

NbN Thin Film-Based Multilayer (S-(I)-S) Structures for SRF Cavities



Bundesministerium
für Bildung
und Forschung

9th Thin Film SRF`21
(Virtual)

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SIS Multilayer Structures for Applications in SRF Technology (SMART)

Outline

1. General motivation.
2. Technological motivation & S-I-S structures.
3. The project SMART & LOT, USiegen
4. The experimental set-up & the deposition techniques (DCMS, HiPIMS, (PE)-ALD).
5. Results & Discussions.
6. Next steps.

General Motivation: Sci.&Tech. Advancement

...at cosmic scales: e.g., the study of dark matter in relation to the Standard Model.

...at atomic scales: e.g., the real-time imaging and measurement of structural and electronic dynamics at the quantum scale → the workings of matter at the quantum scale.

...**new possibilities and capabilities** beyond those existing currently so as to allow us to address fundamental scientific questions while contributing to the technological advancement in favor of societies.

Technology-specific motivation

The Challenge

The technological bottleneck set by bulk niobium.



The possible solution(s)

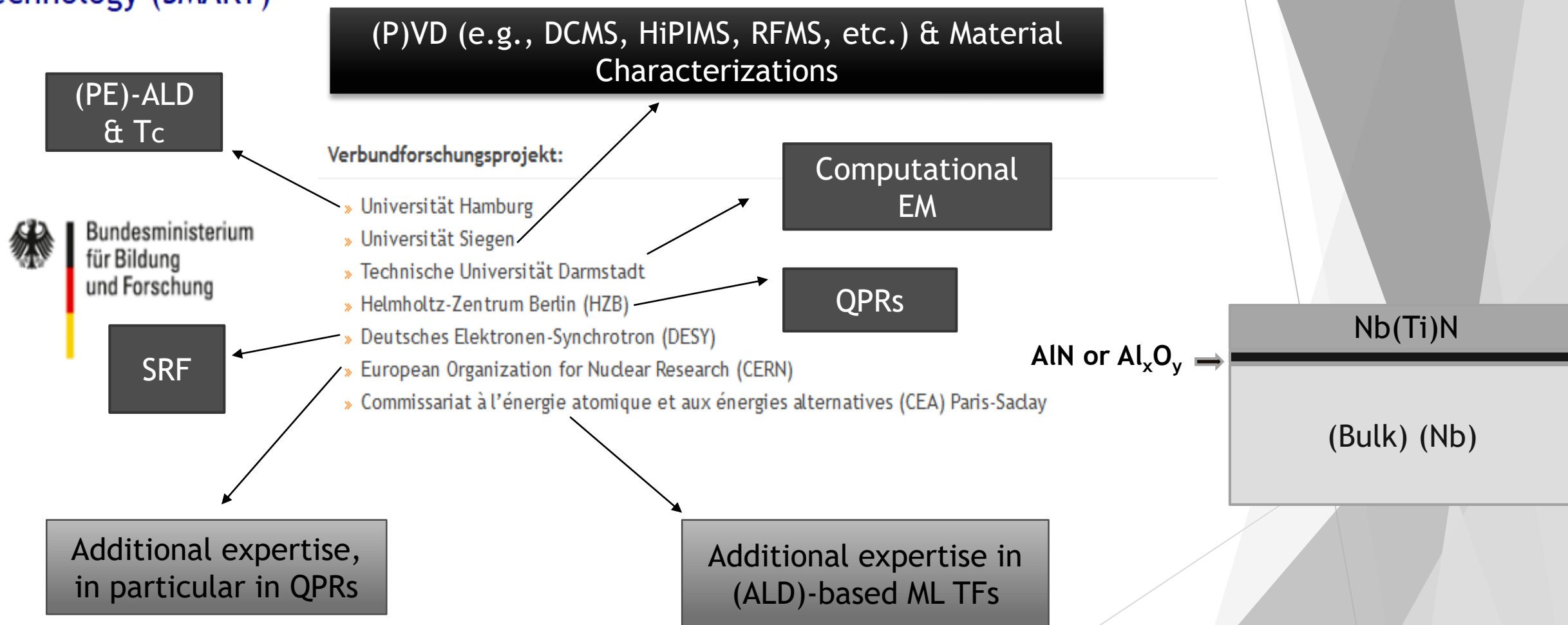
Advanced material structures: mono- and/or multi-layer (S-(I)-S) structured superconducting thin films (TFs).

*“Optimized multilayers of Nb₃Sn, NbN, some of the iron pnictides, or alloyed Nb deposited onto the surface of the Nb resonator cavities could potentially double **the rf breakdown field**, pushing **the peak accelerating electric fields** above **100 MV/m** while protecting the cavity from **dendritic thermomagnetic avalanches** caused by **local penetration of vortices**.” [1]*

[1] AIP Advances 5, 017112 (2015)

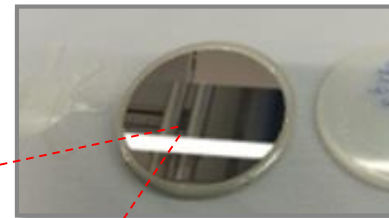
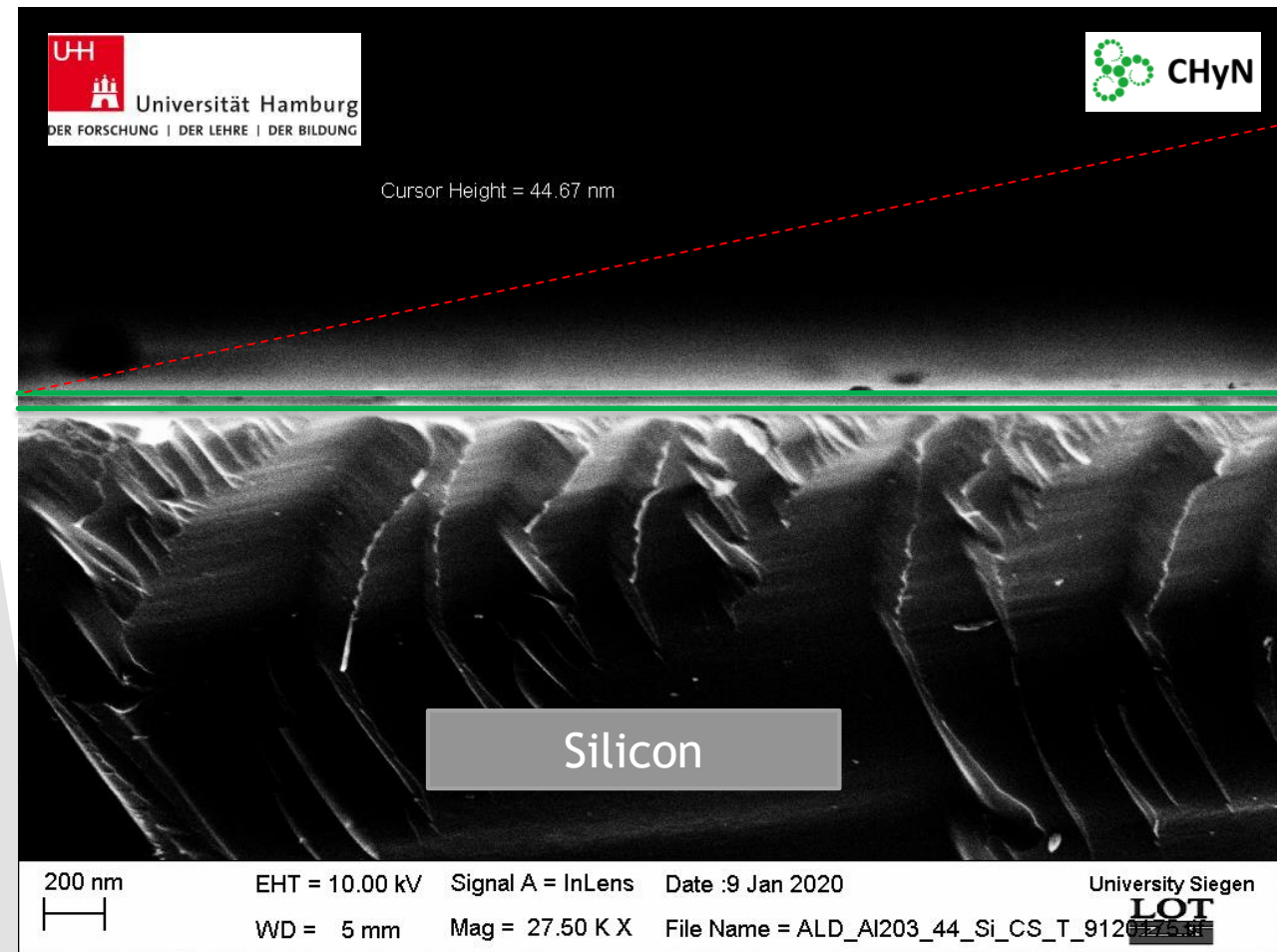
[2] <https://doi.org/10.1088/1361-6668/30/2/023001>

SIS Multilayer Structures for Applications in Superconducting Radio-Frequency Technology (SMART)

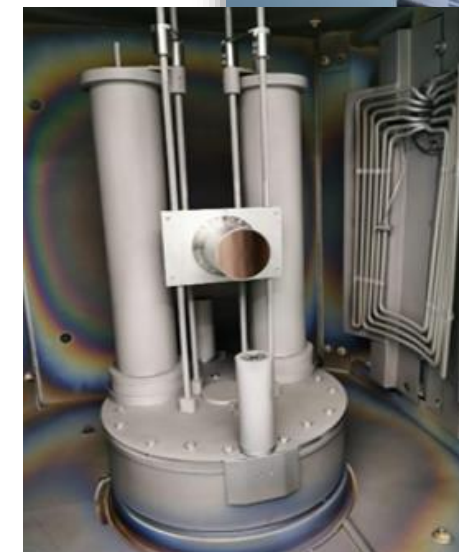


Experimental Set-up

CemeCon - CC800



ALD -
Alumina



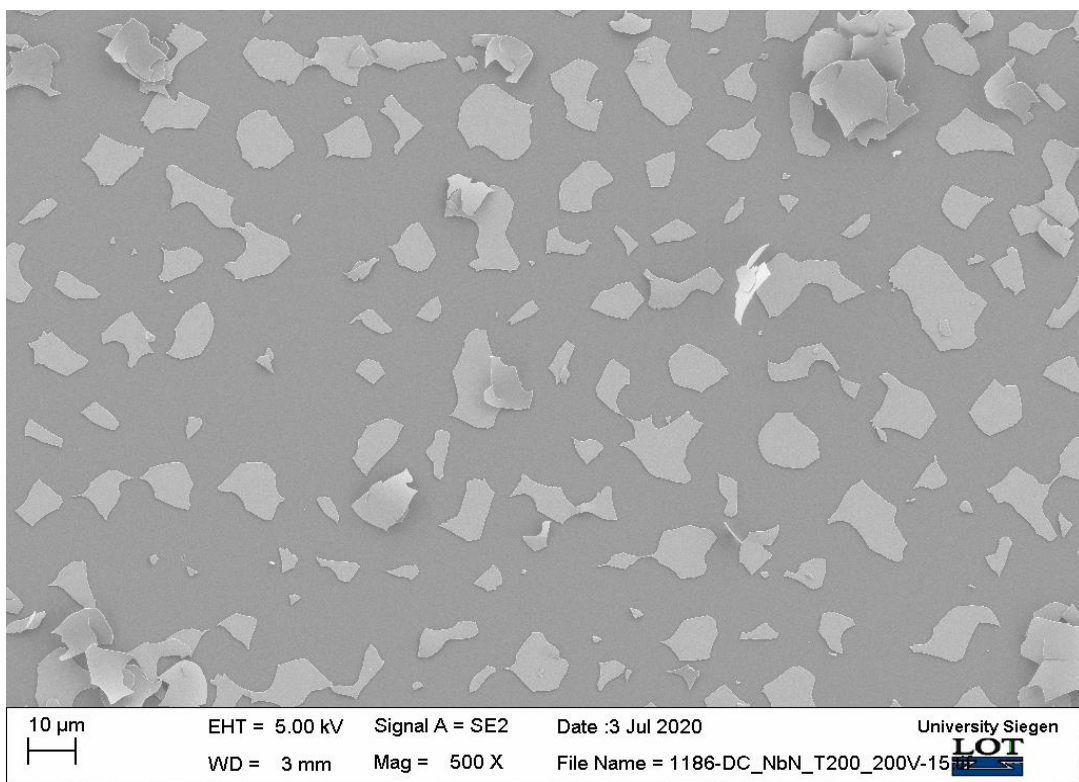
- MS: Magnetron Sputtering (e.g., DCMS, HiPIMS).
- (PE)-ALD: (Plasma Enhanced)-Atomic Layer Deposition.

Development of NbN TF-based Multilayer Structures

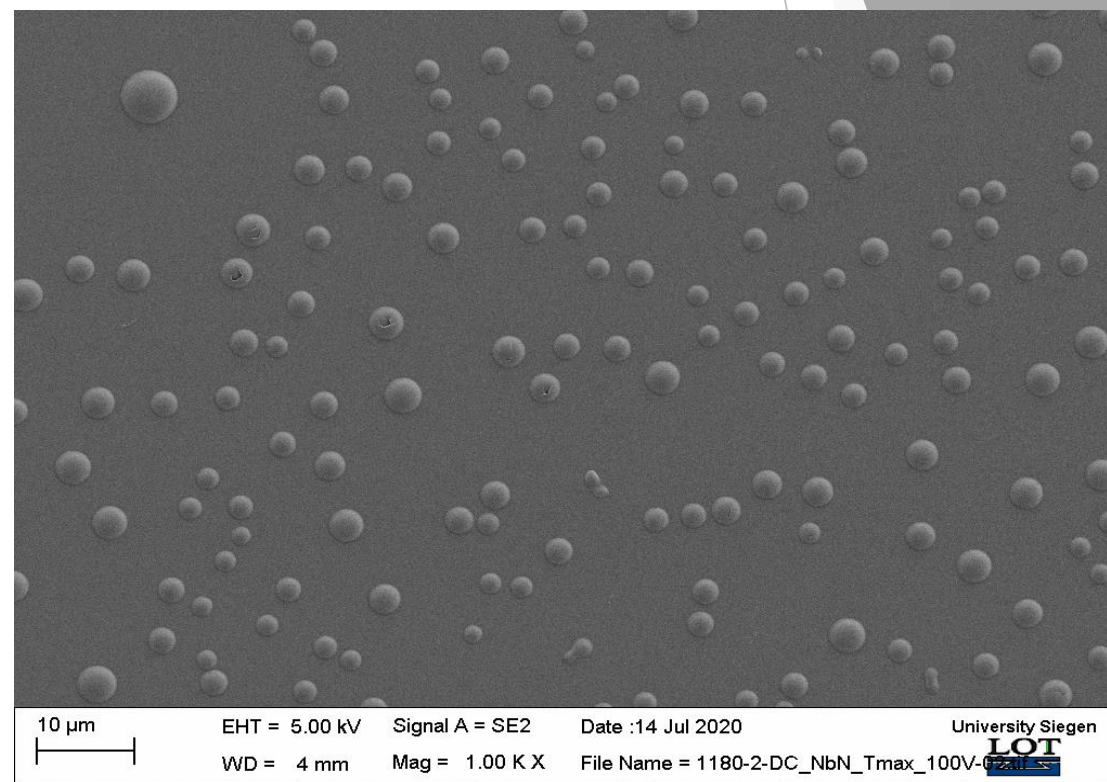
- ▶ The optimization studies of *the parameter window* for **DCMS-NbN** thin films (TFs) on ALD-Alumina/Si, PEALD-AlN/Si, and silicon.
- ▶ The parameter studies of **HiPIMS-NbN** mono-/multi-layer (S-I-S) structures on (PEALD)-AlN/Si & (ALD)-Alumina/Si, and silicon substrates.
- ▶ The **thickness uniformity studies** of the coated-layers - after the development of the code for the rotation (rocking/pulsing) of the table.

Initial DCMS-NbN Parameter Studies

DC - P1

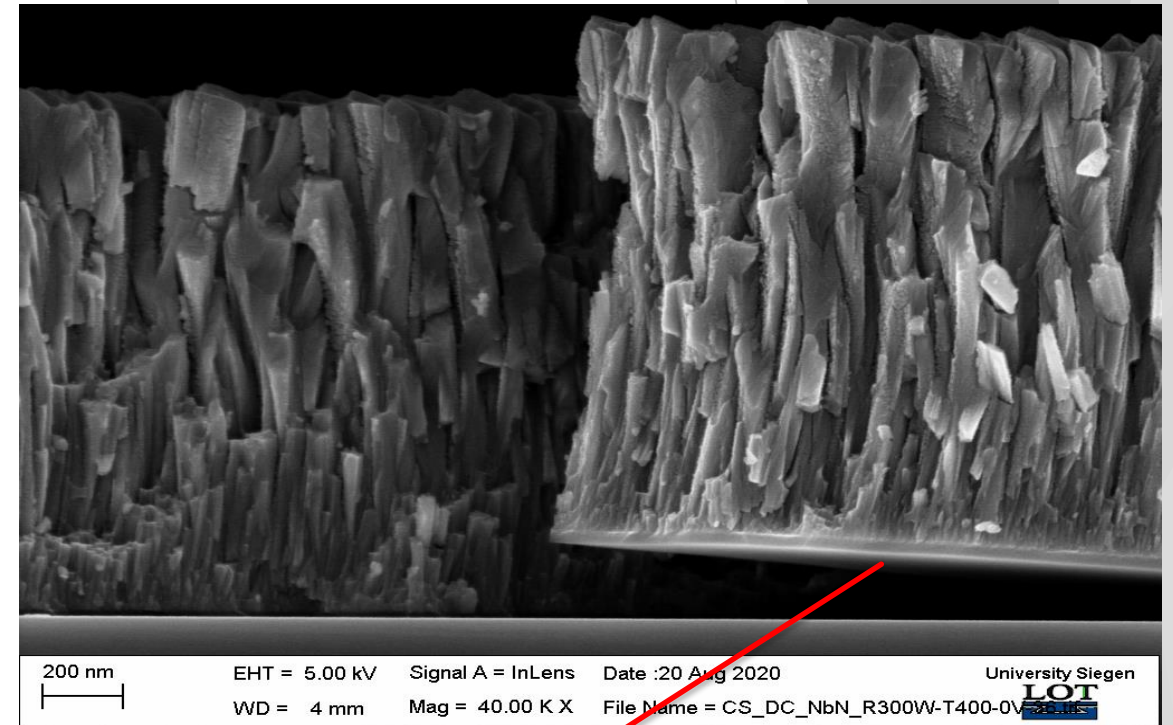
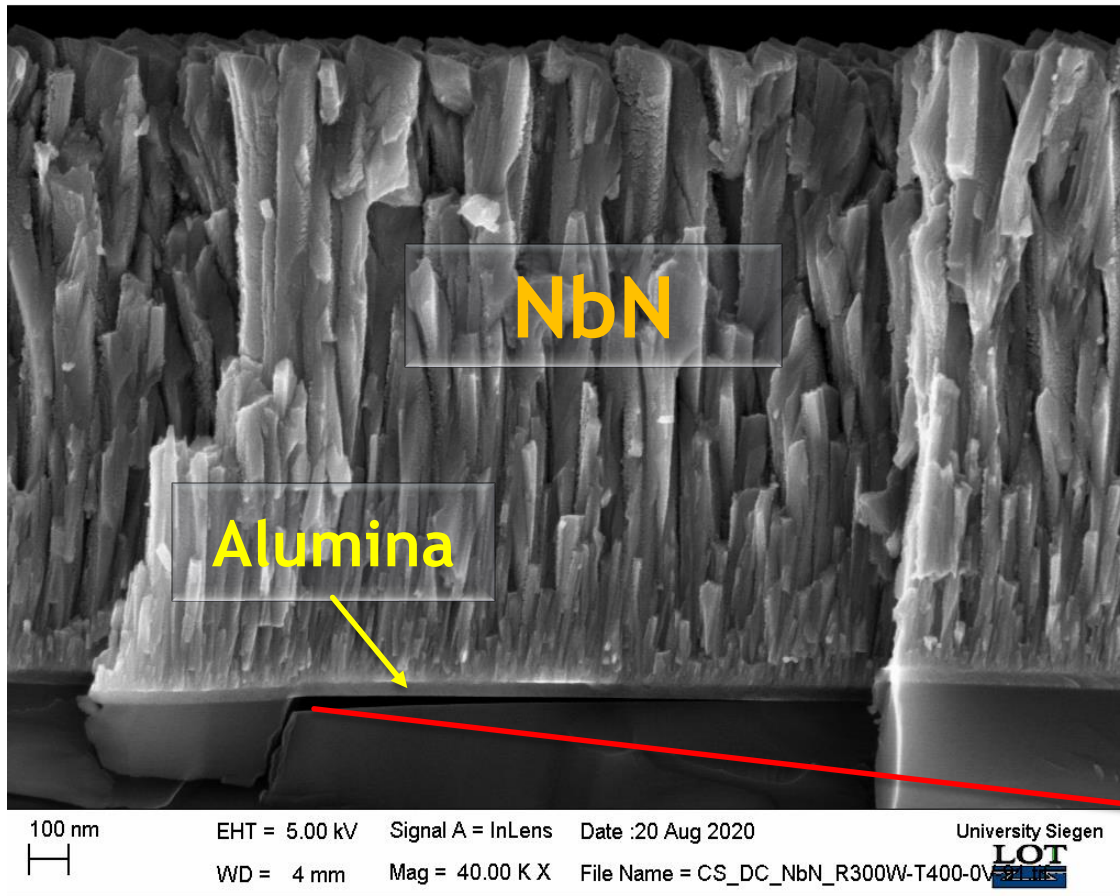


DC - P2



The Delamination of ALD-Alumina

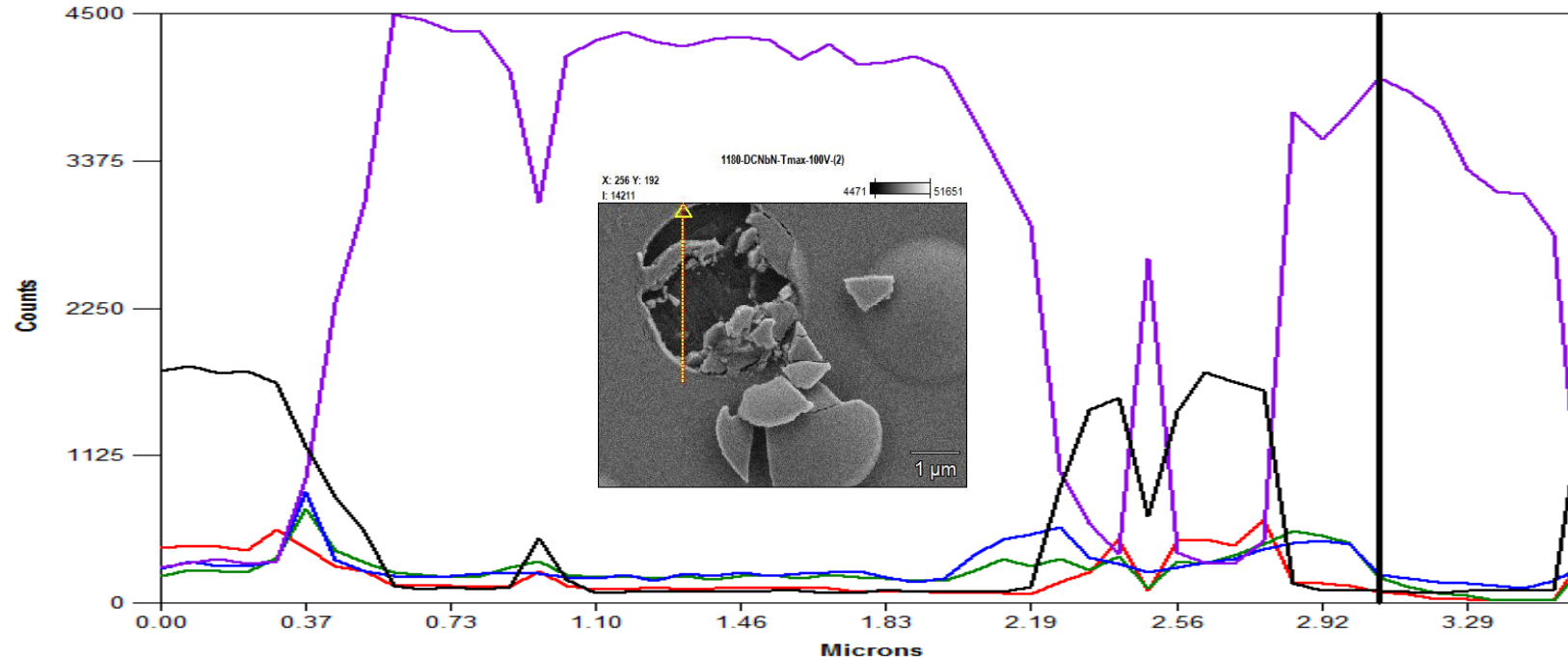
DC - P3



The delamination issue of the insulating layer (ALD-alumina).

The Delamination of ALD-Alumina

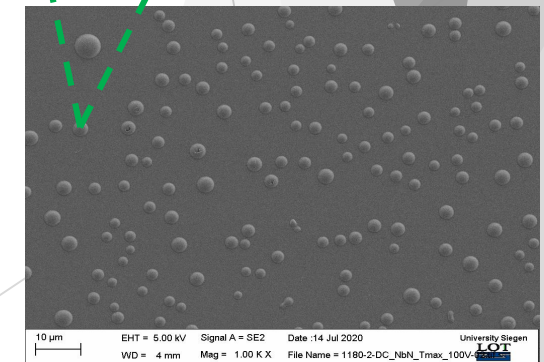
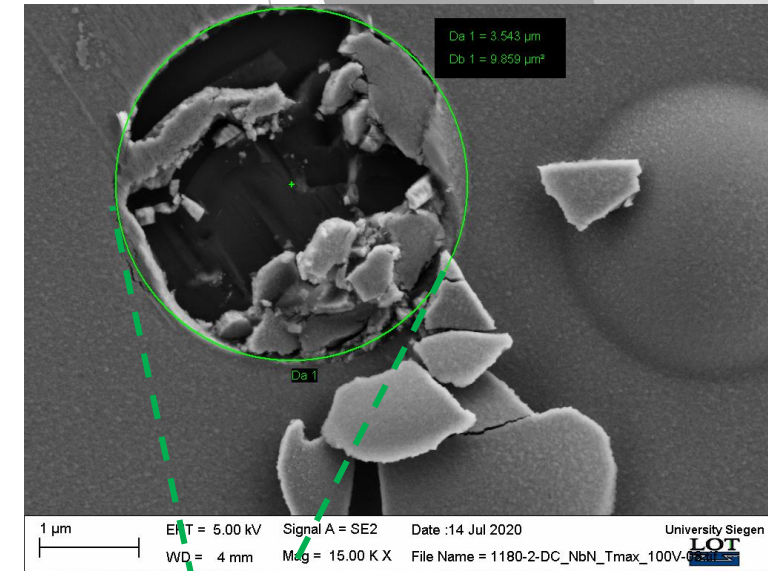
1180-DCNbN-Tmax-100V-(2)



— N K: 88 — O K: 193 — Al K: 212 — Si K: 4003 — Nb L: 89

Insulating Deposition System	Thickness (nm)	Bubbles	Thickness (nm)	Bubbles
Al ₂ O ₃ Thermal ALD	42,67	✓	16	✗
Al ₂ O ₃ Thermal in PEALD	39,55	✓	10	✗
Al ₂ O ₃ PEALD	-	-	12,55	✗
AlN PEALD	42,21	✓	18,94	✗

I. Gonzales Diaz-Palacio
(CHyN/UHH)



DC - P2

DCMS-NbN Optimizations - High P [W]

DC - P4

NbN

Alumina

100 [W]

200 nm

EHT = 5.00 kV

Signal A = InLens

Date :17 Jul 2020

University Siegen

WD = 4 mm

Mag = 50.00 K X

File Name = 1234_CS_DC_NbN_100W-T400-0V-R.tif

DC - P5

500 [W]

1 µm

EHT = 5.00 kV

Signal A = InLens

Date :15 Sep 2020

University Siegen

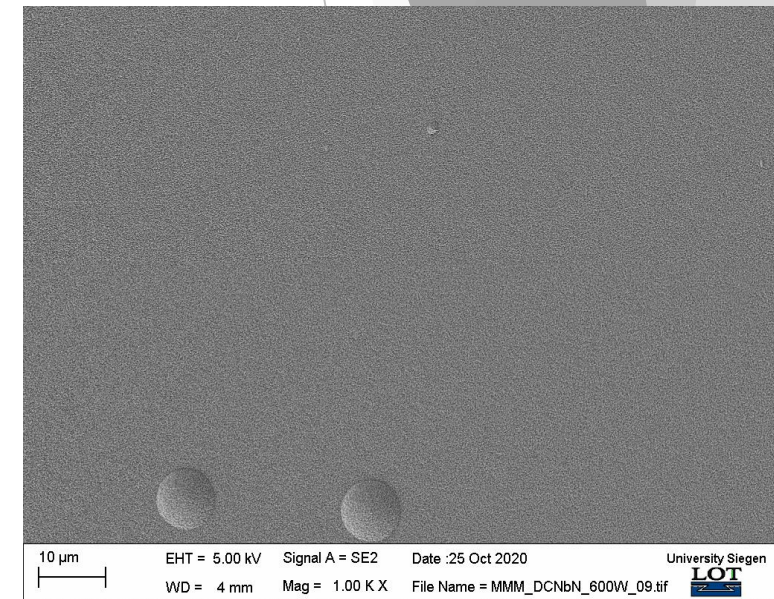
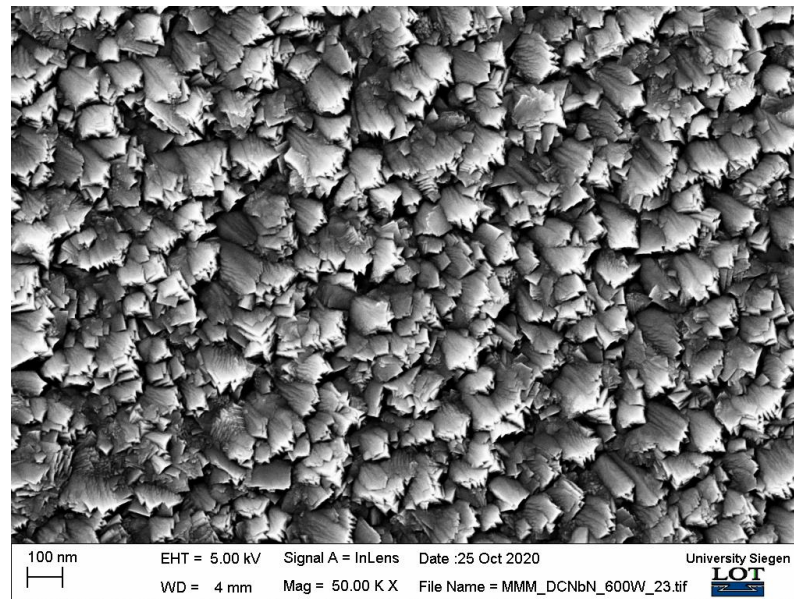
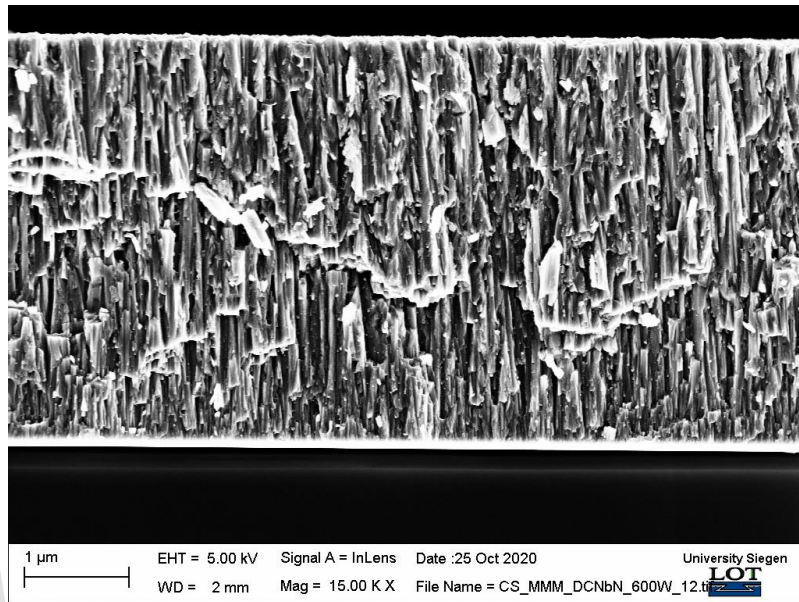
WD = 6 mm

Mag = 15.00 K X

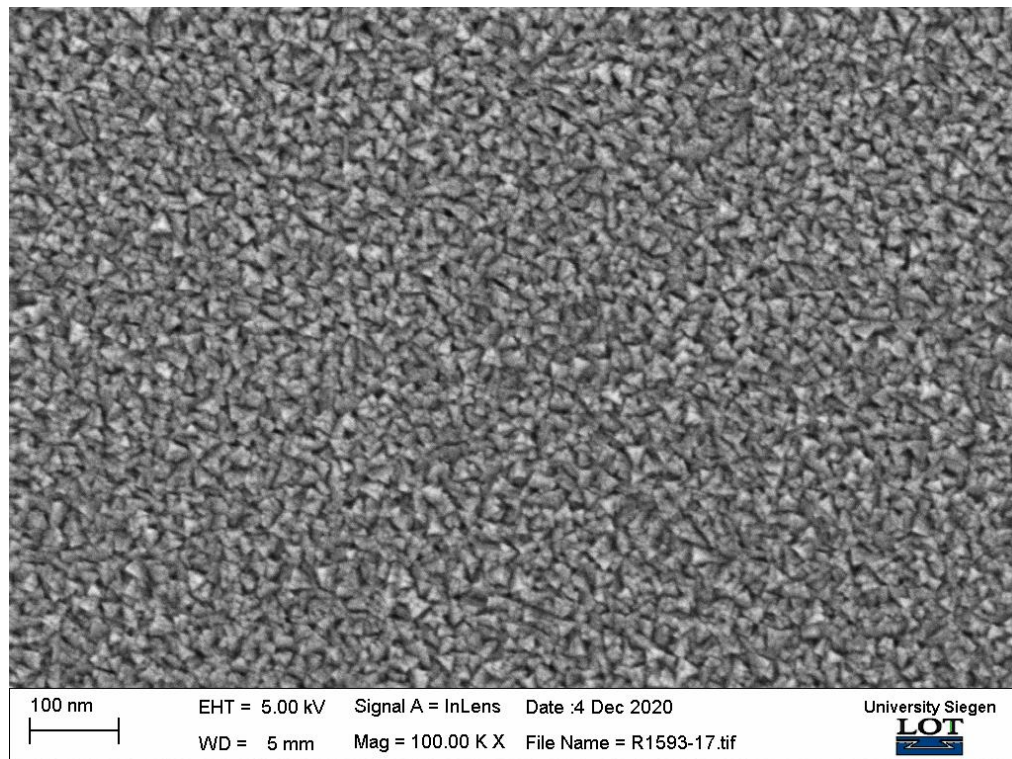
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DCMS-NbN Optimizations - High P [W]

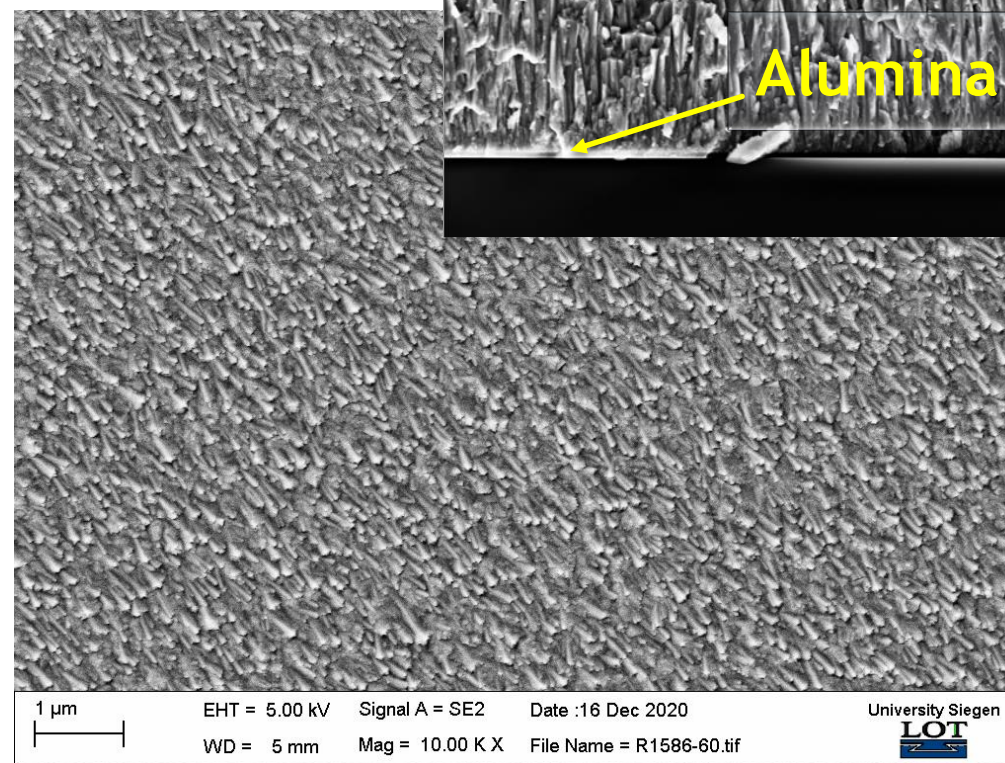
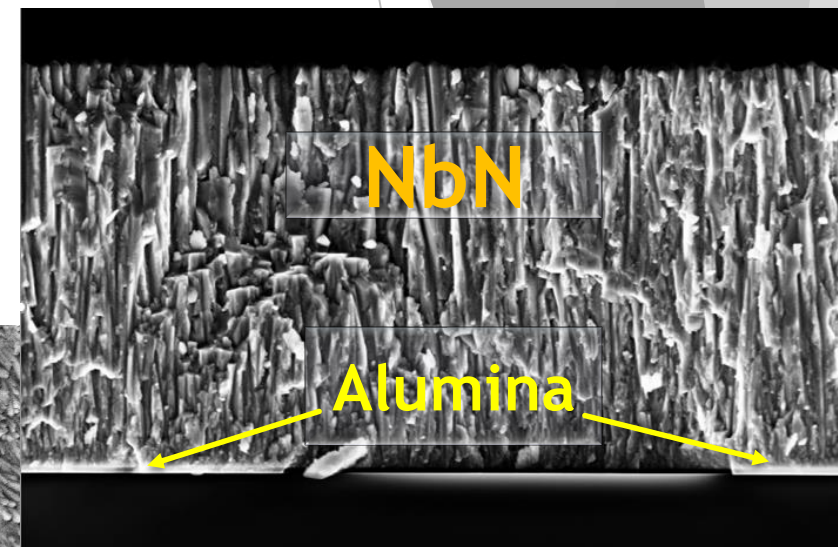
DC - P6



600 W

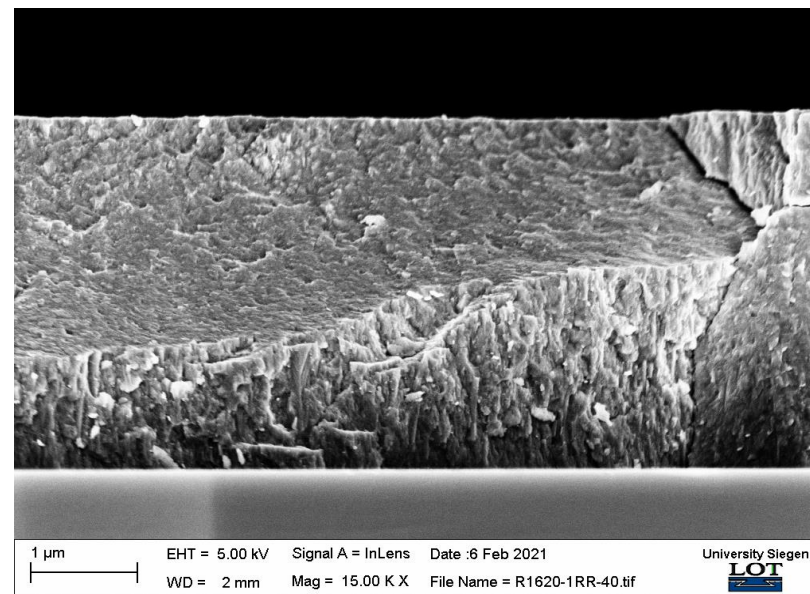
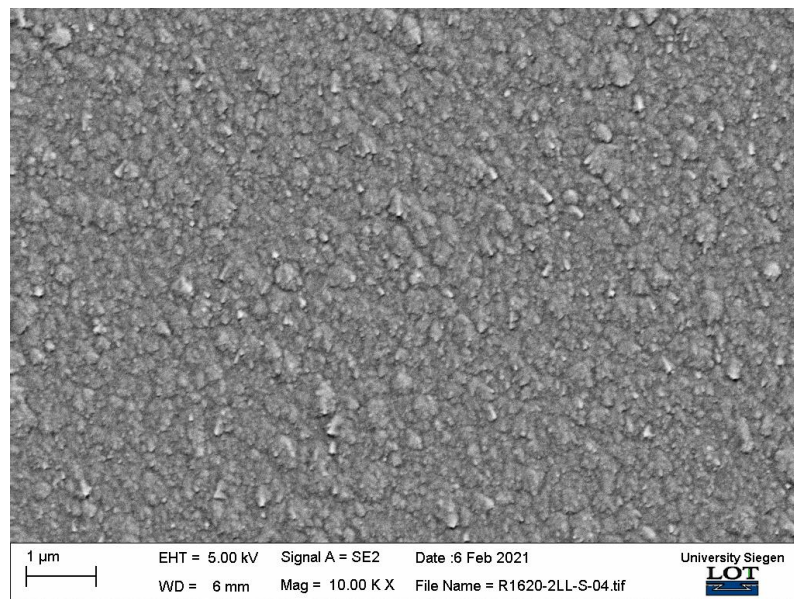


DC-OP1
100W-50V
2100mPa



DC-OP2
950W-50V
2100mPa

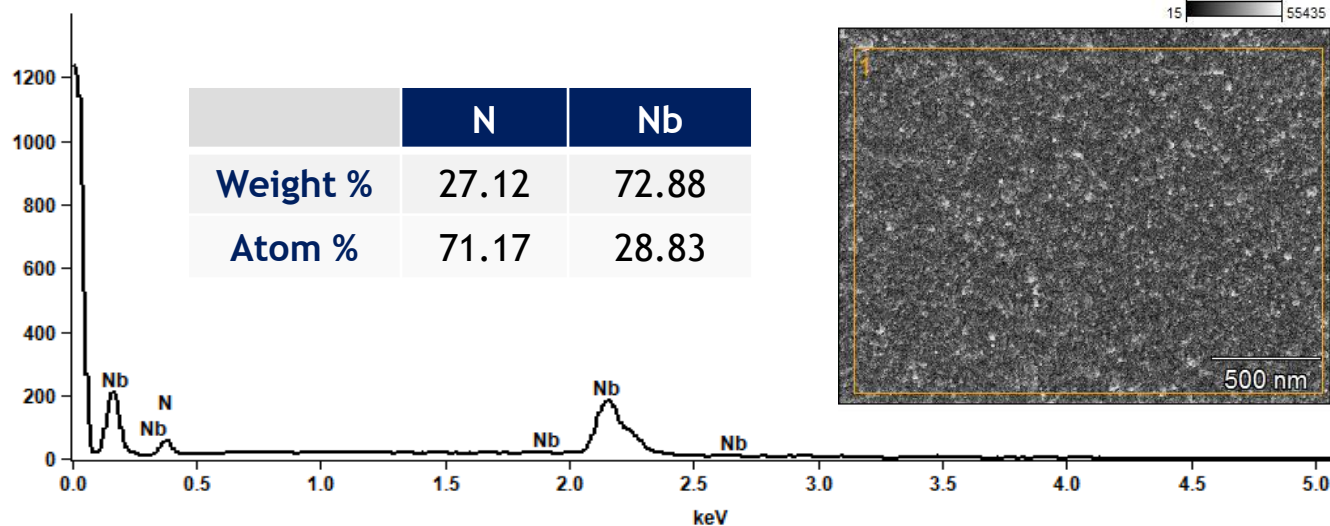
DCMS-NbN Optimization Studies



Full scale counts: 1234

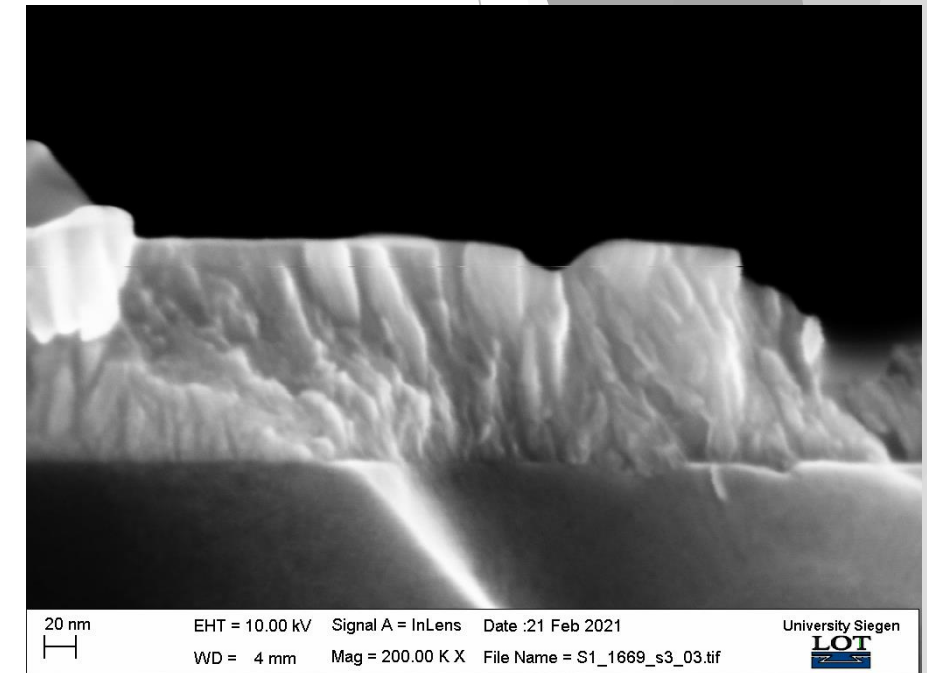
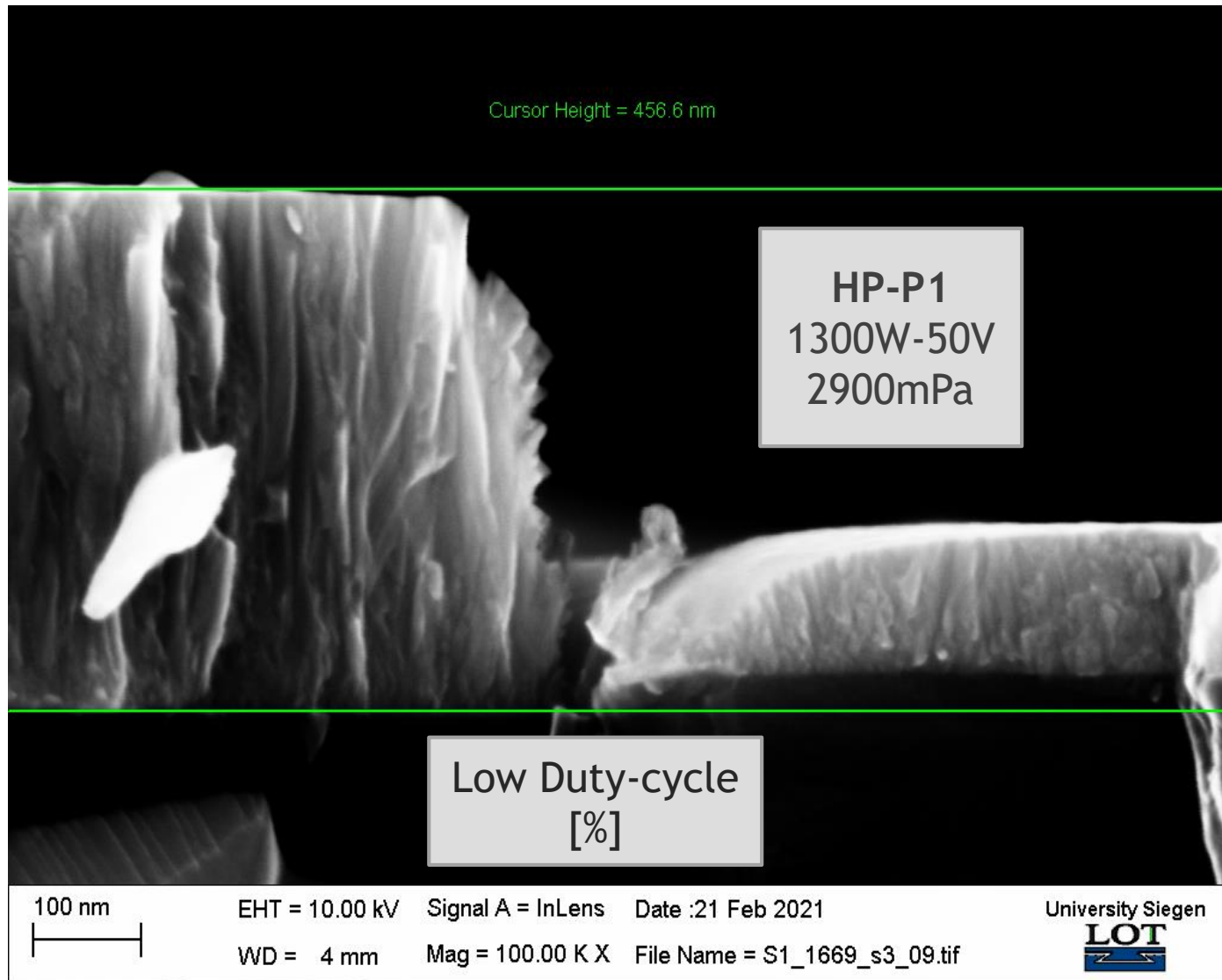
R1620-2LL-(2)_pt1

R1620-2LL-(2)



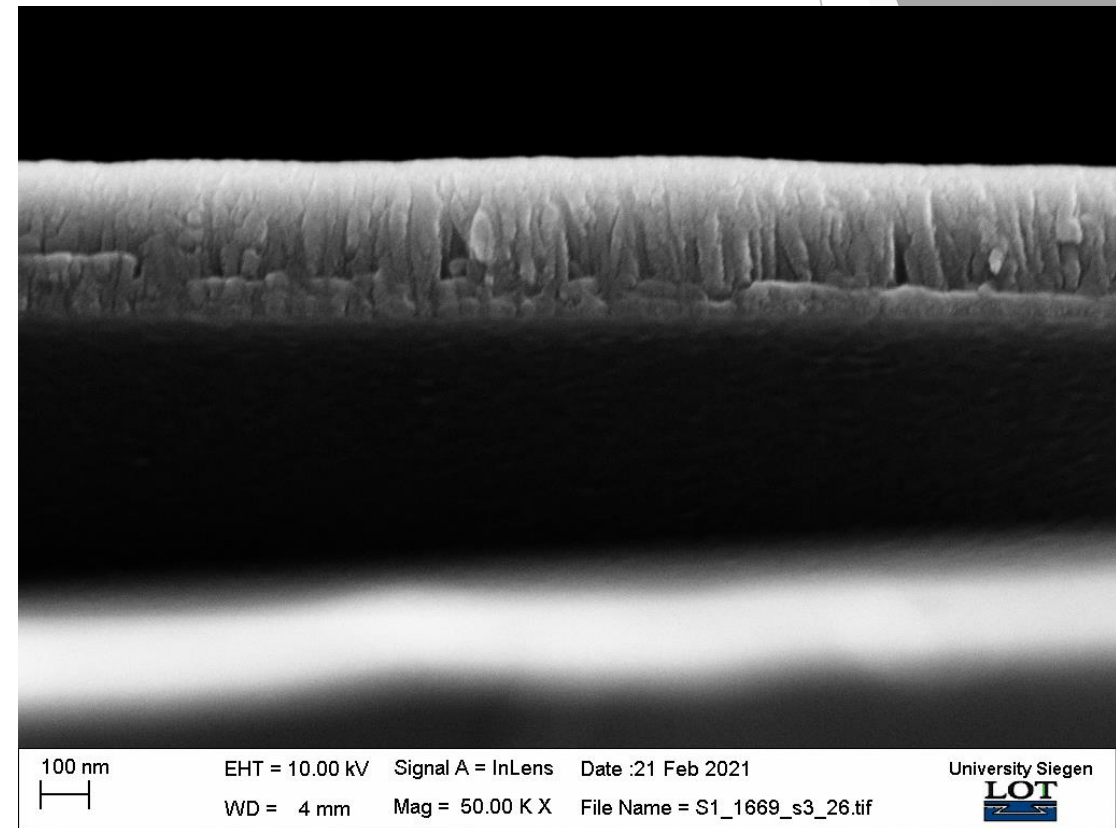
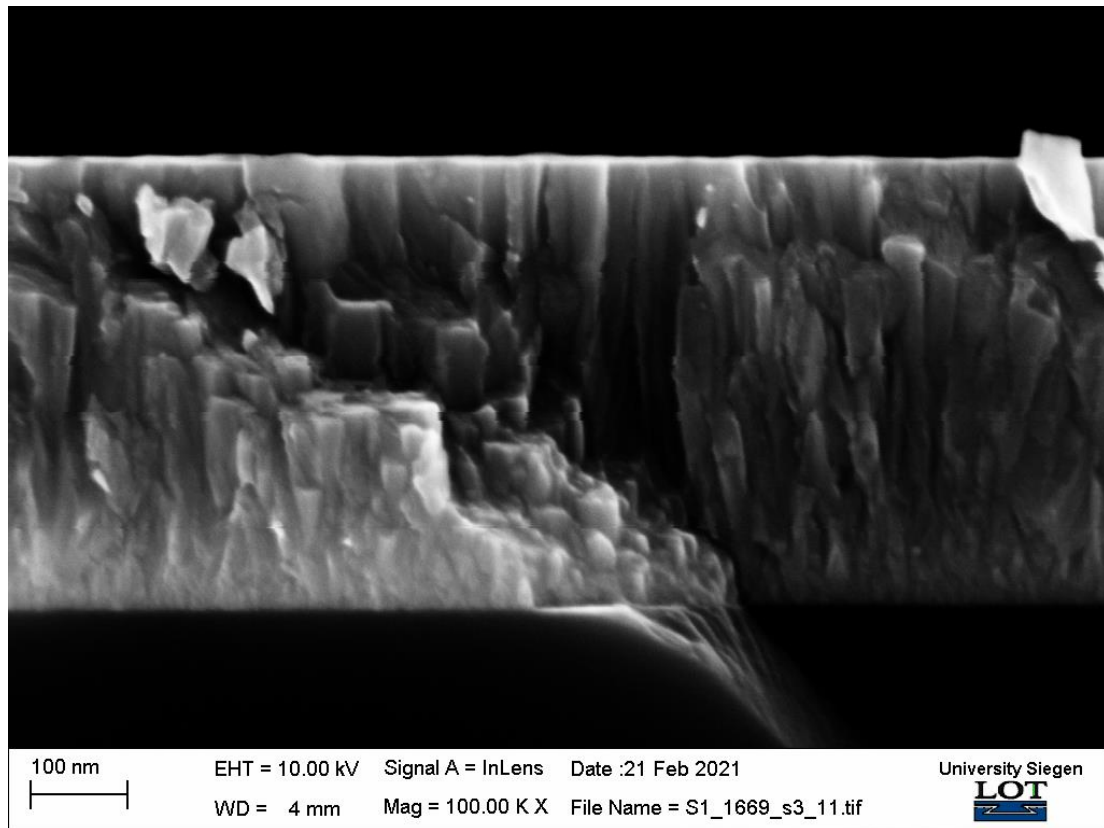
DC-OP3
1100W-50V
2100mPa

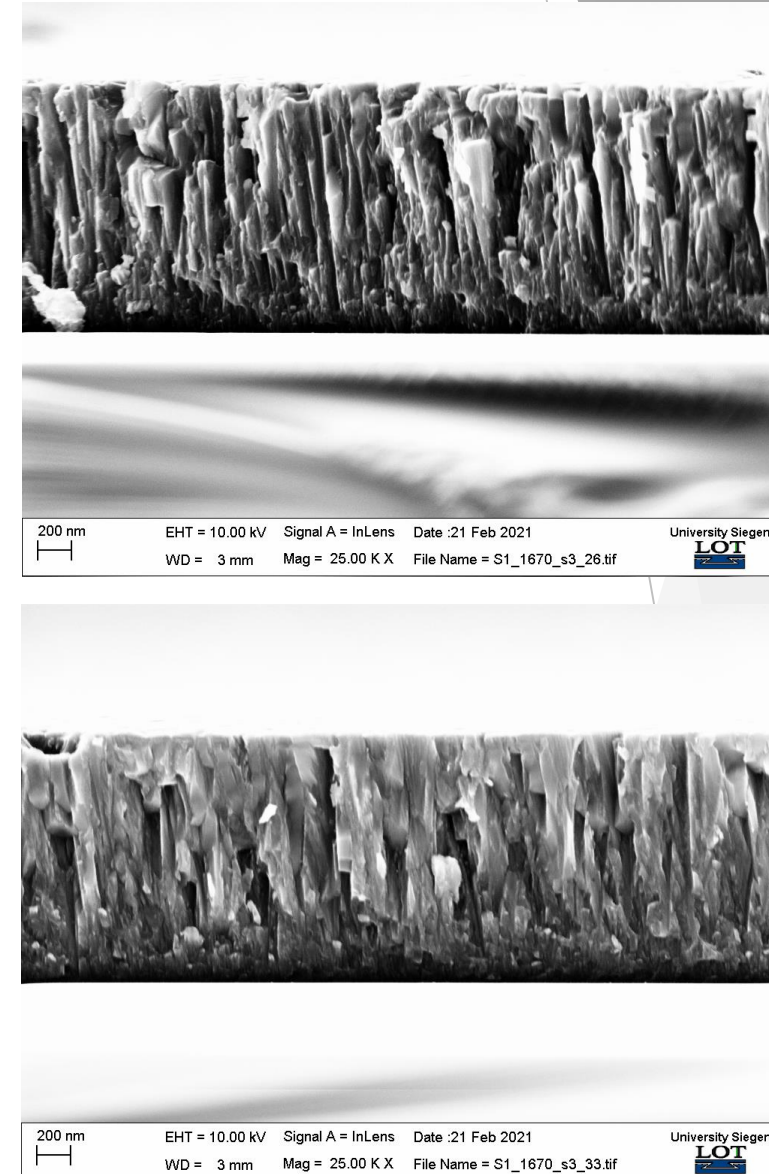
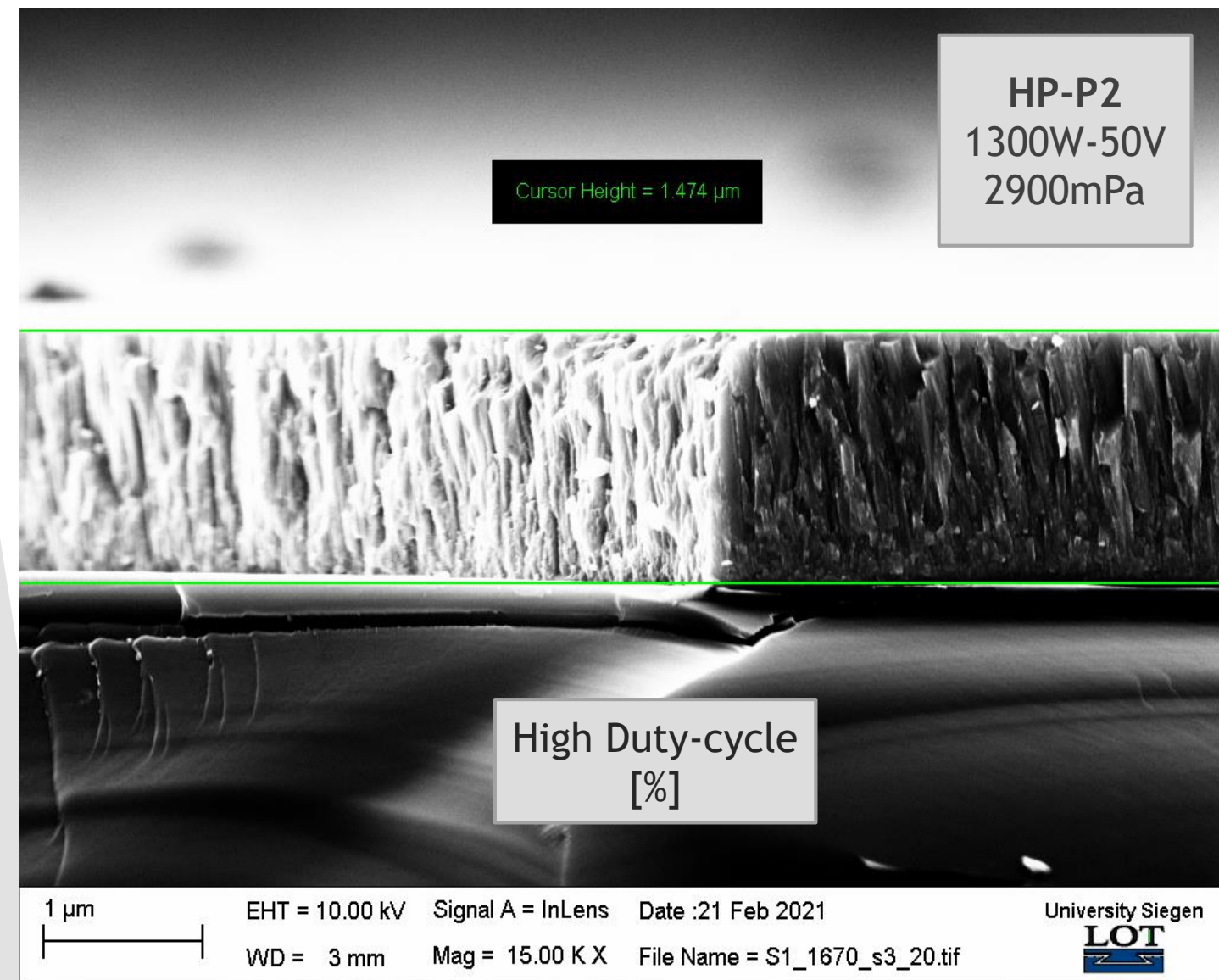
HiPIMS (HP) - NbN Parameter Studies



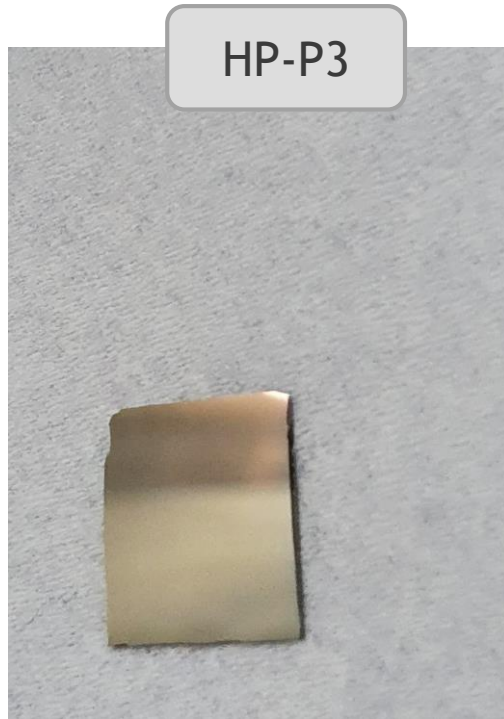
HiPIMS (HP) - NbN Parameter Studies

HP-P1





MMM – HiPIMS (HP)-NbN Parameter Studies



2000 Hz

1000 Hz

Rock-Angle: 12°



Summary & Outlook

- ▶ Further recipe developments for optimized **etching, sputter cleaning, and coating** of **HiPIMS-NbN** thin films in S(I)S structures,
- ▶ Further **material (surface & interfacial) characterizations** (e.g., SEM/EDX, XRD, AFM, TEM, SIMS, EBSD etc.) of the **NbN-thin film based multilayer structures.**
- ▶ **Superconductivity and RF characterizations** of the optimized NbN thin film-based S(I)S structures.
- ▶ Studies of **PVD-Alumina** as well as investigations of the possibility of **NbxOy** as potential **insulating layers in SIS structures.**
- ▶ On going **experimental design** of **hybrid (DCMS+HiPIMS)-NbTiN thin films** (to be started soon) and **(RF)-MS-Nb₃Sn** (in the near future) coatings to be applied in SIS structures.
- ▶ Transition studies from **flat surfaces** to **more complex geometries** (e.g., **SRF cavities**).

Acknowledgments

- ▶ The Colleagues from LOT/USiegen, SMART, and ARIES for fruitful discussions.
- ▶ *This research is mainly funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research of Germany in the framework of SMART (project number 05K19PSA).*



THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION !

For any further curiosity, please feel free to contact via

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