



# BTU-BAM Graduate School “Trustworthy Hydrogen”

Prof. Dr. Jan Ingo Flege<sup>1</sup> and Dr. Kai Holtappels<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg

<sup>2</sup>Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und –prüfung, Berlin

<https://www.b-tu.de/graduierenkolleg-trustworthy-hydrogen/>



# BTU-BAM Graduate School

## “Trustworthy Hydrogen”

- first graduate school in Germany focused on hydrogen trustworthiness
- combines the unique competences of BAM and BTU to train the **next generation of interdisciplinary hydrogen scientists**
- **hydrogen focused qualification programme** providing all PhD students with a holistic understanding of the hydrogen value chain
- starting date: January 2023



# BTU-BAM Graduate School

## “Trustworthy Hydrogen”



- first graduate school in Germany focused on hydrogen trustworthiness
- combines the unique competences of BAM and BTU to train the next generation of interdisciplinary hydrogen scientists
- hydrogen focused qualification programme providing all PhD students with a holistic understanding of the hydrogen value chain and the regulatory framework conditions
- wide range of soft skill courses
- close interaction with industry (embedded in international networks of BTU and BAM)
- working language is English

# BTU-BAM Graduate School

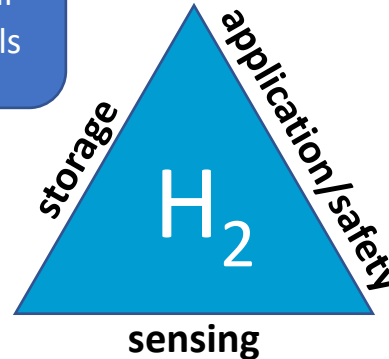
## “Trustworthy Hydrogen”

- initial launch with 7 PhD topics:

Influence of manufacturing process-related residual stresses in wound composite material on the operational safety of H<sub>2</sub> pressure vessels

Influence of manufacturing-induced imperfections on the operational safety of composite H<sub>2</sub> pressure vessels

Efficient polymer matrix composites qualification strategies for next generation H<sub>2</sub>-pressure vessels



Evaluation of the influence of lubricants on pre-ignition of hydrogen for engine-relevant conditions

Influence of fires on tanks for cryogenic fluids

Digital sensor twins for hydrogen applications

Novel materials and coatings for the detection of hydrogen and hydrocarbons

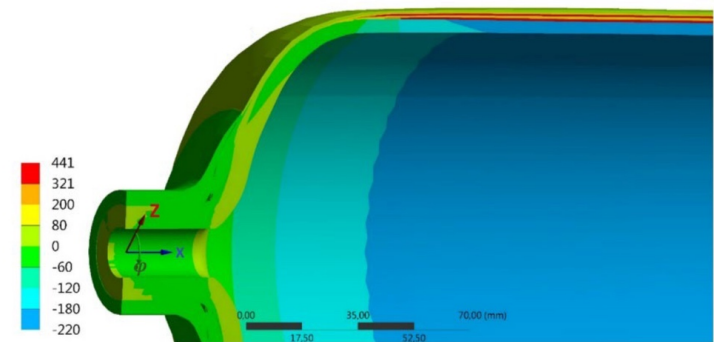
# PhD Research Topic 1: Hydrogen Storage

- Overall Goal: Optimizing the material of light-weight pressure vessels → polymer matrix composites made from carbon-fibre reinforced plastics
- Present situation: in-service life strongly influenced by inter-fibre failure due to long-term and cyclic thermomechanical loading
- Problem: current planar test geometries and protocols not efficient
- Novel ansatz: tubular test geometry with in-situ investigation
- Deliverables:
  - ➔ Design, manufacturing and test of representative tubular specimens
  - ➔ Built-up of in-situ H<sub>2</sub>-pressurized tubes in tensile testing
  - ➔ Multiaxial test protocols for standardization



# PhD Research Topic 5: Hydrogen Storage

- Overall goal: Optimizing the material of light-weight pressure vessels → polymer matrix composites made from carbon-fibre reinforced plastics
- Present situation: creation of composite using winding technology, AFP process, or braiding
- Problem: reduced stresses in winding process lead to reduced strength and reliability
- Novel ansatz: study influence of stress by simulation and hydraulic testing of model tanks
- Deliverables:
  - ➔ finite-element model of pressure vessel
  - ➔ determination of vessel design and manufacturing process
  - ➔ implementation and application of test setup



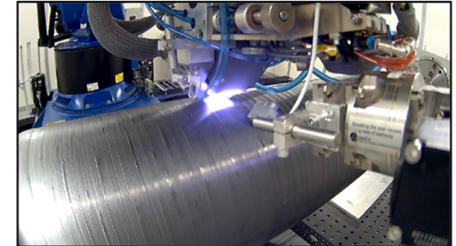
finite-element model



# PhD Research Topic 6:

## Hydrogen Storage

- Overall goal: Optimizing the material of light-weight pressure vessels → polymer matrix composites made from carbon-fibre reinforced plastics
- Present situation: creation of composite using winding technology, AFP process, or braiding
- Problem: imperfections introduced in winding process lead to reduced reliability
- Novel ansatz: study influence of manufacturing-induced imperfections by simulation and testing
- Deliverables:
  - ➔ development and manufacturing of composite test specimen with targeted imperfections
  - ➔ FE model including manufacturing process derived imperfections
  - ➔ implementation of suitable test setup
  - ➔ design rules and new material concepts



automatic fiber placement (AFP) process

# PhD Research Topic 7: Hydrogen Safety/Applications

- Overall goal: safe transportation of cryogenic fluids (liquefied H<sub>2</sub>)
- Present situation: most commercial products optimized for liquefied natural gas
- Problem: little knowledge about other gases, especially, hydrogen
- Novel ansatz: study influence of fires on tanks experimentally and theoretically
- Deliverables:
  - ➡ impact of fires on super insulation
  - ➡ how fires affect cryogenic hazardous materials
  - ➡ theoretical models describing such incidents

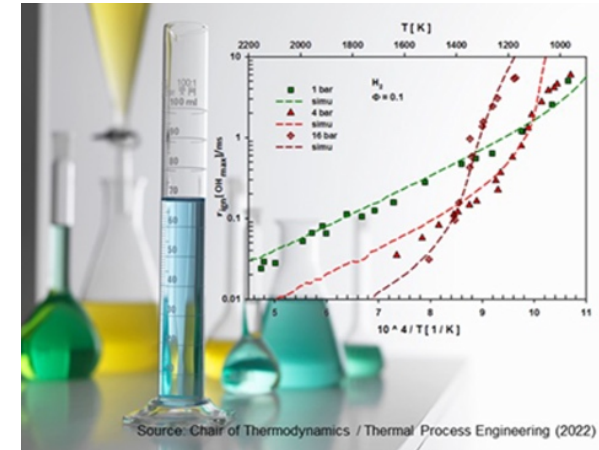


explosion of tank for liquefied gas



# PhD Research Topic 3: Hydrogen Safety/Applications

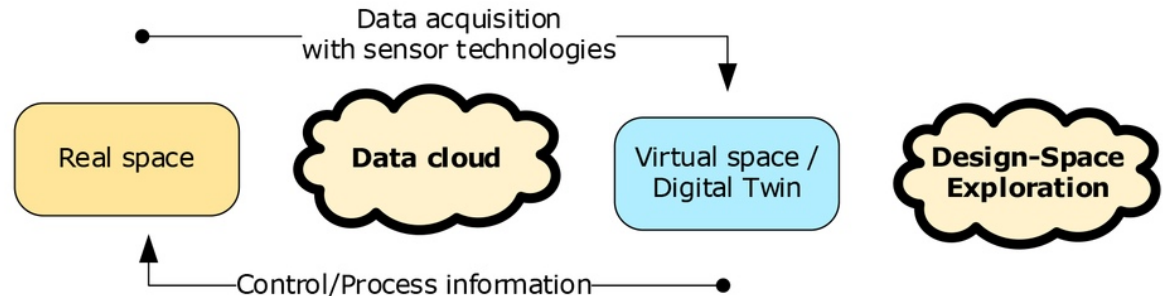
- Overall goal: safe and efficient operation of gas engines with green hydrogen
- Present situation: lubricants not optimized for hydrogen as fuel
- Problem: increased compression ratio and charging of intake air may cause self-ignition of engine oil
- Novel ansatz: theoretical and experimental study of influence of lubricants under engine-relevant conditions
- Deliverables:
  - ➔ fundamental understanding of influence of lubricant properties
  - ➔ validated detailed kinetic model for predicting pre-ignition in hydrogen/air mixtures with lubricants
  - ➔ identification of optimum lubricant properties



kinetic modeling of fundamental processes

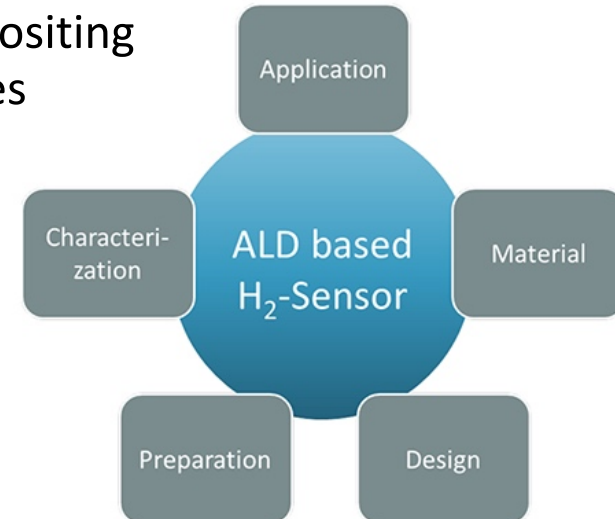
# PhD Research Topic 4: Hydrogen Sensors

- Overall goal: optimized and validated process management in hydrogen plants using sensor technologies
- Novel ansatz: intelligent design of sensor networks based on digitally supported data mining
- Deliverables:
  - ➔ development of sensor network concept
  - ➔ establish sensor node system
  - ➔ digital twin for  $H_2$  determination in air



# PhD Research Topic 2: Novel Hydrogen Sensor Materials

- Overall goal: miniaturized, efficient sensor materials for sensitive and selective H<sub>2</sub> detection
- Present situation: current sensors rather bulky, not CMOS-integrated
- Novel ansatz: use of atomic layer deposition (ALD) for depositing thin oxide films on nanostructured substrates
- Deliverables:
  - ➔ ALD preparation recipes for active sensor layers
  - ➔ characterization of gas-oxide interaction depending on temperature, pressure, gas composition
  - ➔ detailed sensor response depending on gas composition and exposure



# PhD Research Topic 2: Novel Hydrogen Sensor Materials

- Overall goal: miniaturized, efficient sensor and selective H<sub>2</sub> detection
- Present situation:
- Novel ansatz: use of ALD for the preparation of novel materials
- Deliverables:
  - ➔ ALD preparation of novel materials
  - ➔ characterization of sensor response depending on temperature and gas composition
  - ➔ detailed sensor response depending on gas composition and exposure

intimate connection to  
iCampus Cottbus and energy  
innovation center (EIC)

