

# **OPTICAL NONDESTRUCTIVE EVALUATION TECHNIQUES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL BARRIER COATINGS**

**W. A. Ellingson, R. J. Visher, S. Hopson,  
R. Lipanovich and C. Deemer**

**ENERGY TECHNOLOGY DIVISION  
ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY**

**Presented to:  
Environmental Barrier Coatings  
Workshop 2005**



**NOVEMBER 15-16, 2005  
NASHVILLE, TN**



**Work supported by the U.S. Department of Energy/Energy Efficiency and Renewable  
Energy/Office of Distributed Energy**

## OUTLINE

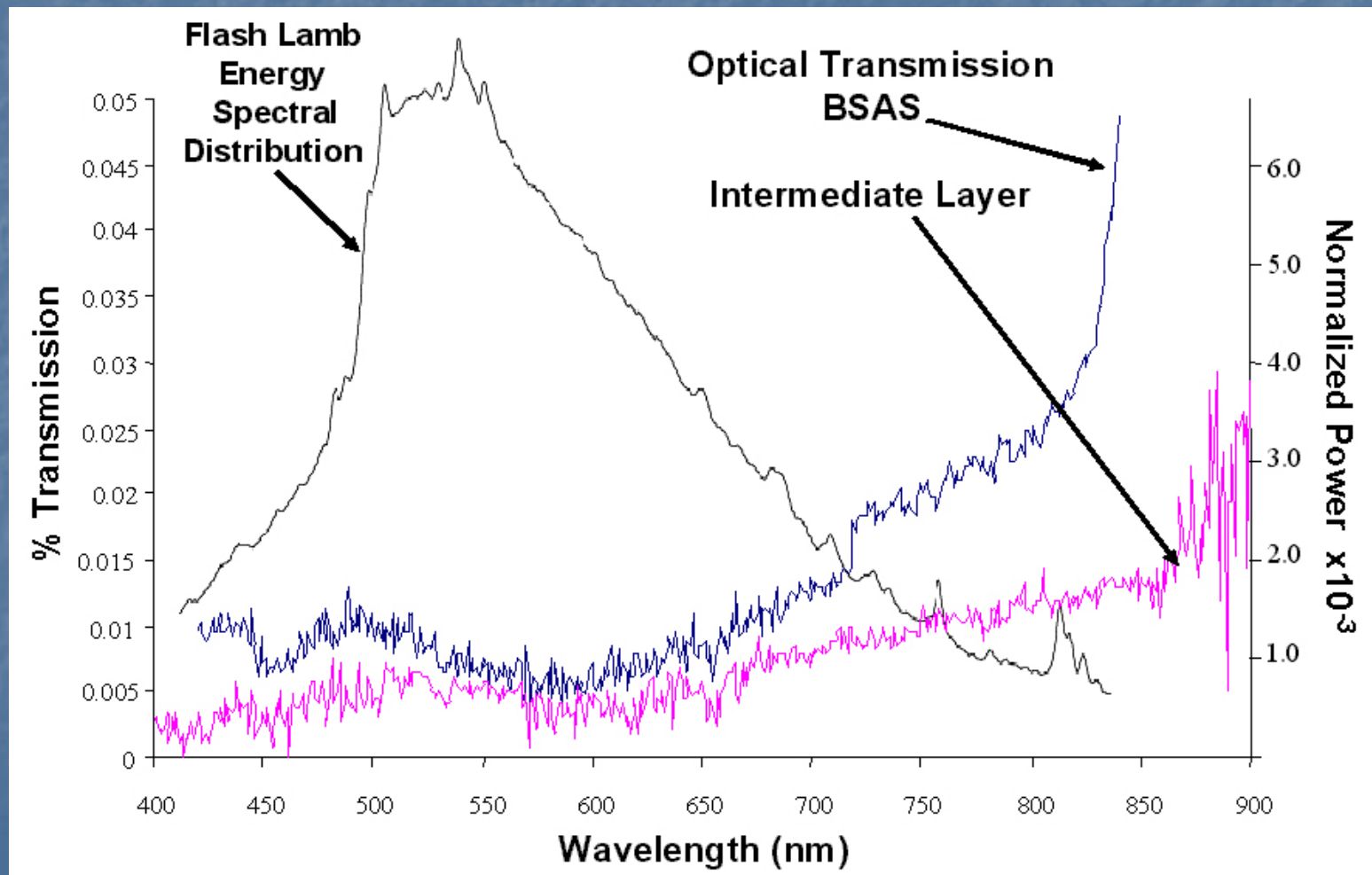
- Description of Optical NDE methods
- Results of application to Slurry Cast EBC
  - Green state
  - Sintered
- Results of application to BSAS and  $\text{Yb}_2\text{SiO}_5$
- Summary/Conclusions

## COOPERATIVE EFFORTS

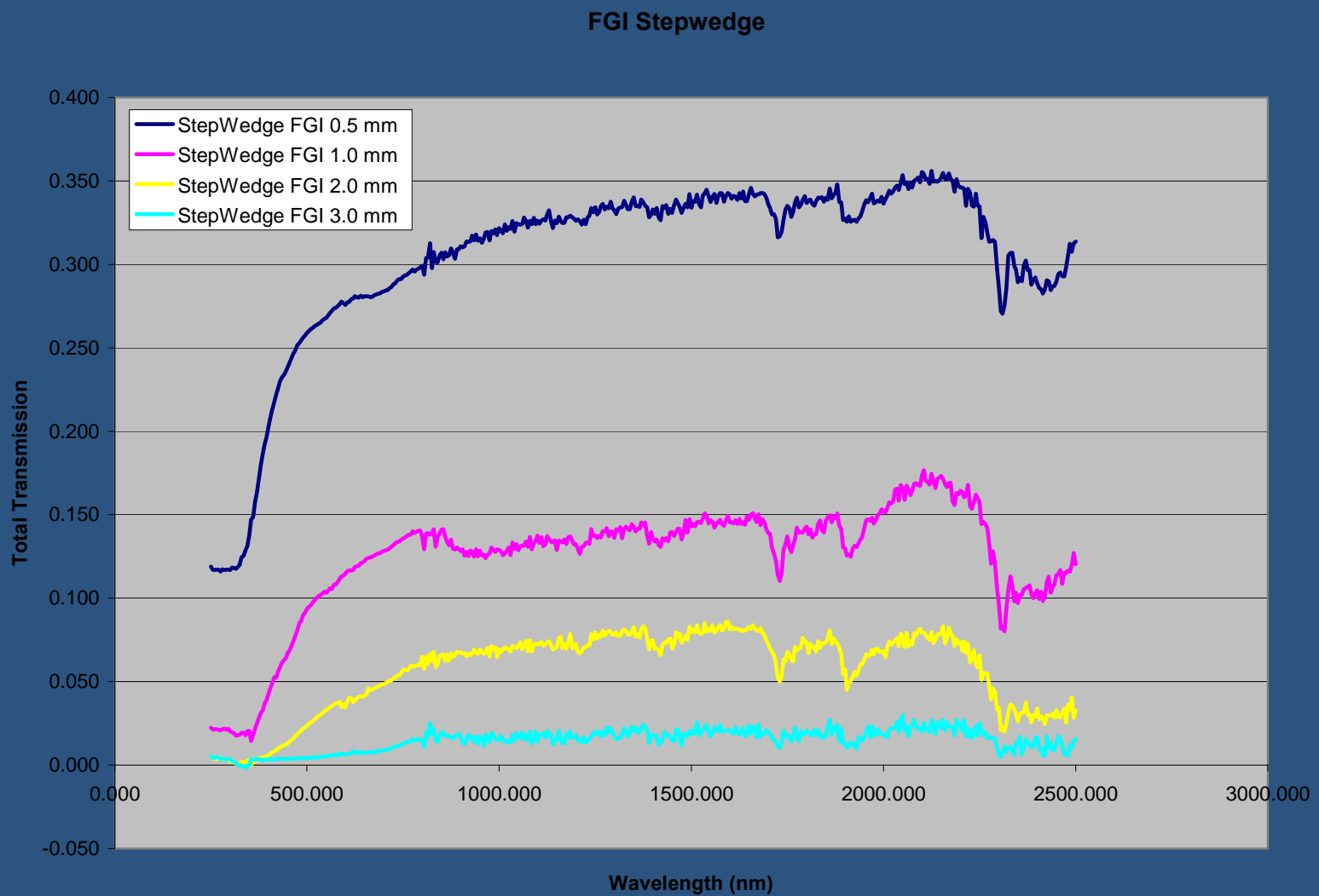
- **Ceramatec**—  
--oxide-based slurry deposited coatings
- **NASA-Glenn Research Center**  
Alternative EBC compositions for SiC/SiC
- **P&W/United Technology Research Center**  
EBCs on SiC/SiC
- **GE Global Research Center**  
EBCs on SiC/SiC
- **Siemens-Westinghouse**  
EBCs for oxide/oxide CMCs

# PARAMETERS FOR APPLICATION OF OPTICAL METHODS

Coatings MUST have optical translucency



# Optical transmission characteristics of one EBC for Oxide/Oxide composite





# Optical Techniques Under Development at Argonne

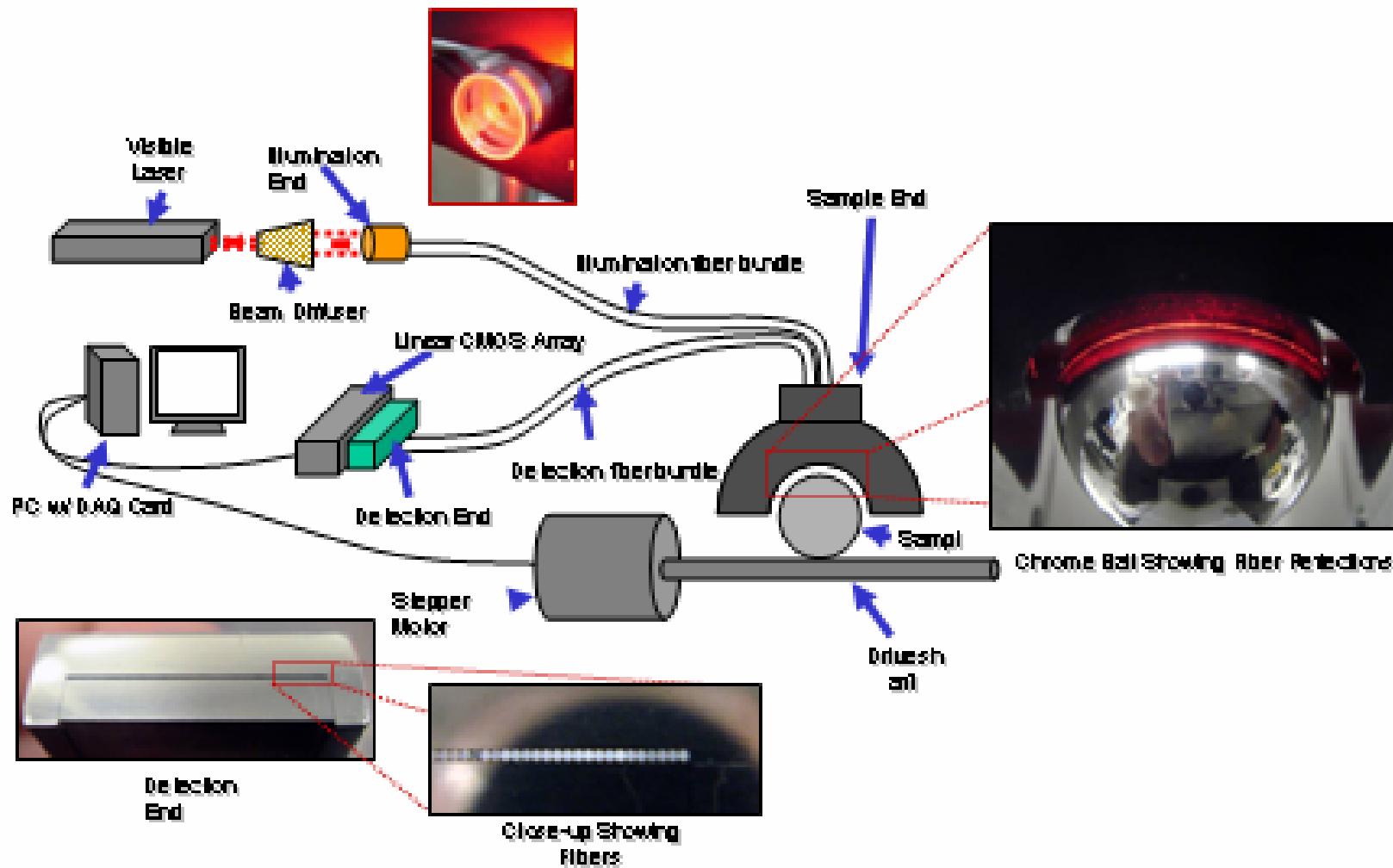
## Elastic Optical Scattering (EOS)

Uses polarized laser light to probe the subsurface characteristics of optically translucent ceramic materials

## Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT)

Uses a time-gated reflectometer to obtain cross-sectional images of subsurface features of optically translucent ceramic materials in axial and transverse planes

## Automated System Schematic

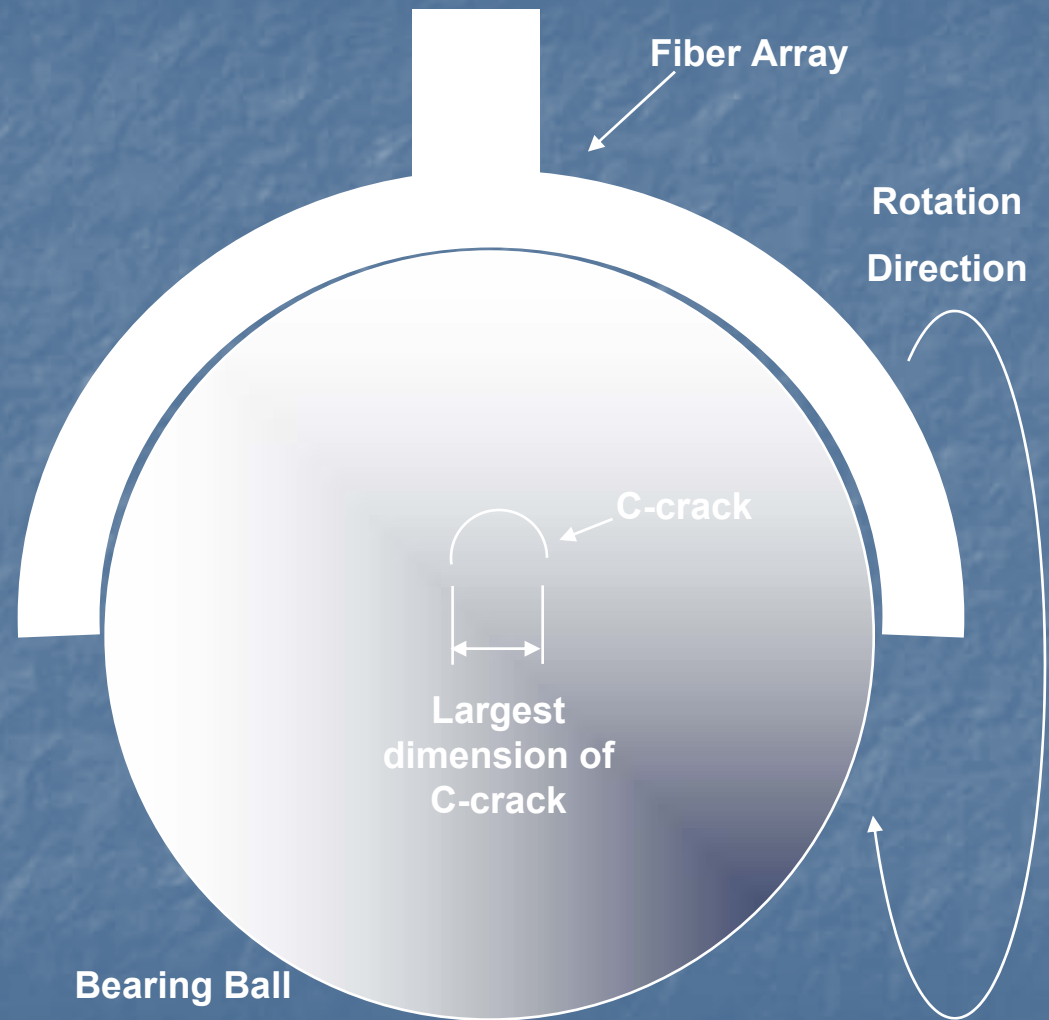




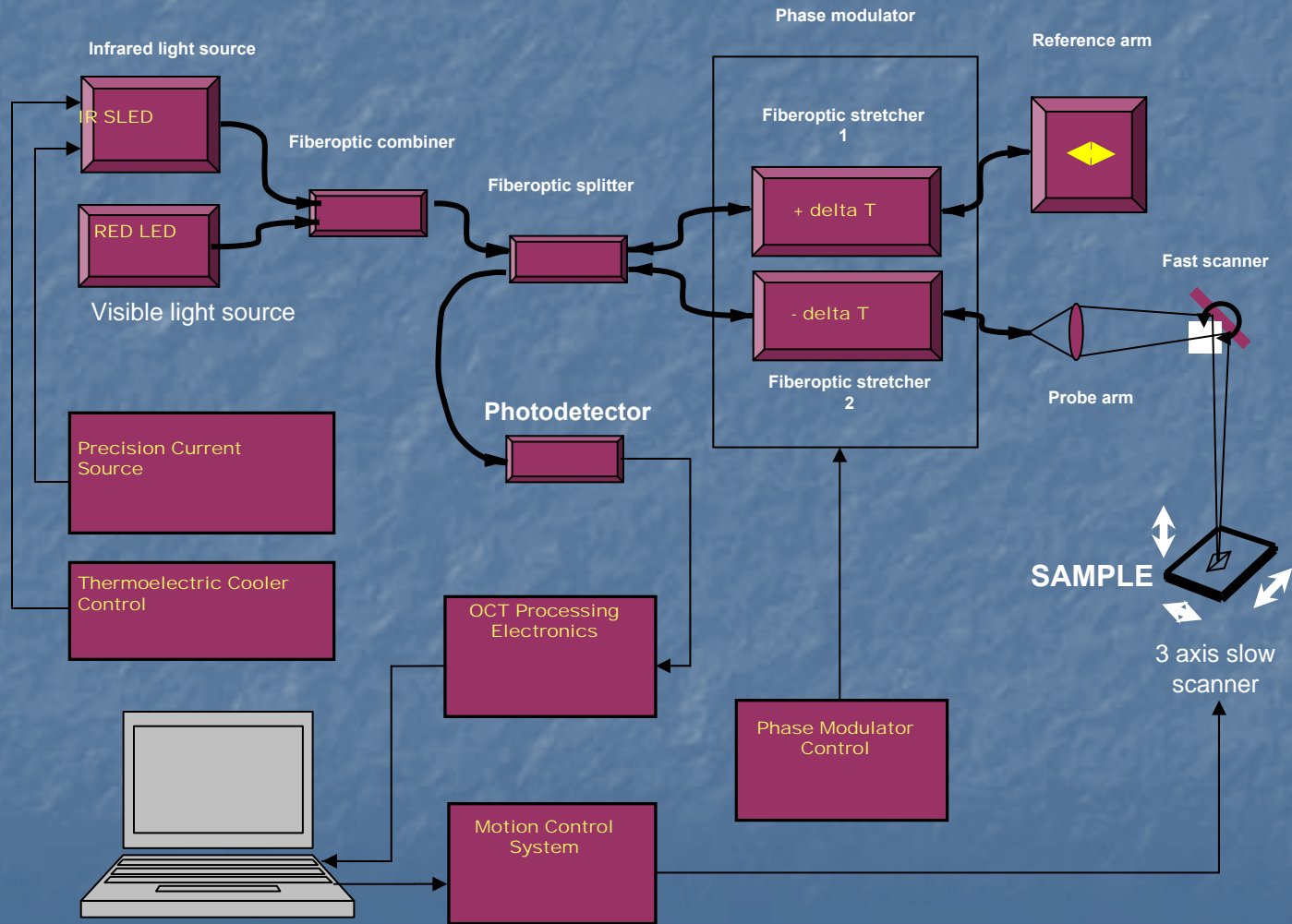


# Experimental Setup

- Issue with diameter of fibers in current fiber array
- Compensating for spatial resolution of current fiber array
  - C-cracks were oriented with largest diameter perpendicular fiber array in center of scan
  - Scan speed reduced four times slower than initial scans
  - Increased acquisition frequency
  - Increased signal to noise ratio
  - 2 minutes per ball
- New design will give close to an order of magnitude better spatial resolution



# Diagram of Optical Coherence Tomography System



## THEORETICAL SPATIAL RESOLUTION LIMITS FOR OCT SYSTEM

**In-Plane resolution**

$$\Delta x = \frac{4\lambda}{\pi} \left( \frac{f}{d} \right)$$

**Where**

**$\lambda$ =laser wavelength**

**$f$ =focal length of the focusing lens**

**$d$ =diameter of the focusing lens**

**Vertical plane resolution**

$$\Delta z = \frac{2 \ln(2)}{\pi} \left( \frac{\lambda^2}{\Delta \lambda} \right)$$

**For our system**

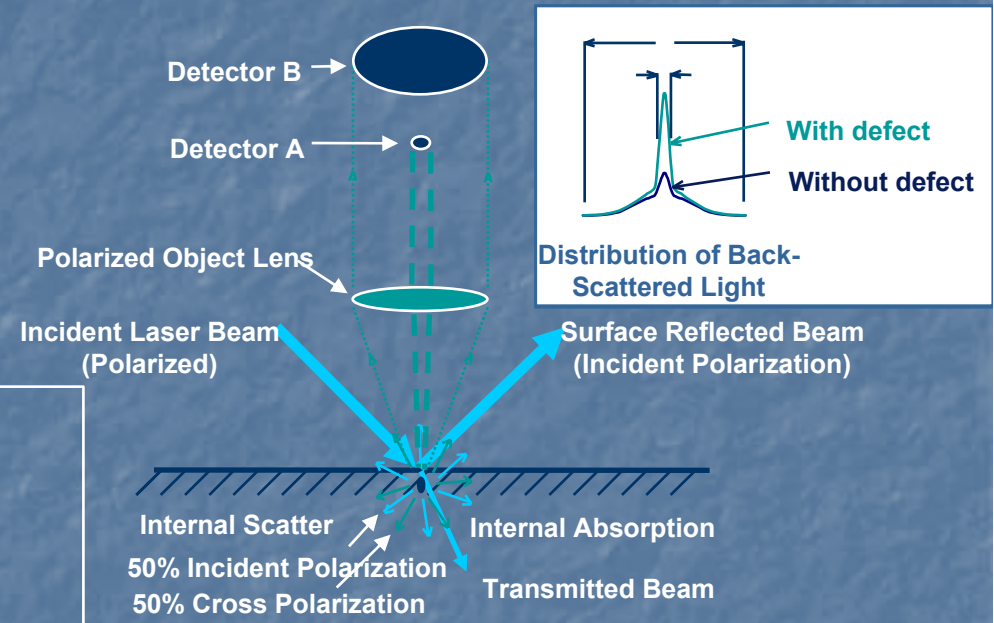
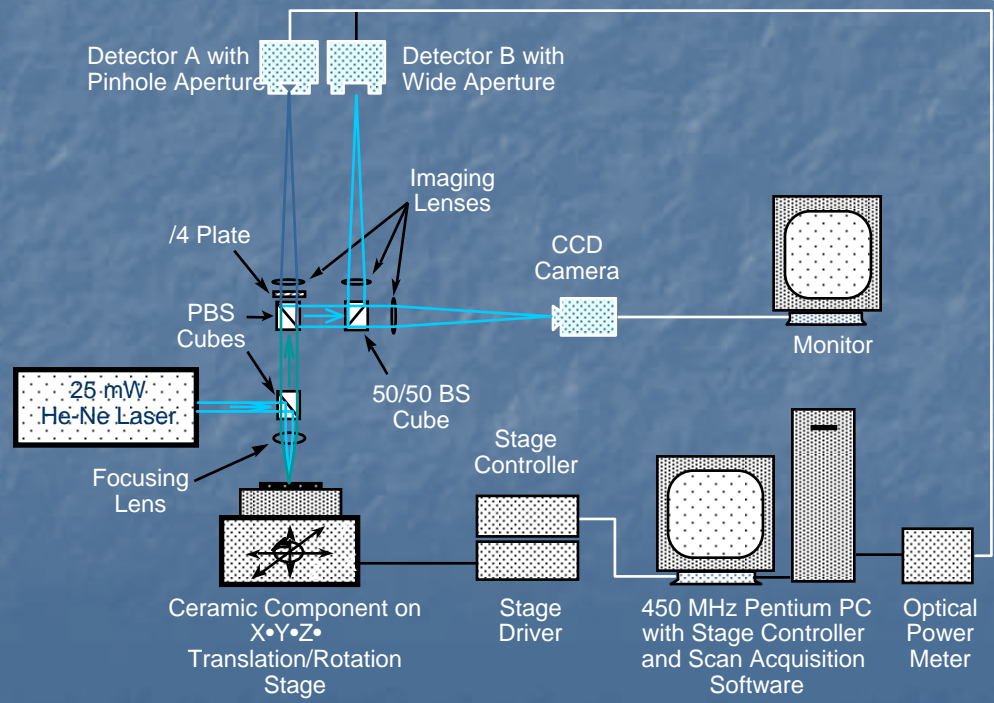
**$\Delta x \approx 10 \mu\text{m}$  (theory suggests  $\sim 2-5 \mu\text{m}$ )**

**$\Delta z \approx 18 \mu\text{m}$  (theory suggests  $\sim 10 \mu\text{m}$ )**

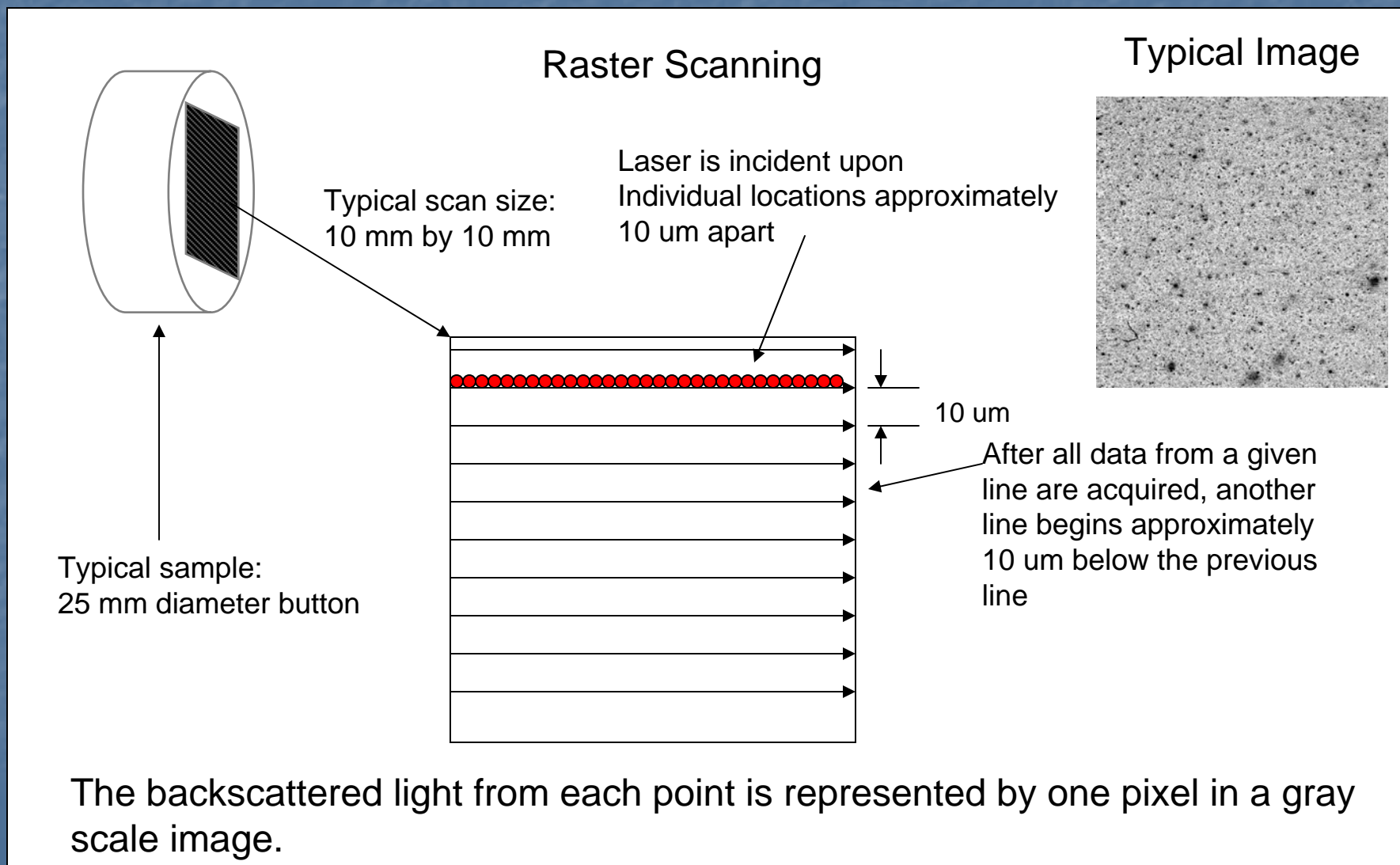
**Note that for  $\Delta z$ , if  $\Delta \lambda$  is larger, then  $\Delta z$  is smaller. Recent work in Austria, using femtosecond laser, has reduced  $\Delta z$  to  $\sim 4 \mu\text{m}$  and  $\Delta x$  to  $\sim 2 \mu\text{m}$  over regions of size  $\sim 5 \text{ mm}$  square.**



# SCHEMATIC OF ELASTIC OPTICAL BACKSCATTER NDE EXPERIMENTAL TEST SETUP



# ELASTIC OPTICAL BACKSCATTER DATA ACQUISITION PROCESS



- **CONDITIONS TO BE DETECTED/CHARACTERIZED :**
  - **COATING THICKNESS**
  - **EXISTENCE OF SUBSURFACE CRACKING**
  - **EXTENT OF DELAMINATION/PRE-SPALL**

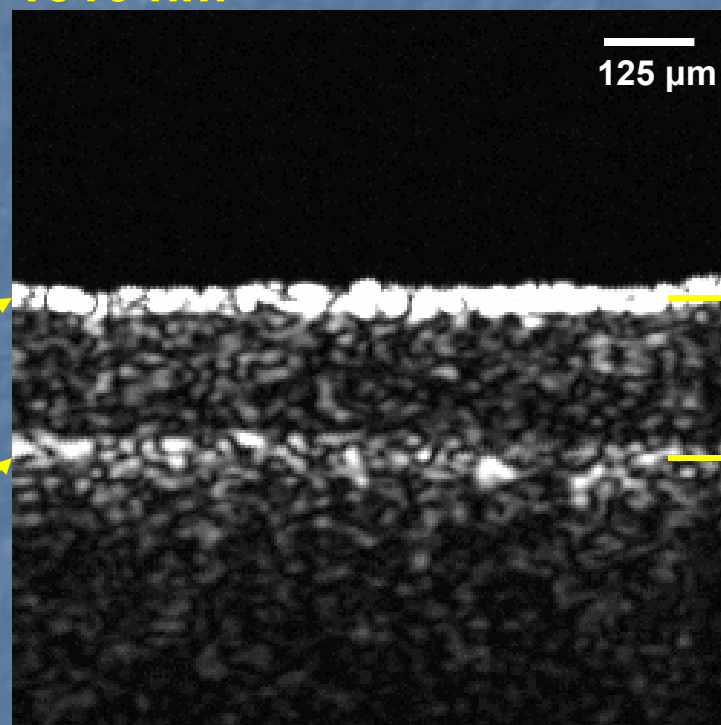
# OCT Measurement of Thickness of 7 % YSZ, EB-PVD

OCT Scan taken  
along red line  
perpendicular to the  
surface



Pressure Side

OCT Vertical Cross-Sectional Image  
 $\Lambda=1310$  nm



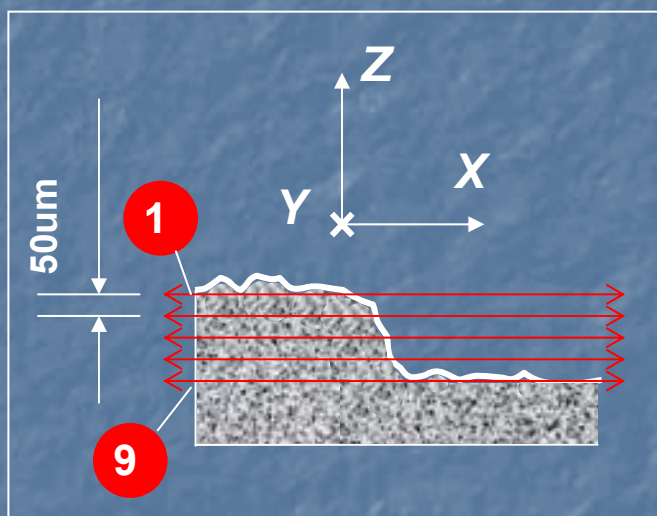
Air/TBC  
Interface

TBC/Bond  
Coat  
Interface

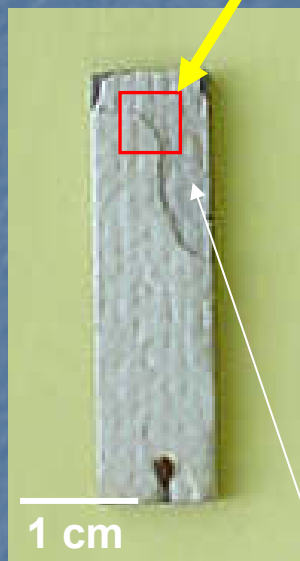
TBC thickness  
~175  $\mu$ m

# OCT Investigation of Si/Mullite/BSAS EBCs on SiC/SiC Composites

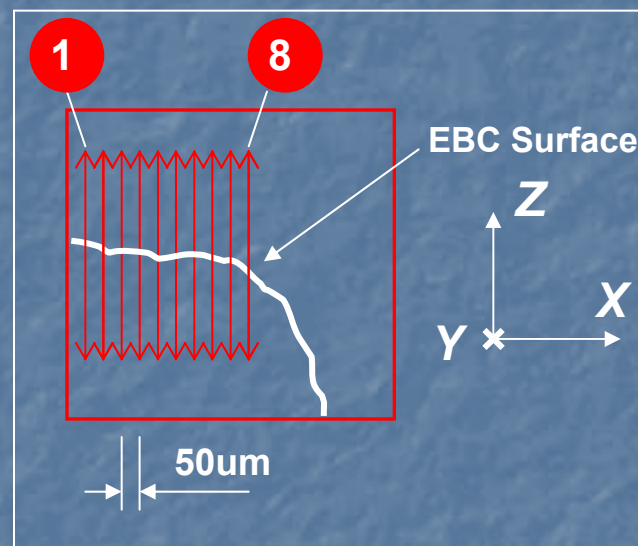
HORIZONTAL CROSS-SECTION ORIENTATION



Scanned area



VERTICAL CROSS-SECTION ORIENTATION

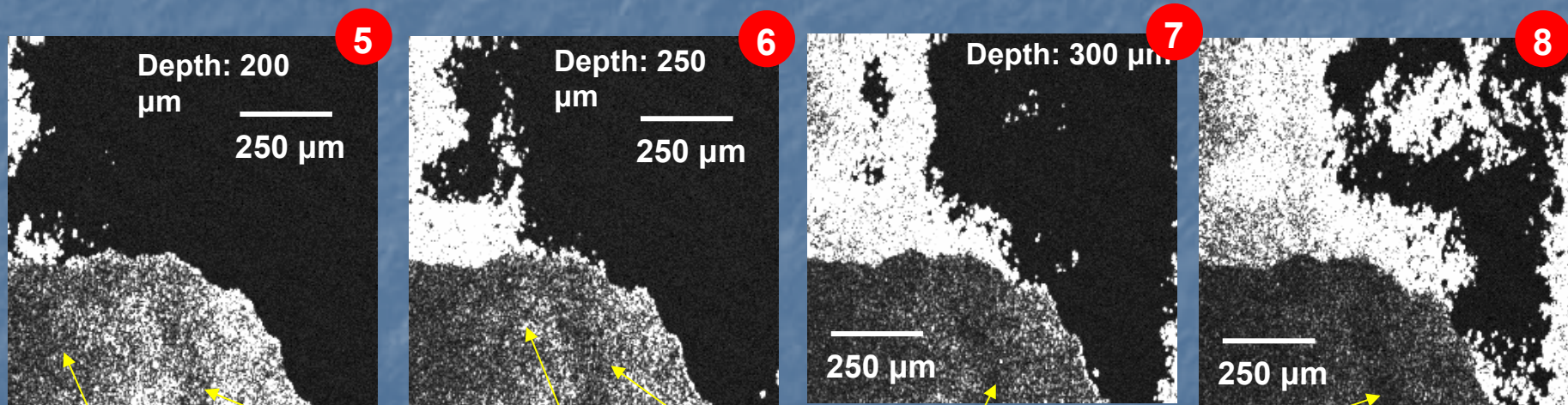
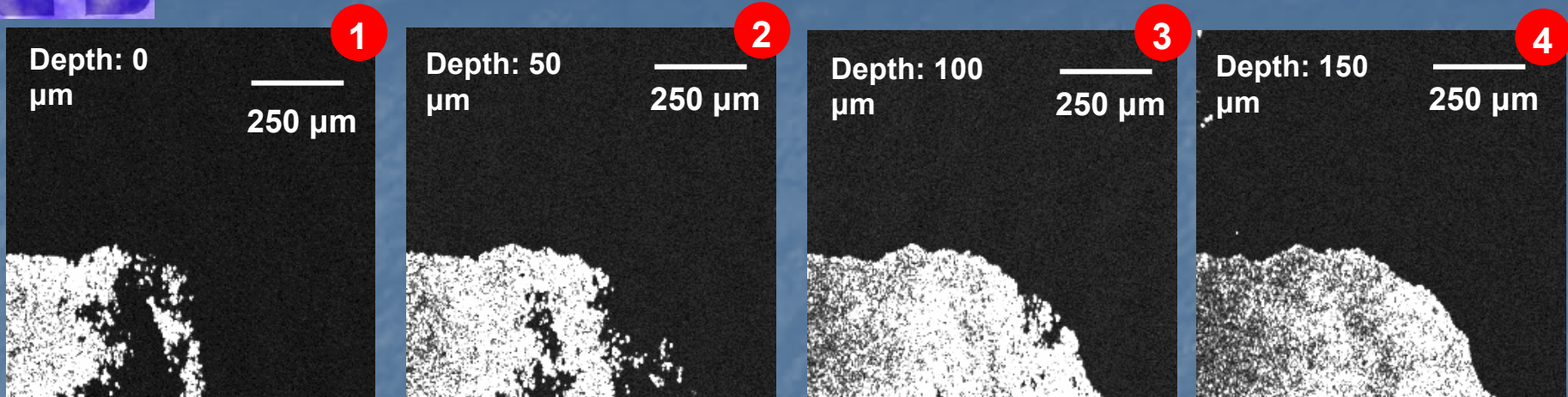


**EBC Spalled**



# OCT Investigation of EBCs on Composites

## Horizontal Cross-Section Images



Probable sub-surface crack

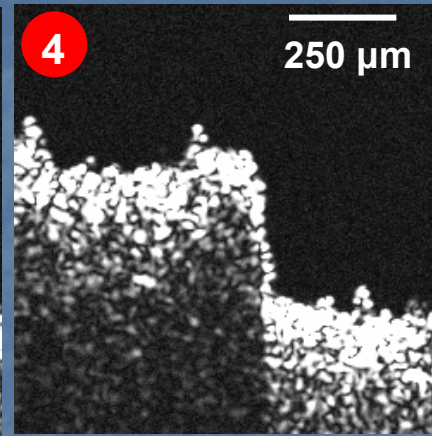
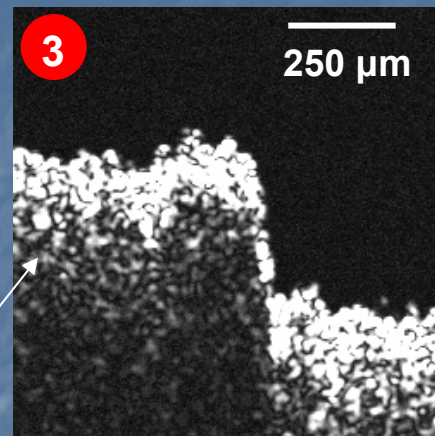
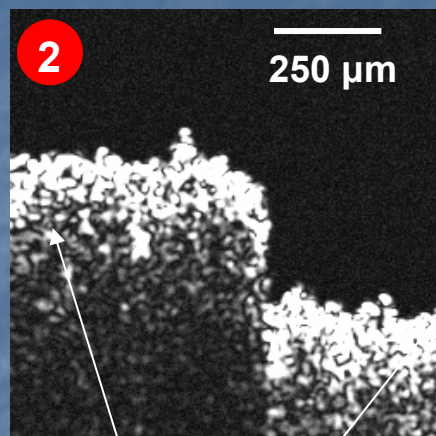
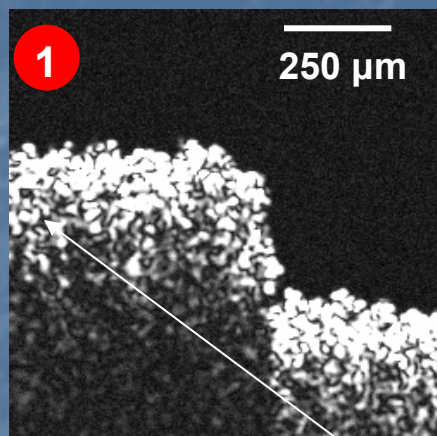
Probable sub-surface crack

Sub-surface defect

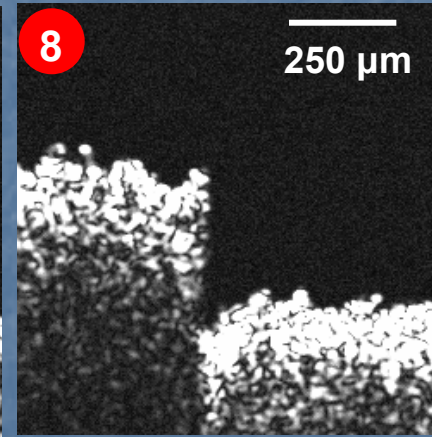
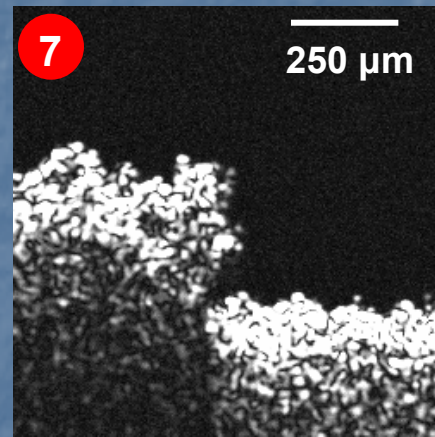
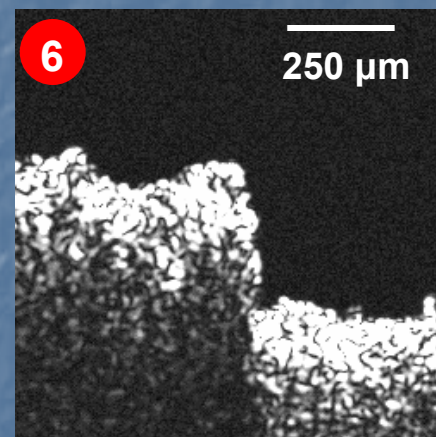
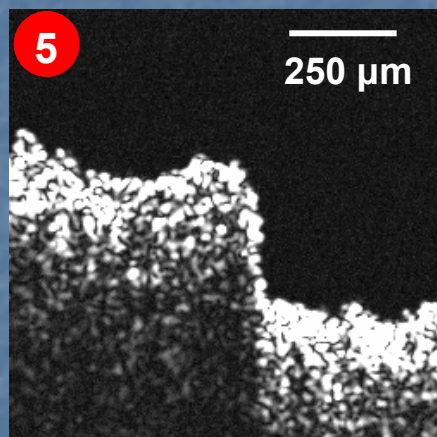
Argonne National Laboratory

# OCT Investigation of EBCs on Composites

## Vertical Cross-Section Images

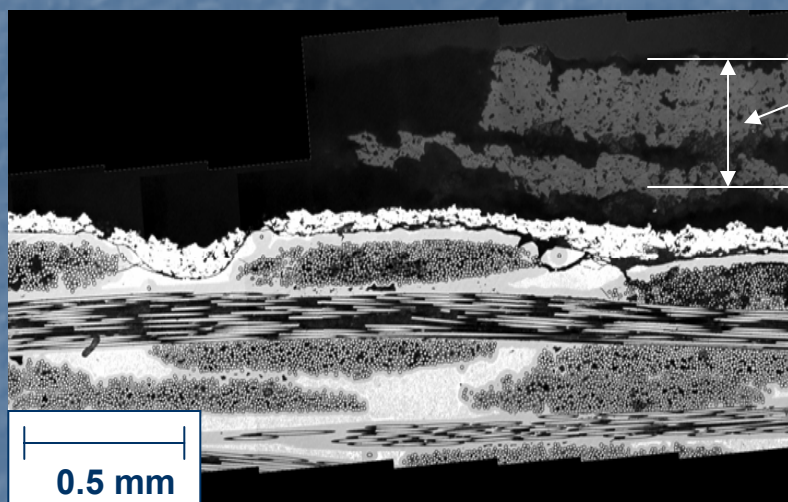


Probable sub-surface crack



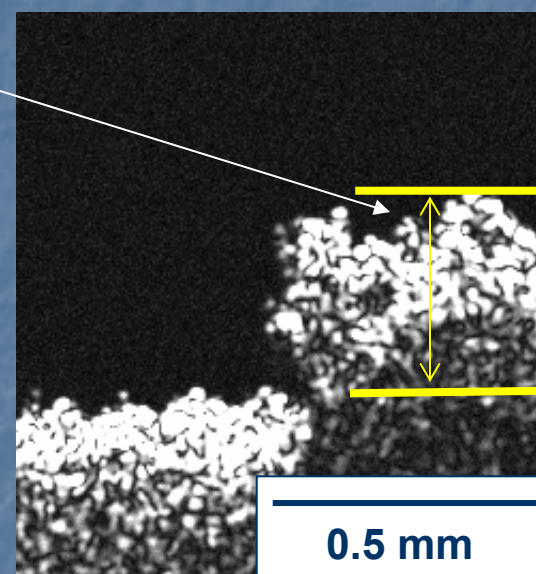
# OCT Measurement of EBC Coating Thickness BSAS on MI SiC/SiC

5x Cross Sectional Optical Micrograph



OCT Cross-Sectional Image

EBC layer



EBC Thickness Measurements	
Micrograph	0.29 mm
OCT	0.30 mm

All measurements +/- 10  $\mu$ m

## **Cooperative efforts with Ceramatec**

**TAILORABLE ENVIRONMENTAL BARRIER  
COATINGS FOR SUPER ALLOY TURBINE ENGINE COMPONENTS  
IN SYNGAS**

**P.I. Shekar Balagopal**

**DOE contract # DE-FG 02-03ER83620**

**Applications: Graded Ceramic oxide coating on Alloy substrates for  
protection from corrosion gases up to 1500°C:**

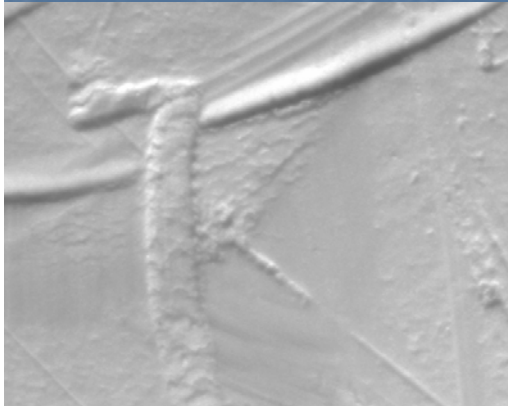
# SLURRY CAST OXIDE EBCS

## From Ceramatec

- Two as-cast samples deposited on quartz plates
  - One  $\sim 40$   $\mu\text{m}$  thick
  - One  $\sim 8-10$   $\mu\text{m}$  thick
- Two dense samples on quartz plates
  - One  $\sim 40$   $\mu\text{m}$  thick
  - One  $\sim 8-10$   $\mu\text{m}$  thick

# Photos of slurry-cast coating in green-state on quartz plate

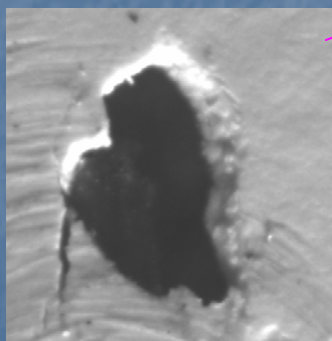
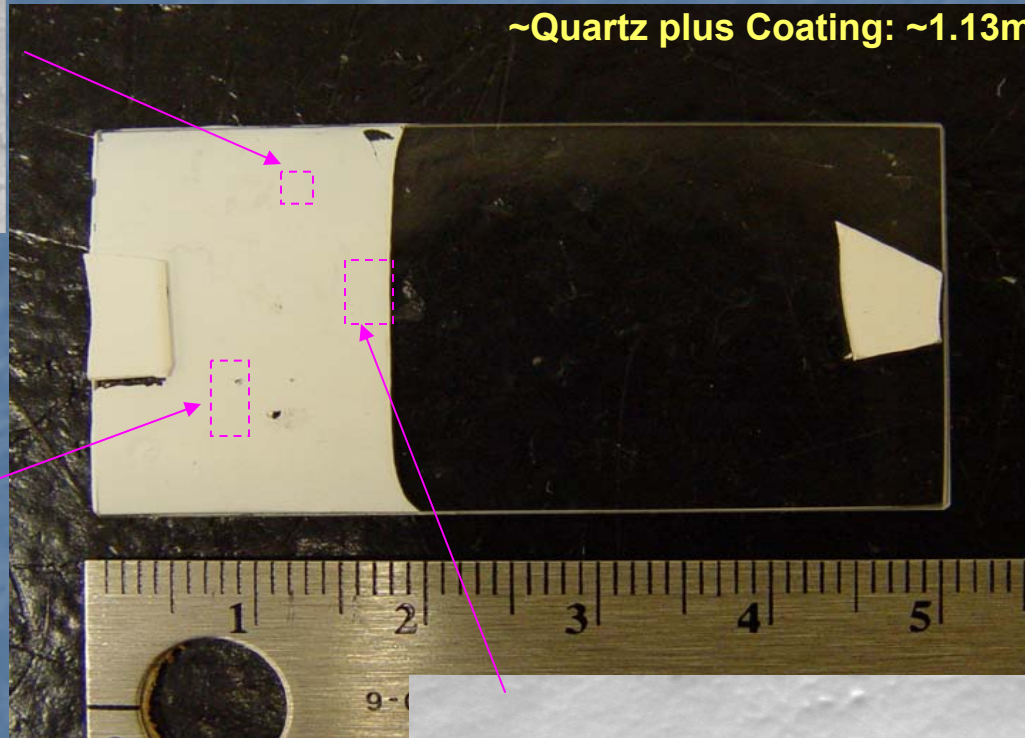
**Nonuniform  
surface**



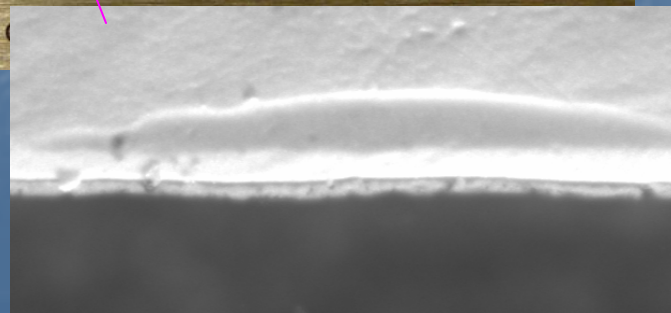
**Direct measurements**

**Quartz slide thickness : ~ 1.08mm**

**~Quartz plus Coating: ~1.13mm**



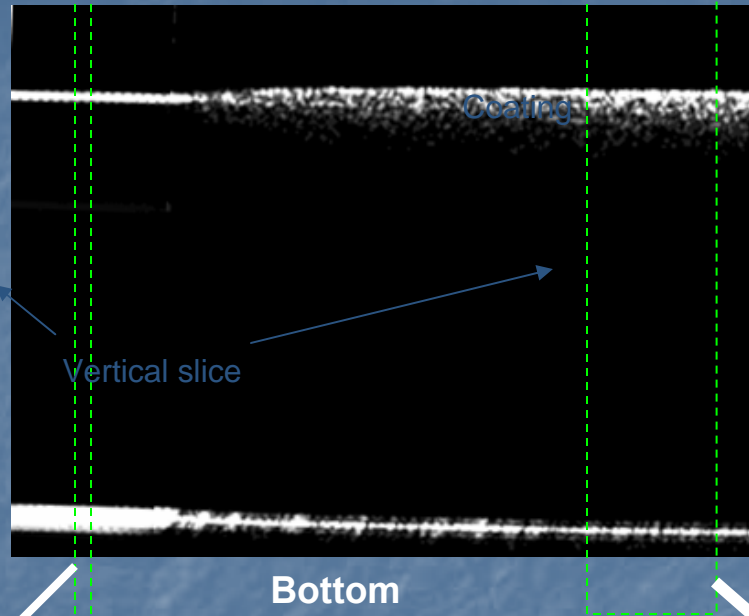
**Visible hole**



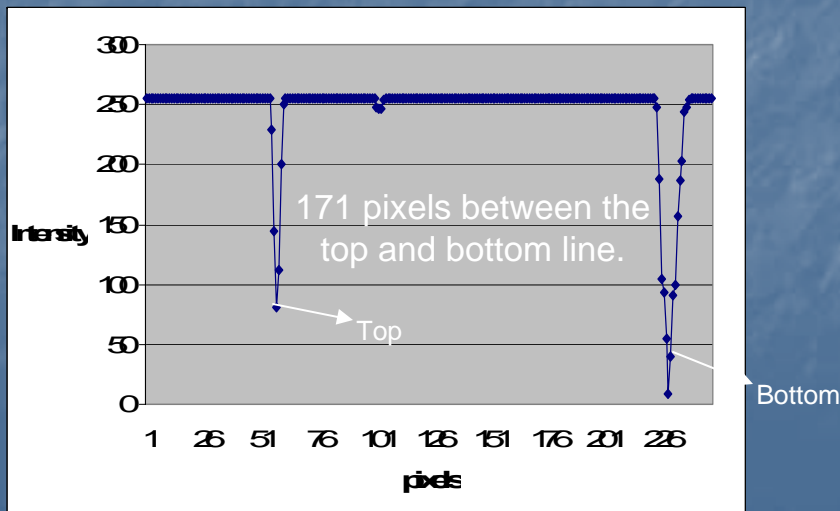
# Optical Coherence Tomography data for thick\* slurry cast green-state oxide EBC

\* ~40  $\mu\text{m}$

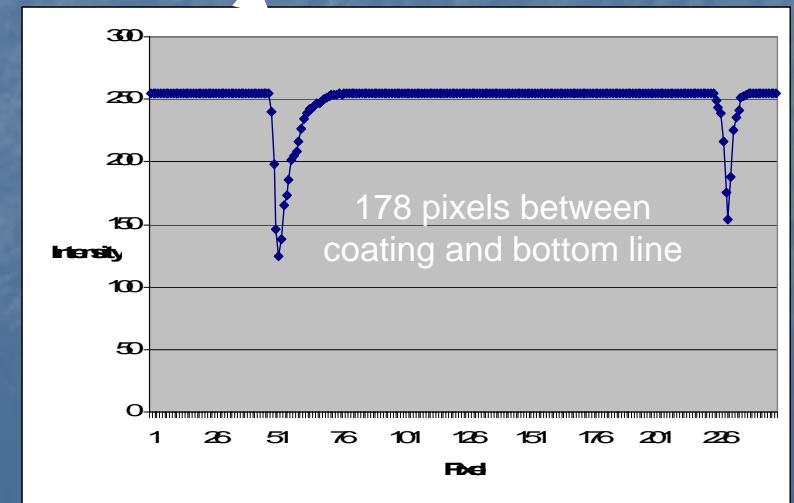
6.3  $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$  for a scan set at 2.8mm.



It was suggested that optical band pass for slurry cast would NOT allow He-Ne. OCT uses 1310 nm or near IR



Plot profile of quartz slide.



Plot profile of coating

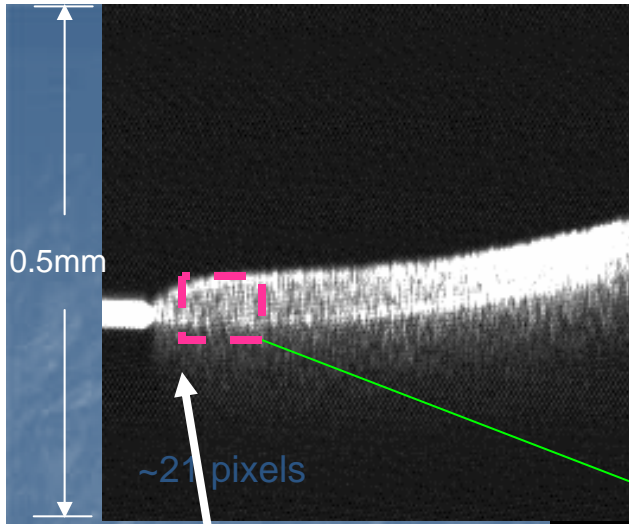
# Optical Coherence Tomography

Thick Slurry cast Oxide EBC :

Green state

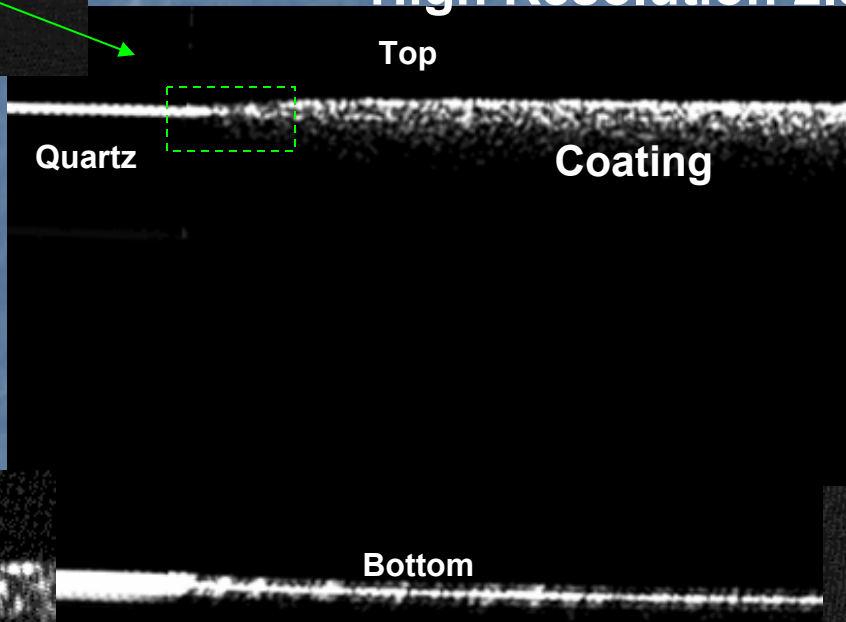
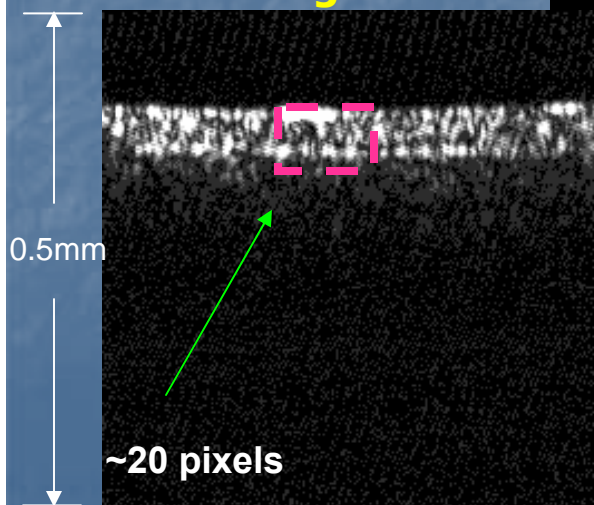
Vertical Cross Section Scans

High Resolution 2.3  $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$



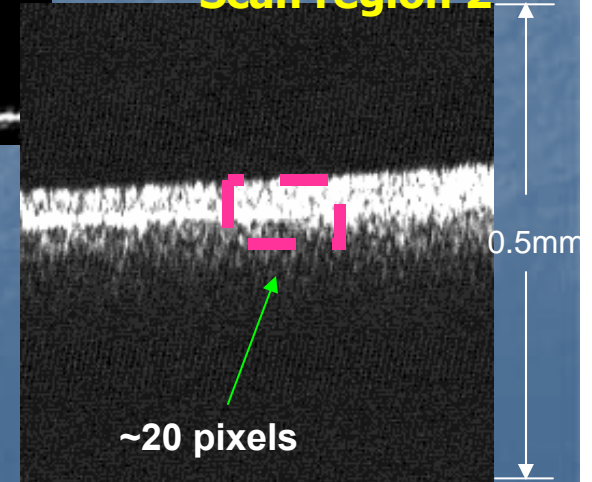
Note  
detection of  
taper

Scan region 1



~20 pixels  
again suggests  
thickness in the  
46  $\mu\text{m}$  range

Scan region 2

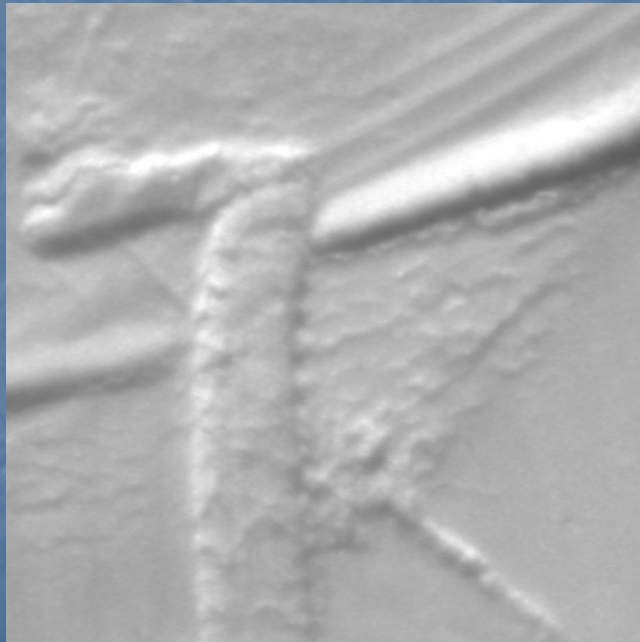




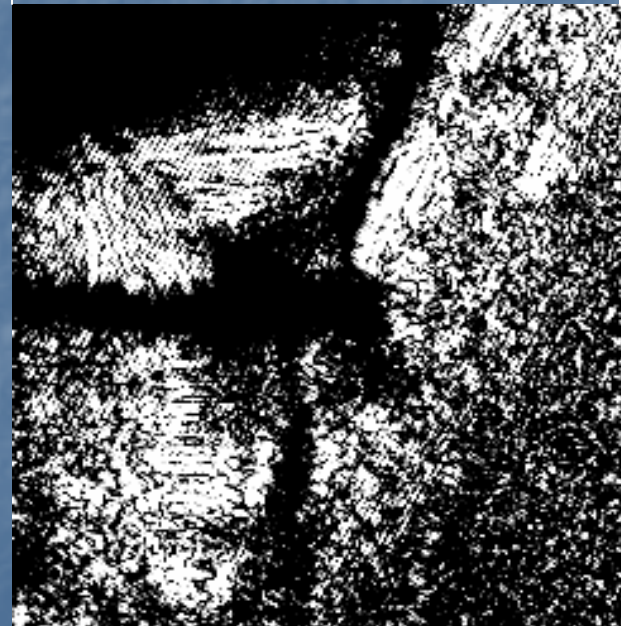
# OCT data of Green slurry-cast oxide EBC

## Thick EBC sample

← 1mm →  
Microscope Image of  
surface



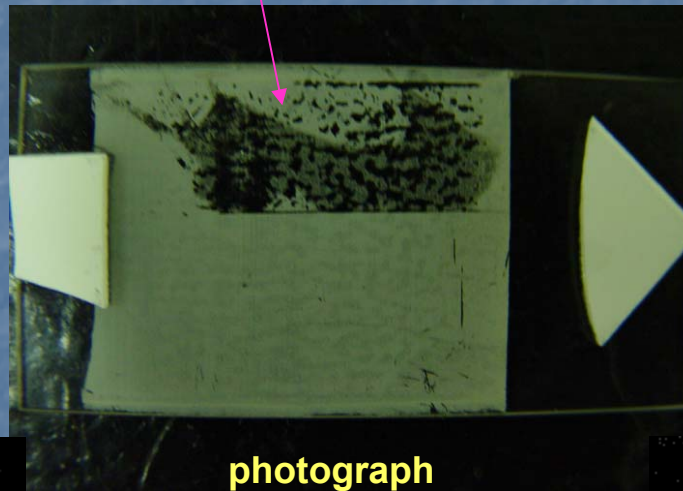
OCT Horizontal Image  
~25-30  $\mu\text{m}$  distance  
below surface  
← 1mm →



**Black region  
Suggests  
Crack or  
delaminated  
region**

# OCT data for Slurry-Cast green-state thin <10 $\mu\text{m}$ sample BC1

Accidental  
removal of  
coating



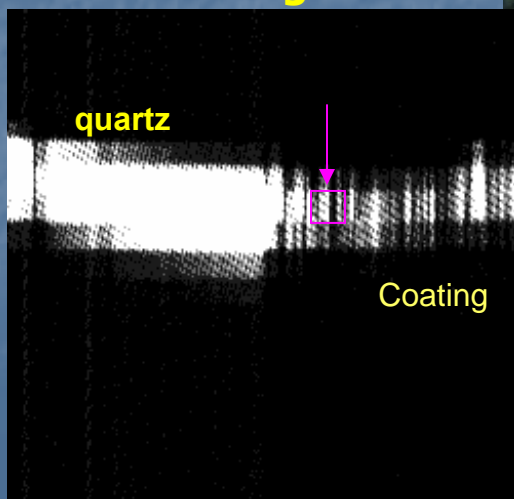
**Vertical OCT scans**  
**2.3  $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$**

**Scan region 1**

**Scan region 2**

**photograph**

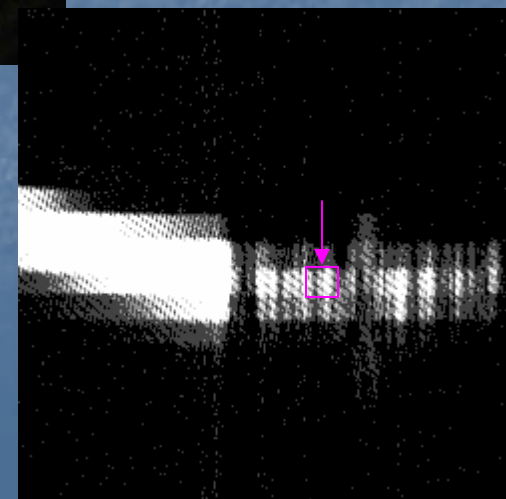
0.1mm



OCT Vertical Scan

**Results:**  
**Beyond the present**  
**Vertical resolution**  
**capability**

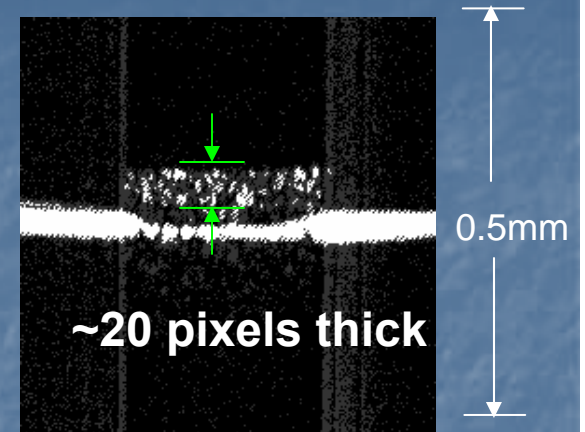
0.1mm



OCT Vertical Scan

# OCT data for sintered slurry cast oxide EBC Thick sample (Vertical scans)

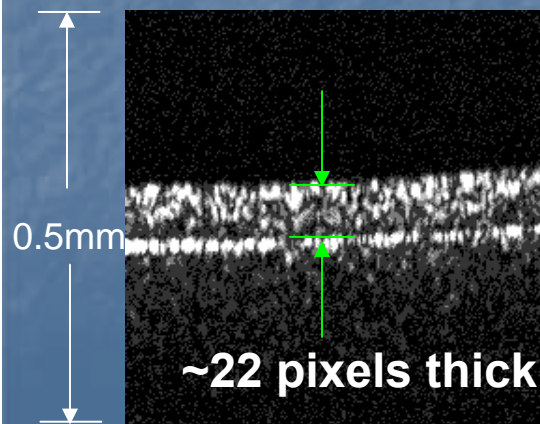
The coating on this slide chipped off during transportation, therefore only a piece of the coating was scanned for thickness values.



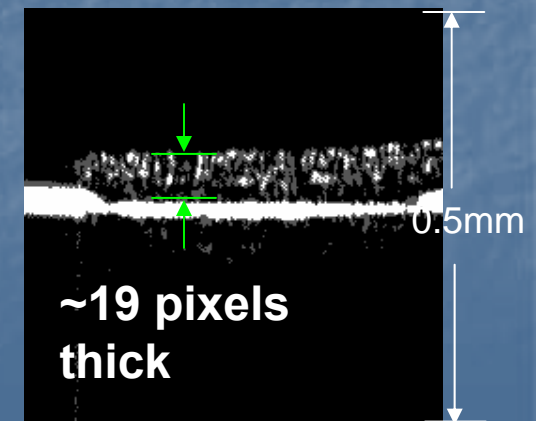
Scan region 2

~2.3  $\mu\text{m}/\text{pixel}$   
Result ~40  $\mu\text{m}$  thick

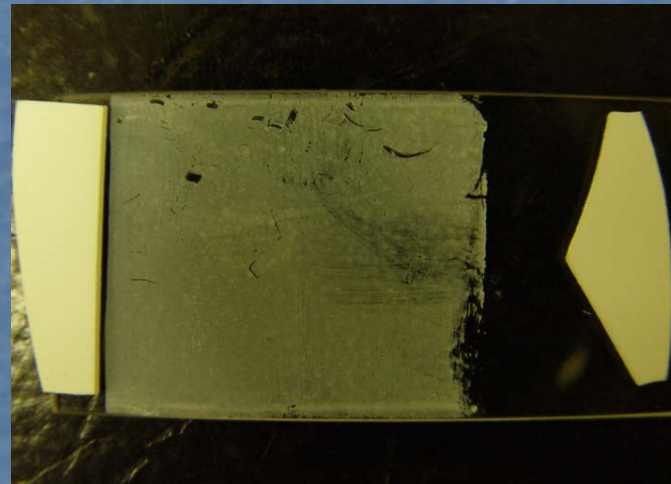
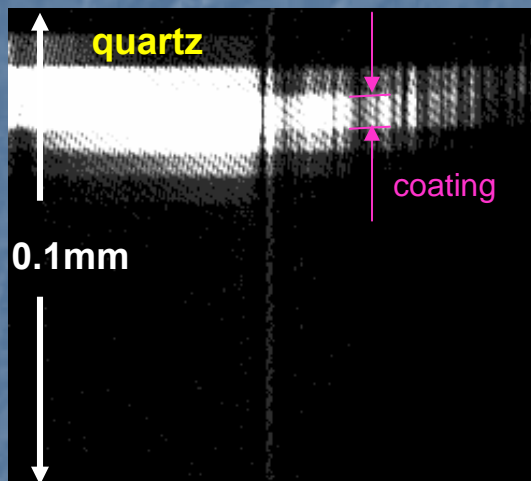
Scan region 1



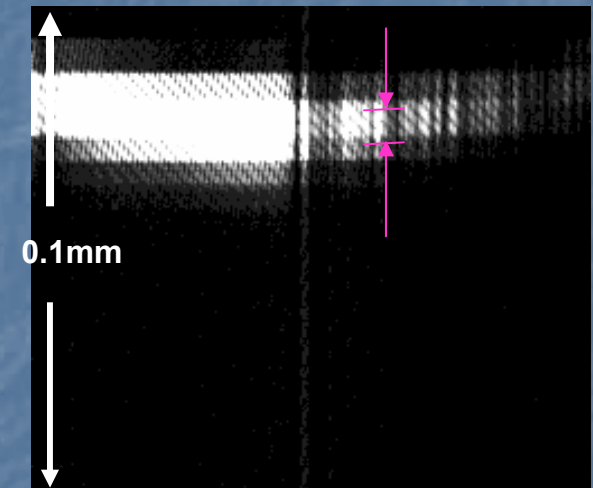
Scan region 3



# OCT data for sintered slurry-cast oxide EBC Thin sample $<10\ \mu\text{m}$



Photograph of sintered  
thin EBC sample



Results demonstrate that present OCT system  
cannot achieve this level of spatial resolution

# **NASA EBCs on MI SiC/SiC**

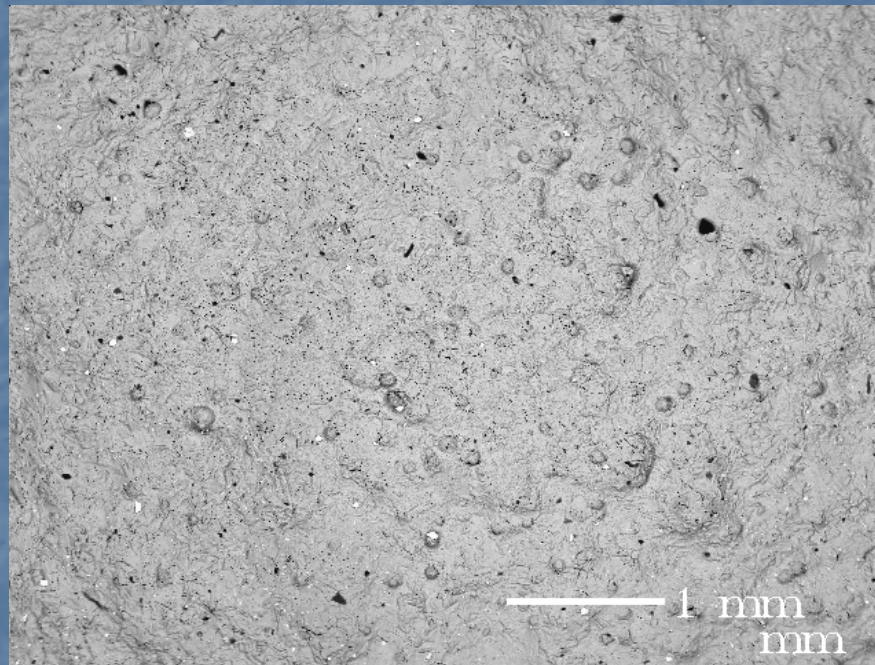
**K. Lee<sup>\*</sup>**

**\* (Now at Rolls-Royce)**

**Si/Mullite/BSAS ( 5 mil/8 mil/8mil)**

**On MI SiC/SiC (sample 1a)**

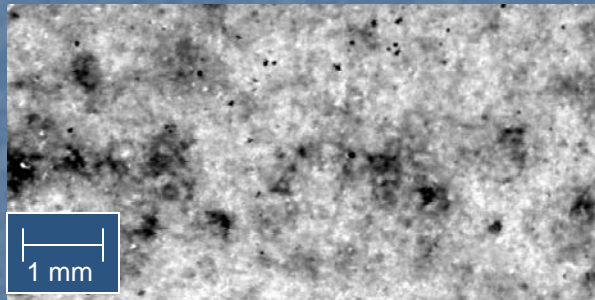
**1000 h, 1380C-1h cycles, 90H<sub>2</sub>O- Bal O<sub>2</sub>**



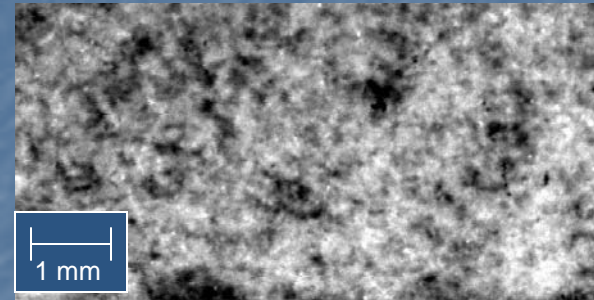
# LASER BACKSCATTER INVESTIGATION OF EBCs

## EBC: BSAS(8 mil) On MI SiC/SiC

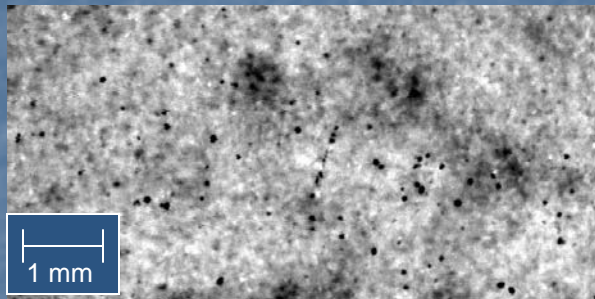
**Substrate: MI SiC/SiC(1a)**  
Si (5 mil)/Mullite(8mil)/BSAS (8 mil)



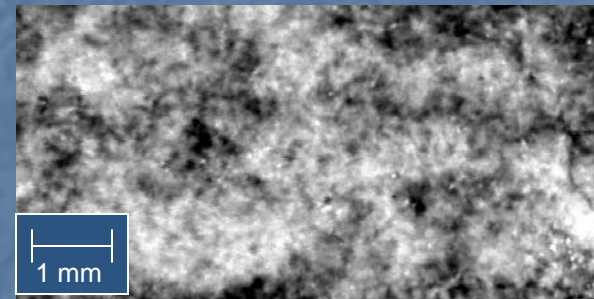
**Substrate: MI SiC/SiC(3a)**  
Si (5 mil)/ Mod Mullite(8mil)/BSAS (8 mil)



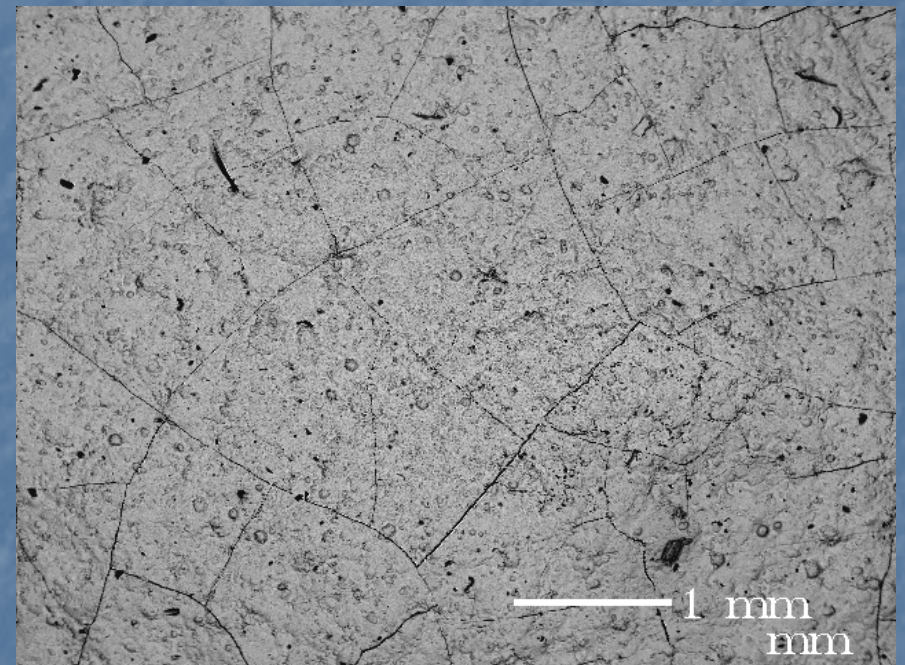
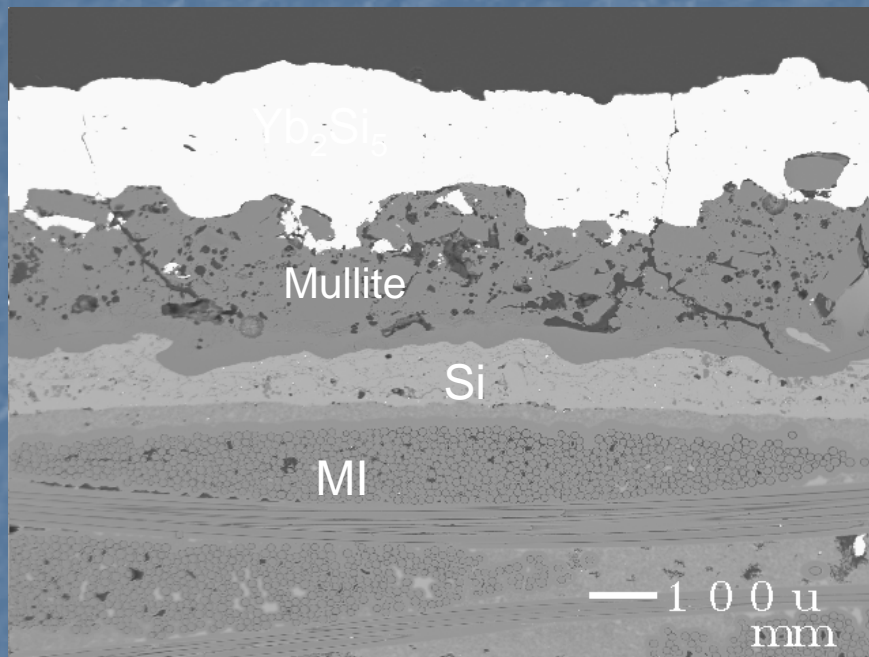
**Substrate: MI SiC/SiC(2a)**  
Si (5 mil)/Mullite + SAS(8mil)/BSAS (8 mil)



**Substrate: MI SiC/SiC(4a)**  
Si (5 mil)/Mod Mullite + SAS(8mil)/BSAS (8 mil)



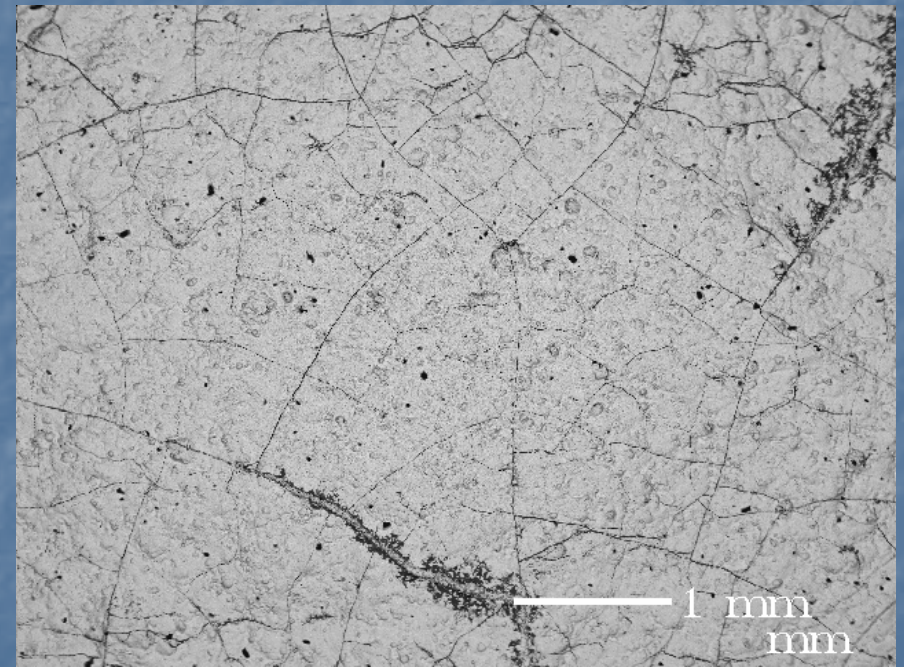
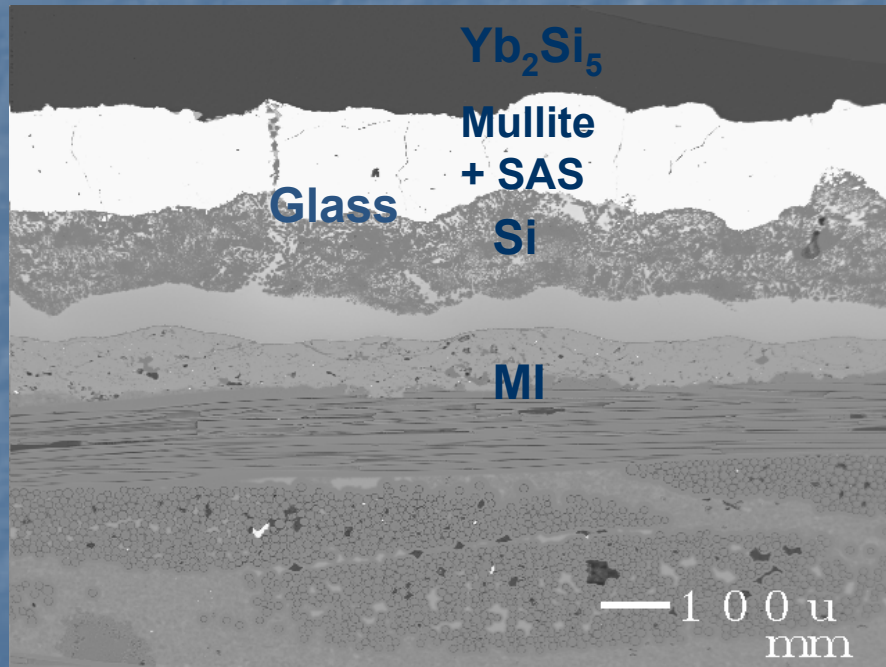
**Si/Mullite/Yb<sub>2</sub>SiO<sub>5</sub> (5mil/8mil/8mil)  
On MI SiC/SiC (sample 1b)  
1000 h, 1380C-1h cycles, 90H<sub>2</sub>O- Bal O<sub>2</sub>**





**Si/Mullite+SAS/Yb<sub>2</sub>SiO(5 mil/8mil/8mil))  
On MI SiC/SiC (sample 2b )**

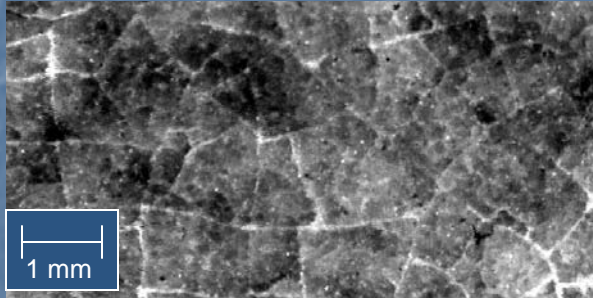
**1000 h, 1380C-1h cycles, 90H<sub>2</sub>O- Bal O<sub>2</sub>**



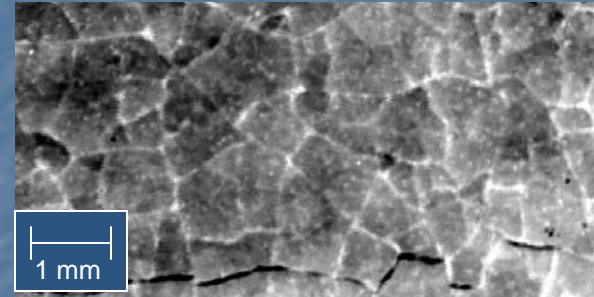
# LASER BACKSCATTER INVESTIGATION OF EBCs

## EBC: $\text{Yb}_2\text{SiO}_5$ (8 mil) On MI SiC/SiC

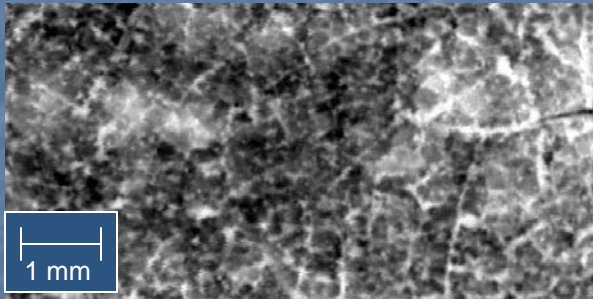
**Substrate: MI SiC/SiC(1b)**  
Si (5 mil)/Mullite(8mil)/  $\text{Yb}_2\text{SiO}_5$ (8 mil)



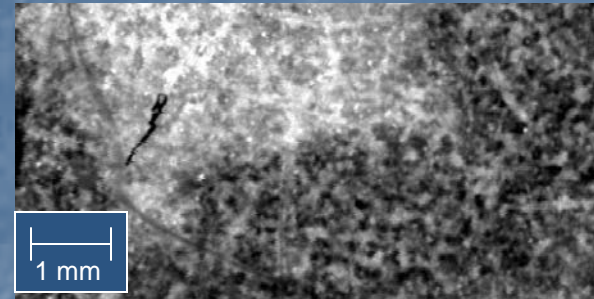
**Substrate: MI SiC/SiC(3b)**  
Si (5 mil)/ Mod Mullite(8mil)/  $\text{Yb}_2\text{SiO}_5$  (8 mil)



**Substrate: MI SiC/SiC(2b)**  
Si (5 mil)/Mullite + SAS(8mil) /  $\text{Yb}_2\text{SiO}_5$ (8 mil)



**Substrate: MI SiC/SiC(4b)**  
Si (5 mil)/Mod Mullite + SAS(8mil)/ $\text{Yb}_2\text{SiO}_5$  (8 mil)



# **SUMMARY/CONCLUSIONS**

- **Two optical NDE methods, OCT and EOS, have been demonstrated to detect features/characteristics of interest for EBCs**
  - mapping thickness variations
  - Detecting delaminations
- **Use of OCT has been demonstrated for application to as-deposited (green-state) slurry-cast EBCs for thickness mapping**
- **EOS data have been shown to correlate with cracking observed for various EBCs deposited on CMCs**
- **Higher spatial resolution of OCT can be obtained by installing new femtosecond lasers with greater optical band width**
- **While correlations between TBC spallation and laser scatter data have been demonstrated, this has NOT been demonstrated to-date for EBCs on monolithic substrates.**