

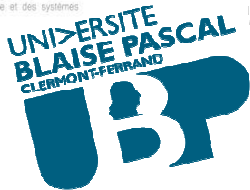
# European Network on New Sensing Technologies for Air Pollution Control and Environmental Sustainability - *EuNetAir*

COST Action TD1105

**1<sup>ST</sup> International Workshop as Open Satellite to *Transducers 2013* on**

***New Sensing Technologies and Transducers for Air Quality Monitoring***  
**Barcelona International Convention Centre, Barcelona, Spain, 20 June 2013**

## **GAS SENSOR-SYSTEMS BASED ON HYBRID MATERIALS** **DEDICATED TO AIR-POLLUTANTS MONITORING**



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STSM

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Institut Pascal – University Blaise Pascal / **FRANCE**

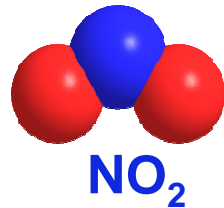
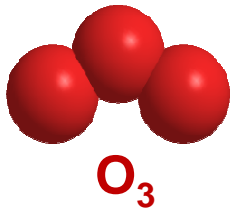
# Objectives and motivations

## Objectives?

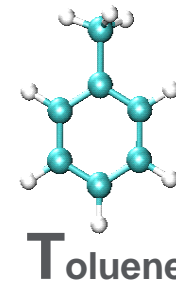
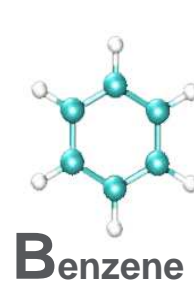
Development of competitive sensor-systems for gaseous pollutants monitoring

## Target pollutants?

### Oxidizing pollutants



### Aromatic hydrocarbons



## Motivations?

Hazardous properties, toxic at low concentrations

Monitoring  $\Rightarrow$  safe living and working conditions

# Objectives and motivations

## Involvements?

Coordinator of 2 French national projects:

*POLL-CAP (2006-2009) : selective detection of oxidizing pollutants*

*CAPBTX (2010-2013) : efficient and low-cost sensors for BTX*

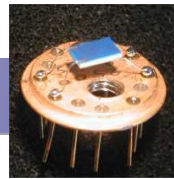
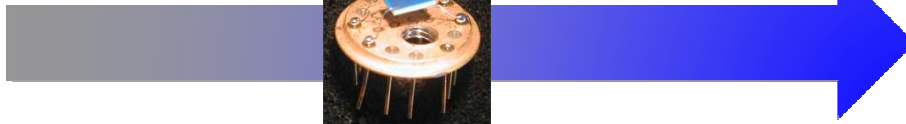
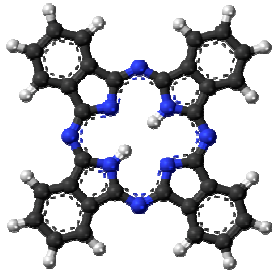


## Challenge?

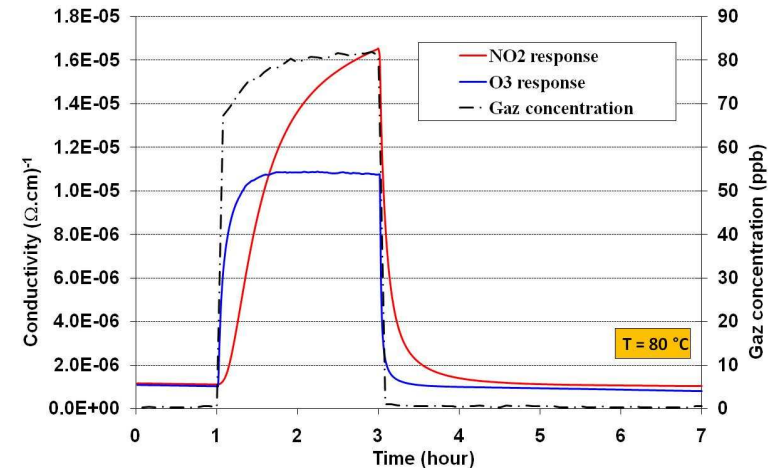


# Why **phthalocyanines** as sensitive material ?

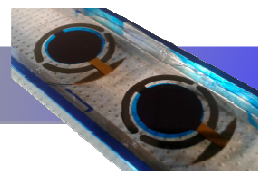
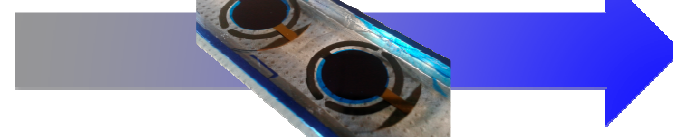
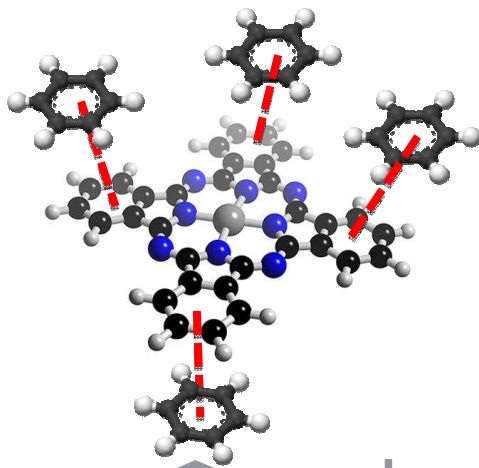
## High **electronic delocalization**



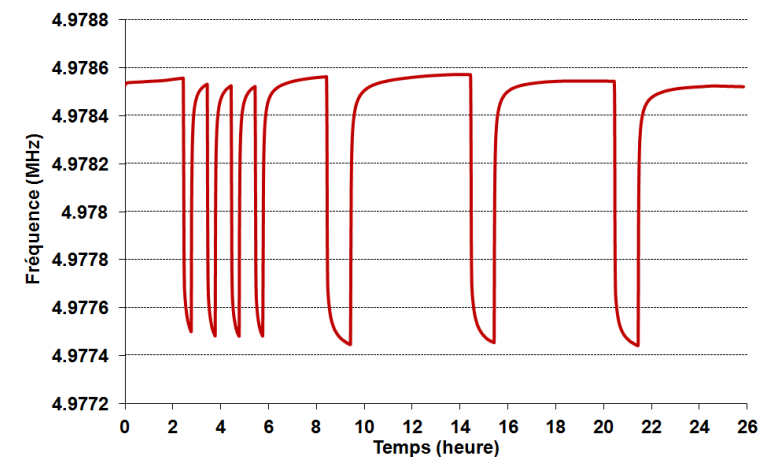
Sensitivity to oxidizing gases  
(redox process)



## Peripheral aromatic moieties

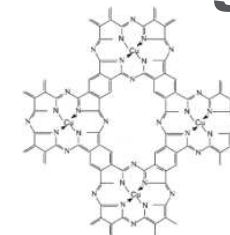
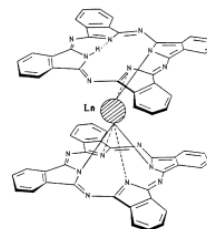
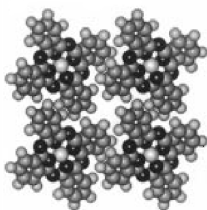
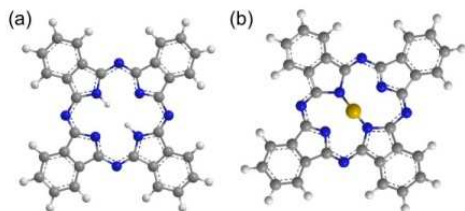


Interactions with BTX  
( $\pi$ -stacking ---)

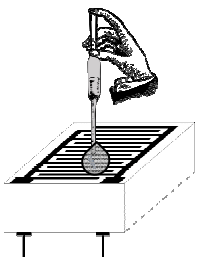


# Why **phthalocyanines** as sensitive material ?

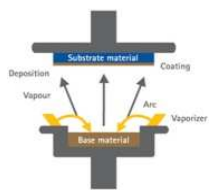
A great diversity of molecule ⇨ shaped material to the target gas



## Elaboration of **thin/thick films**



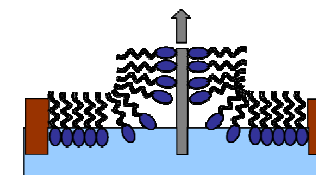
*Drop-casting*



*PVD*

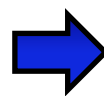


*Spin-coating*



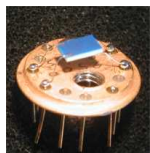
*Langmuir-Blodgett*

**High specific surface area**

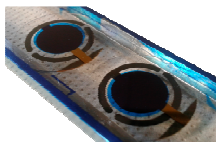


**Highly sensitive gas sensors**

## Compatibility with **several transducers**



*Conductometry*



*QCM*

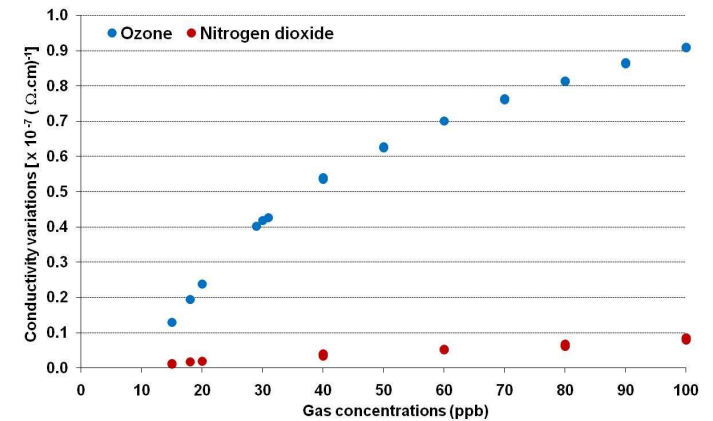
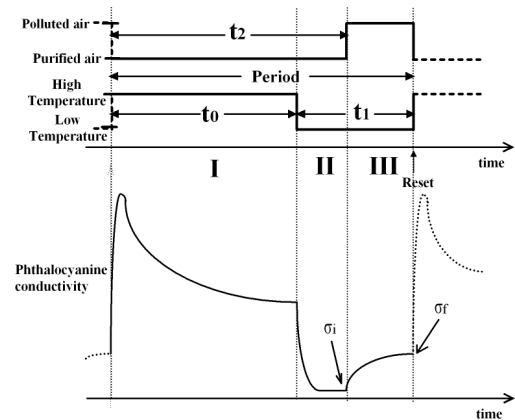
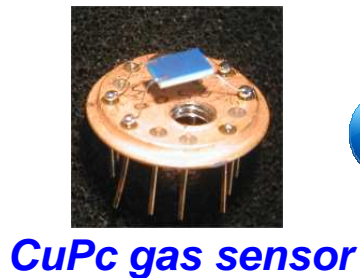


*Microwave transduction*



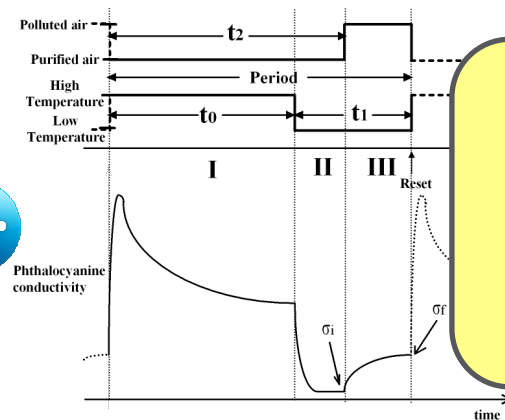
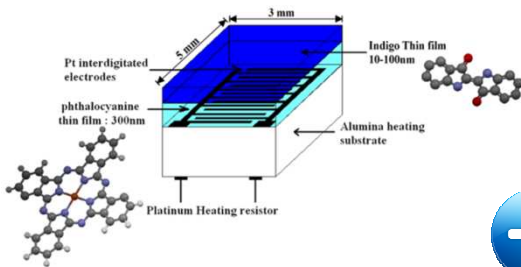
# 1<sup>st</sup> App: Selective monitoring of oxidizing pollutants

## Ozone monitoring

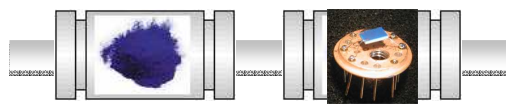
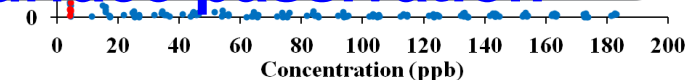


*J. Brunet et al., Thin Solid Films 490 (2005)*

## Nitrogen dioxide monitoring



**Lifetime limited by Low SSA of indigo**  
**Superficial formation of isatin**  
 $\Rightarrow$  **surface passivation**

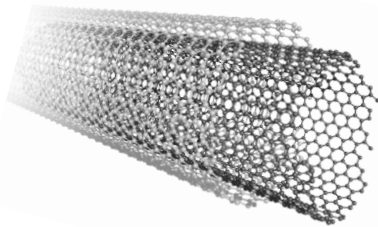
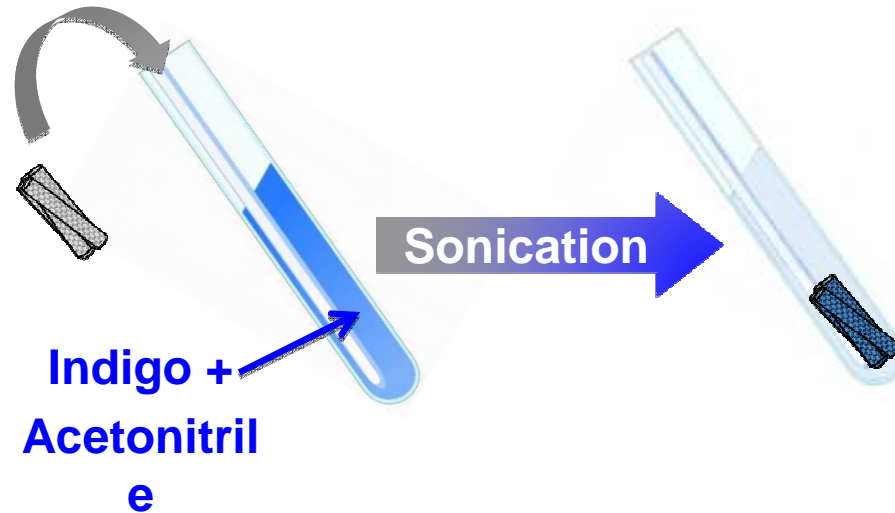
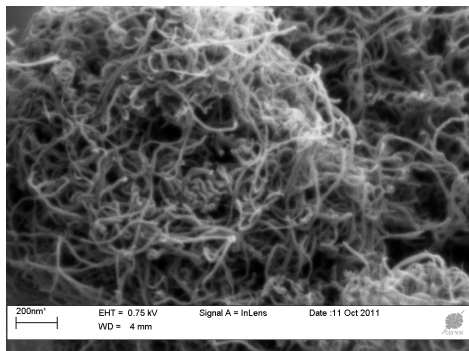


## Strategy?

Increase in surface/volume ratio of indigo



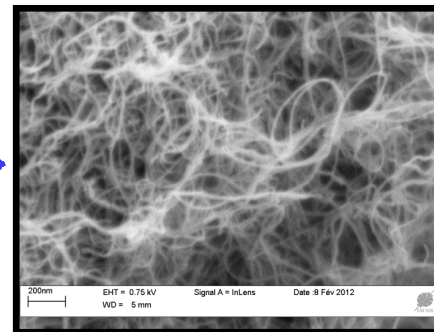
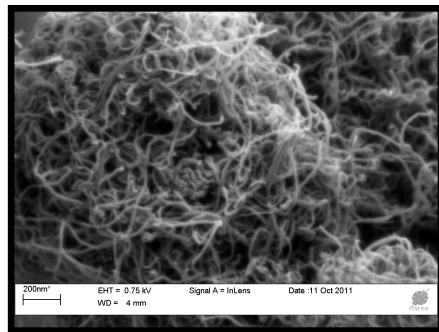
**Indigo / carbon nanotubes hybrid material** as chemical filter



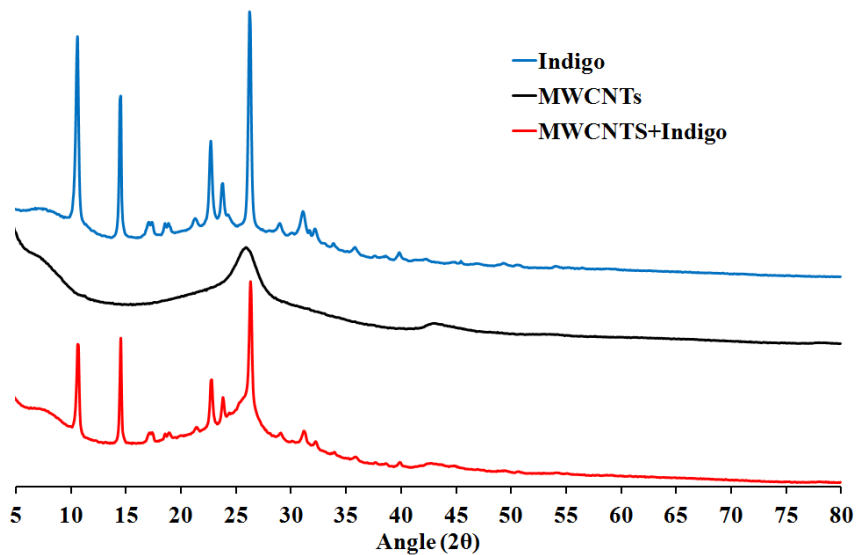
**Arkema Corporation**  
**SSA = 215 m<sup>2</sup>.g<sup>-1</sup>**

**At saturation :**  
**144 mg of indigo / 1 g of MWCNTs**  
**(UV-vis spectroscopy) 7**

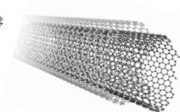
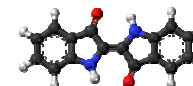
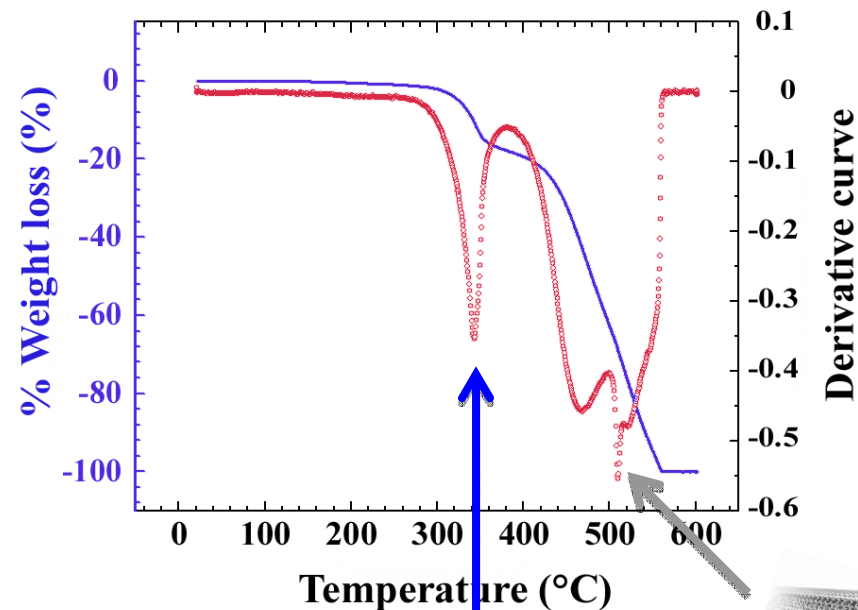
## Scanning Electron Microscopy



## X-Ray Diffraction



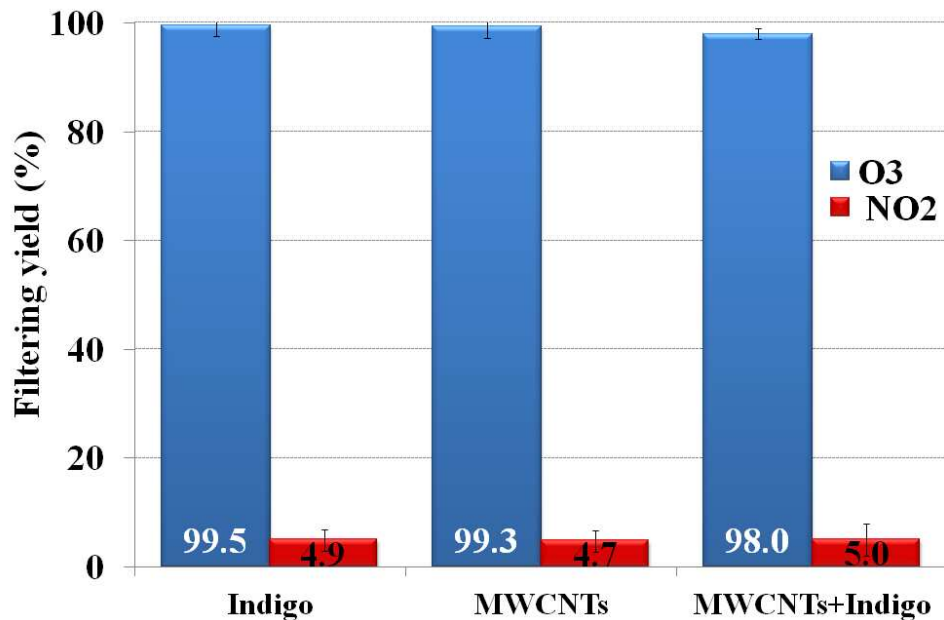
## Thermogravimetric analysis





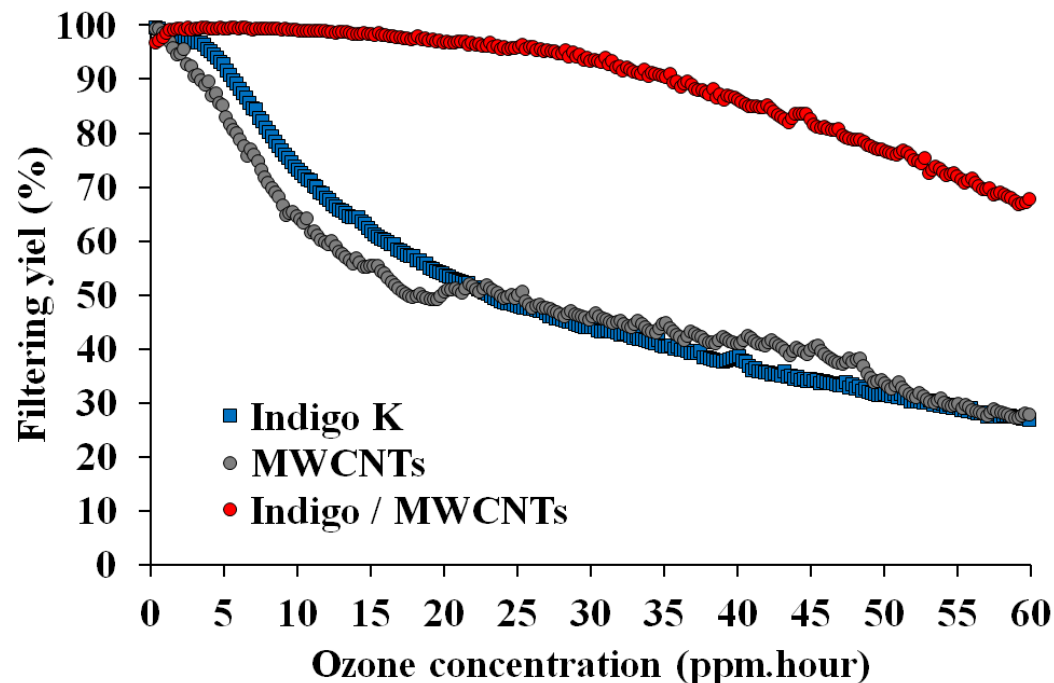
# 1<sup>st</sup> App Exposure towards the target gases

[O<sub>3</sub>] = 100 ppb Flow = 0.75 l/min T° = RT

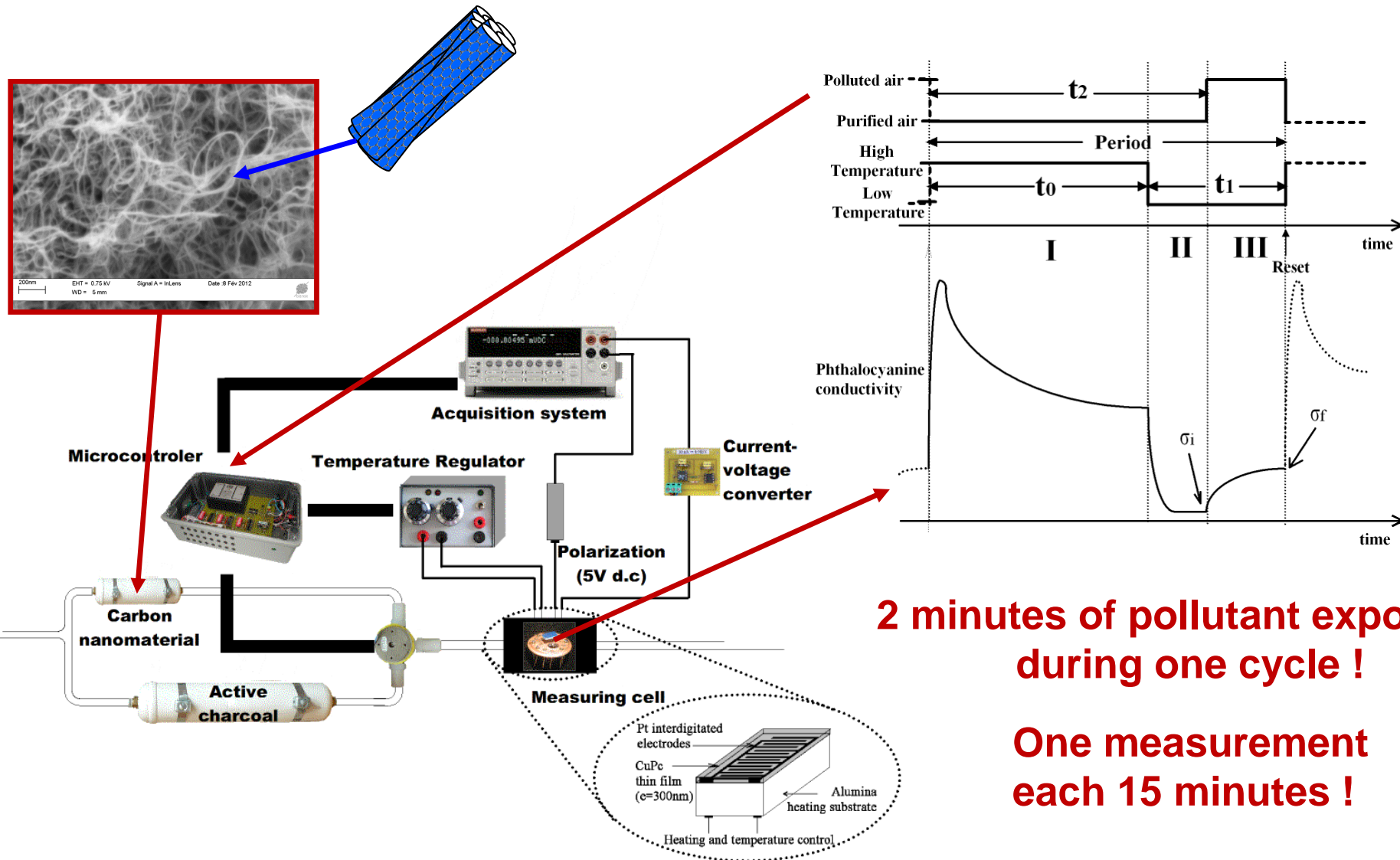


Durability ?  
**Improved !**

Selectivity ?  
**Unchanged !**



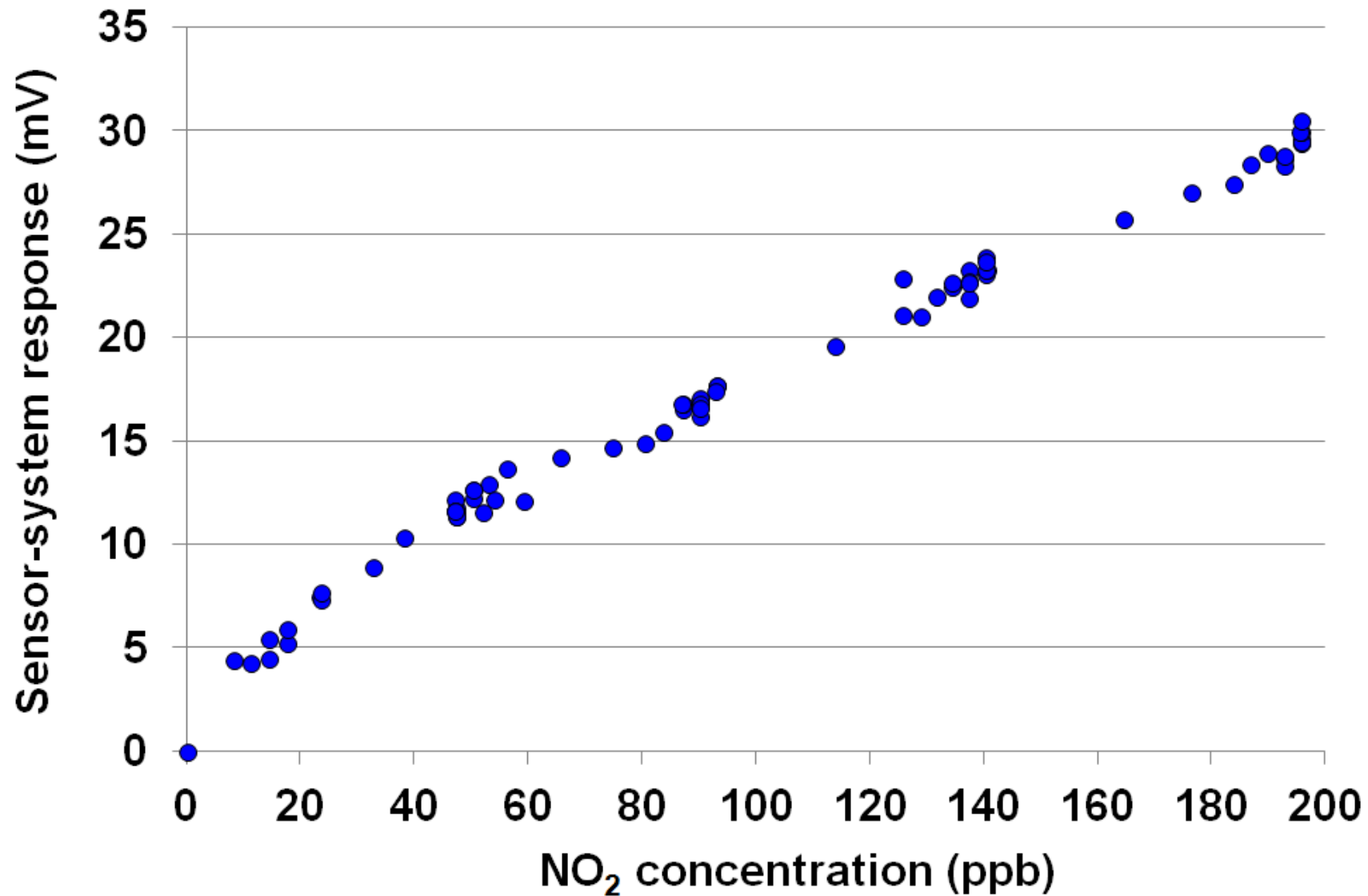
# 1<sup>st</sup> App Gas sensor-system for NO<sub>2</sub> monitoring



**2 minutes of pollutant exposure during one cycle !**

**One measurement each 15 minutes !**

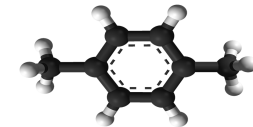
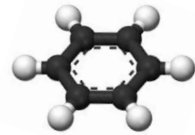
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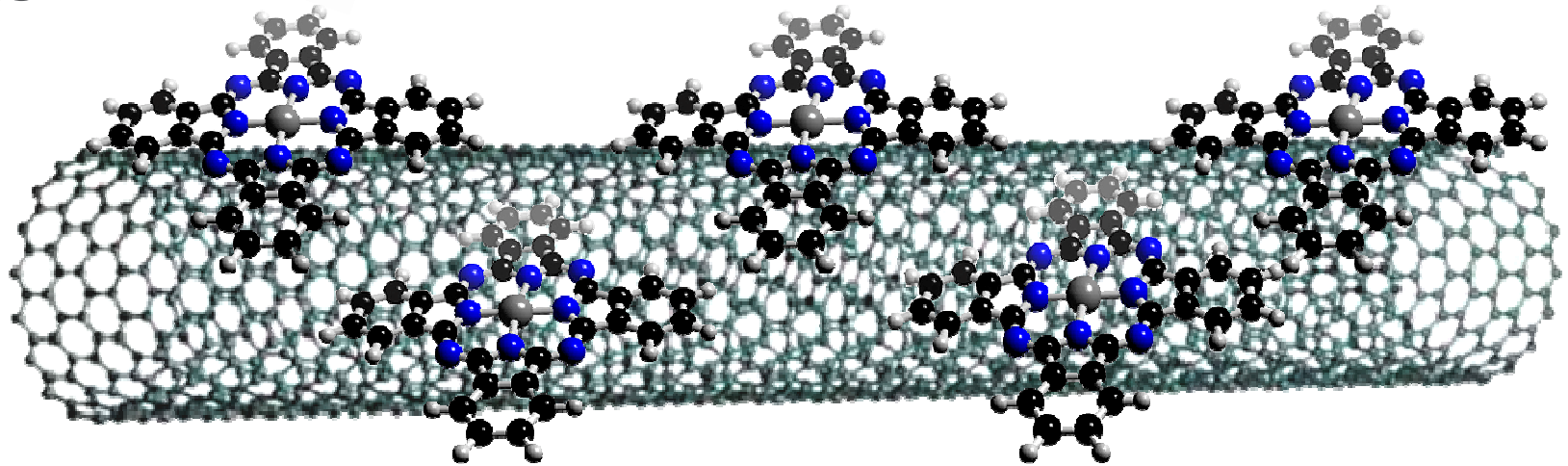
# 2<sup>nd</sup> App: sensor-system for BTX detection

Strategy?

Target pollutants



Sensitive material



Transducing mode

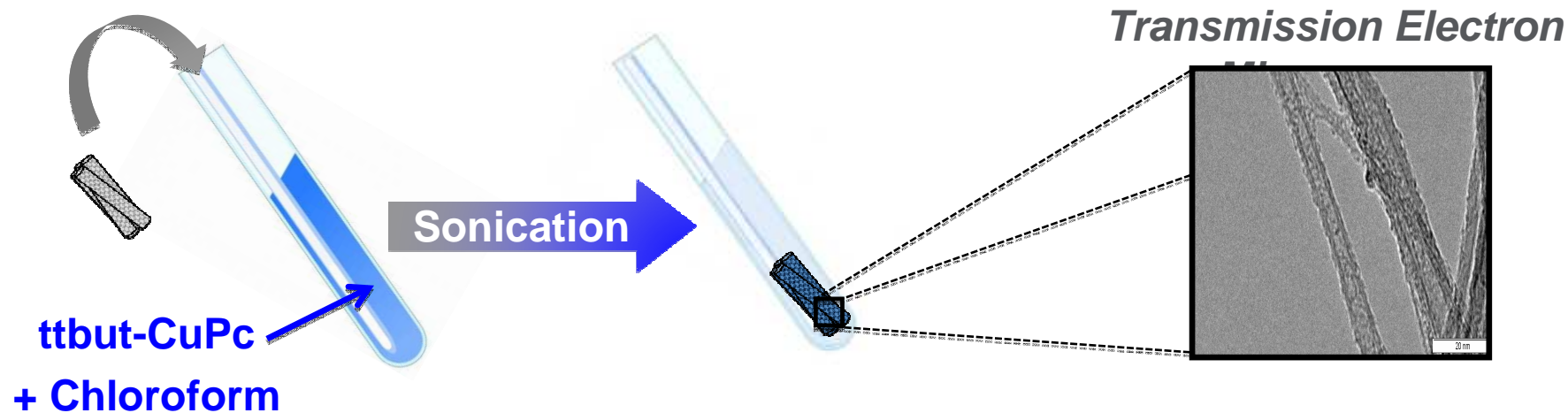


Excepted performances

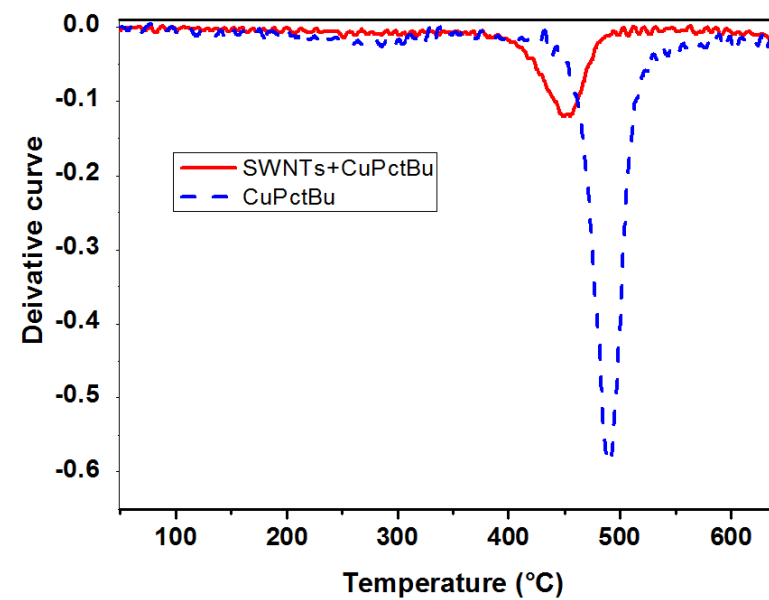
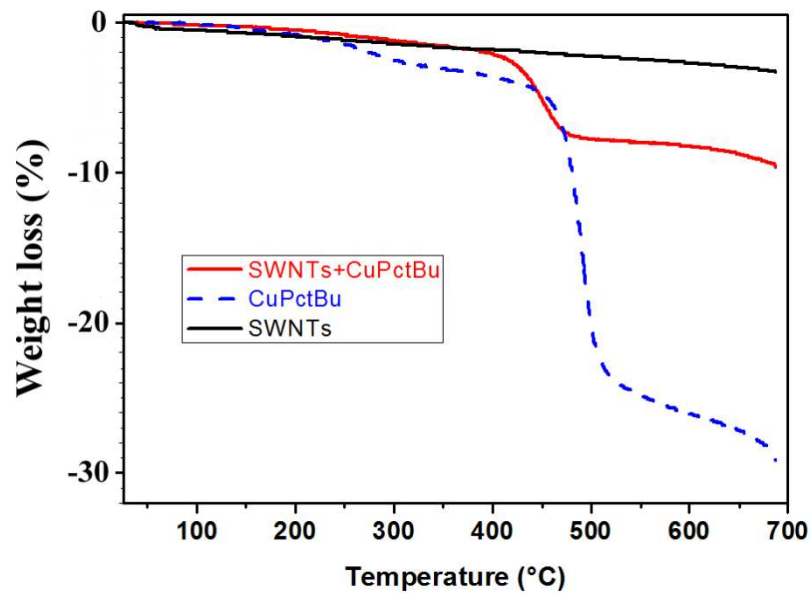
High sensitivity

Reversibility

Low response time



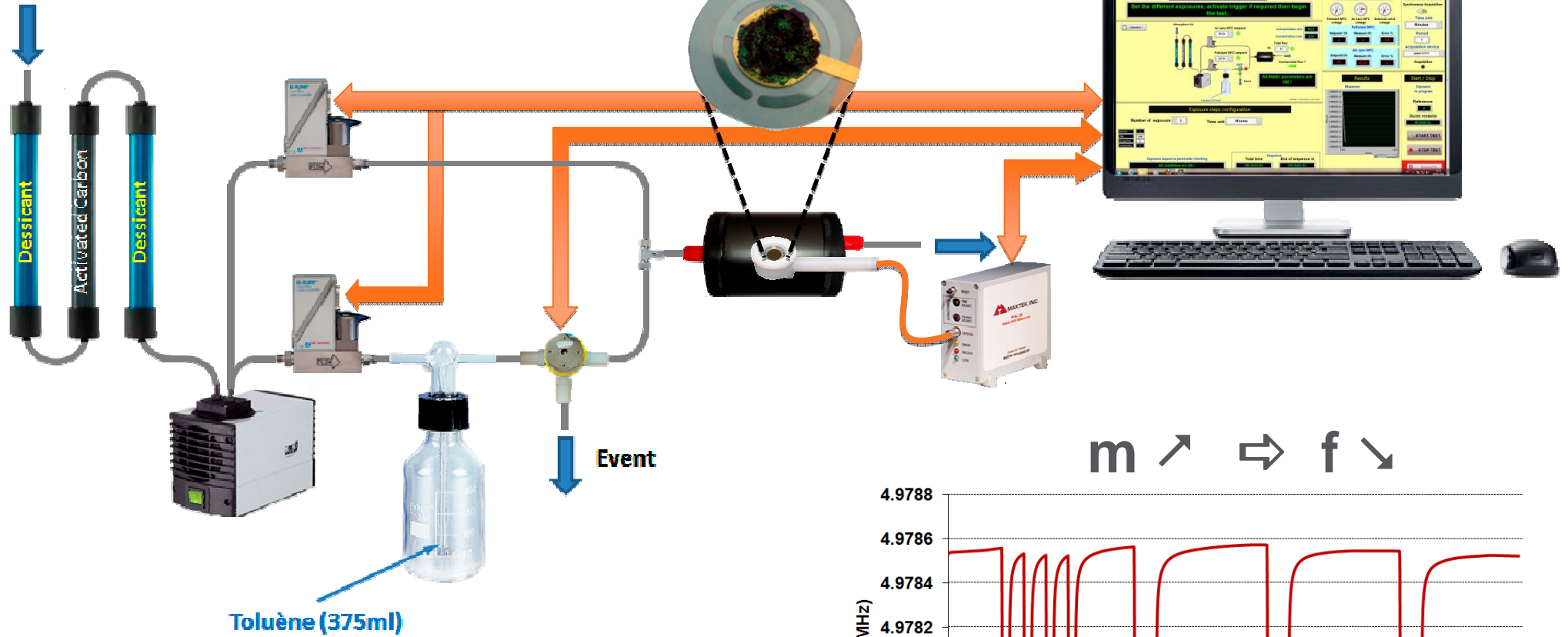
## Thermogravimetric analysis



# 2<sup>nd</sup> App

# Experimental setup

Atmospheric Air

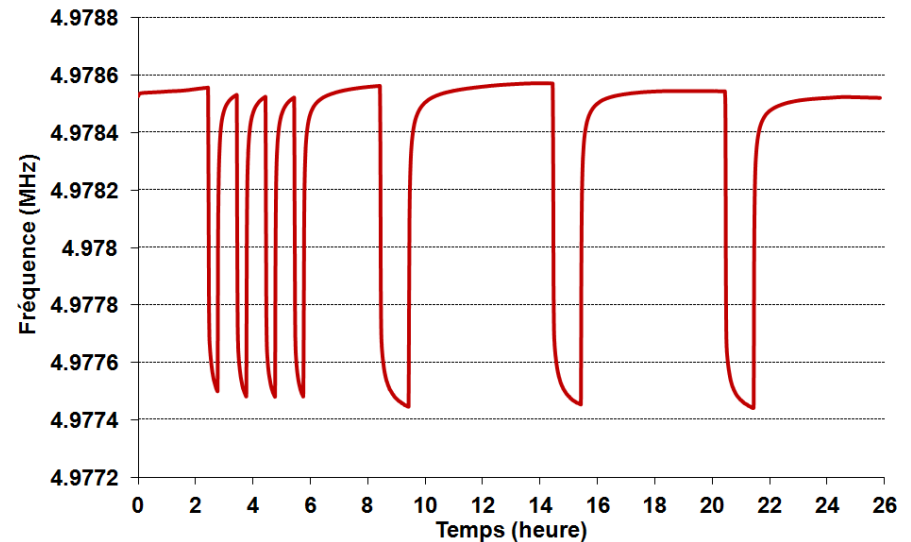


## Sauerbrey Equation

$$\Delta f = - C_f \times \Delta m$$

$C_f$  : sensitivity  
 = 0.056 Hz/ng/cm<sup>2</sup> (@ 5 MHz)

m ↗ ⇨ f ↘

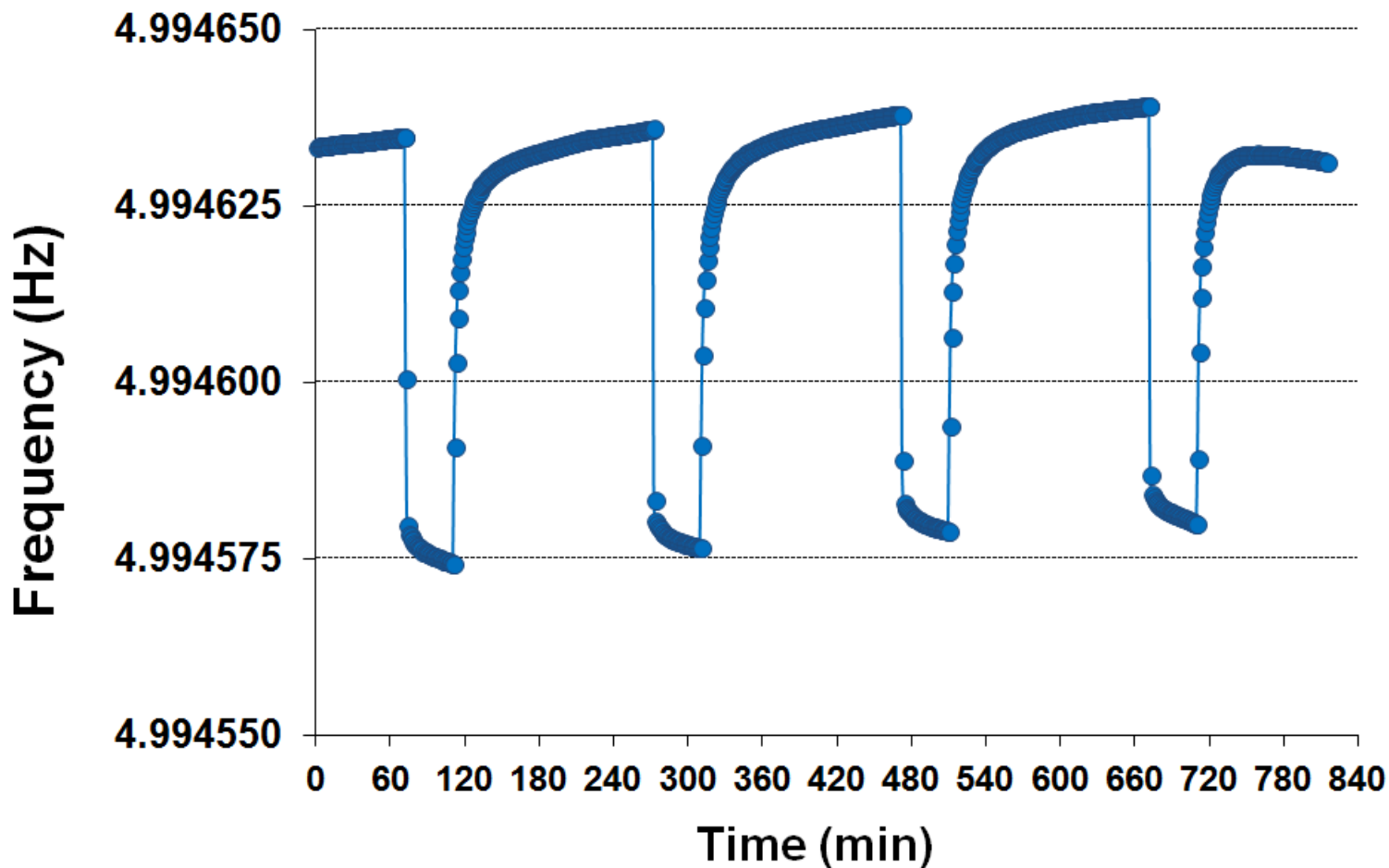
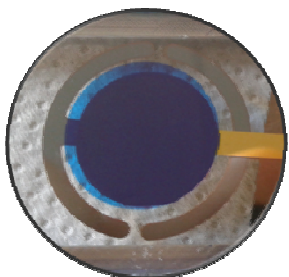
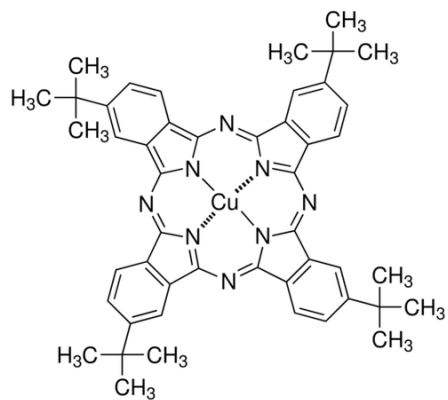


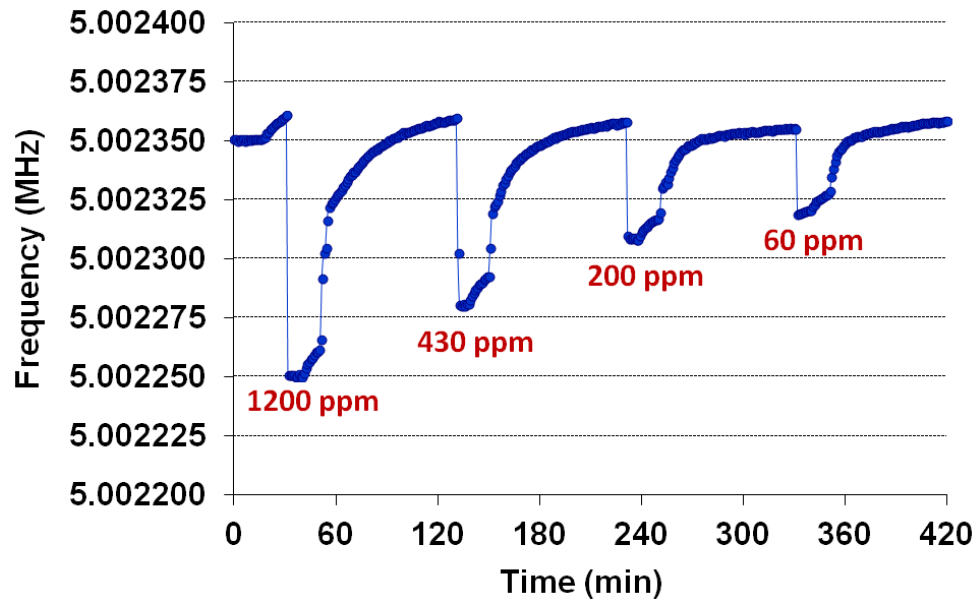
$[C_7H_8] = 375 \text{ ppm}$

Flow = 0.50 l/min

$T^\circ = RT$

Thickness<sub>ttb-CuPc</sub> = 400 nm

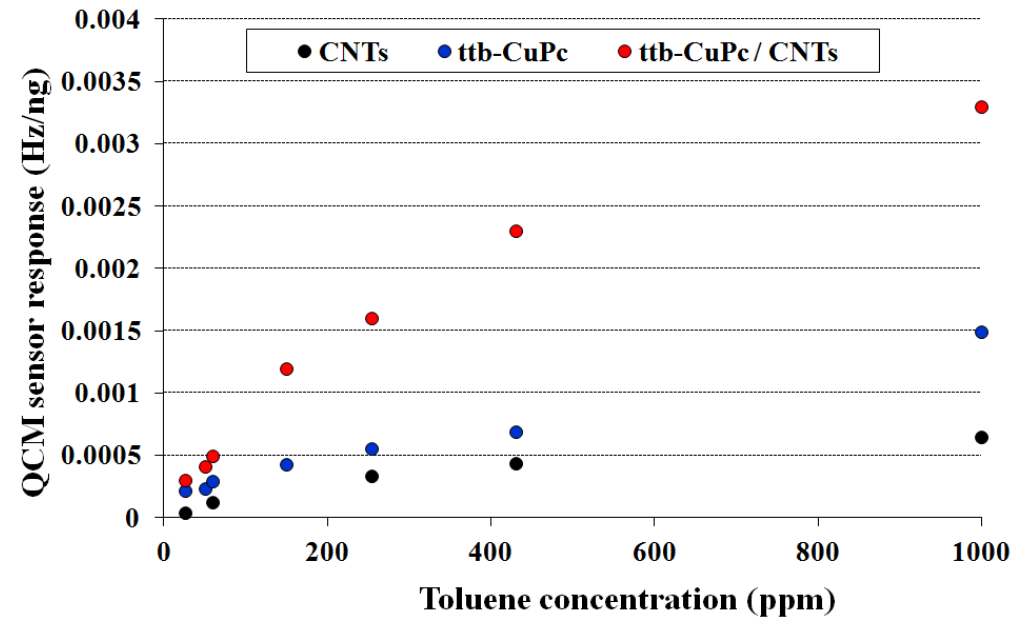




Sensitivity ?  
**Enhanced !**

Reversibility ?  
Response time ?

**Satisfying !**





# CONCLUSIONS

- Hybrid materials ⇒ enhanced sensitivity to the target gases
  - Filtering materials ⇒ **improvement of selectivity**
  - Sensing materials ⇒ **improvement of sensor sensitivity**
- Strategy based on the most relevant material-transducer couple
  - ⇒ **SIG3 - Guidelines For Best Coupling Air-Pollutant and Transducer**

## Open problems and ongoing activities

- Discrimination between aromatic hydrocarbons
- Effect of interfering analytes
- Reproducibility of sensing devices

