

**Micro and Nanoparticles in  
Functional Materials**  
Trends in Micro Nano

Prof. Dr. Jens Ulmer

# Particles in Functional Materials

## OST – Universities of applied sciences

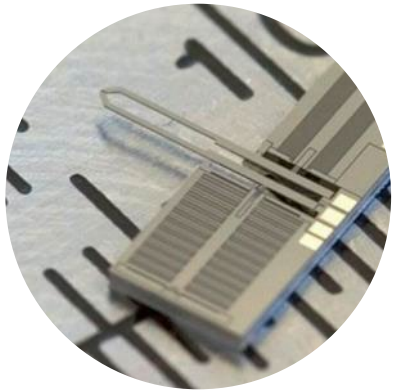


**Jens Ulmer**  
Professor für angewandte Chemie bei OST –  
Ostschweizer Fachhochschule



email: [jens.ulmer@ost.ch](mailto:jens.ulmer@ost.ch)

## Institute for Microtechnology and Photonics (IMP)



### Microtechnology

MEMS design and fabrication  
Packaging  
Printing & Pattern Technologies



### Cleanroom

Infrastructure (620 m<sup>2</sup>  
ISO 5-7)  
Complete 8"  
Processing  
Pilot series



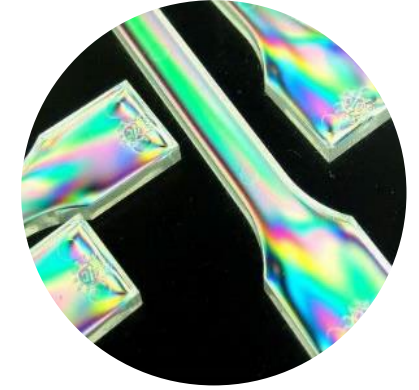
### Photonics

Optics  
Waveguides  
Machine Vision  
Laser-Processing



### Production Metrology

Certified coordinate  
measurements  
Micro- and nano-topography



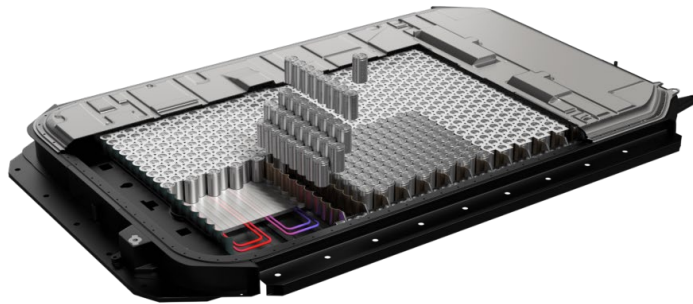
### Materials

Surface functionalization  
Polymer formulation  
Materials testing  
Surface analysis

## Overview where particles add functionality

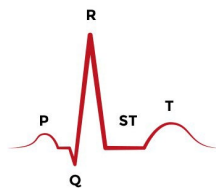
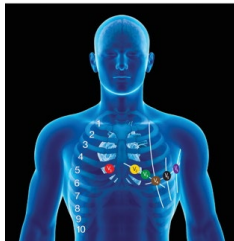
### Thermal conductive adhesive

enabling cell to pack design in BEV



### Electroconductive Polymer

enabling longterm vital sign monitoring



### Challenges

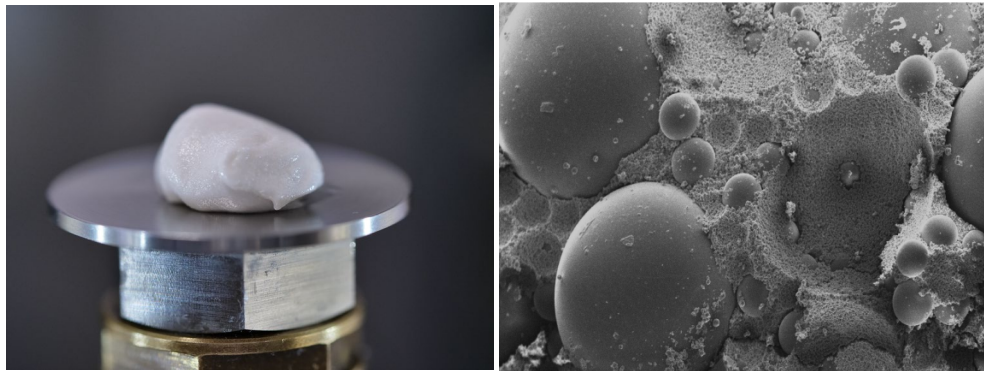
- Viscosity
- Sedimentation
- Interfacial adhesion

### Critical parameters

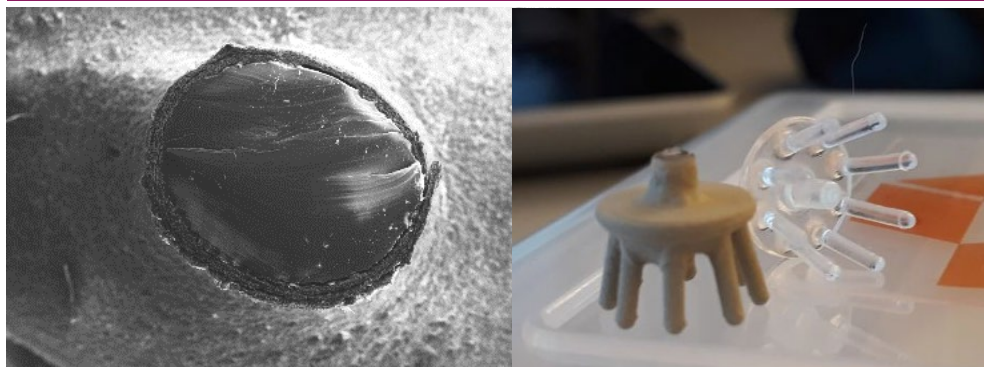
- Matrix – particle interaction  
→ tuning particle surface by functionalization
- Particle size  
→ adjusting and controlling size distribution by wet milling
- Particle materials  
→ combining different materials to improve properties

## Overview where particles add functionality

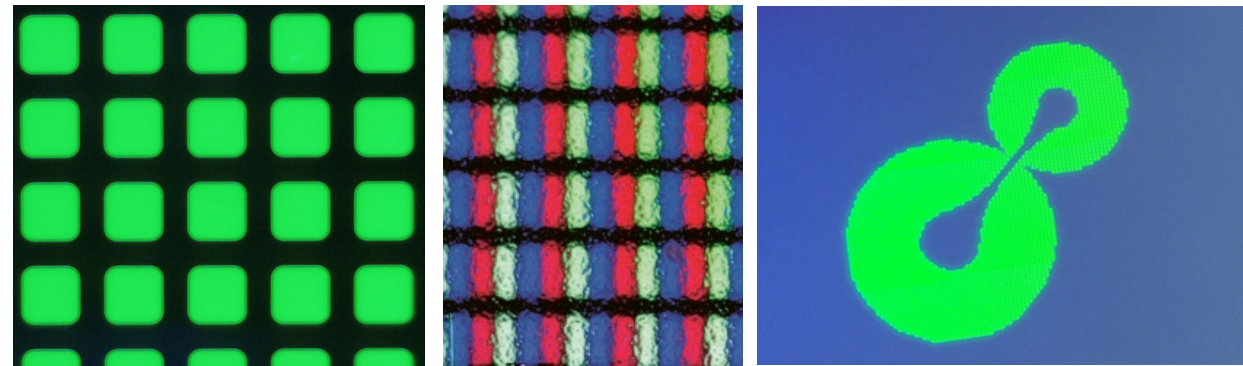
### Thermal conductive adhesive



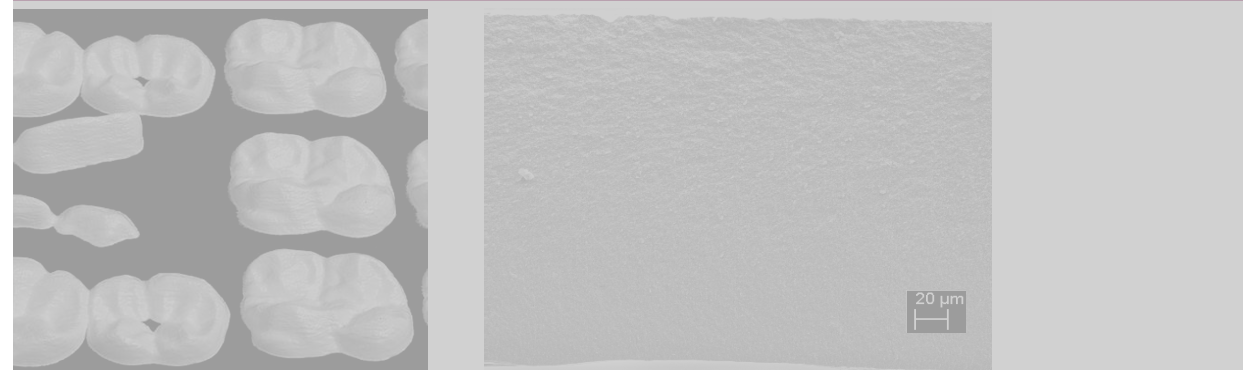
### Highly filled, conductive TPU for medical application



### Jetting of particle dispersions



### Printing slurries for dental application



# Particles in Functional Materials

## 45267.1-IP-EE: 2K-Gapfiller

### Problem:

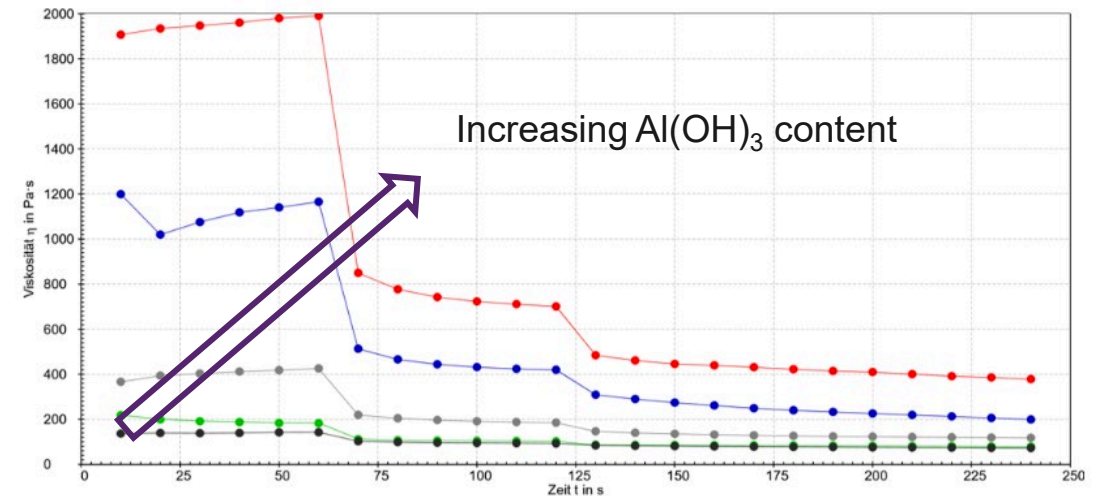
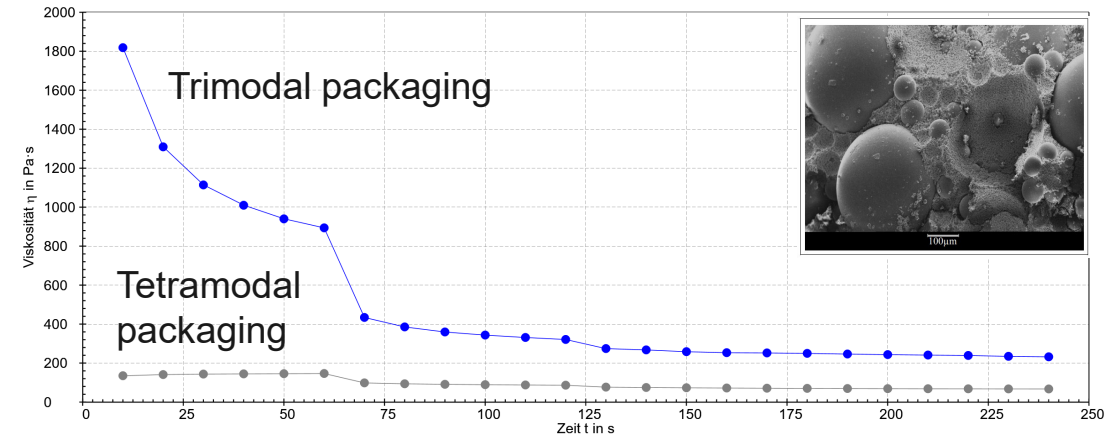
- Highly filled polymer systems tend to have high viscosity

### Solution:

- Optimize particle packaging to increase thermal conductivity
- Adjust surface energy to polymer matrix

### Properties:

- Viscosity optimized gap filler
- Thermal conductivity of 3 W/mK



# Particles in Functional Materials

## 32618.1-IP-ENG: Long term skin electrodes - Dryodes

### Problem:

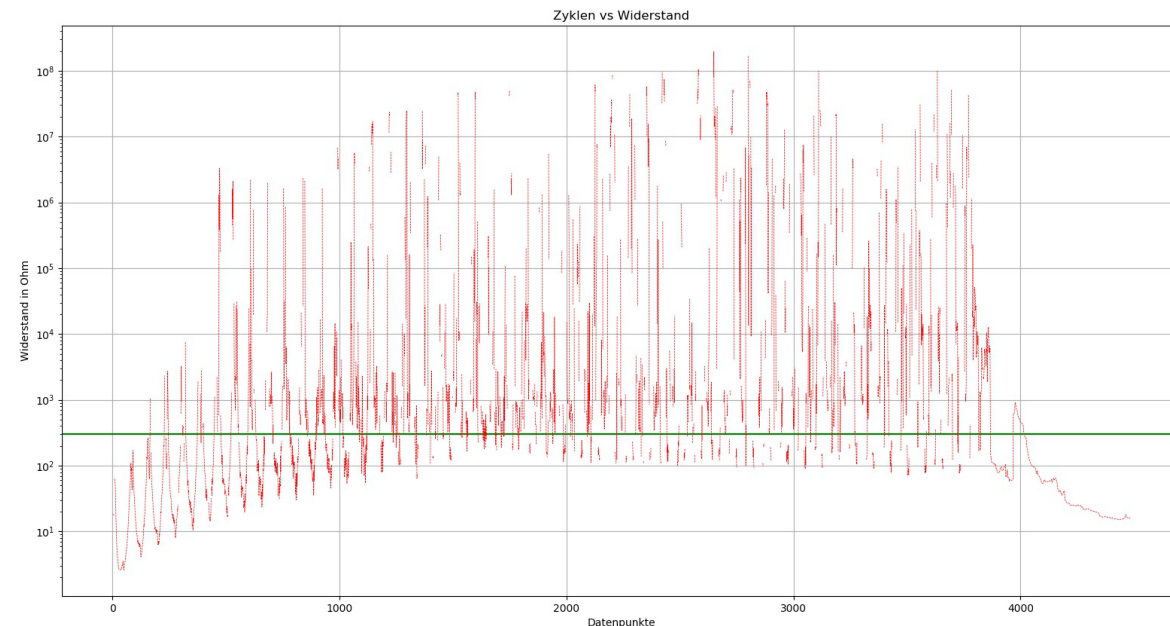
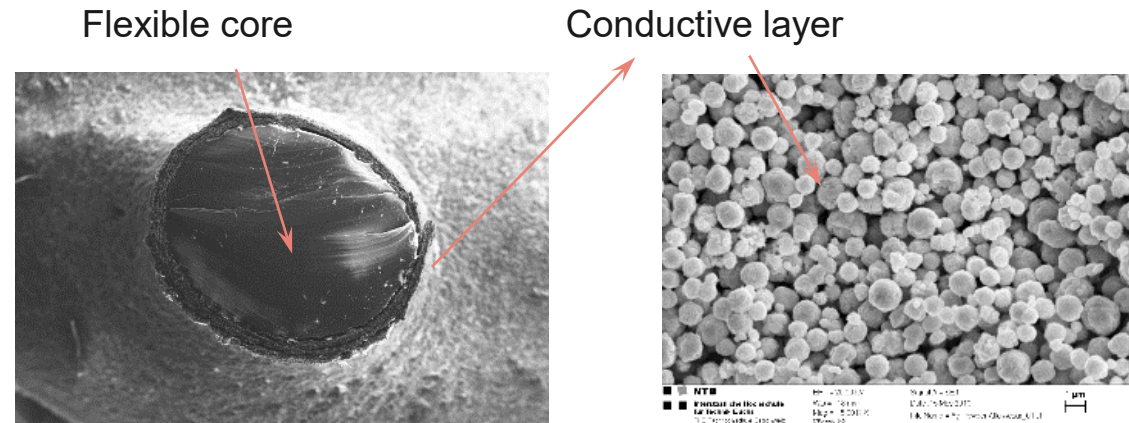
- Highly filled polymers have low tensile strength

### Solution:

- Flexible core: TPU
- Conductive layer: Ag Powder/Flakes in TPU

### Properties:

- High conductivity at „high“ tensile strain (20%)
- Conductivity recovers after high strain
- Mechanical properties similar to base TPU



# Particles in Functional Materials

## Avantama

### Problem:

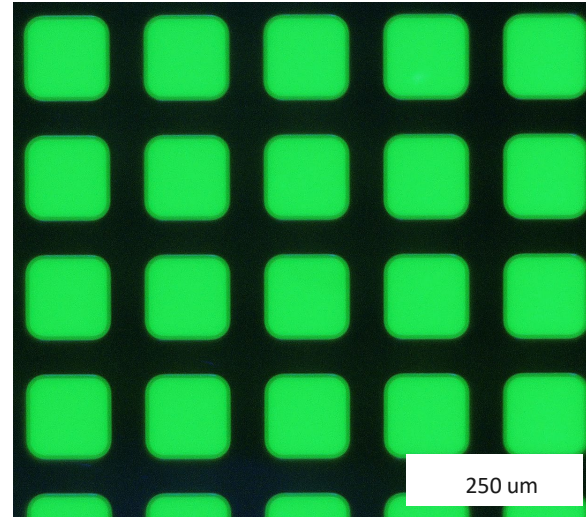
- Jetting of highly filled suspensions

### Solution:

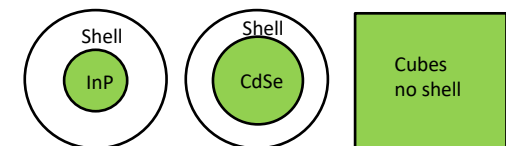
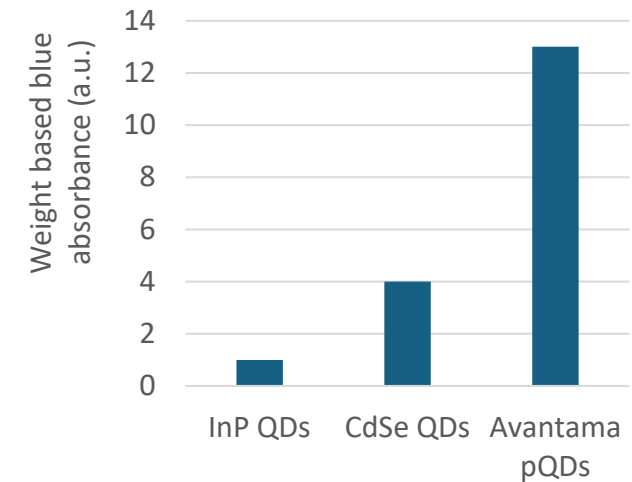
- Adapting particle size and surface tension
- Modifying matrix chemistry
- Ballancing rheological additives

### Properties:

- Jetting suspension with 30 wt% filling

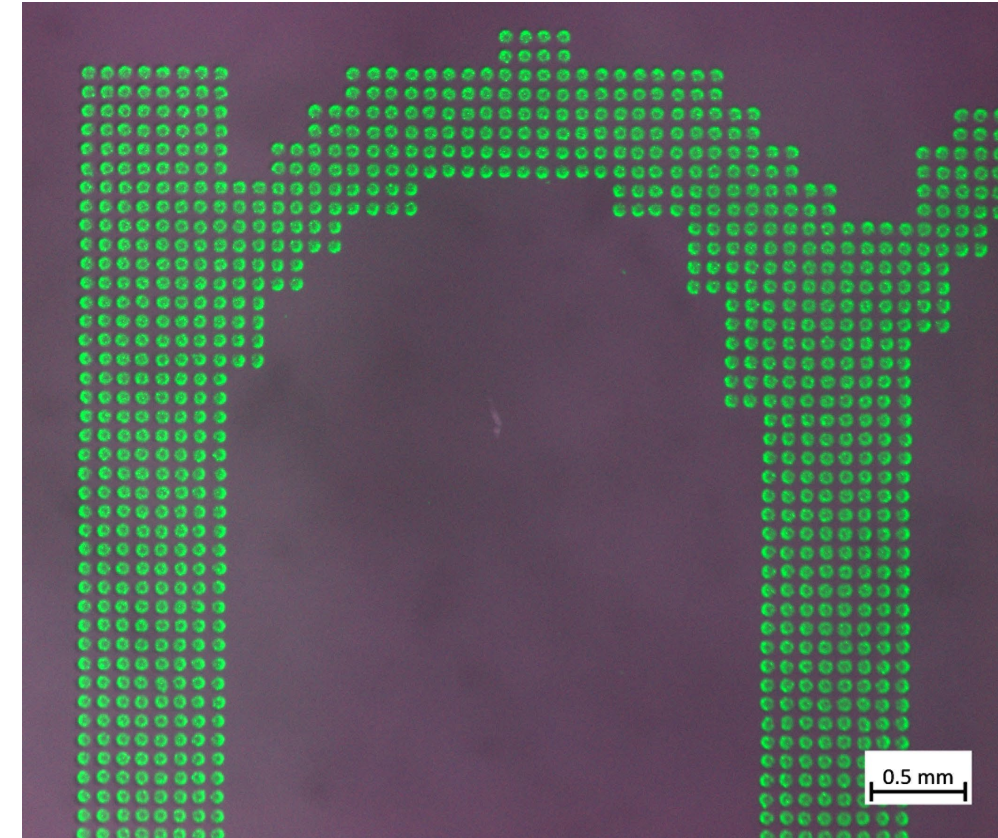
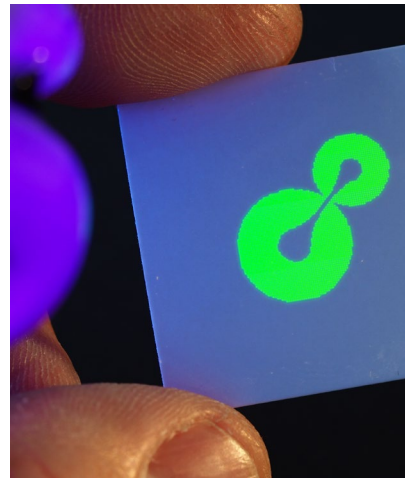
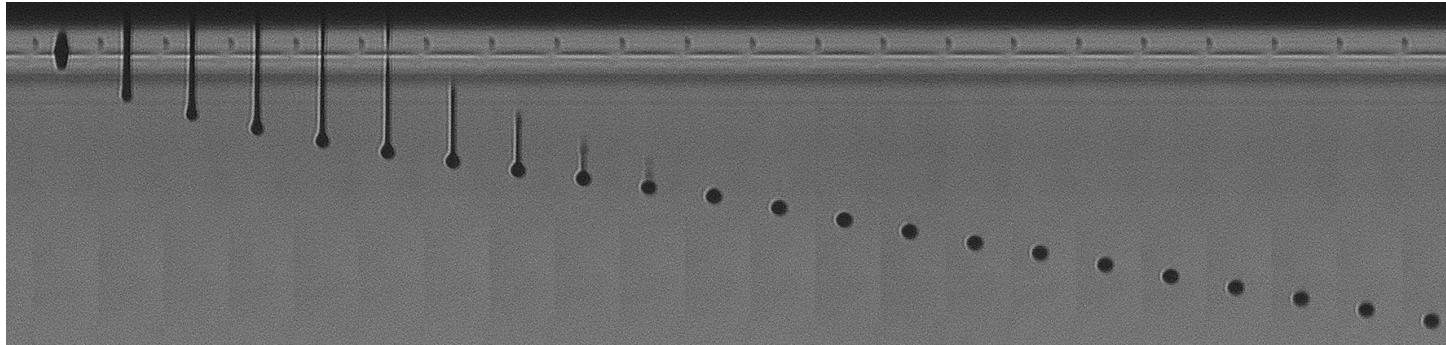


Green pQD ink-jet ink printed into black banks (130μm pixel size)





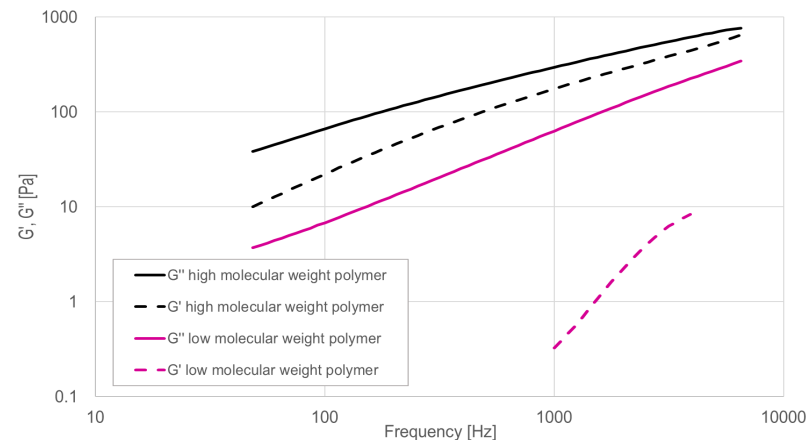
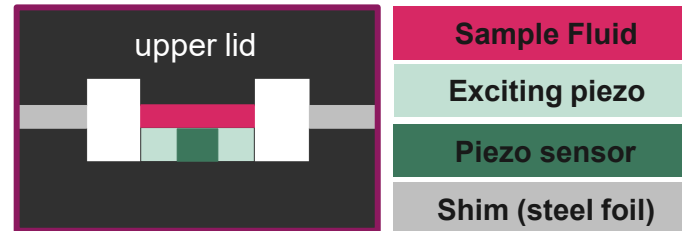
# Jetting & Printing of pQD-Inks



Printed demonstrator exhibited at world's leading display show  
(SID Display Week '24)

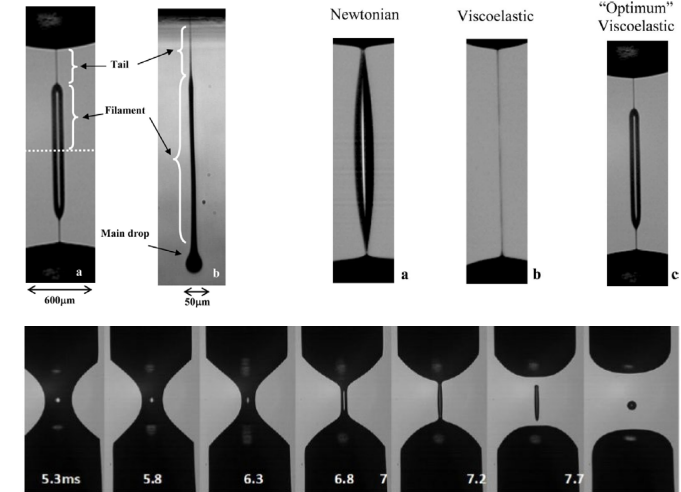
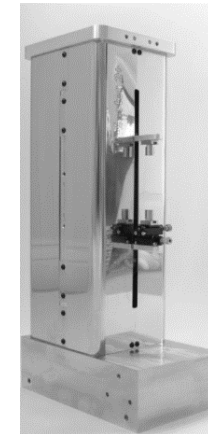
## Rheological Characterisation Techniques at IMP

### TriPAV (High Frequency Rheometer)



- Complex rheology analysis (oscillatory, sinus signal): Studying jet-ability of inks
- TriPAV printhead mode - standard square waveform: Characterisation of ink damping behaviour

### TriMaster (Filament Stretch Rheometer)



- TriMaster is a capillary breakup extensional rheometer to measure the extensional and filament stretching behaviour of complex fluids – colloids, polymer solutions, paints inks, food, consumer products and melts.
- The TriMaster investigate the elongation properties of viscoelastic fluids by stretching a small amount of fluid attached between two identical pistons.