !



400 000 inhabitants (37 000 students)

UNESCO heritage (2018)



COST ACTION CA20116 <https://cost-opera.eu>



OPERA Grant Holder

A dynamic economy



Some big company names :

Michelin,
Limagrain,
Volvic
IBM...

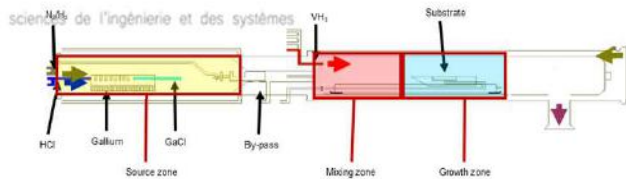
Sectors with international reach:

Logistics and transports,
Mechanics,
Biotechnology,
Food industries...



Franziska Fischer
Administrative Grant Holder

Yamina André
Scientific Grant Holder



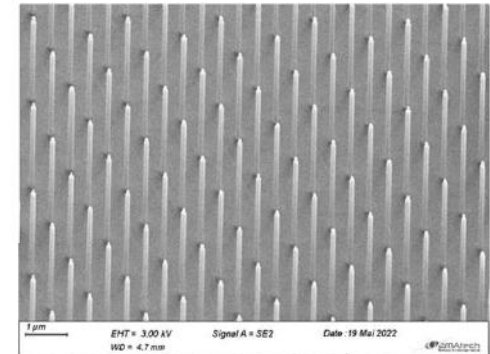
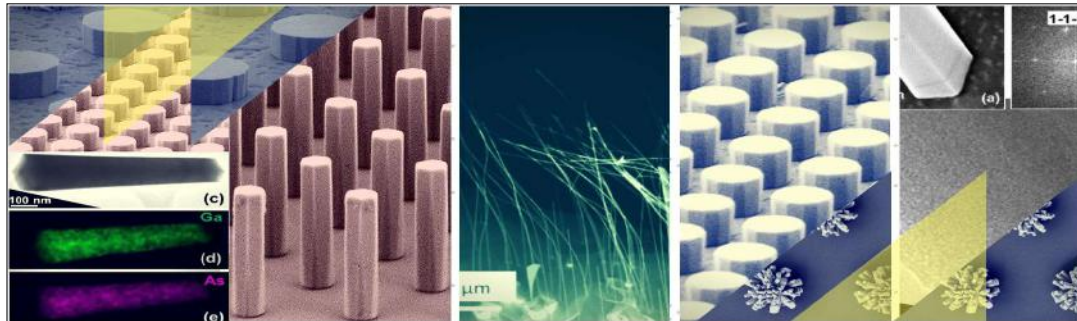
III Elements : III-Cl_x (GaCl, InCl, InCl₃)
 V : VH₃ (NH₃, AsH₃)
 Low material consumption
 (average total flow 3L/min)

III-V



Good selectivity in SAG

Possibility to tune the growth rate from
 (1 μm/h to 130 μm/h)



Pattern characteristics:
 Pitch = 1 μm
 Hole diameters = 80 nm

Photodetection
 Energy Conversion

***Epitaxy of III-V nanostructures and nanowires
 by Hydride Vapor Phase Epitaxy (HVPE)***

Epitaxy – a little history !

OPERA COST Action

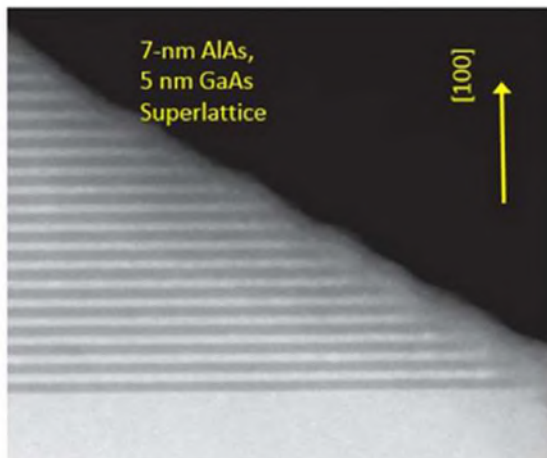
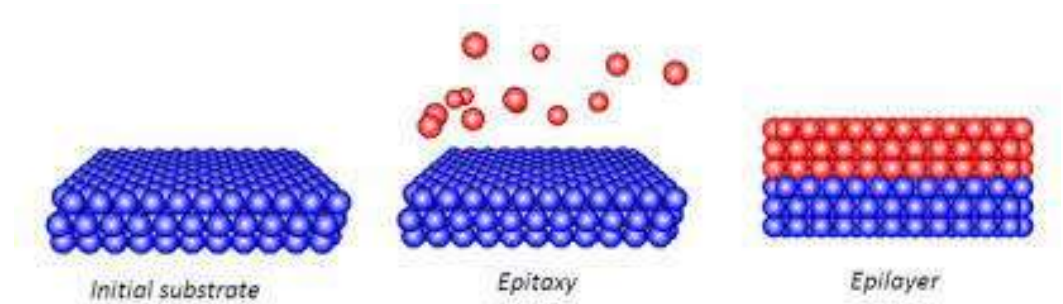
Opening Calls

Epitaxy - Definition

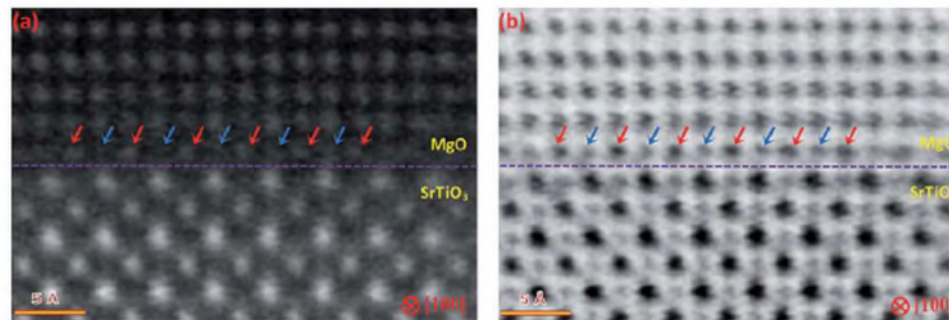
Epitaxy

Refers to the growth of a material with a highly ordered atomic arrangement (thin films, nanostructures, 2D materials, inorganic or organic materials) on top of another one (crystalline, amorphous material)

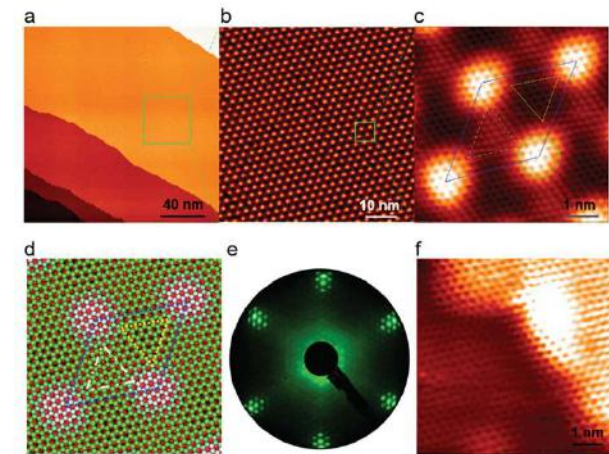
The word **epitaxy** derives from the **Greek prefix**
epi meaning “upon” or “over”
taxis meaning “arrangement” or “order”



MBE of AlAs/GaAs superlattice [1]



(a) HAADF and (b) ABF STEM image of the MgO/STO heterointerface [2]

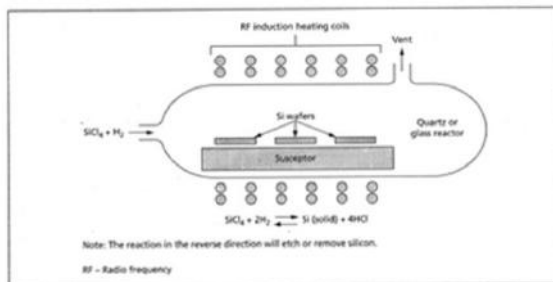


Epitaxially-grown wafer-size graphene on a Ru(0001) surface [3]

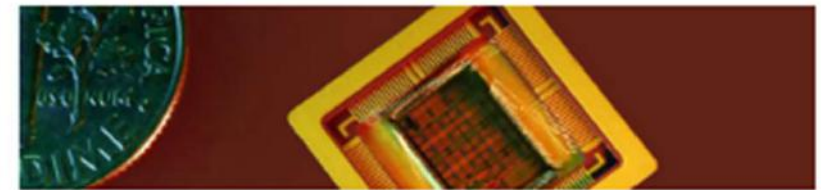
Epitaxy – A little history

[4]

"In 1951 Gordon Teal and Howard Christensen at Bell Labs developed a process, now called epitaxial deposition, to grow a thin layer of material on a substrate that continues the underlying crystalline structure. Sheftal', Kokorish, and Krasilov described similar work on germanium and silicon in the U.S.S.R. in 1957."



A research-scale epitaxial reactor in operation
Credit: University of South Carolina



1960: EPITAXIAL DEPOSITION PROCESS ENHANCES TRANSISTOR PERFORMANCE

DEVELOPMENT OF THIN-FILM CRYSTAL-GROWTH PROCESS LEADS TO TRANSISTORS WITH HIGH SWITCHING SPEEDS.



G. Pendaketch of Ian Ross, an associate of Bell Labs
© 2006-2007 Alcatel-Lucent. All rights reserved



In 1951 Gordon Teal and Howard Christensen at Bell Labs developed a process, now called epitaxial deposition, to grow a thin layer of material on a substrate that continues the underlying crystalline structure. Sheftal', Kokorish, and Krasilov described similar work on germanium and silicon in the U.S.S.R. in 1957.

At the urging of Ian Ross, a Bell Labs team led by Henry Theurer used chemical-vapor deposition to add a thin epitaxial layer of silicon between the base and collector of a transistor in 1960. This approach raised the transistor's breakdown voltage while dramatically increasing its switching speed, [1961 Milestone] two important circuit-design characteristics. The added manufacturing cost of the extra process step was more than offset by improvements in device performance. The technology was quickly transferred to Western Electric and used in manufacturing silicon transistors for electronic telephone switching in the Bell System.

Epitaxy – A little history



The beginning of the 21st century is also marked by Nobel Prizes highlighting the strong impact of epitaxy in research and innovation

Between 2009 and 2014, the Nobel Prize foundation has honored numerous scientists for their **works using epitaxy and has enabled and encouraged applications that are now commonly used**



2000, H. Kroemer & Z. I. Alferov
"for developing semiconductor heterostructures used in high-speed- and opto-electronics"



2007, A. Fert and P. Grünberg
"for the discovery of Giant Magnetoresistance."

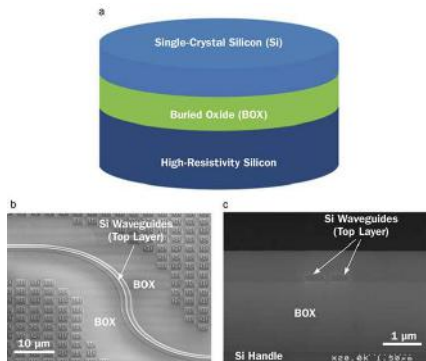
2009, W.S. Boyle & G. E. Smith
"for the invention of an imaging semiconductor circuit – the CCD sensor"



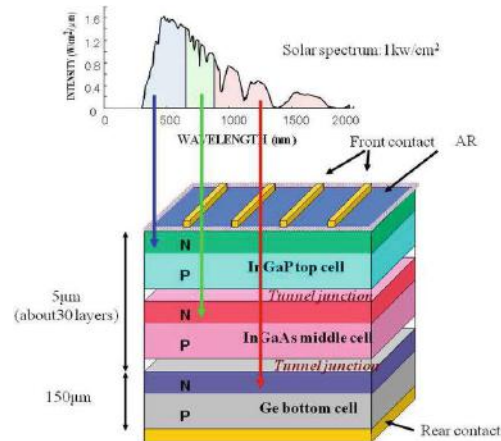
2014, I. Akasaki, H. Amano & S. Nakamura *"for the invention of efficient blue light-emitting diodes which has enabled bright and energy-saving white light sources"*

Epitaxy – Towards applications

“Conventional” semiconductors, the first grown, represent the most prominent used materials in applications of epitaxy

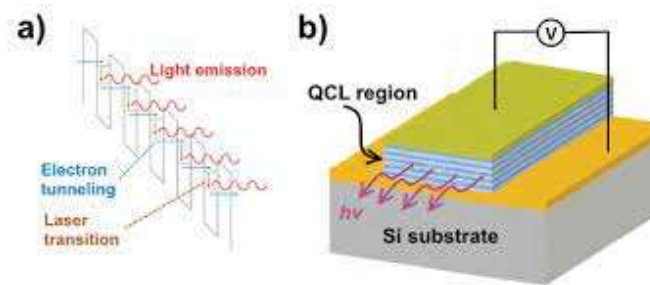


SOI Technology Lights Up the Next Wave of Photonics Solutions [10]

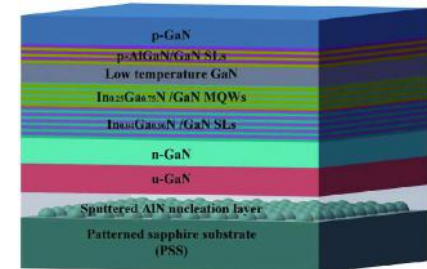


High-Efficiency GaAs-Based Solar Cells [9]

High potential in terms of innovation



Quantum Cascade Laser [5-7]



Green light-emitting diode (LED) epitaxial structure [8]

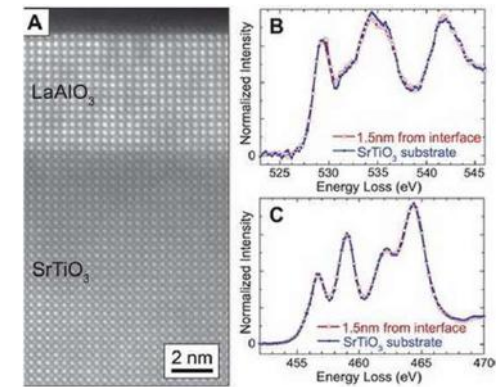
Although epitaxial 2D-layers based on silicon and III-V semiconductors have largely demonstrated their potential in terms of innovation, continuous efforts in the development of **epitaxy have realized new breakthroughs opening the way towards more efficient, low cost and/or more eco-friendly devices.**

Epitaxy – Towards applications

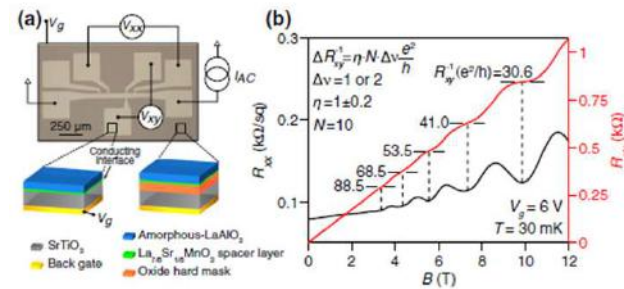
The past two decades have also seen an impressive boom and development of a wide range of novel epitaxial materials, combinations and forms of materials

Functional oxides include a wide diversity of material systems ranging from simple binary materials to complex oxide heterostructures

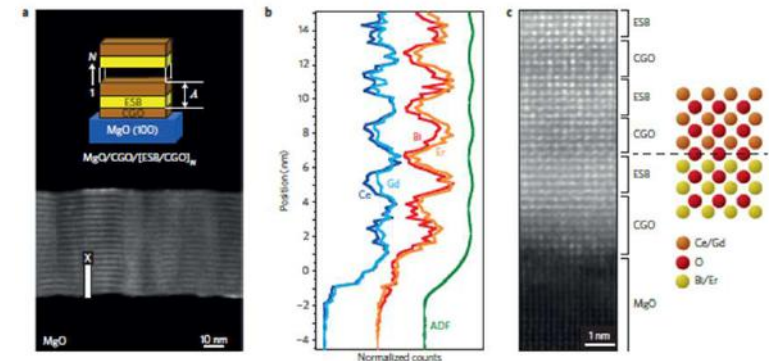
Their large variety of properties offers a step change across a multitude of applications spanning from electronic devices to energy applications [11-12]



Superconductivity [16]



Observation of the quantum Hall effect [15]



Energy [17]

2D electron gas [13] with high mobilities [14]

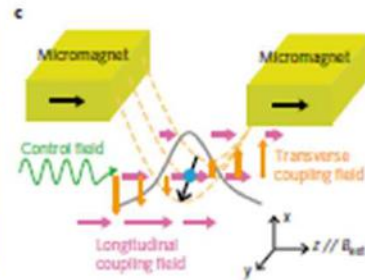
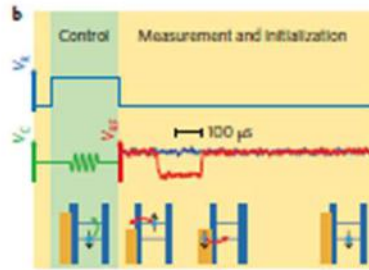
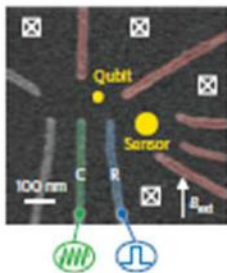
Epitaxy – Towards applications

The past two decades have also seen an impressive boom and development of a wide range of novel epitaxial materials, combinations and forms of materials

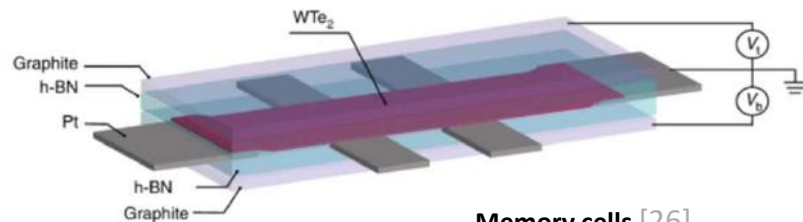


2D-materials have unambiguously demonstrated their high potential for the observation of novel quantum phenomena such as in electronics and photonics [28]

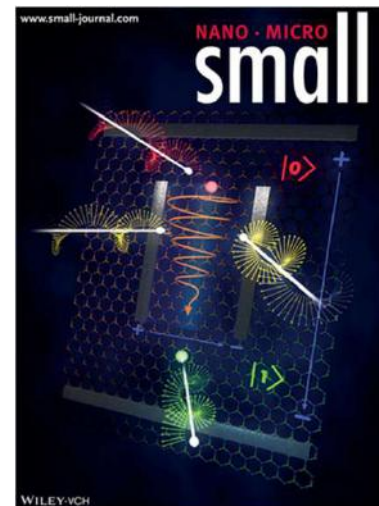
Recent works on graphene- and beyond-graphene-materials have established their large capacity for applications in various domains



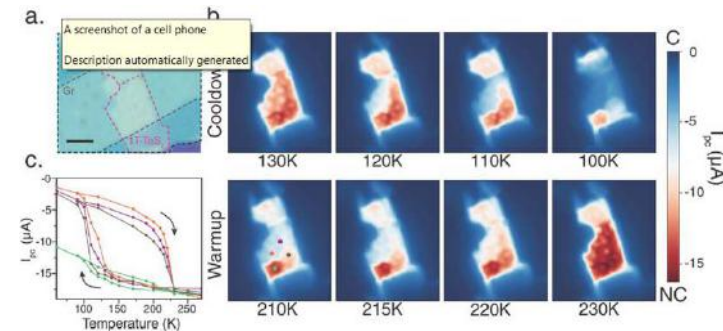
Transistors [18-19]



Memory cells [26]



Valleytronics [27]



Photodetectors [20-21]

Batteries [22]

Transparent electrodes [23]

Energy storage [24-25]

What do all these applications have in common?

Epitaxy

Epitaxial materials are the basis for device innovation

Motivations

☀ Epitaxial growth is useful for applications that place stringent demands on a deposited layer:

- * High purity
- * Low defect density
- * Abrupt interfaces
- * Controlled material thickness and carrier concentration
- * Controlled doping profiles
- * Possibility to grow p-n junction & other multilayer structures
- * High repeatability and uniformity
- * Safe, efficient operation

**Better
structural, optical, electrical...
properties**

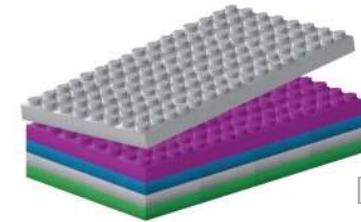
☀ Can create clean, fresh surface for device fabrication

Epitaxy Fundamentals – few words !

Which epitaxial technique for the semiconductors ?



[43]



[44]

When selecting an epitaxial growth technology for a particular material system and/or device application, the choice needs to take into account:

- ✓ The basic principles of thermodynamics,
- ✓ Kinetics,
- ✓ Surface energies
- ...

As well as practical issues of:

- ✓ Reproducibility,
- ✓ Scalability,
- ✓ Process control,
- ✓ Instrumentation,
- ✓ Safety and capital equipment costs.

Several epitaxial techniques have been used for the growth of epilayers of III-V, II-VI compound semiconductors, Oxide and 2D-materials.

- ☼ Liquid Phase Epitaxy (LPE),
- ☼ Molecular Beam Epitaxy (MBE) and the hybrid systems
- ☼ Vapor Phase Epitaxy (VPE) and the related techniques
- ☼ Pulsed laser deposition (PLD)
- ☼ Atomic Layer Deposition (ALD)
- ☼ ...

OPERA • COST ACTION CA20116

European Network for Innovative and Advanced Epitaxy

OPERA will build a new and innovative European Network composed of expert communities in epitaxial growth focusing on different materials classes: conventional semiconductors, oxides and 2D materials.

[Know More](#)

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

LATEST NEWS



Postpone of the Workshop -
"From Epitaxial Materials
towards Technological
Transfer:
Academic/Industrial
meeting"

APRIL 26, 2023



[VIEW ALL](#)

LATEST JOB OPPORTUNITIES



New Research Technologist
position at CNR-IOM Trieste

MAY 24, 2023



[VIEW ALL](#)

OPERA - Context & Needs

**Today, material innovation is more vital than ever and needs to be more efficient,
design-driven and environmentally friendly**

Different “epitaxial” communities

- ❖ *Materials oriented: Silicon, III-V semiconductors, wide-band-gap materials, oxides, 2D-materials, 3D-metamaterials...*
- ❖ *Deposition techniques: MOVPE & MBE; LPE, CVD, ALD/ALE & MLD/ MLE, PLD*
- ❖ *Focused communities: NWs or QDs, epitaxial process (Van der Waals epitaxy), targeted applications (photovoltaic cells, gas sensors, white LEDs or flexible electronics...*

*Organization of international conferences, workshops
centered on materials, epitaxial techniques
a good illustration of these community partitions !*

Integrate and concern only a small part of working groups

We need

**A broader structure of the epitaxy community in the
thematic sense, with the aim of addressing common
problems and pushing innovations beyond the boundaries !**

**Only by joint efforts from researchers from
different communities, startup & industry
with a sharing and open mindset**

Working Groups

WG1

Fundamental research – New Materials

In material science, the ambition is to address new challenges, pushing the frontiers of knowledge. To address Sustainable Development Goals: the fundamental key in the epitaxy field must be addressed for mastering "actual" materials and developing new materials.

Objectives: To master the material growth under various forms (2D film, 3D structures, nanostructures); and to develop and control the growth of new materials, it is essential to understand the fundamental mechanisms driving their synthesis by closely combining experimental and theoretical approaches.

- **WG1.1** Fundamental aspects of epitaxy
- **WG1.2** Theory of epitaxy
- **WG1.3** Substrates and pre-growth: Towards hybridization
- **WG1.4** In-situ growth and characterization

WG2

Applications-oriented material developments

Optimization of materials for innovative devices: Novel device performances rely on material properties. In this regard, materials must be developed considering device requirements.

Objectives: To make the bridge between fundamental researches (WG1) and industrial applications (WG3).

- **WG2.1** Characterization and control of novel functional materials;
- **WG2.2** Engineering epitaxial strategies for functional properties of devices;
- **WG2.3** Theoretical simulation of fundamental properties and functional devices;
- **WG2.4** New/optimized tools for growth and characterization.

WG3

Industry-oriented materials development and technological transfers

To develop technological transfer-ready devices, the fundamental challenges of tasks 1 & 2 must be addressed by taking into account market-proof device specifications.

Objectives: To convert scientific excellence into innovative solutions and establish disruptive technologies.

- **WG3.1** Assessment of materials requirements, development of advanced materials and technological transfers for Photonics, Electronics, Energy, communication/information, Health and Environment;
- **WG3.2** Epitaxial tools and techniques: Because of the assessment of materials requirements, development of advanced materials/nanostructures and technological transfers is also based on the development of new techniques, new material sources and adequate and new substrates.



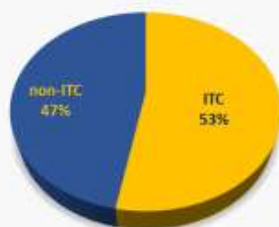


Gender distribution ITC grantees Young researchers

COST members: 34
ITC countries: 18



MC members balance
October 2024



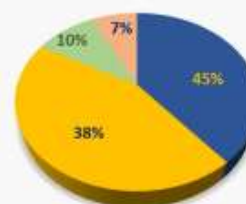
4 Near-neighbouring countries



3 International partner countries

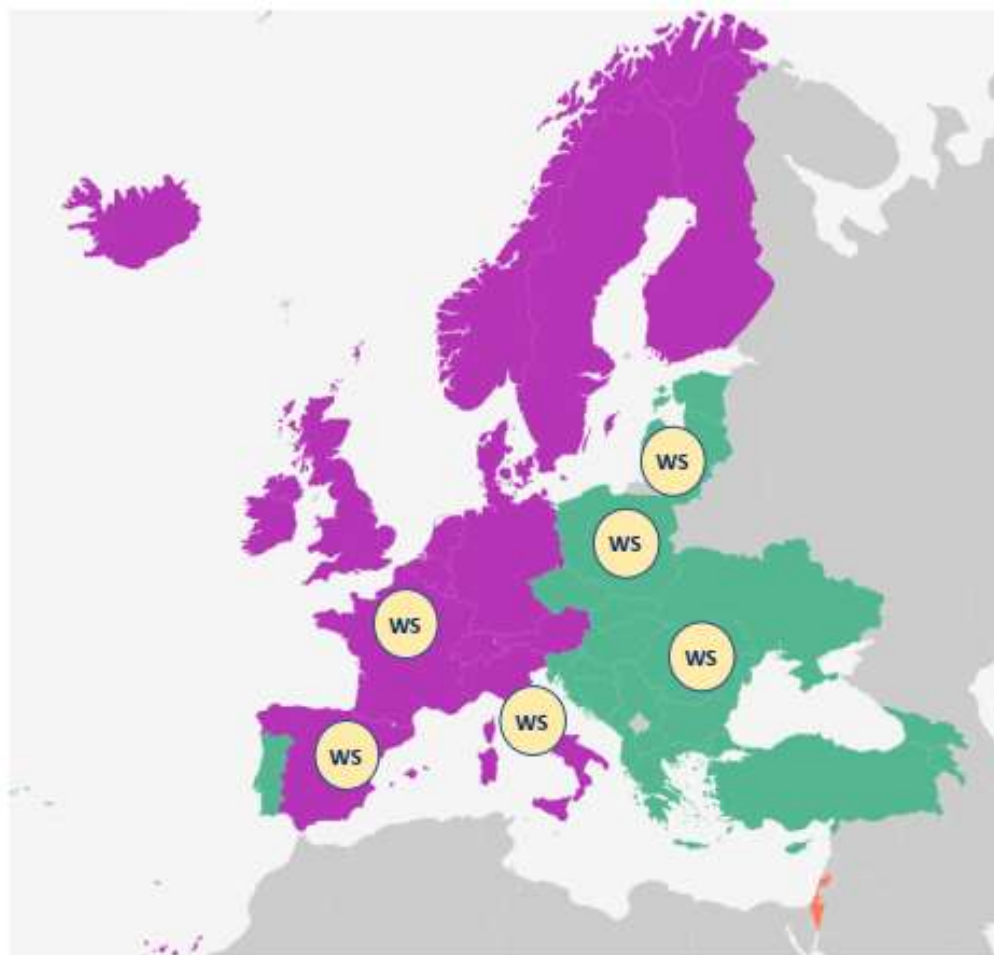


OPERA COST Action -
Partner Balance



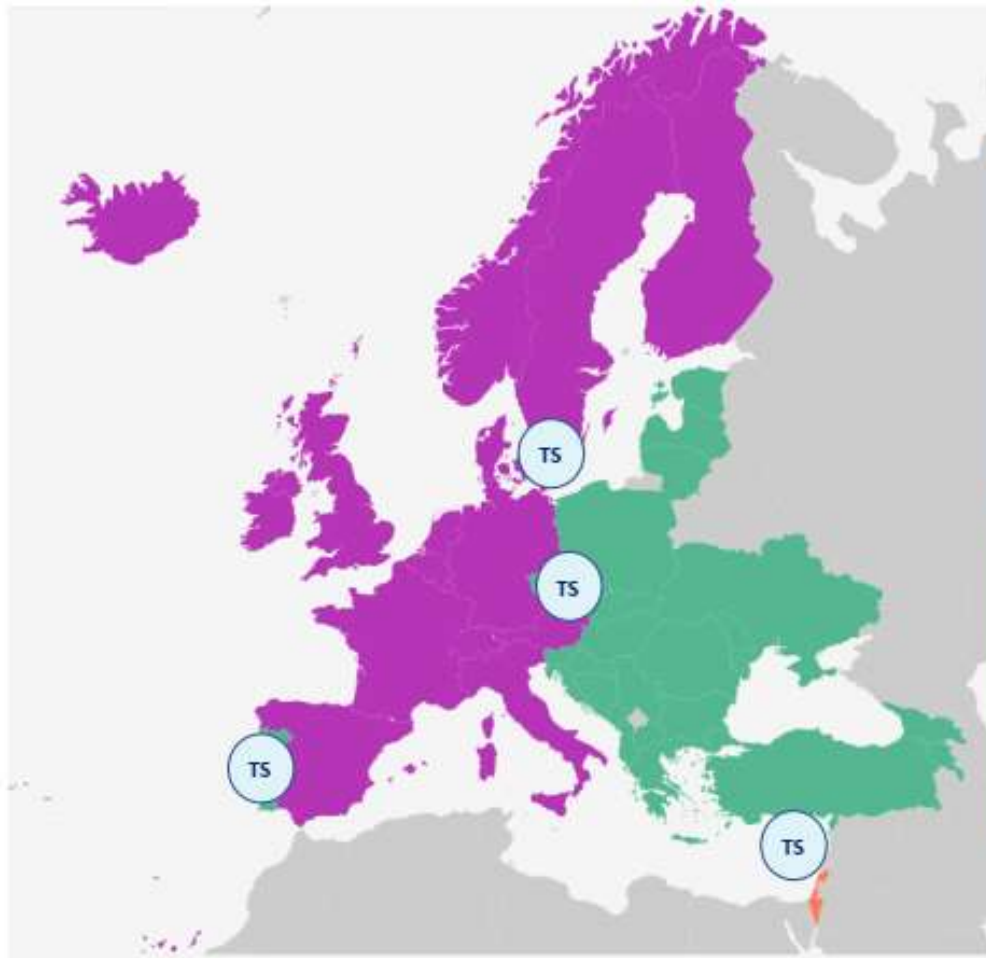
ITC
Non-ITC
NNC
IPC

Today: More than 800 persons subscribing the mailing list

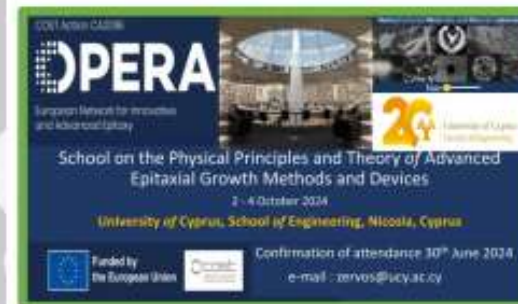


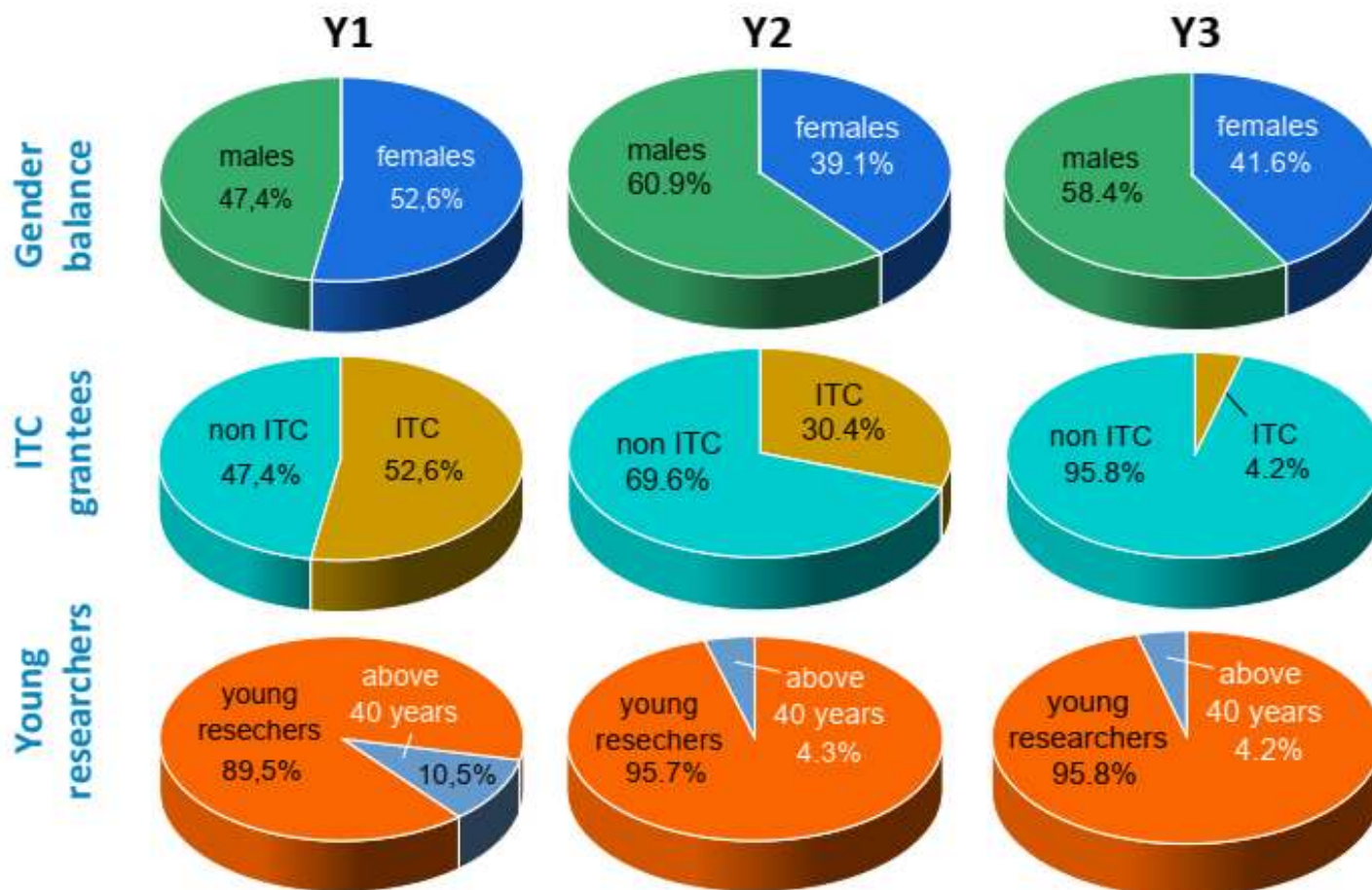
6 workshops/Conferences





4 Training Schools





Home Countries: 19 + 1 NNC

Host Countries: 19 + 1IPC

Average duration: 25,7 days

Total Budget (Y1 – Y3)
129 k€



COST Actions are a career accelerator for young researchers. 88% indicate that participation has led to advancement

Survey on the OPERA COST Action impact for

- Women, Young Researchers and ITC members
- Development of new collaboration
- Publications

COST Action CA20116



European Network for Innovative and Advanced Epitaxy



COST Actions are gender inclusive: During Horizon 2020, 42% of participants were women

Scientific



- enabling researchers to work on emerging scientific topics
- facilitating access to research infrastructures through short-term scientific missions
- fostering opportunities for training
- increasing the production of new knowledge and breakthrough discoveries

Networking



- creating open spaces for the free circulation of researchers and ideas
- helping advancing knowledge and innovation by building an internal market for researchers and innovations
- increasing interconnectiveness with the whole research community across countries, generations, and gender in Europe and beyond
- promoting public research cooperation and widening access to excellence

Mobility and visibility



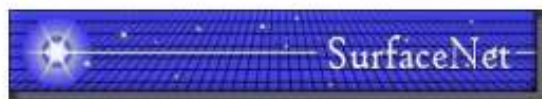
- stimulating international mobility and visibility
- generating short-term mobility with long-term impact

Career opportunities



- acting as incentive for the promotion of career development of European staff
- facilitating careers of young researchers

36 Stakeholders



Dedicated mailing list
opera-stakeholders@c2n.upsaclay.fr

Please sign the attendance list every day



COST Action CA20116



European Network for Innovative
and Advanced Epitaxy

Enjoy the training school

Enjoy the training school

References and sources

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