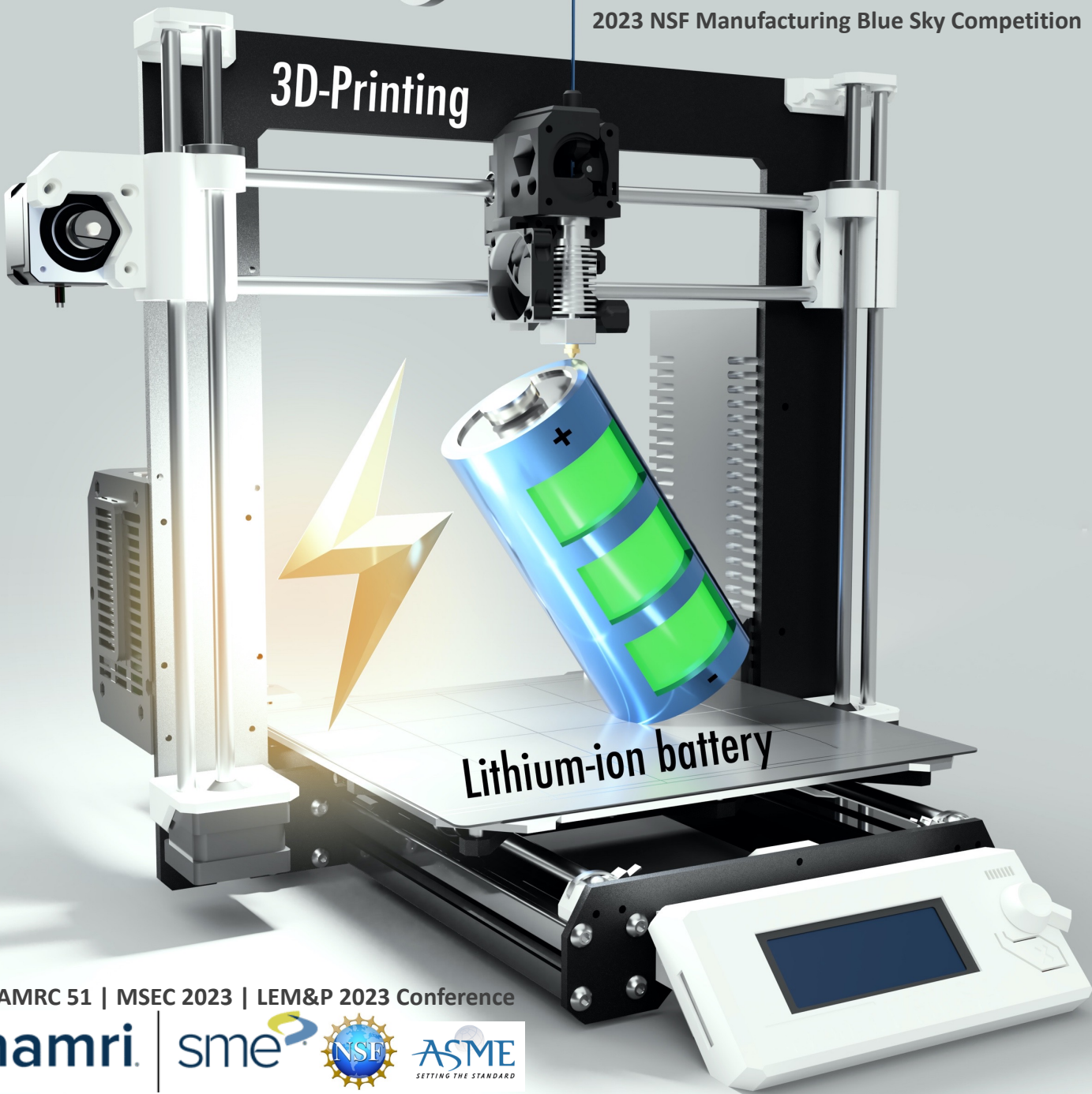


June 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 – Rutgers University, NJ  
2023 NSF Manufacturing Blue Sky Competition

3D-Printing



Lithium-ion battery

NAMRC 51 | MSEC 2023 | LEM&P 2023 Conference



## 3D PRINTING OF SHAPE-CONFORMABLE AND STRUCTURAL BATTERIES

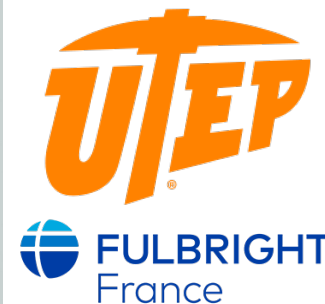


**Dr. Alexis Maurel**

The University of Texas at El Paso

amaurel@utep.edu  @Alexis\_Maurel

 www.linkedin.com/in/alexis-maurel



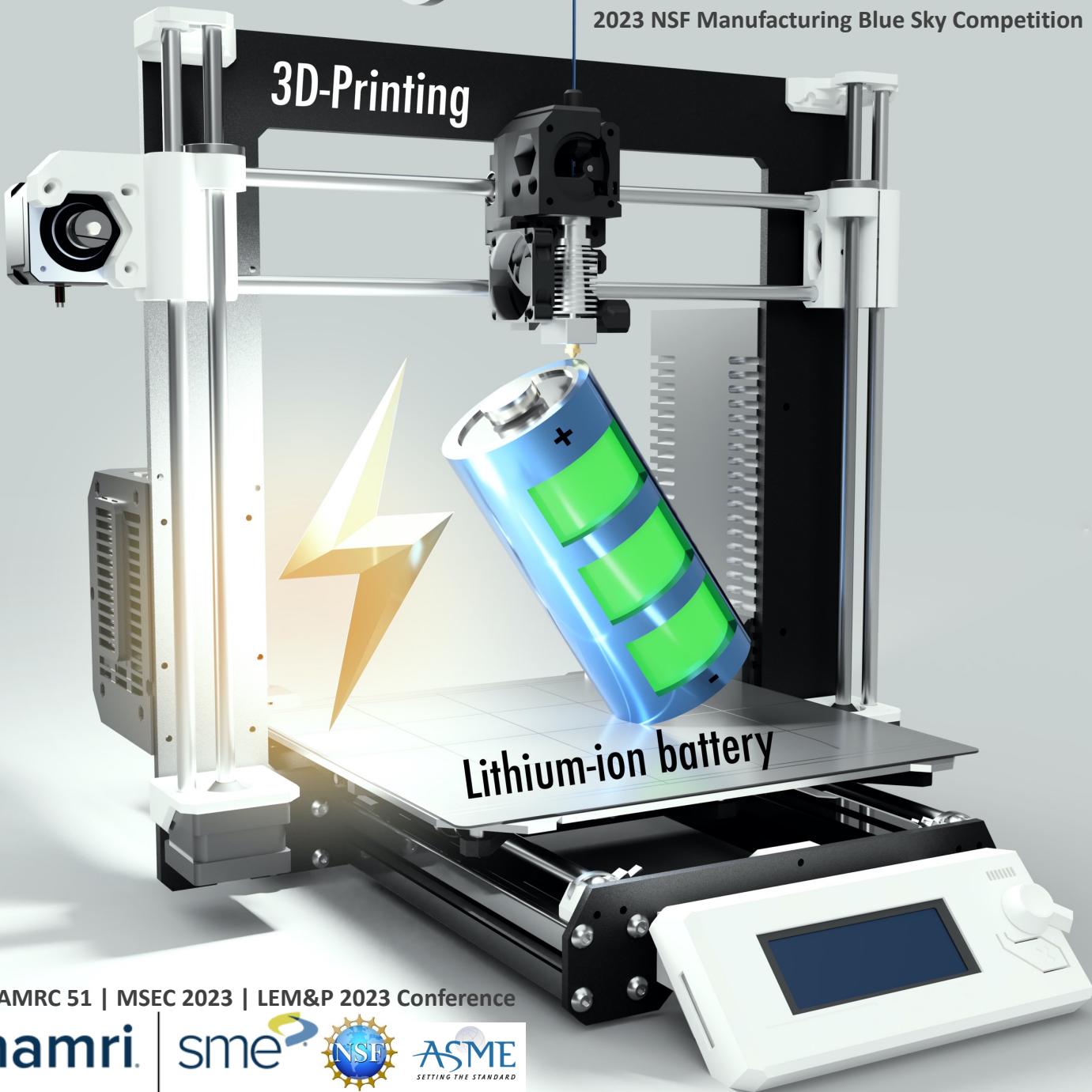
**ESTRELLA**

ENERGY STORAGE AND ELECTRONICS  
3D PRINTING LABORATORY

In collaboration with



3D-Printing



## Battery Manufacturing Challenges:

- Battery performance (capacity, power) and safety
- Battery design (restricted to planar only)
- Structural battery with load-bearing capability

### Outline of the presentation

1. WHY 3D PRINTING OF BATTERIES?

2. FILAMENT EXTRUSION

3. POWDER BED FUSION

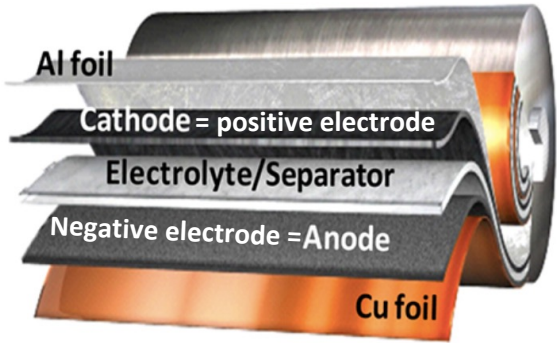
4. VAT PHOTOPOLYMERIZATION

5. CONCLUSIONS & PERSPECTIVES

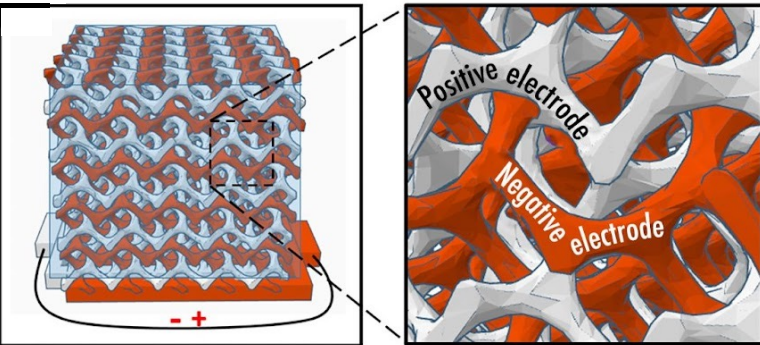
# 1. WHY 3D PRINTING OF BATTERIES?



From 2D to 3D electrodes



3D PRINTING



Surface area

Li<sup>+</sup> diffusion

Power Performances

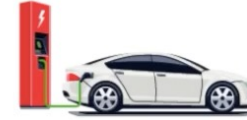
Maurel et al., *Additive Manufacturing*, 2021.

Park et al., *Mater. Des.*, 2020.

Singh et al., *Sci Rep* 2012

## Li-ion battery

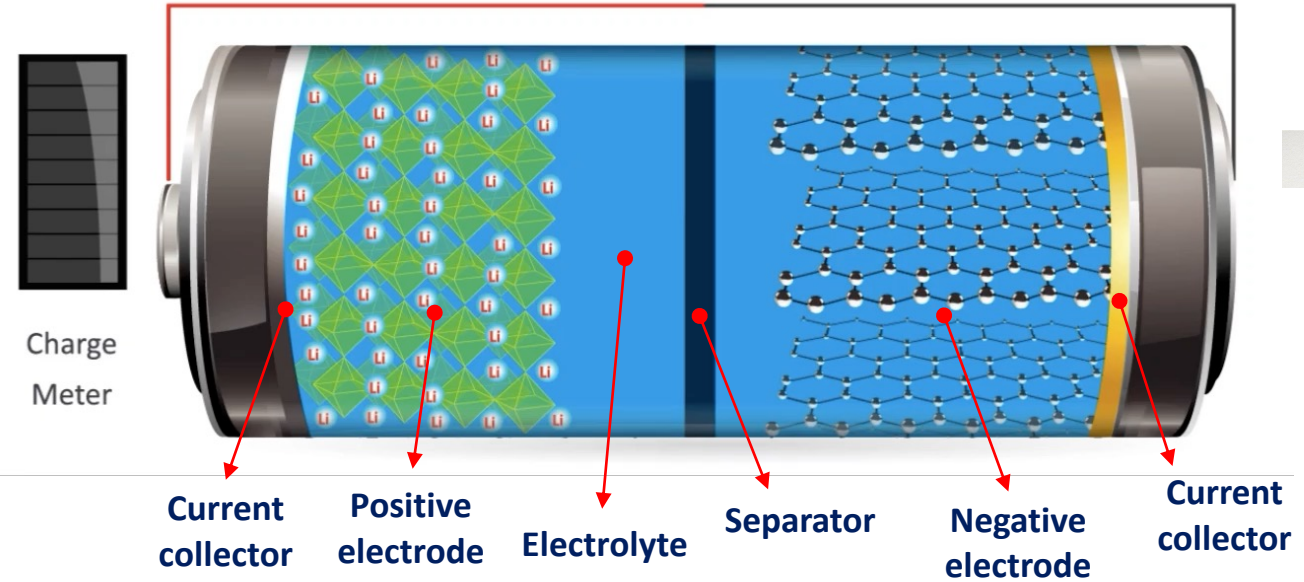
Charge



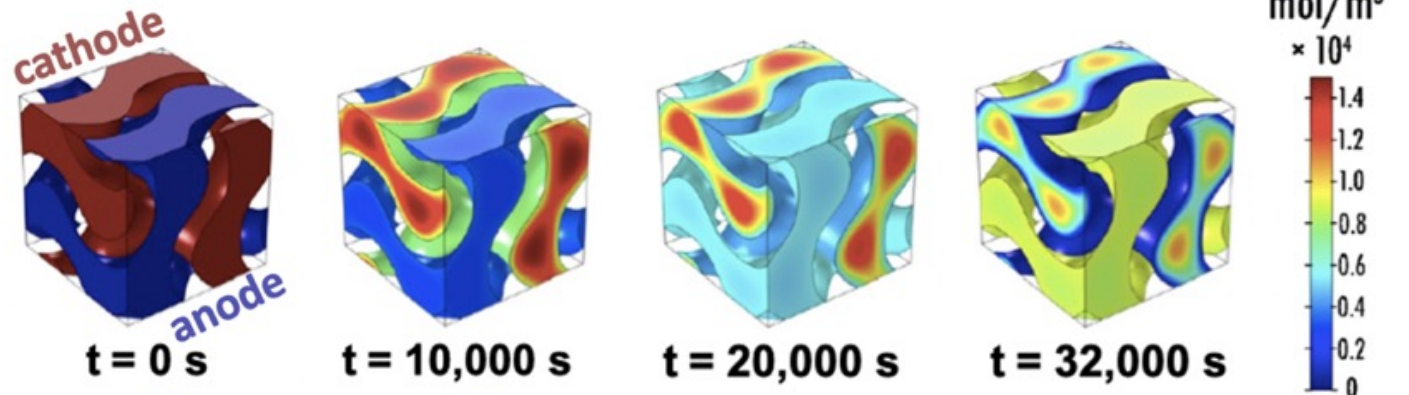
US DoE, 2017



THE NOBEL PRIZE  
IN CHEMISTRY 1919



## Gyroid 3D design → Faster charge of the battery



# 1. WHY 3D PRINTING OF BATTERIES ?



## Towards shape-conformable battery / Structural battery

### Conventional design

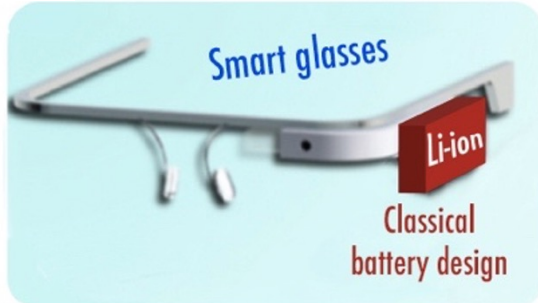


3D-printing

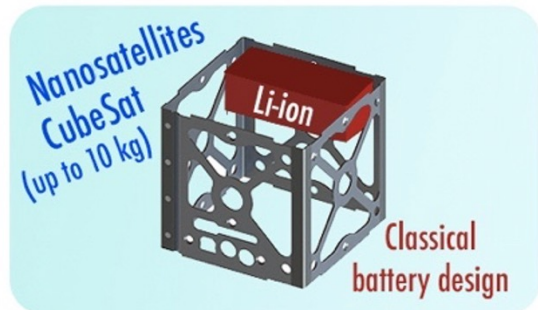
Portable



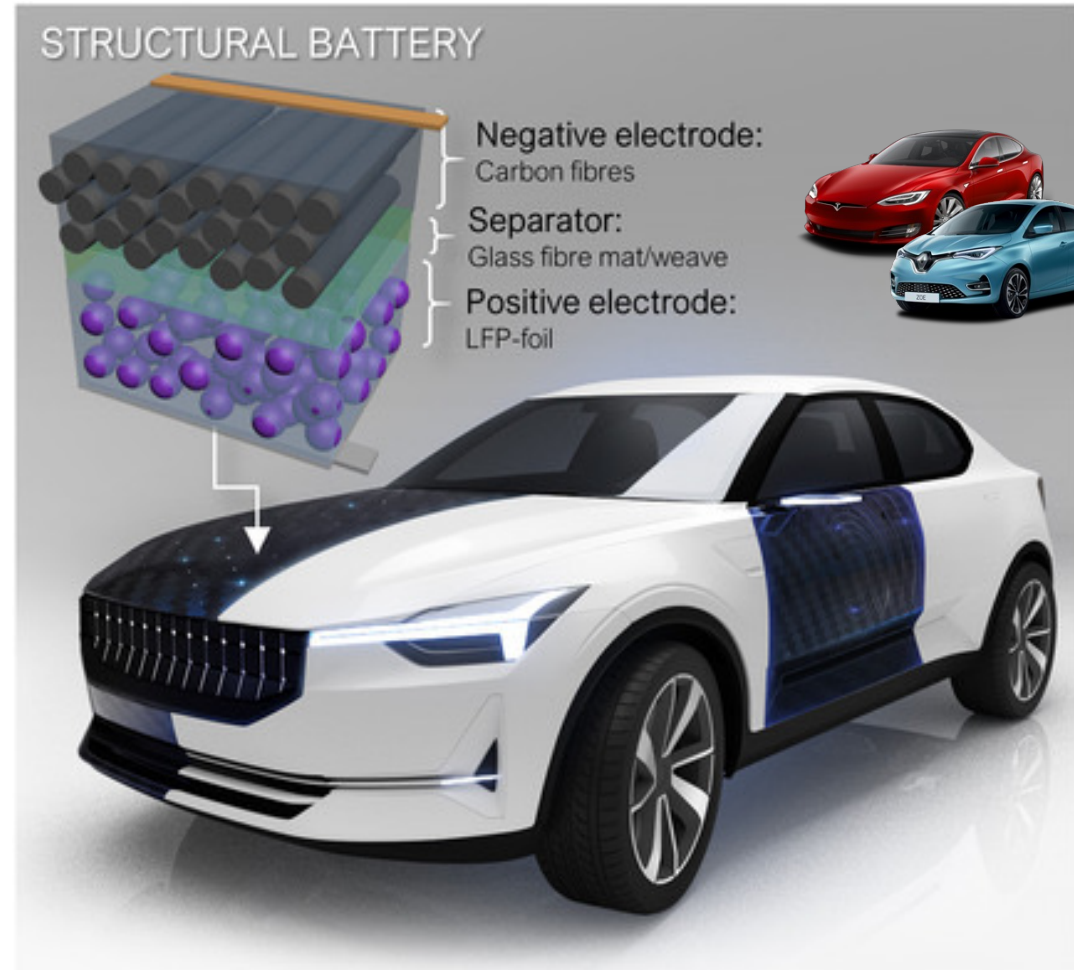
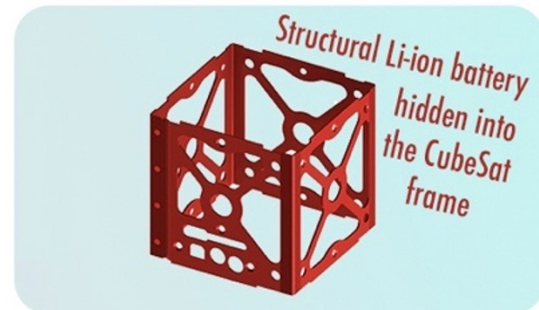
### Shape-conformable design



### Transportation



### Aerospace



→ Improved volumetric capacity

Kim et al., *Nano Letters* 2015, 15, 5168.

Maurel et al., *Additive Manufacturing*, 2021.

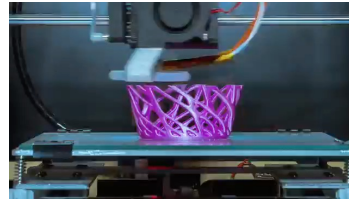
Asp et al., *Advanced Energy and Sustainability Research* 2021.

# 2. FILAMENT EXTRUSION 3D PRINTING OF BATTERIES



## Filament extrusion

Thermoplastic filament as material feedstock

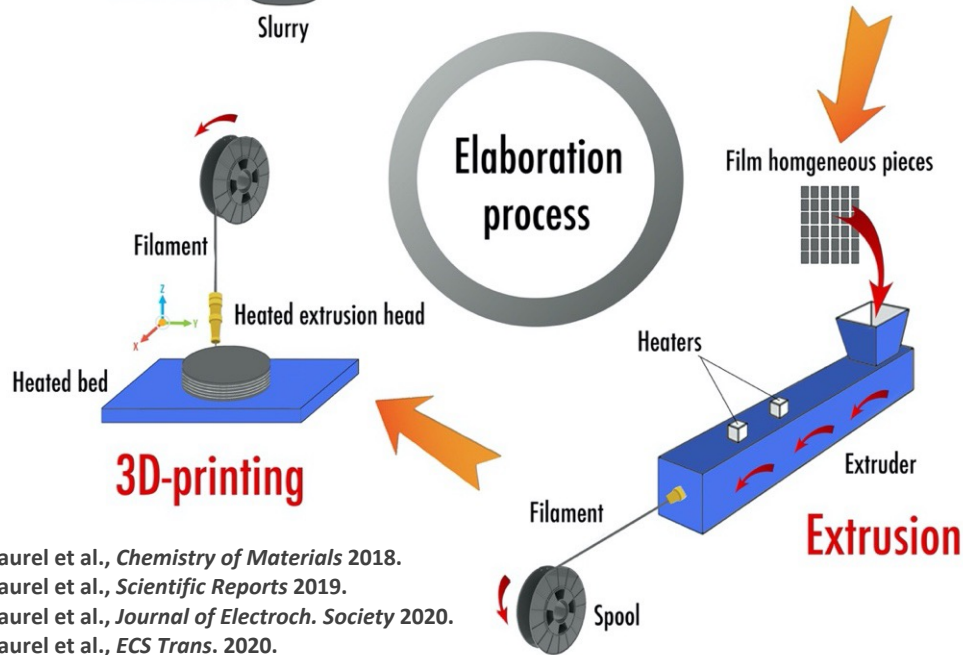
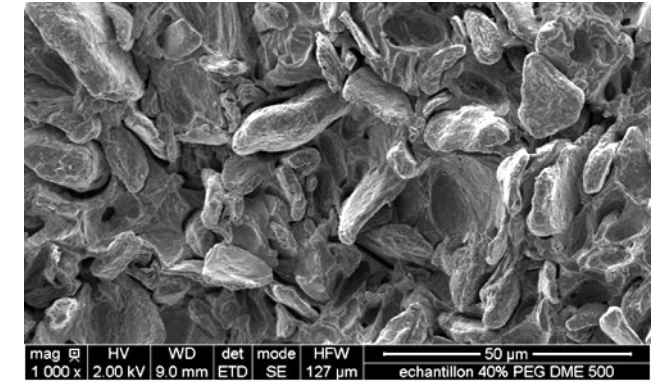
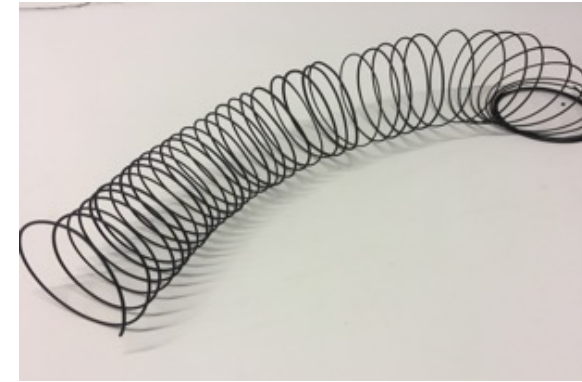
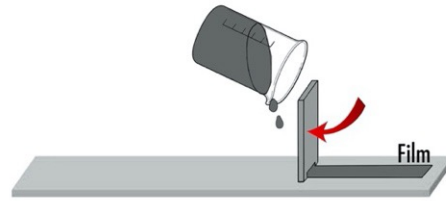


Development of composite filaments loaded with lithium-ion battery active materials

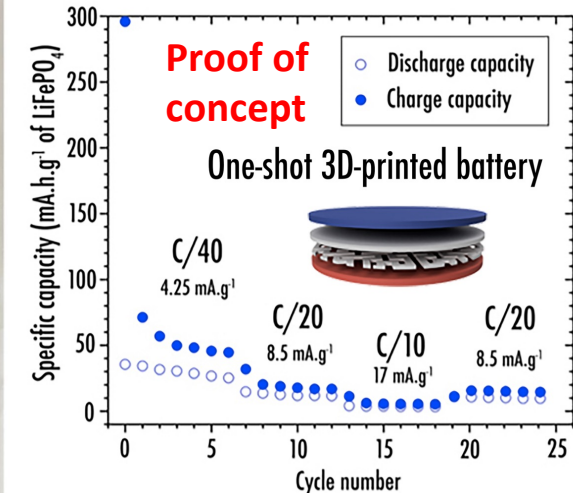
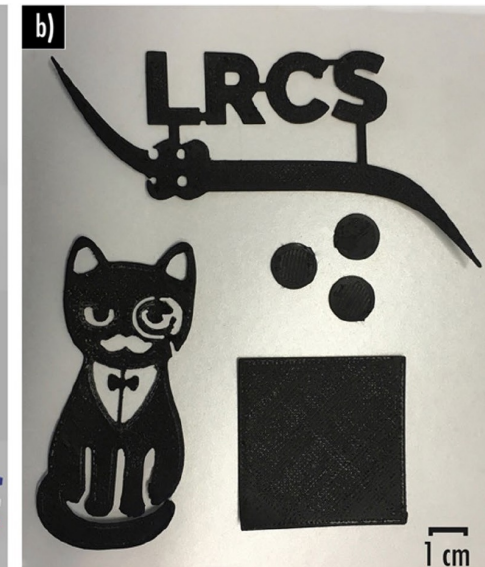
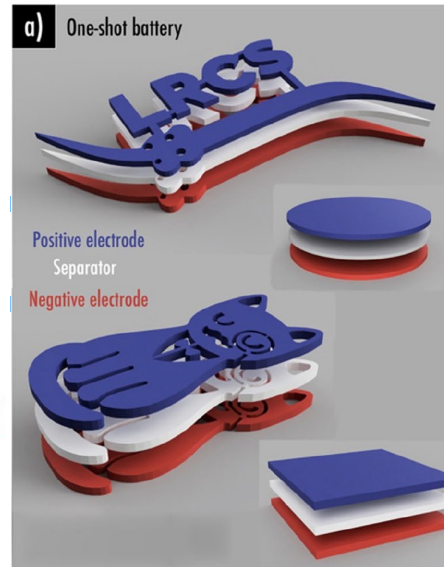
### Slurry formulation



### Tape casting



## 3D printing of a functional complete battery in a single print



Maurel et al., *Chemistry of Materials* 2018.  
Maurel et al., *Scientific Reports* 2019.  
Maurel et al., *Journal of Electrochem. Society* 2020.  
Maurel et al., *ECS Trans.* 2020.  
Maurel et al., *Additive Manufacturing* 2021.  
Maurel et al. *ECS Journ. Sol. State. Sci. & Tech* 2021.  
Maurel et al., *Frontiers Energy Research* 2021.

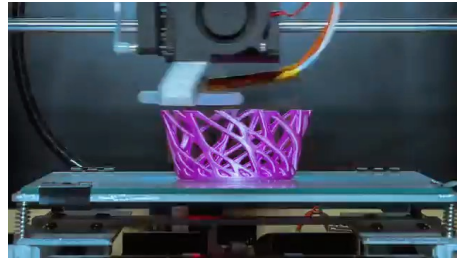
# 3. POWDER BED FUSION 3D PRINTING OF BATTERIES



Development of composite positive electrodes →  
Polypropylene (PP) polymer matrix loaded with  $\text{LiFePO}_4$   
(LFP) as lithium-ion battery active material and black  
carbon (C45) as conductive additive

## Filament material extrusion (ME)

Thermoplastic filament as material feedstock



## Powder Bed Fusion (PBF)

Powder as material feedstock

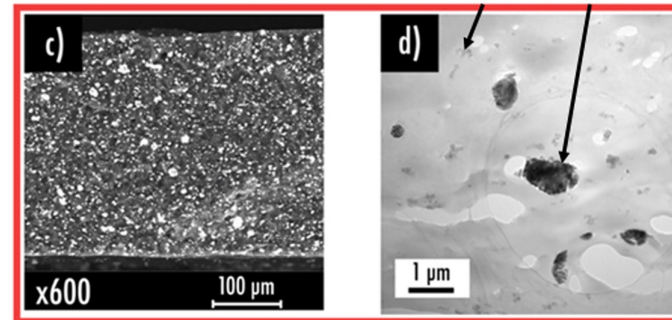
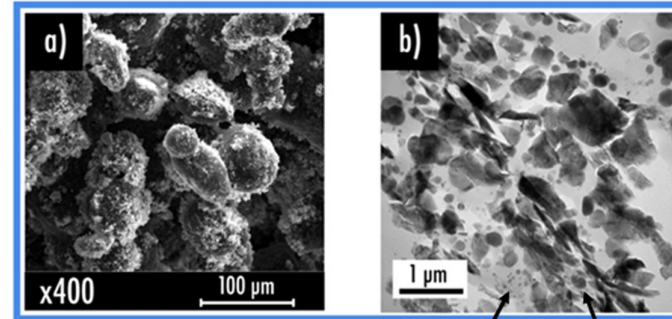


PBF

Same electrode composition  
70wt% PP + 26wt% LFP + 4wt% C45

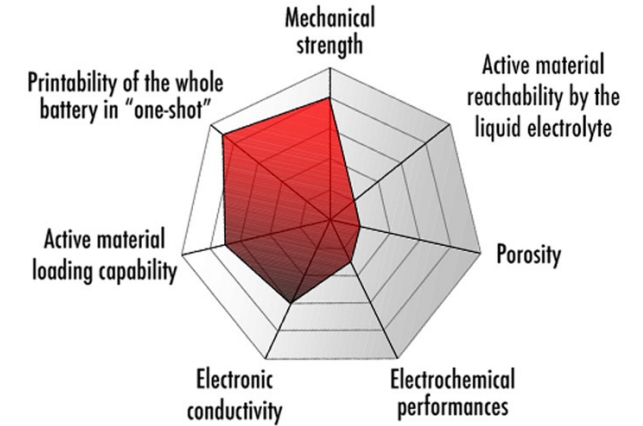
SEM images

TEM images

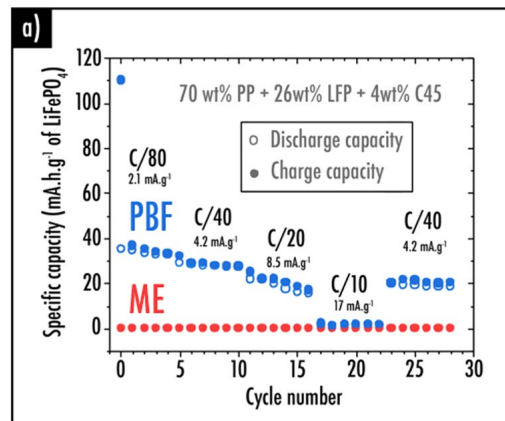
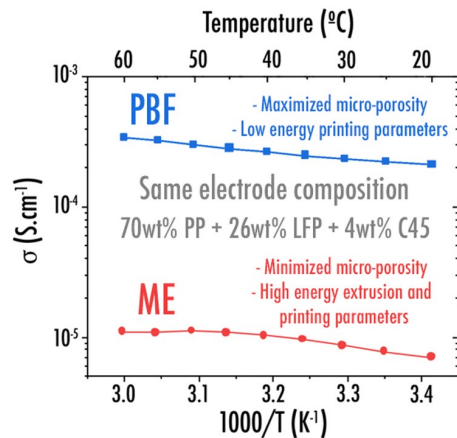
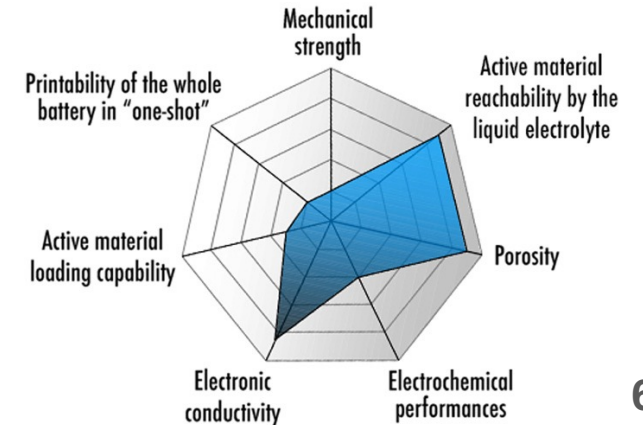


ME

ME  
(High energy extrusion and printing parameters)



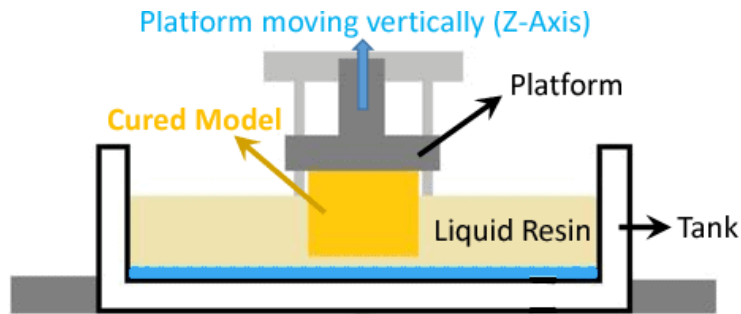
PBF  
(Low energy printing parameters)



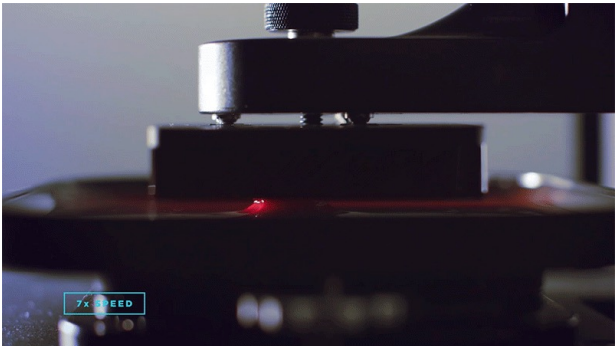
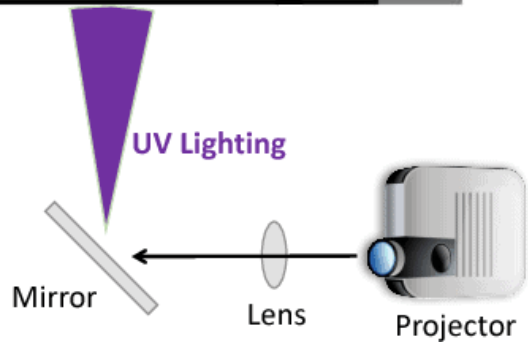
# 4. VAT PHOTOPOLYMERIZATION 3D PRINTING OF BATTERIES

## Vat Photopolymerization

Photocurable resin as material feedstock



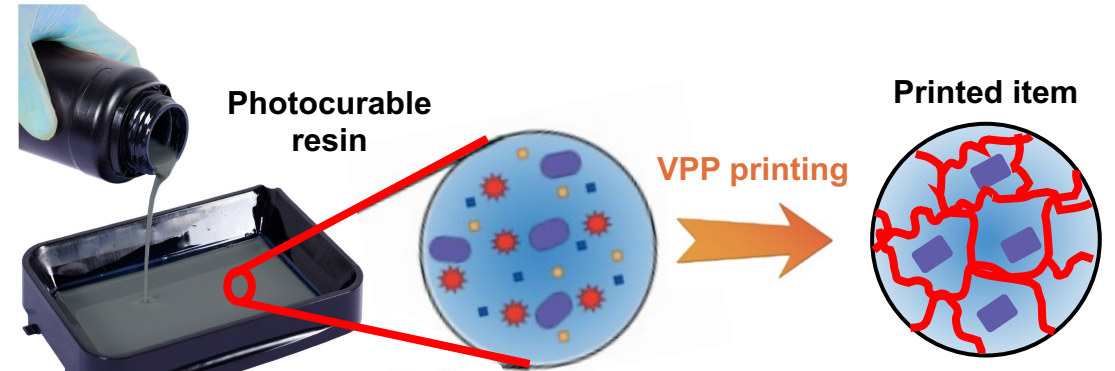
Wu et al., *IEEE/IROS Conference* 2016.



## Composite resins formulation

for each component of a classical lithium-ion or sodium-ion battery

<b>Printability</b> Monomers, oligomers, photo-initiator 	<b>Electrochemical performances</b> Active materials + Conductive additives < 40 wt.% 
---	---



Key parameters → Sedimentation, Viscosity, Light-scattering

Note: The introduction of solid particles limits the printing resolution

# 4. VAT PHOTOPOLYMERIZATION 3D PRINTING OF BATTERIES



Optimization between  
**Electrochemical performances**  
vs.  
**Mechanical integrity**

## a) Precursor approach

### Composite resin formulation

- 1 Polymer matrix
- 2 Photoinitiator
- 3 Deionized water
- 4 Metal precursors salts

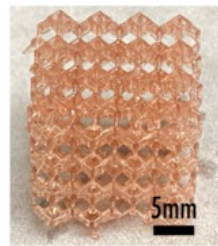


The absence of solid particles prevents the UV light-scattering during printing

### Vat photopolymerization 3D printing



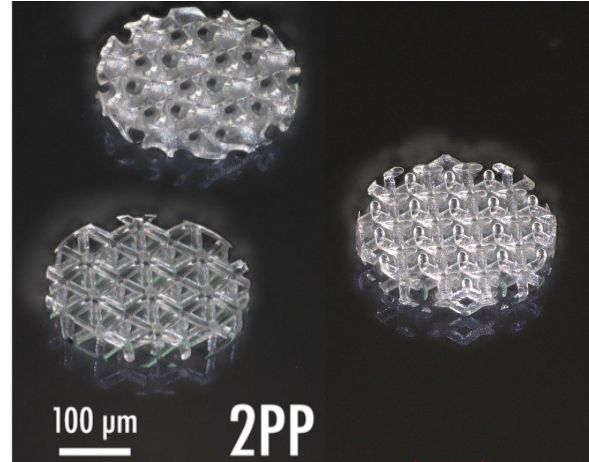
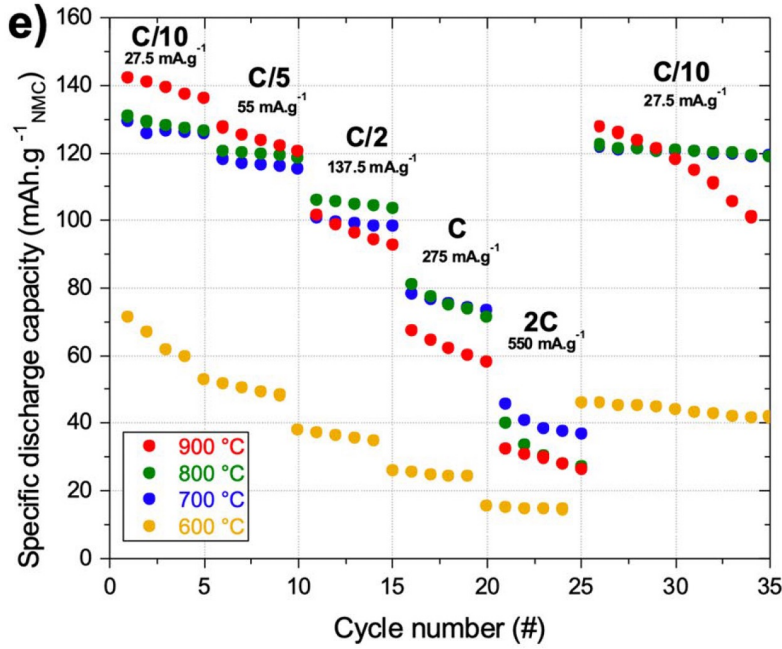
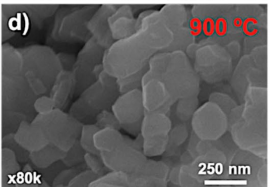
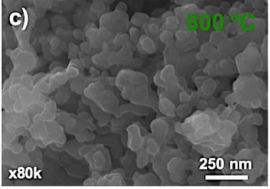
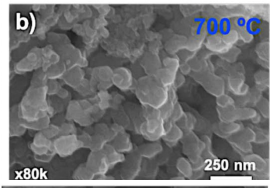
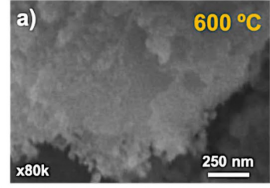
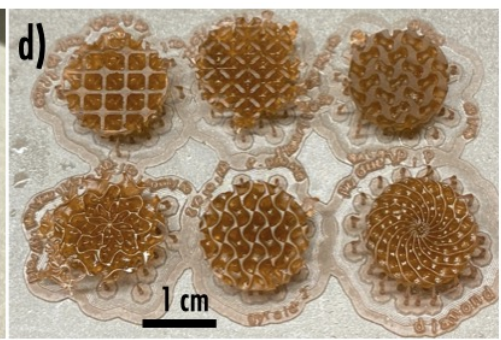
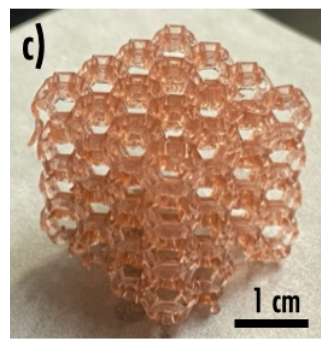
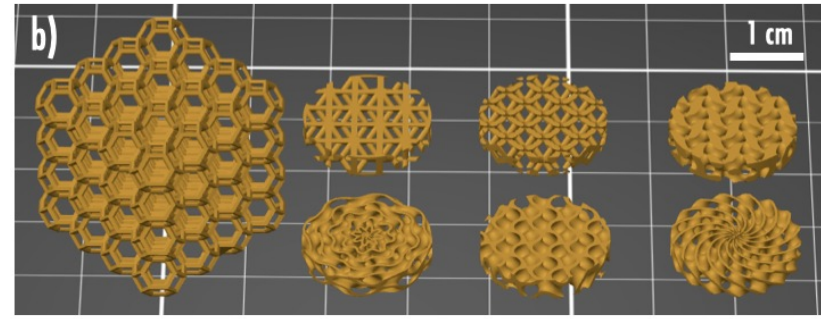
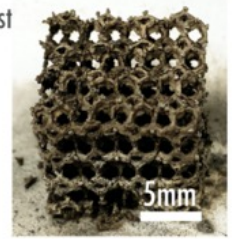
3D printed lattices containing the metal precursors



### Thermal post-processing (debinding + sintering)



Battery material  
 $\text{Li}_{1.05}\text{Ni}_{0.33}\text{Mn}_{0.33}\text{Co}_{0.33}\text{O}_2$   
(NMC111) 3D structure

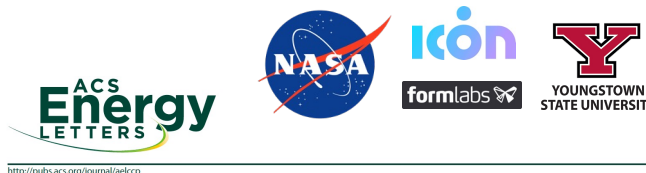
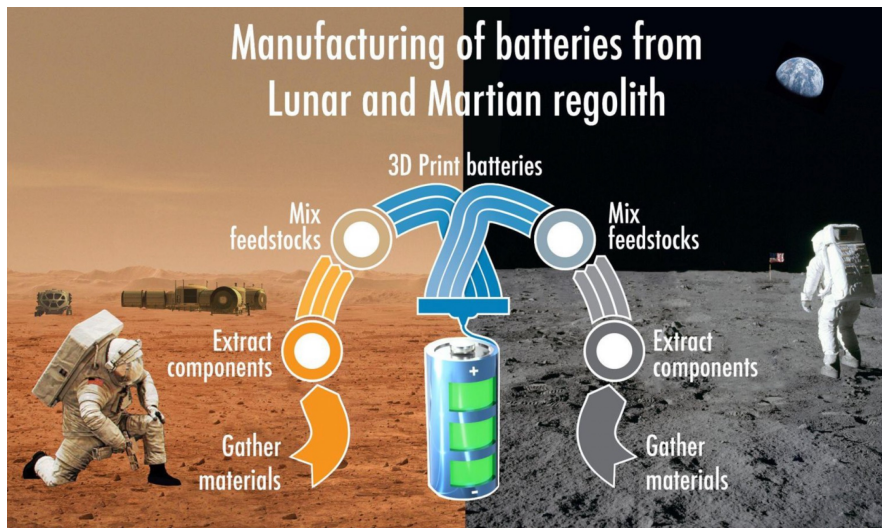




# 4. VAT PHOTOPOLYMERIZATION 3D PRINTING OF BATTERIES



2023 NSF Manufacturing Blue Sky Competition  
3D PRINTING OF SHAPE-CONFORMABLE  
AND STRUCTURAL BATTERIES - Dr. Alexis Maurel



What Would Battery Manufacturing Look Like on the Moon and Mars?

Cite This: ACS Energy Lett. 2023, 8, 1042–1049 [Read Online](#)

Maurel et al. ACS Energy Letters 2023.

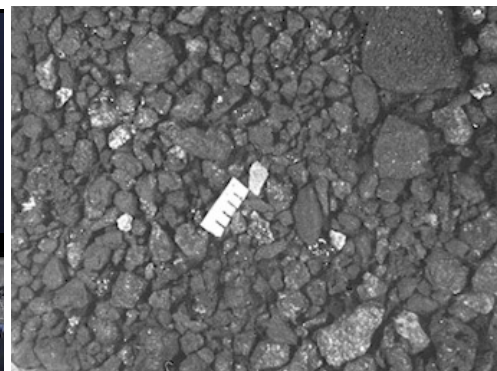
**In-situ resources utilization**

What battery chemistry?

→ **Sodium-ion battery**

Table 1. Bulk Composition of Lunar, Martian, and Terrestrial Soil<sup>a</sup>

Element	Moon (refs 17–19)	Mars (refs 20, 21, 24)	Earth (refs 25, 26)
Li (ppm)	10	1.8–3	18
Na (ppm)	2000–3000 (average); 5000 (Maria region)	5770	23 600
K (ppm)	1000	309	21 400
F (ppm)	70	20–30	525
Cl (ppm)	50	30	472
P (ppm)	800	675	757
V (ppm)	130	130	98
Mg (wt%)	5.5	18.5	2.2
Ca (wt%)	10 (highland); 8 (Maria Region)	1.7	3.9
Fe (wt%)	6 (highland); 15 (Maria region)	14.1	4.3
Mn (ppm)	200 (highland); 2000 (Maria region)	2250	716
Al (wt%)	13 (highland); 5 (Maria region)	1.6	8.0
Cu (ppm)	8	2	25
Si (wt%)	21	20.5	28.8
Ni (ppm)	200	330	56
Co (ppm)	40	71	24
Ti	1 wt% (average); 5 wt% (Maria region)	832 ppm	4010 ppm (0.4 wt%)



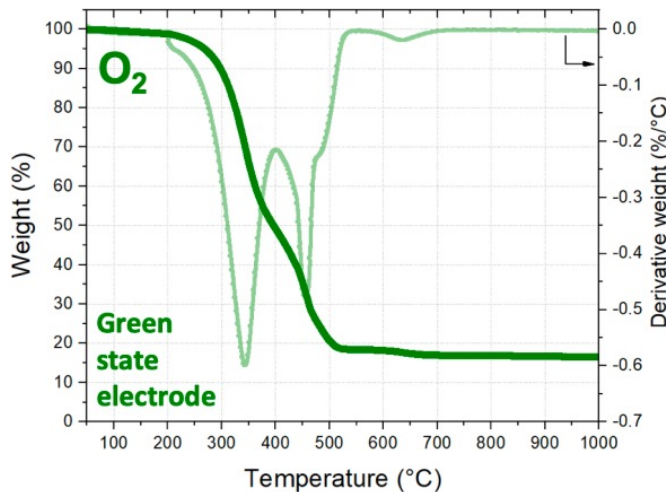
# 4. VAT PHOTOPOLYMERIZATION 3D PRINTING OF BATTERIES



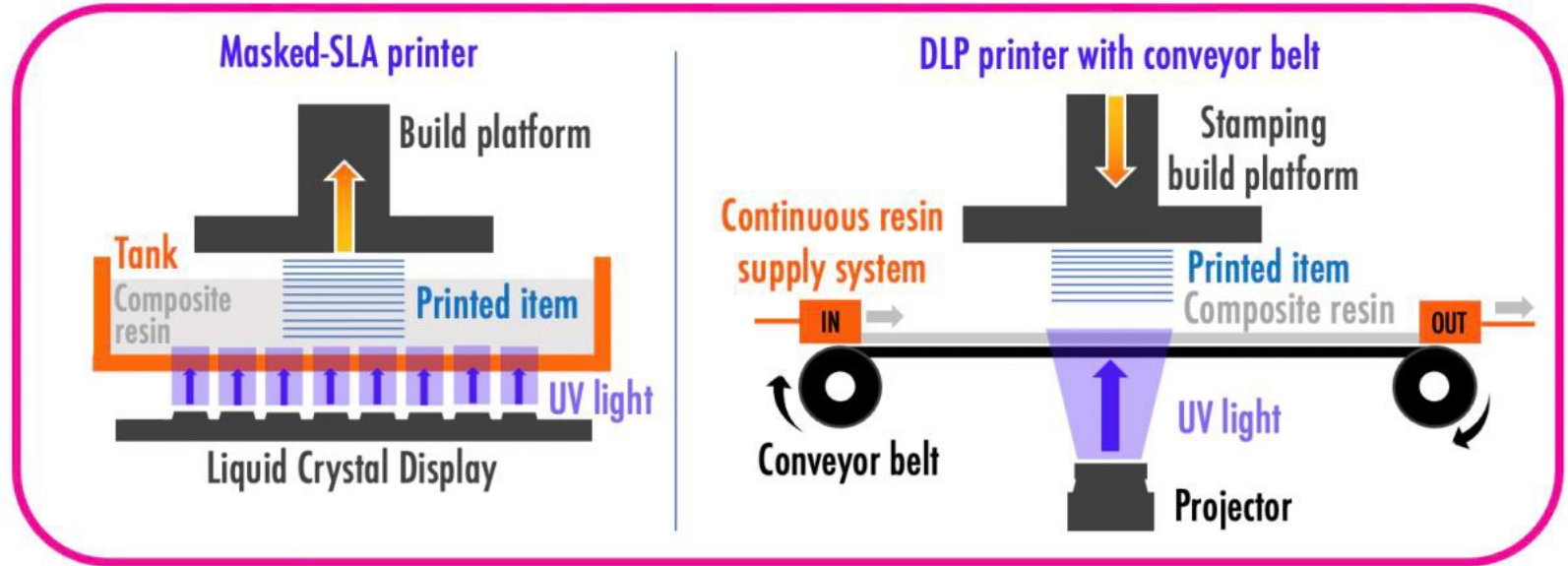
## 1 Composite resin formulation



$\text{TiO}_2 : \text{C} : \text{Polymer}$   
18 : 1.5 : 80.5 wt%



## 2 Vat photopolymerization 3D printing of Li-ion and Na-ion battery electrodes



**X** Not suitable to print highly-loaded composite resins

- Sedimentation
- Light-scattering

**✓** Suitable to print highly-loaded composite resins

- Continuous resin supply system → no sedimentation
- Thin resin film

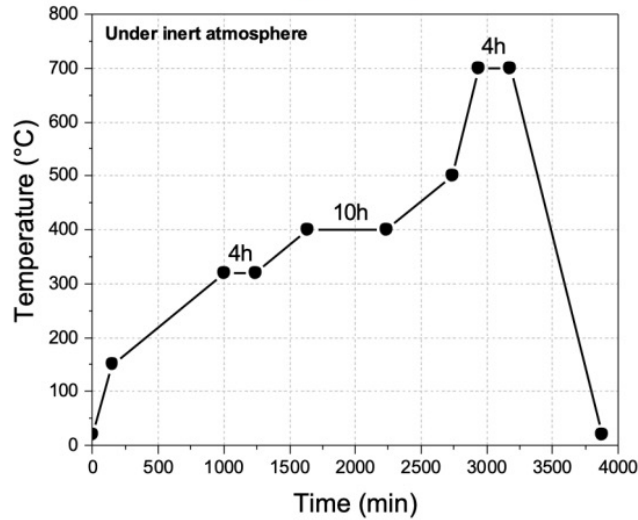
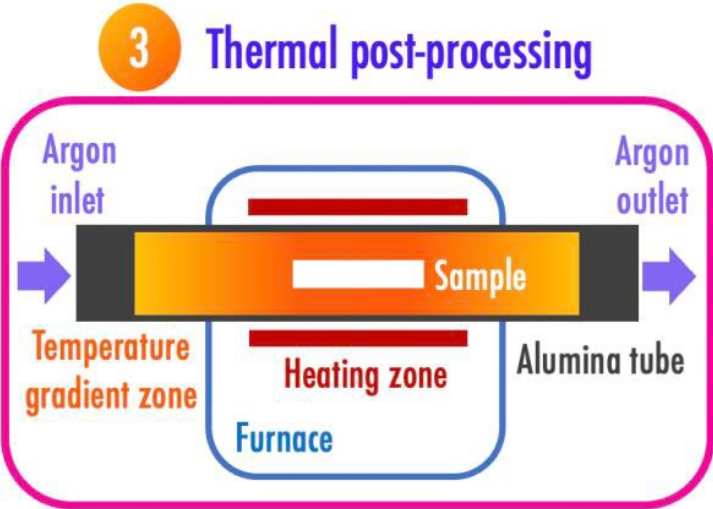


# 4. VAT PHOTOPOLYMERIZATION 3D PRINTING OF BATTERIES

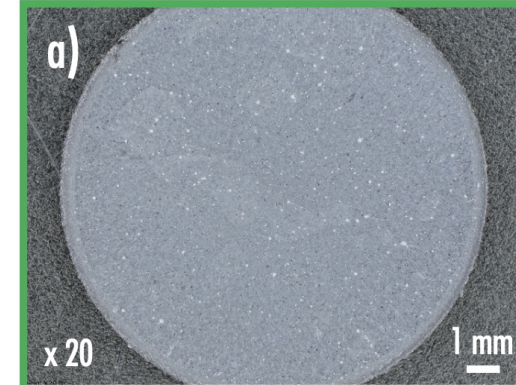
Maurel et al. (under review)

TiO<sub>2</sub>-based electrodes for sodium-ion battery negative electrode

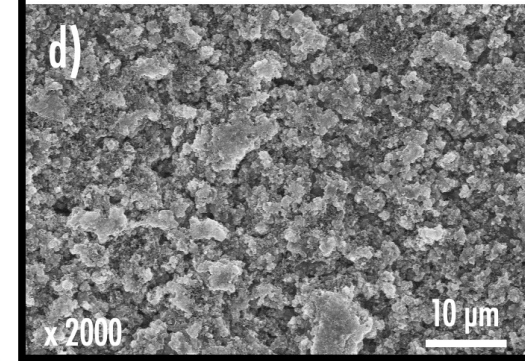
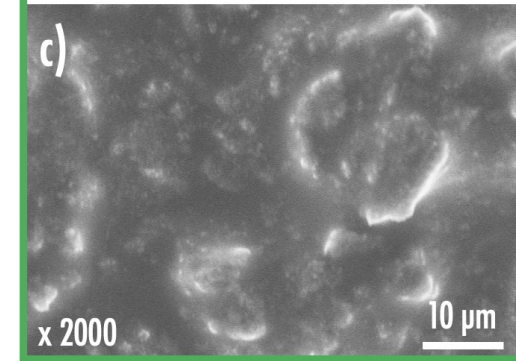
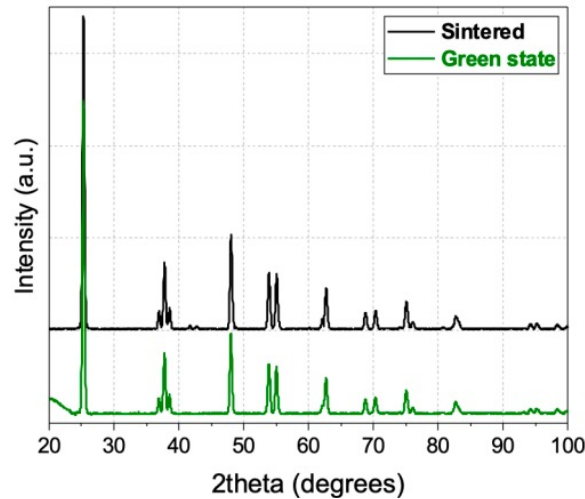
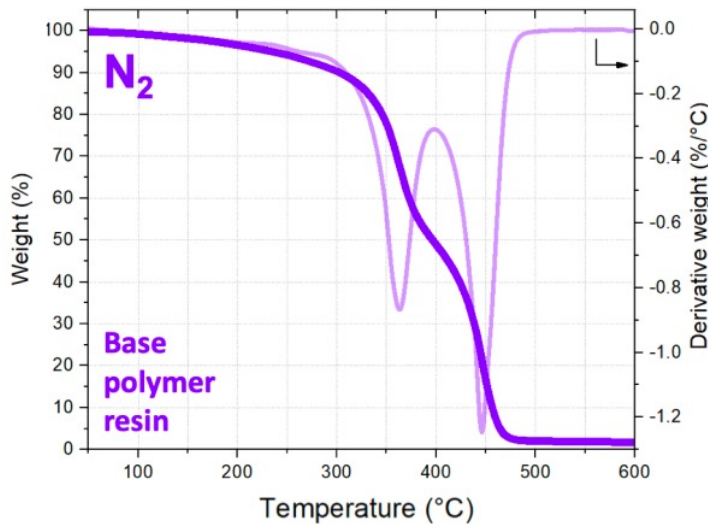
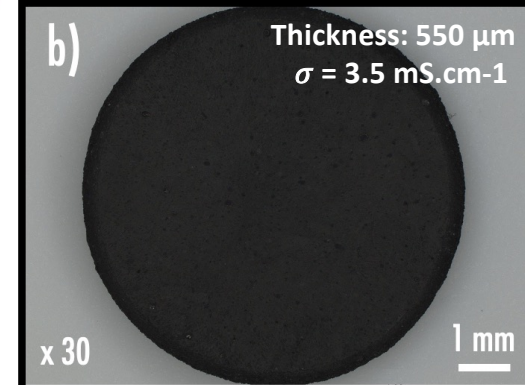
Impact of an additional thermal post-processing step?



Solid green state



Solid sintered



Diameter and thickness → 40% shrinkage upon thermal post-processing

Polymer removal during debinding → Increased micro-porosity and Improved electrolyte impregnation

Poor electrochemical performances upon cycling 11

## 4. CONCLUSIONS AND PERSPECTIVES



- ✓ **Multidisciplinary work → Engineering / Electrochemistry / Materials Science**
  - ✓ **3D printing as an innovative and modular tool to print rechargeable batteries**
  - ✓ **Manufacturing of shape-conformable / structural / flexible batteries (dual functionality: energy storage and load bearing)**
  - ✓ **Improved volumetric capacity and power performances**
  - ✓ **Solid state batteries with enhanced safety relevant to federal agencies and industry**
- 
- **Develop adequate composite material feedstock (filament, ink, powder, resin) for each component of the battery (electrodes, separator, electrolyte, current collectors)**
  - **High resolution multi-material printing options are needed to manufacture the complete battery in a single step**
  - **Targeting a wide range of applications → portable electronics, automotive, naval, aerospace, defense, and biomedical**

# 6. ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

NAMRC 51 | MSEC 2023 | LEM&P 2023 Conference

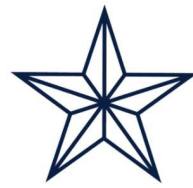


2023 NSF Manufacturing Blue Sky Competition  
3D PRINTING OF SHAPE-CONFORMABLE AND STRUCTURAL BATTERIES - Dr. Alexis Maurel

National Science Foundation



North American Manufacturing Research Institution of Society of Manufacturing Engineers and The American Society of Mechanical Engineers

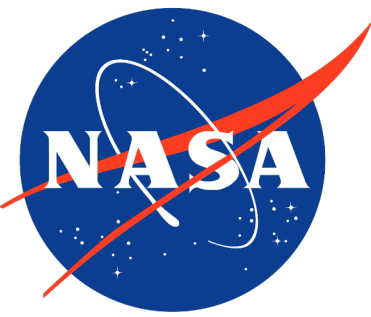


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3D PRINTING LABORATORY



**FULBRIGHT**  
France  
COMMISSION FRANCO-AMERICAINE

Dr. Eric MacDonald  
Dr. Ana Cristina Martinez



June 14<sup>th</sup> 2023 – Rutgers University, NJ  
2023 NSF Manufacturing Blue Sky Competition



NAMRC 51 | MSEC 2023 | LEM&P 2023 Conference



# THANK YOU Questions?



FULBRIGHT  
France

COMMISSION FRANCO-AMERICAINE



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