



Microoptics Summit, Amsterdam 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024

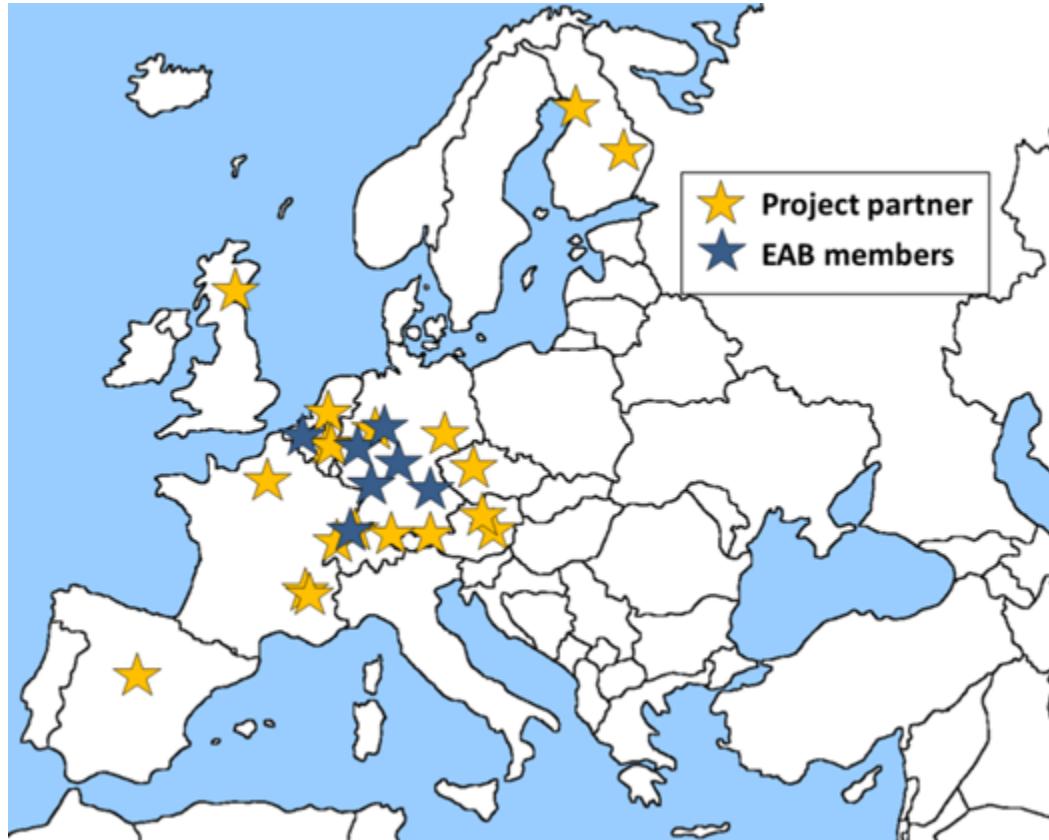
# Precision Roll-to-Roll Coating for Consumer Products

M. Fahland, Fraunhofer FEP, Phabulous consortium members

# About PHABULOUS

## Partners in Europe

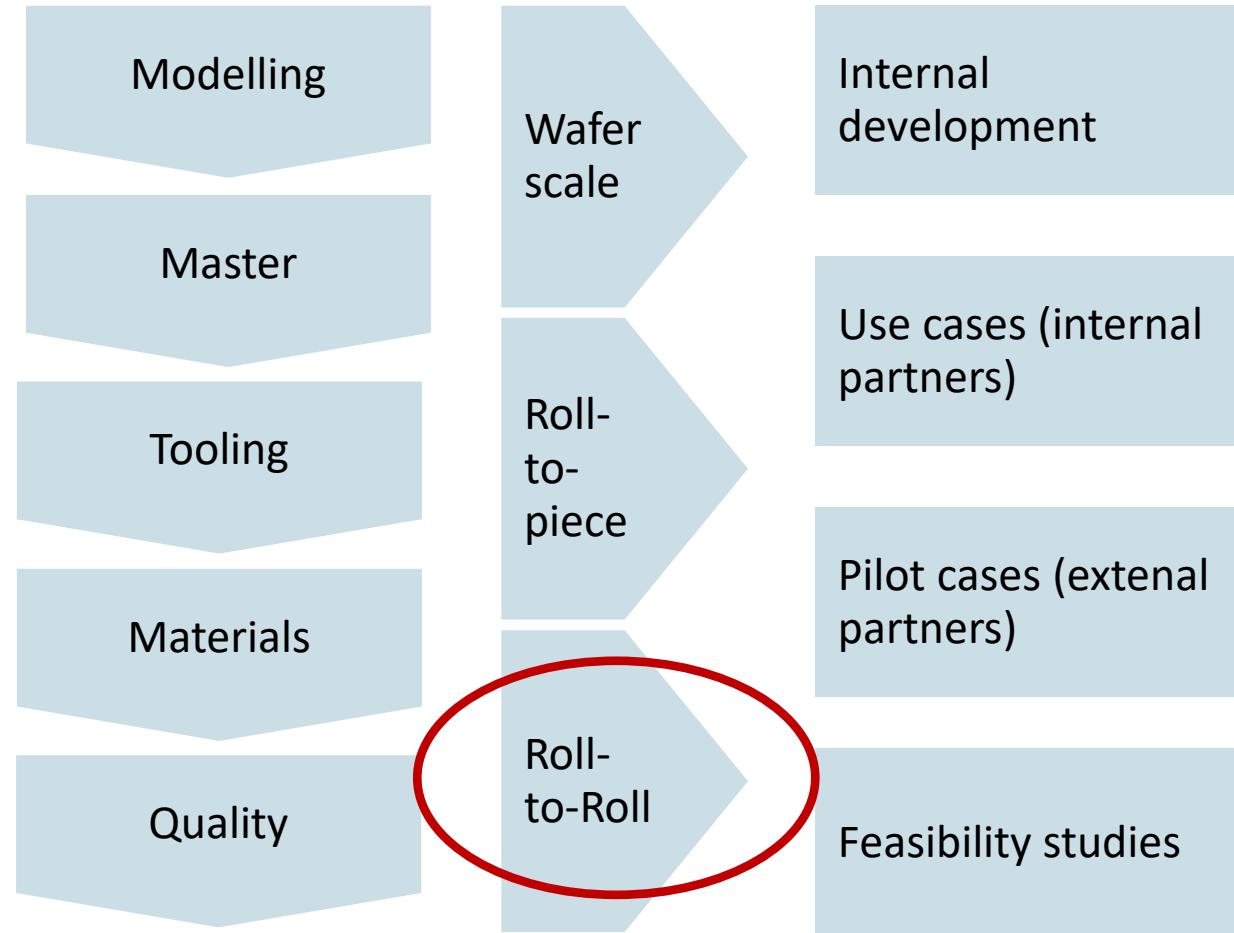
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# About PHABULOUS

## Structure of the Project

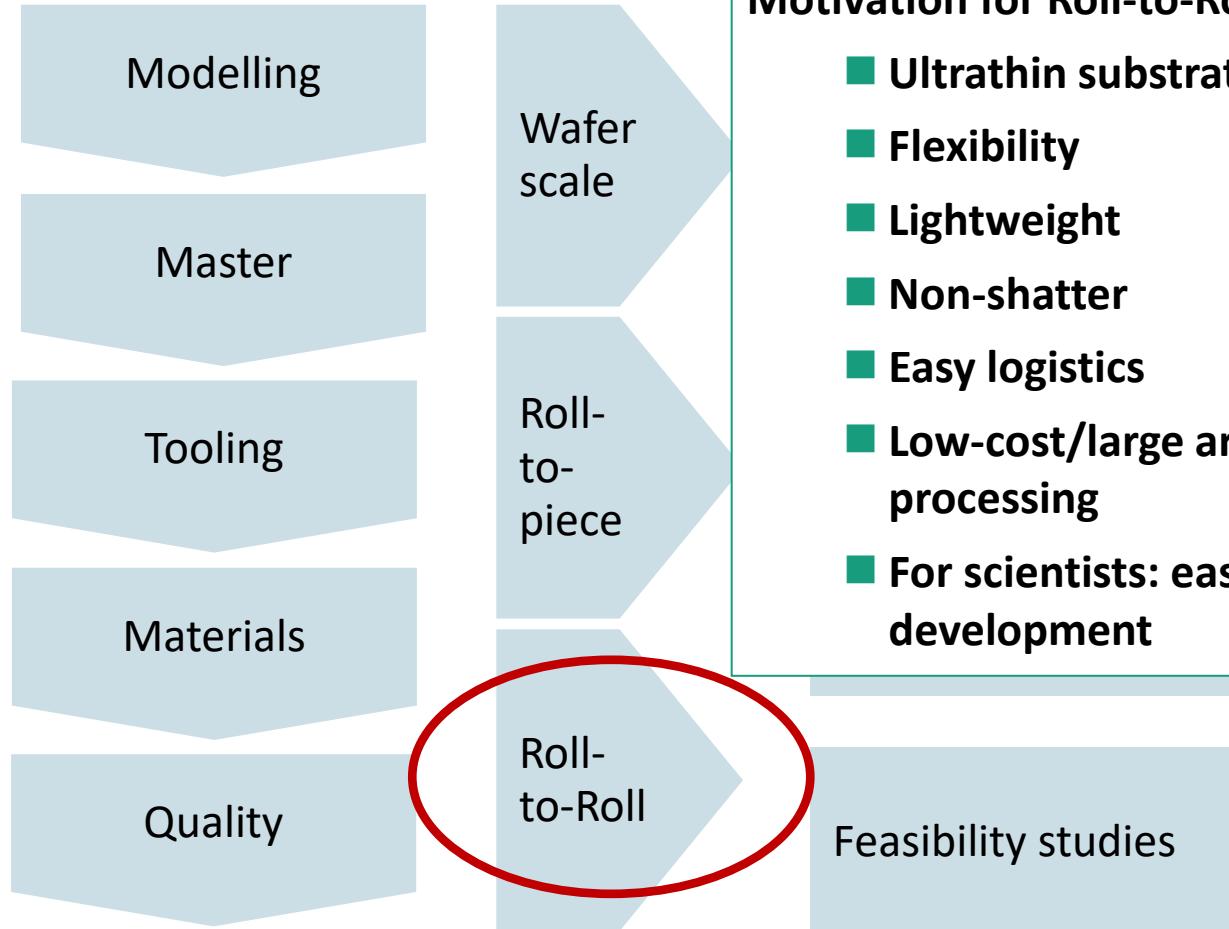
- Open Design Platform
- Tools, algorithms, design kits
- Laser micromachining
- Grey scale lithography
- Step & Repeat
- Mold, Shim
- Adaptation /modification
- Materials, coatings
- Inline measurement
- Offline measurement



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### Motivation for Roll-to-Roll

- Ultrathin substrate
- Flexibility
- Lightweight
- Non-shatter
- Easy logistics
- Low-cost/large area processing
- For scientists: easy process development

# PHABULOUS Pillar

## Roll-to-Roll service

### ■ Partners

- Fraunhofer FEP
- Joanneum Research
- Nanocomp

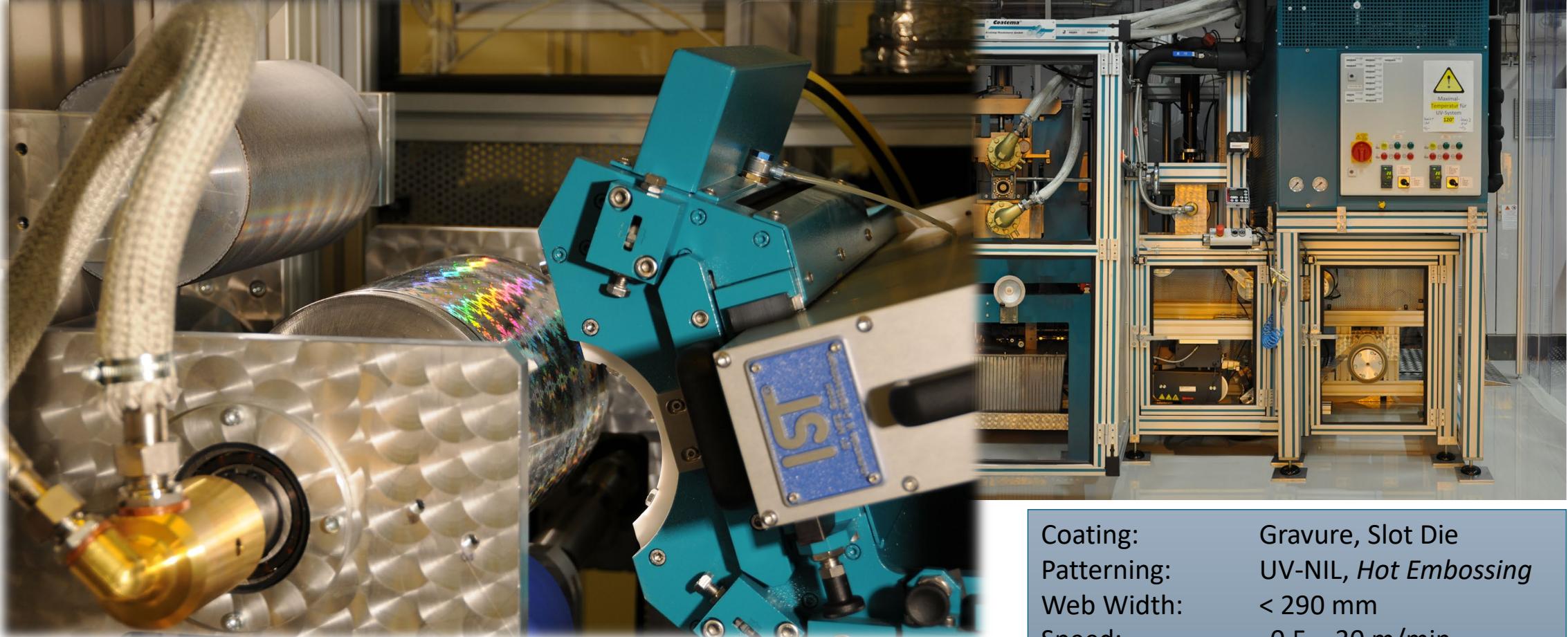
### ■ Technologies

- Nano-Imprint Lithography
- Grafting
- Coating
- Plasmaetching
- Inspection and measurement



# R2R-Nanoimprint Line

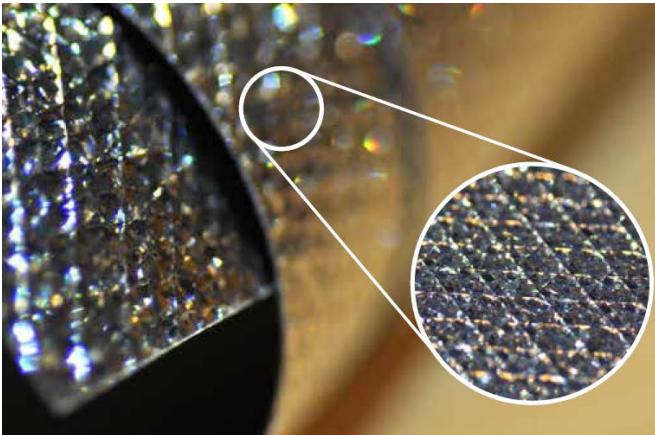
6



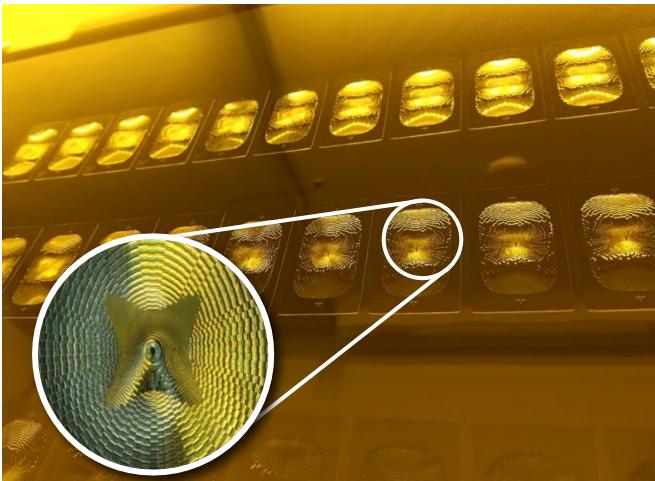
Coating: Gravure, Slot Die  
Patterning: UV-NIL, *Hot Embossing*  
Web Width: < 290 mm  
Speed: 0.5 – 30 m/min  
In-line camera, wet thickness control

# Applications – Optics & Bionics

*Decorative foils  
with artificial  
crystal facets*



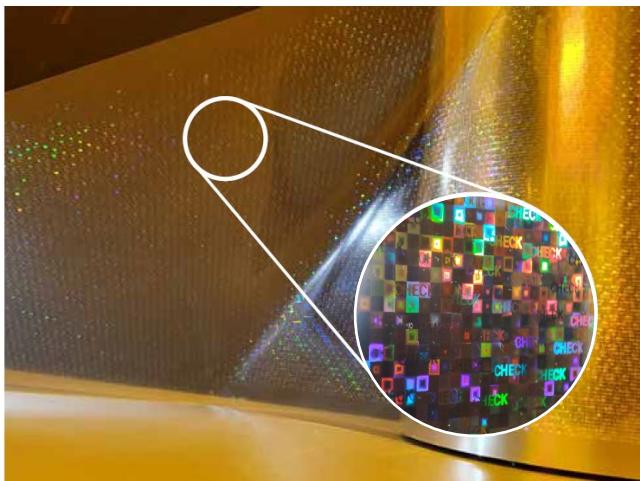
*Optical foils with  
freeform microoptical  
elements*



*Riblet foils for drag-  
reducing bionic surface  
finishing in transport*



*Labels and  
packaging foils  
with diffractive  
holograms*



# Use Case 2: Decorative Films

## Application:

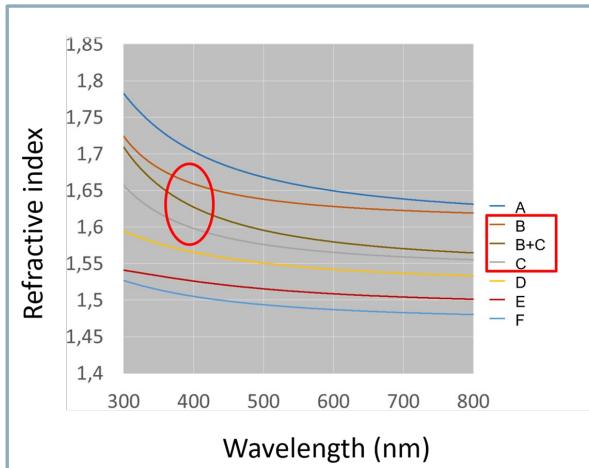
Freeform micro-facets to realize a sparkling effect for luxury goods

## Upscaling target: Seamless Step & Repeat Upscaling for Roll-to-Roll production

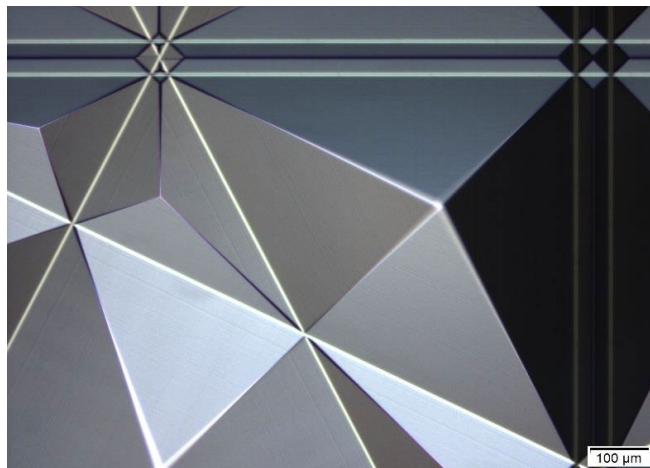
Seamless stitching of distributed facets with extremely high edge accuracy, low shrinking and low Abbe number



Resin with high dispersion



„Crystals“ with facet designs



Double side imprinted „crystals“



## Roll-to-roll (R2R) replication: finished products



R2R UV imprint into **high dispersion resin**  
+ R2R backside metallized

*View: reflection*

 **Fraunhofer**  
FEP



R2R UV imprint into **high dispersion resin**

*View: transmission*

# About Fraunhofer FEP

## The Institute in Figures

Employees	196
Total budget	30.7 M€
Industry returns	11.6 M€
Public funding	6.2 M€
Investments	2.1 M€

(April 2024 | Figures from 2023)

## Director



Prof. Dr. Elizabeth von Hauff



## Location / Buildings of the Fraunhofer FEP

# Core Expertise of Fraunhofer FEP

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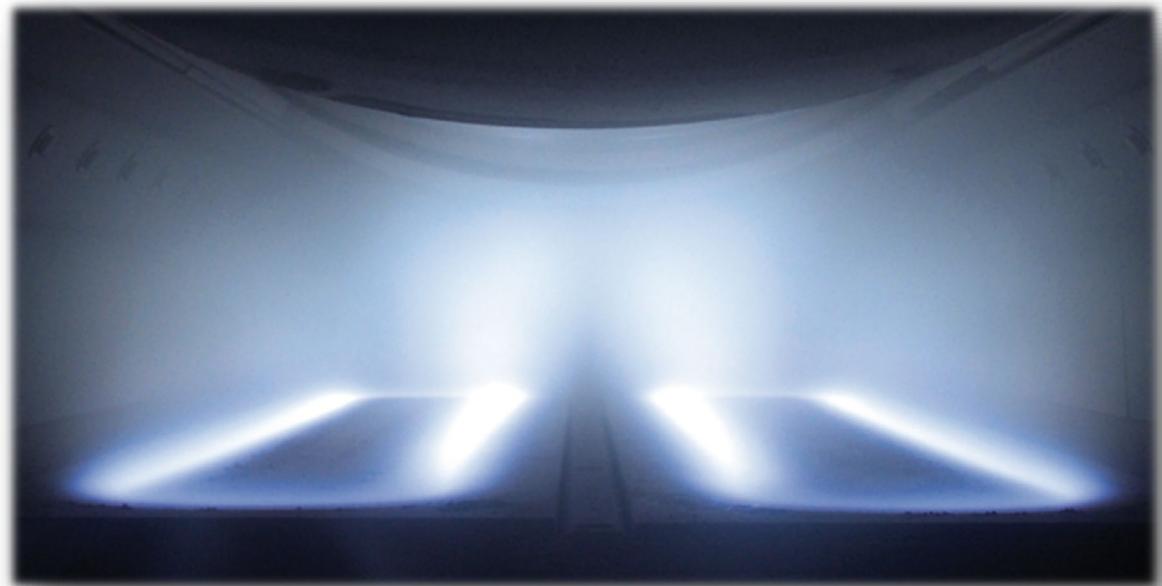
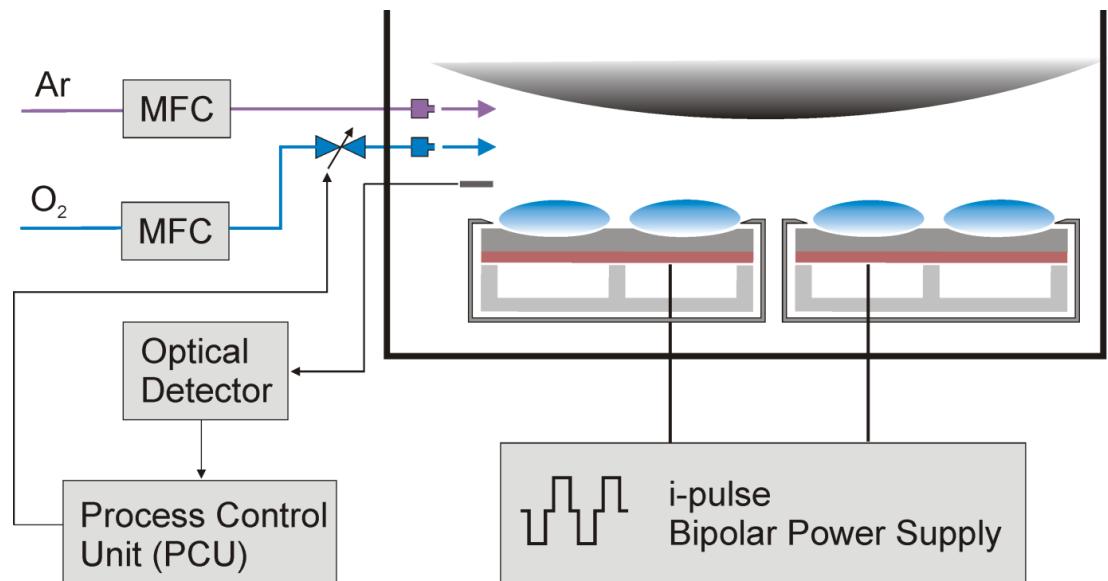


# PHABULOUS Technology

## Reactive sputter deposition

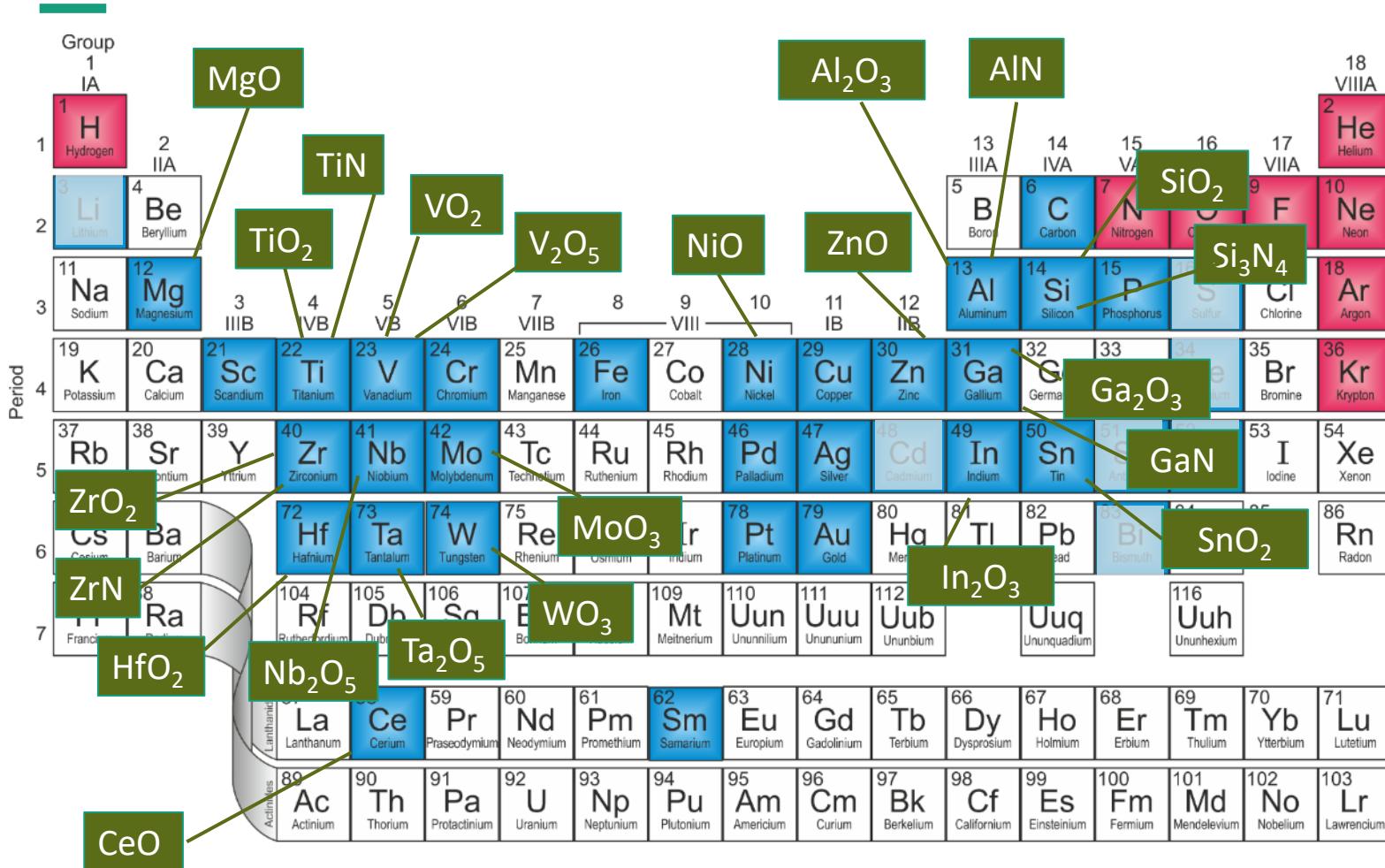
### Objectives

- Both from planar and rotatable magnetrons
- $\text{TiO}_2$ ,  $\text{SiO}_2$ ,  $\text{Nb}_2\text{O}_5$ ,  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ,  $\text{TiN}$ ,  $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ ,  $\text{SnO}_2$ ,  $\text{ZnSnO}_x$ ,  $\text{WO}_3$ ,  $\text{VO}_2$ ,  $\text{AlN}$

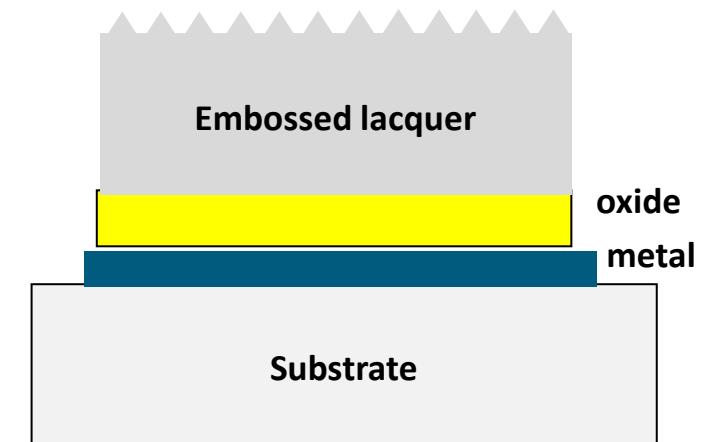


# PHABULOUS Technology

## Reactive sputter deposition



- Physical colours
- Sensitive to oblique angle
- Microoptic create uniform colour appearance



# PHABULOUS Technology

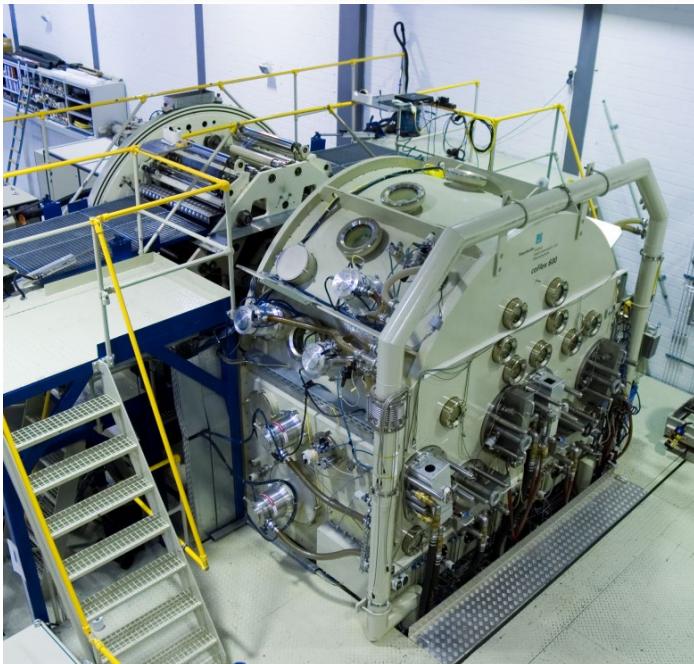
## Reactive sputter deposition

### Objectives

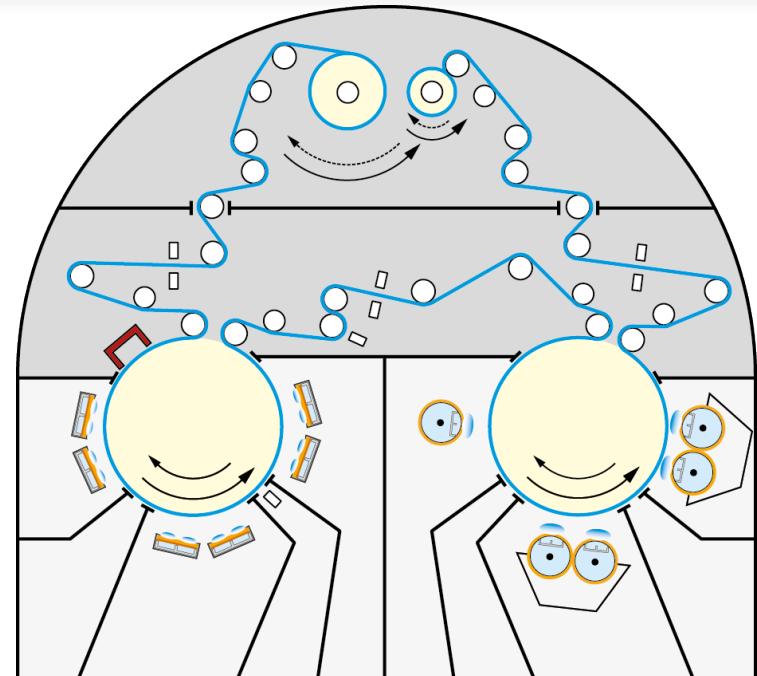
- Sputtering & PECVD on flexible materials
- Large area upscaling of roll-to-roll processes, pilot deposition

### Features

- 600 mm deposition width, adaptive deposition zone setup
- Pulsed sputtering, arcPECVD, optical and electric inline monitoring



Rotatable magnetrons  
in cooperation with  
VON ARDENNE GmbH



# Inline monitoring : WILMA

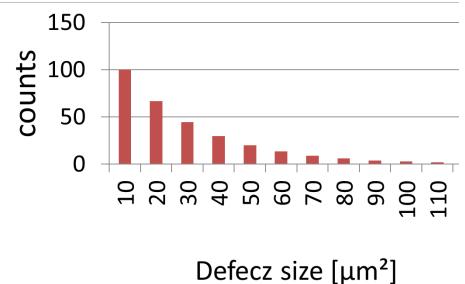
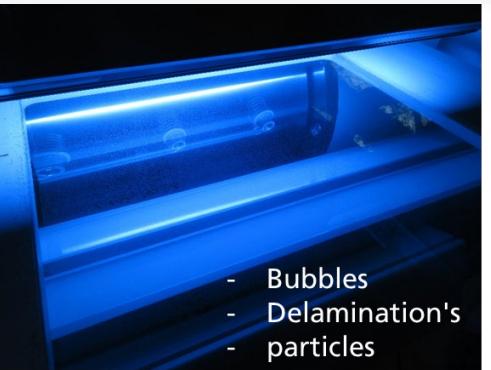
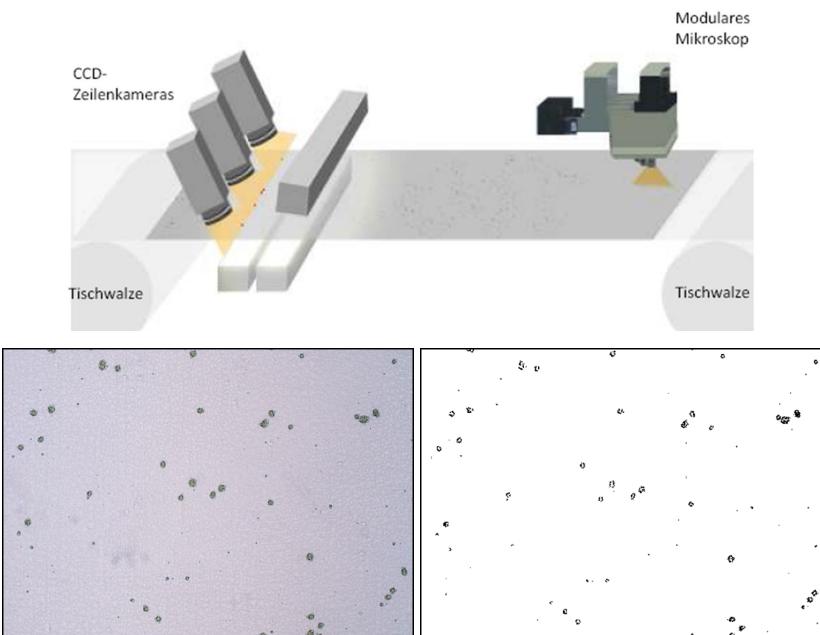
## Roll-to-Roll Inspection system

### Objectives

- Defect mapping, classification ( $1\mu\text{m}$  size) with modular, moveable optical microscope
- CCD line scan cameras and light bank (white or blue), resolution  $40\mu\text{m}$  defect size

### Features

- 300 mm band width inspection of 10 to 100m length
- 100% mapping or field of view depending of used microscope objective (x2,5...x20)

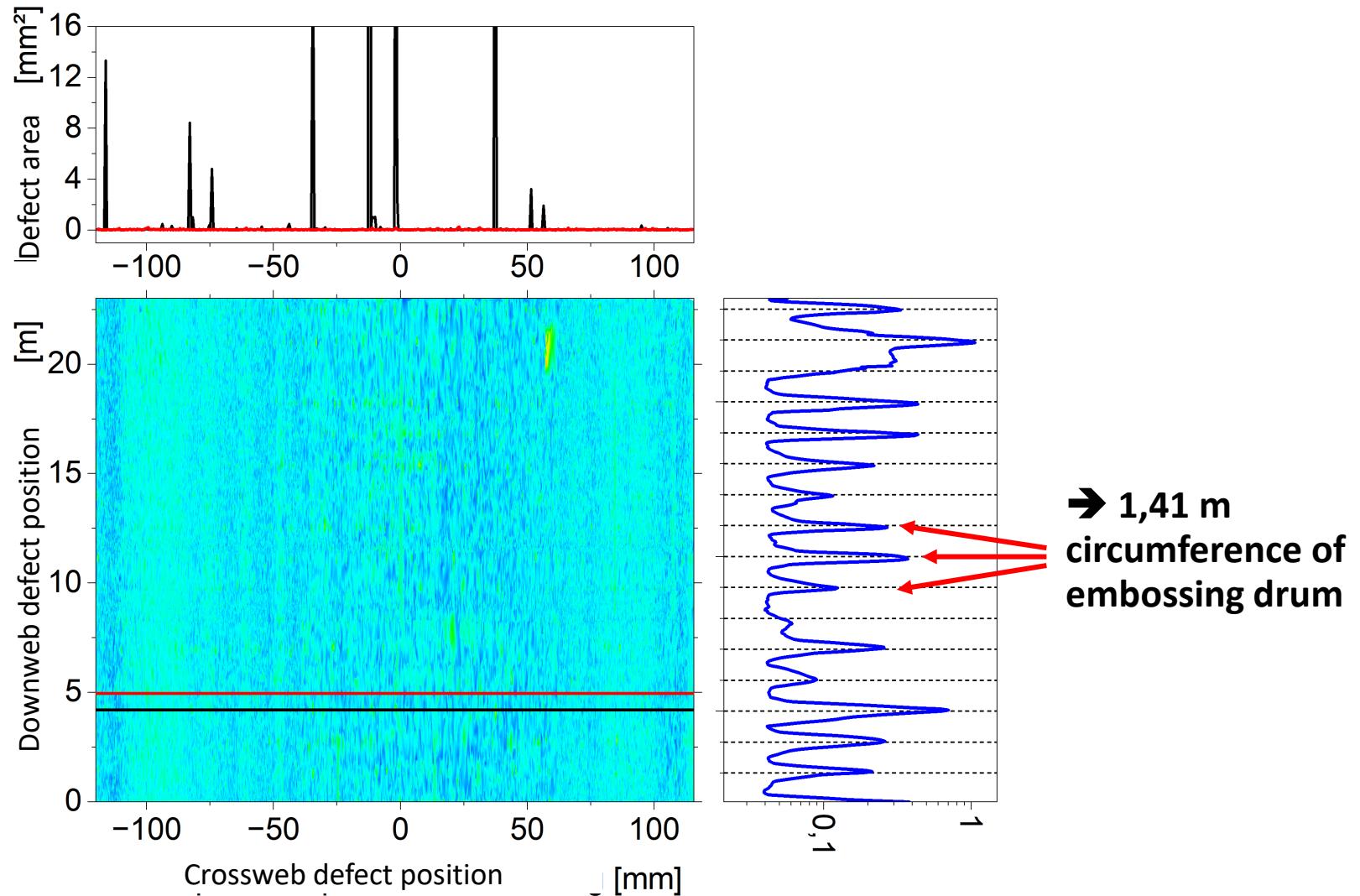


# Inline monitoring

## Camera-based inspection system

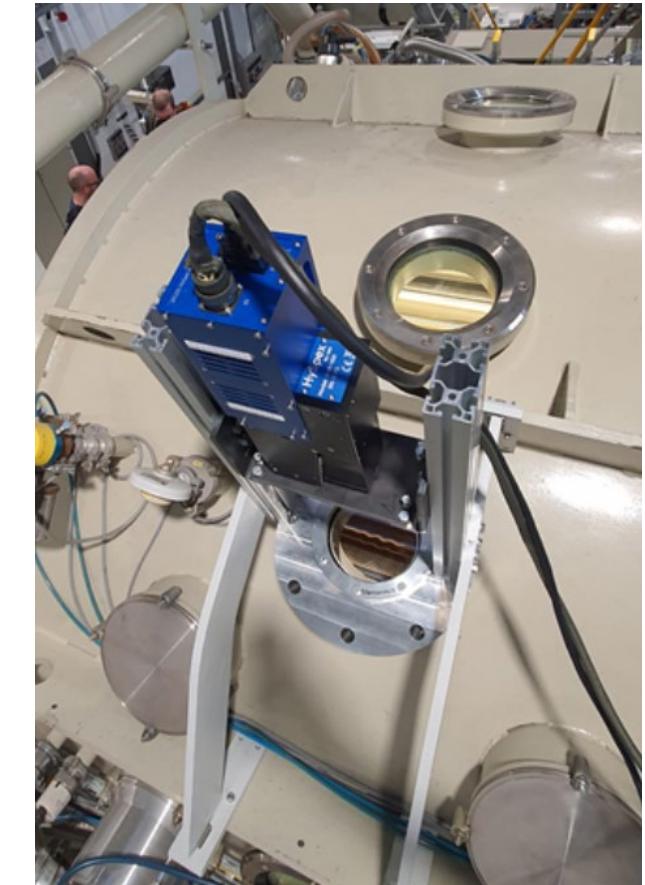
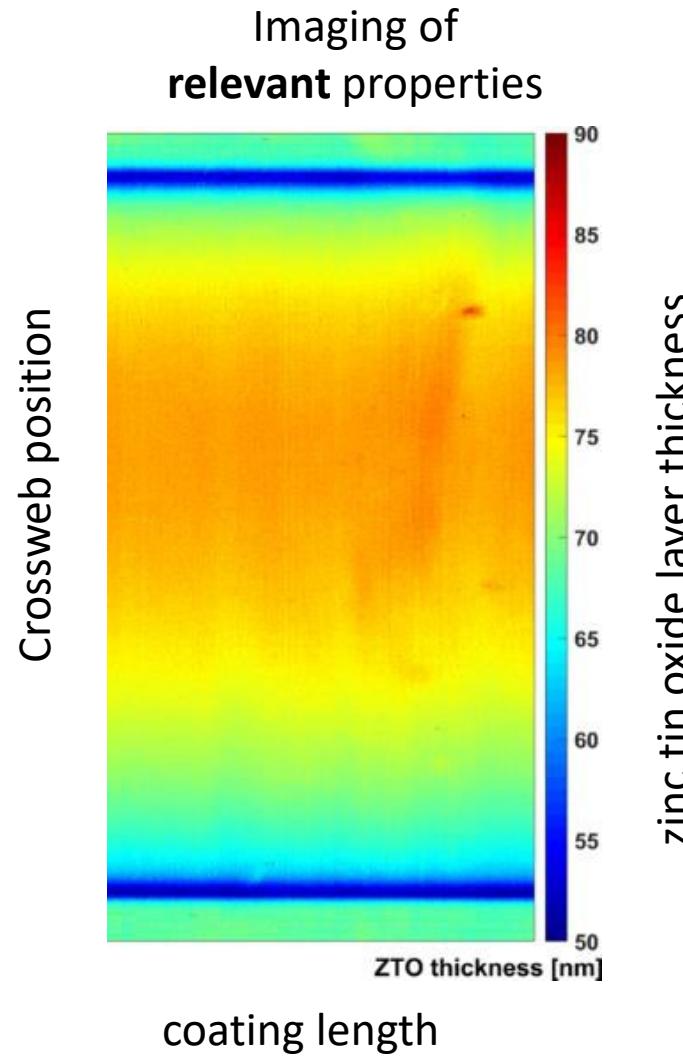
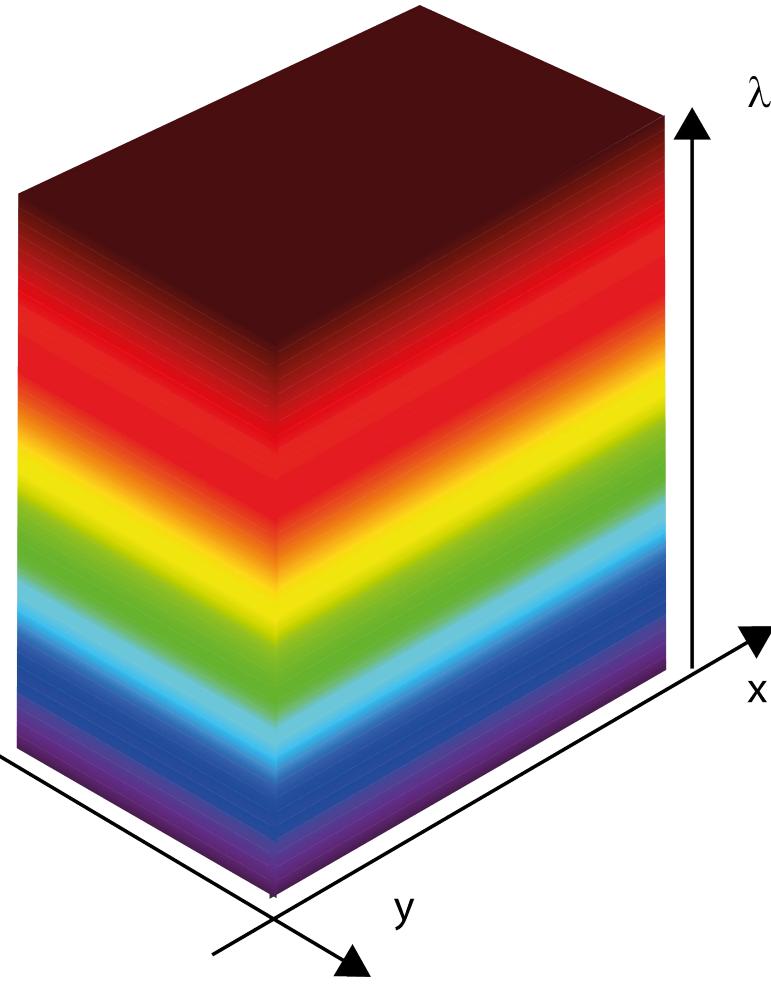
100 %-inspection of a patterned surface

- The defect picture of a roll is shown
- Small points represent the regular pattern
- The irregularity in the embossing tool is clearly seen



# In-line Monitoring

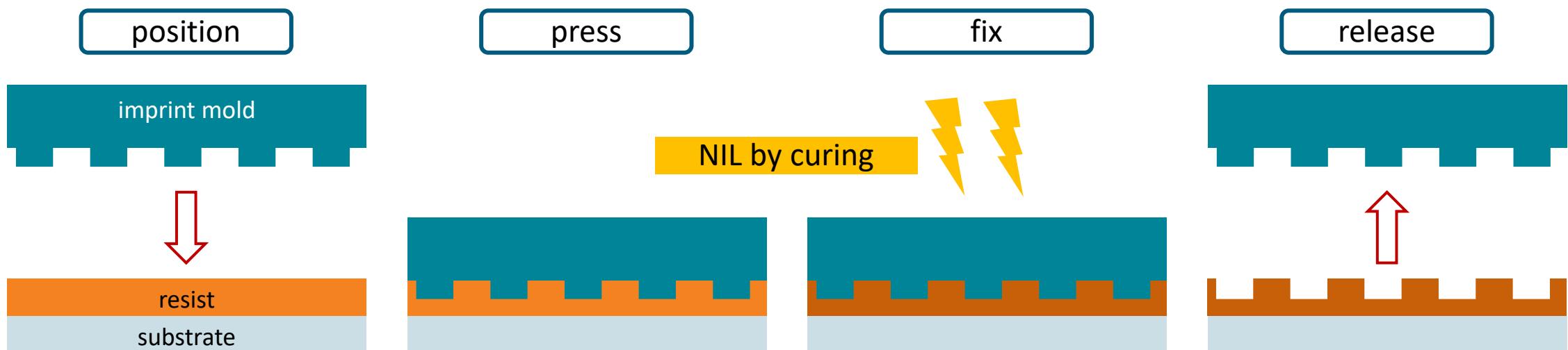
## Hyper-spectral Imaging



# PHABULOUS Technology

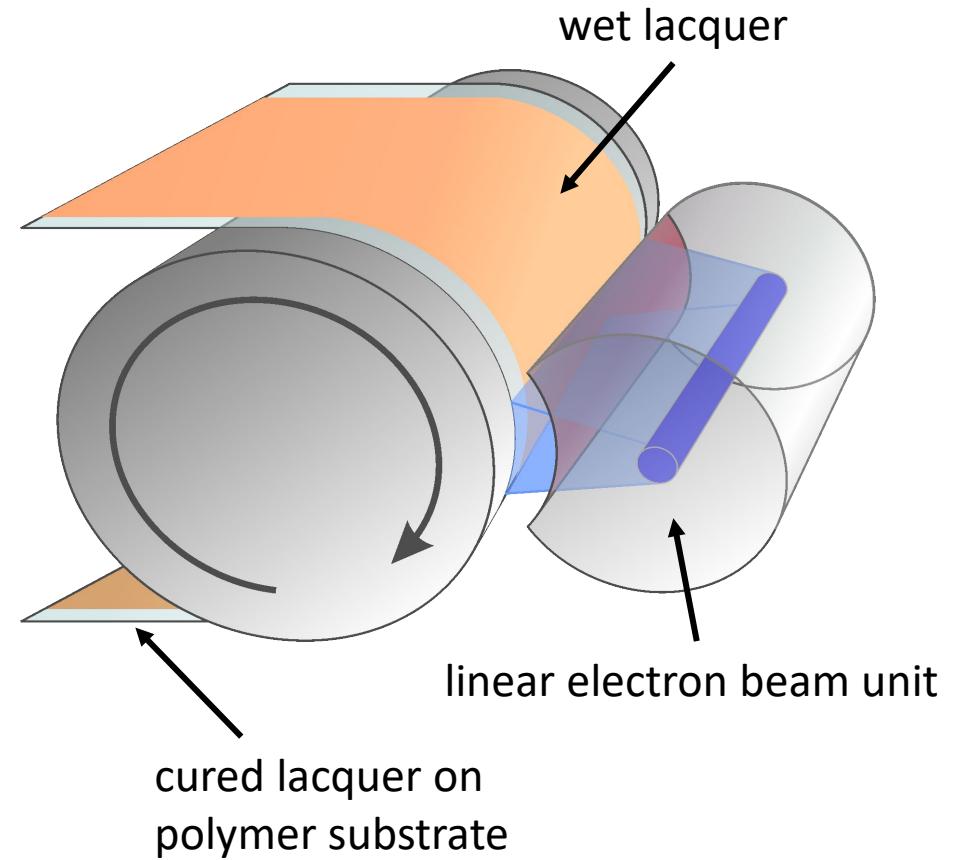
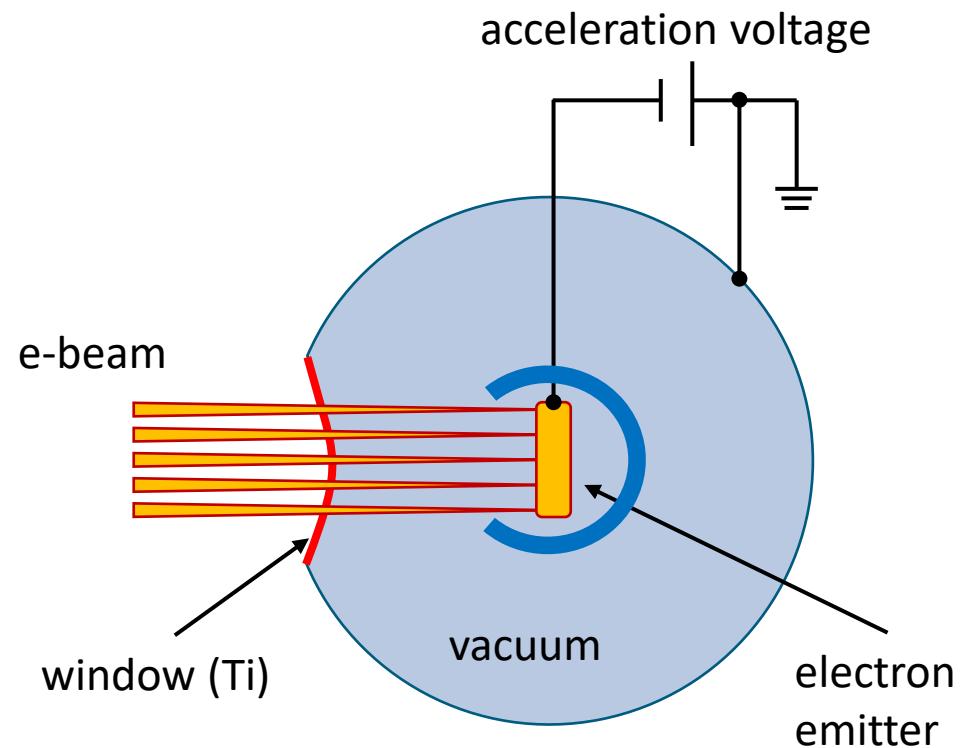
## Nano-Imprint Lithography

- coating step required
- resist must be curable – substrate becomes independent from being imprintable
- curing within milliseconds – no cooling time necessary
- substrate or imprint mold must be „curing“ transparent
- imprinting force much lower due to lower viscosity of resist



# PHABULOUS Technology

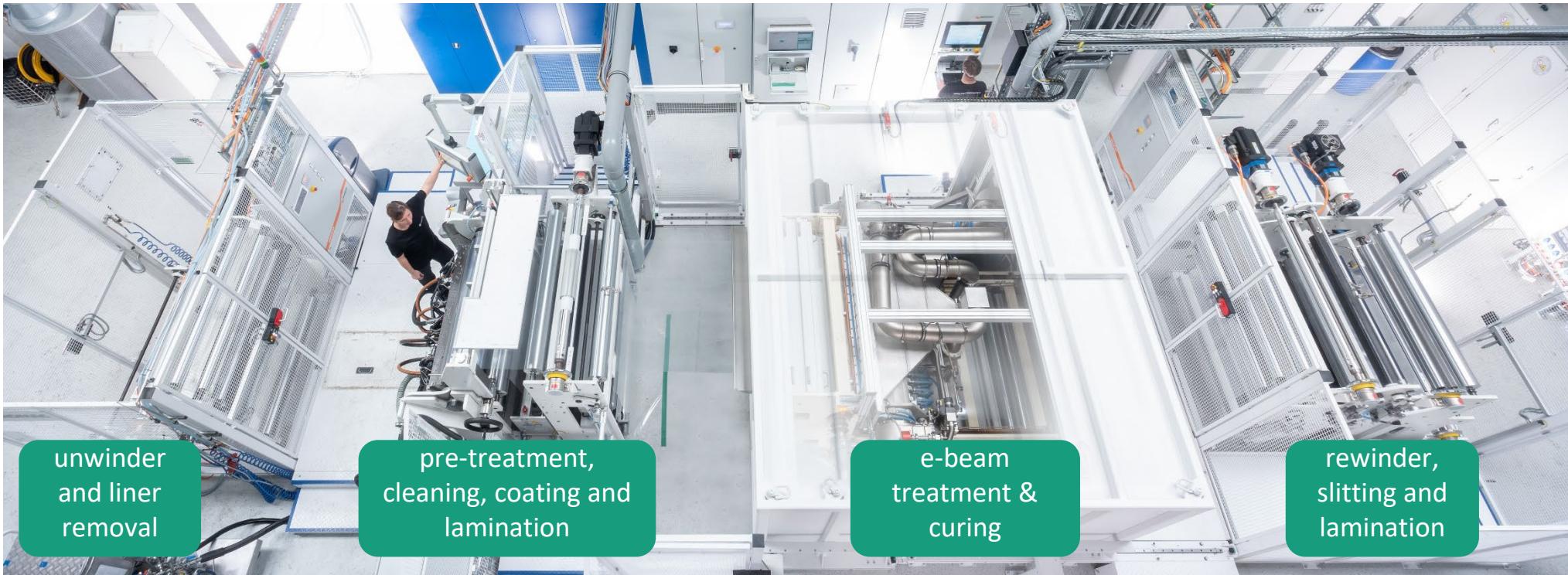
## Electron Beam Curing



# AtmoFlex 1250

## Slot die coating & electron beam curing

- up to 1250 mm web width
- web speed up to 150 m/min
- wet/dry lamination
- slot die coating @ 1200 mm coating width
- electron beam treatment & curing
- typical substrates: polymer films, paper, metal foils



# Roll-to-Roll Application

## Hierarchical structures

### Objectives

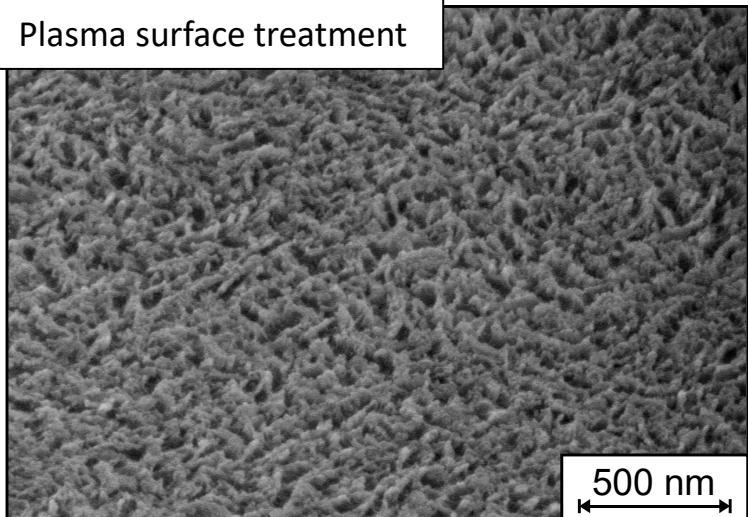
- Influence on surface morphology on different length scales
- Adjustment hydrophobic/hydrophilic surface properties,
- Broadband antireflection/antiglare properties

### Technology

- Plasma based surface modification, thin film deposition, electron beam curing

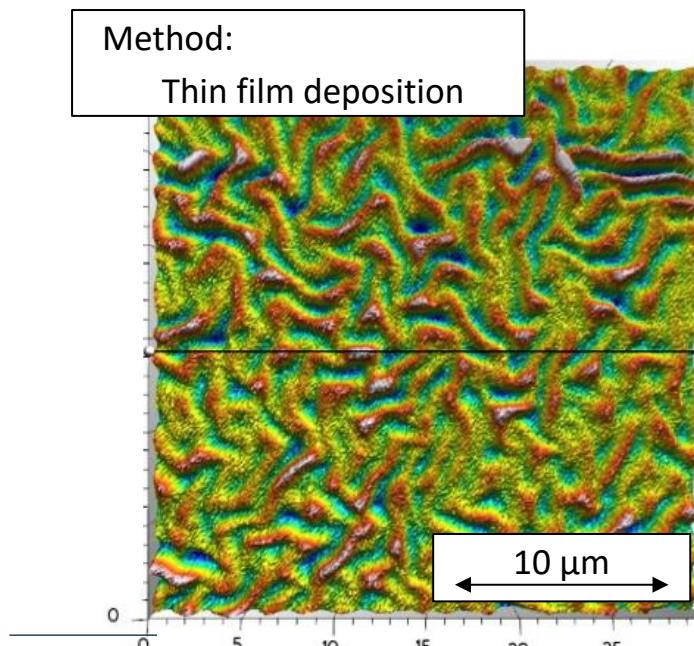
Method:

Plasma surface treatment



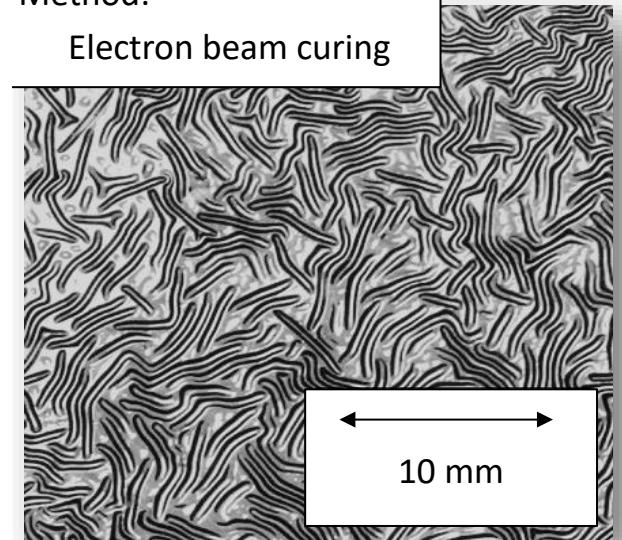
Method:

Thin film deposition



Method:

Electron beam curing



# PHABULOUS Application example

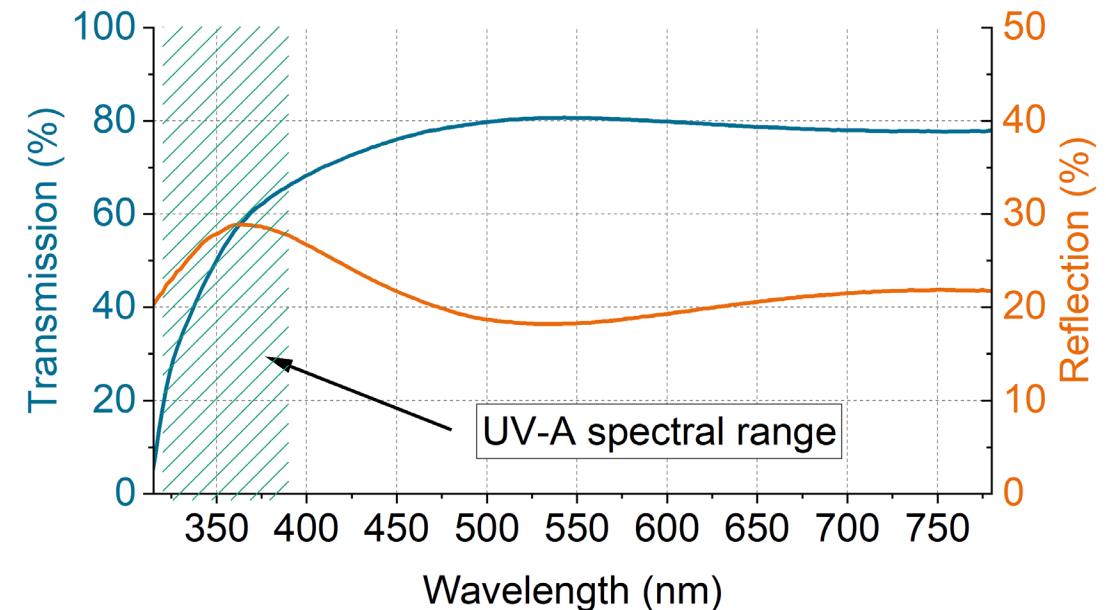
## Bird Protection film

### Objectives

- Protection of glass panes from bird collision
- Minimum disturbing in appearance

### Technology

- FEP: Roll-to-roll plasma etching and deposition
- Most of the contrast in UV-A spectral range



# PHABULOUS Application example

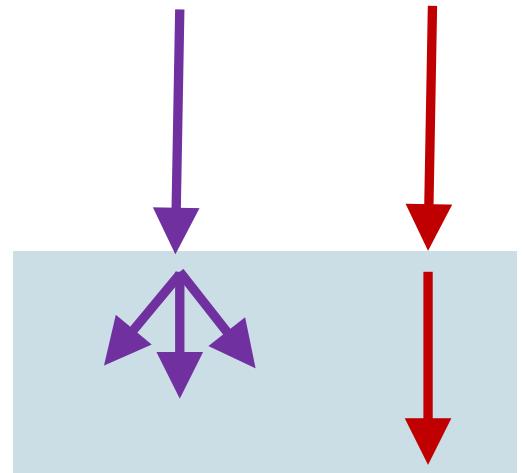
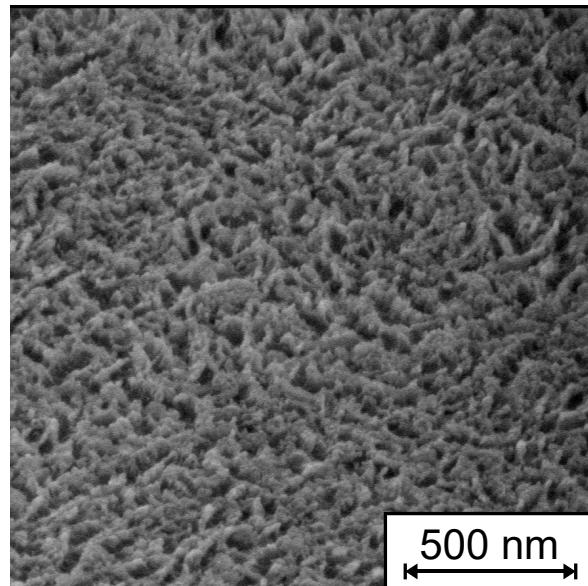
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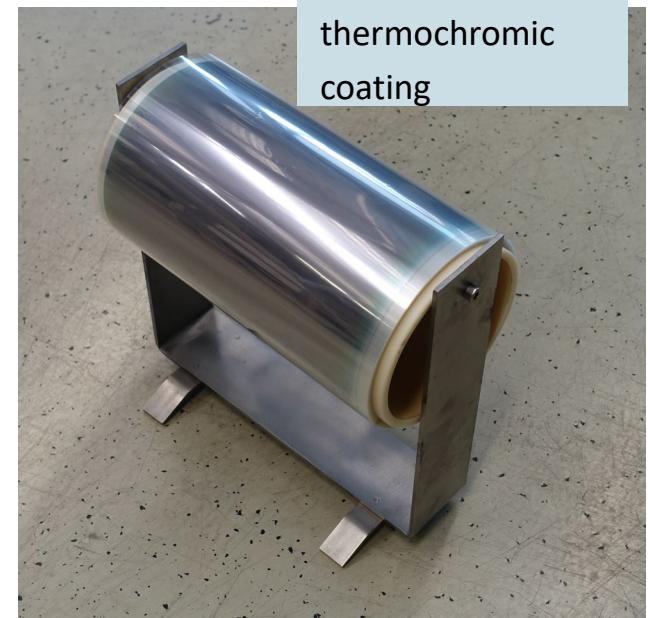
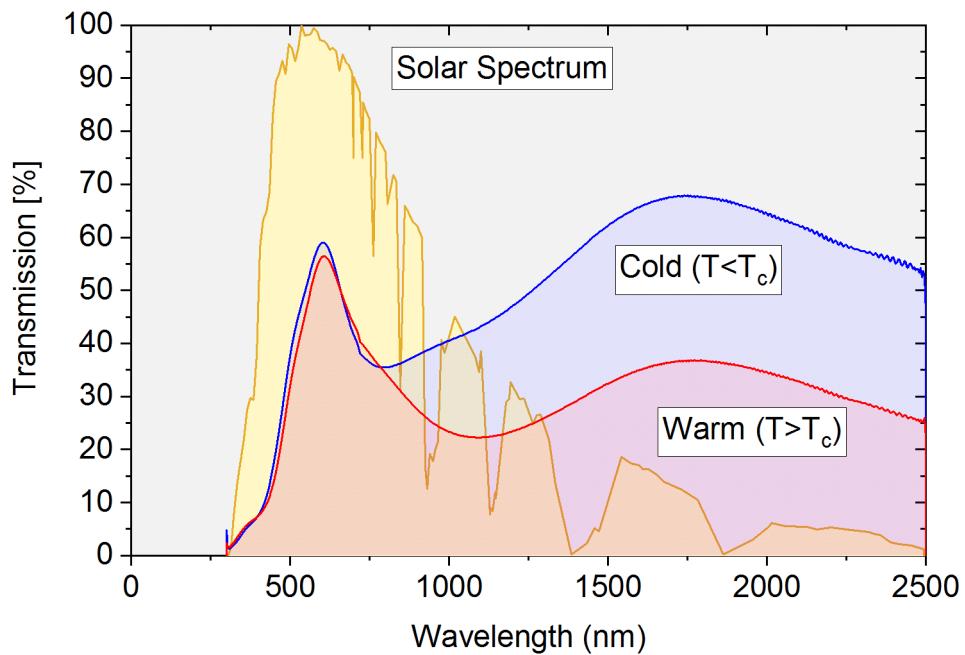
## Thermochromic coating on Flexible Glass

### Objectives

- Smart window technology for retrofitting existing buildings
- FEP: R2R sputtering of **Thermochromic coatings** on ultrathin flexible glass

### Technology

- Reactive HIPIMS at elevated substrate temperatures
- Precise inline property monitoring



# Application Example

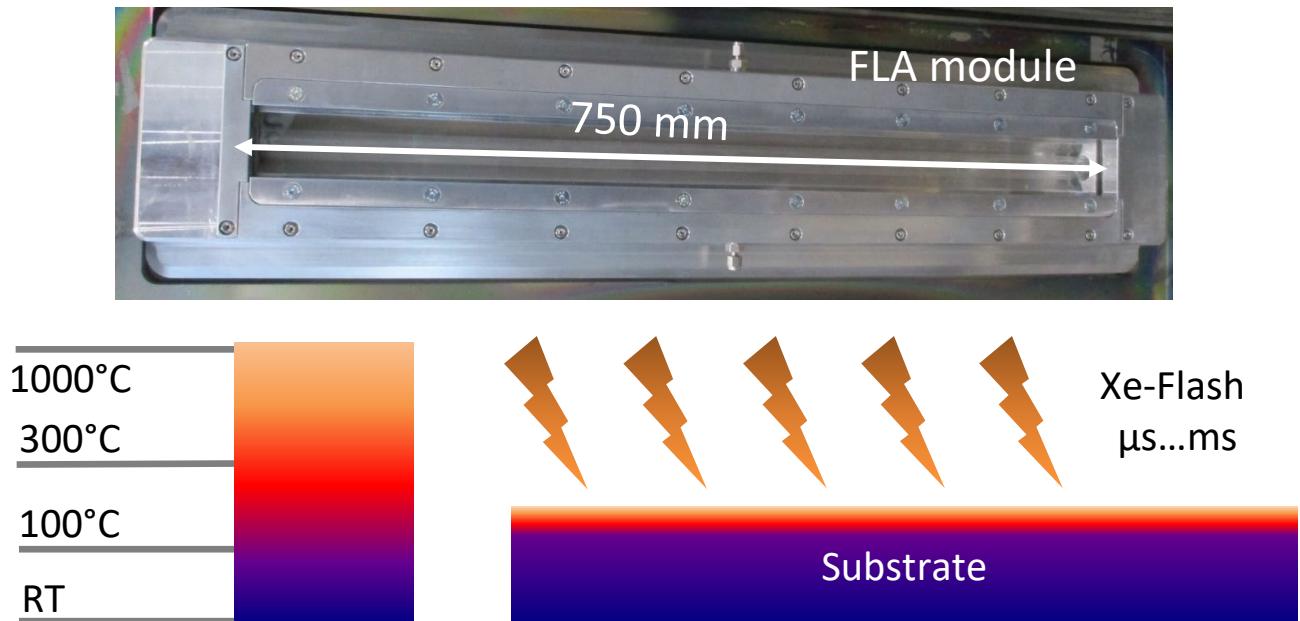
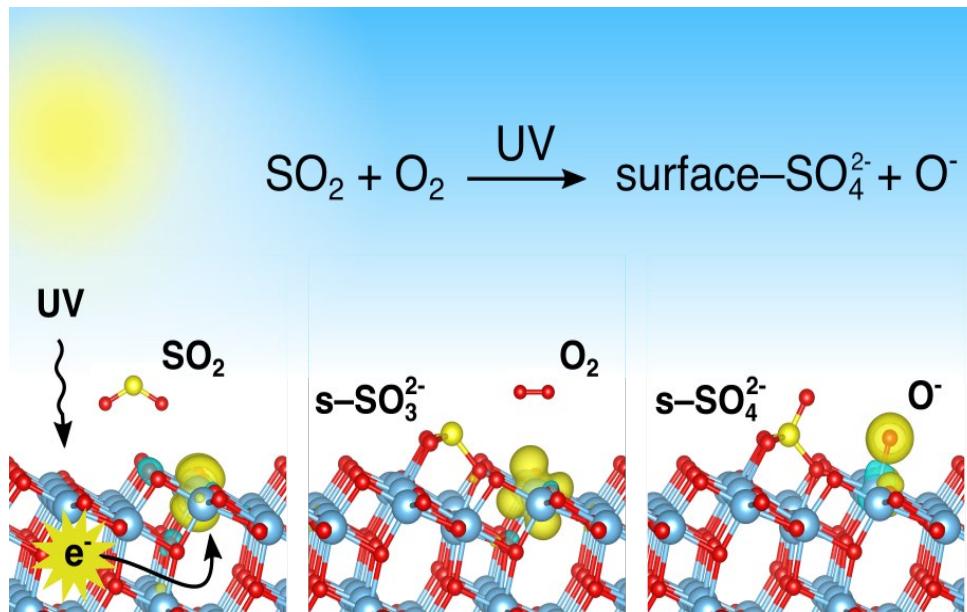
## Antipathogenic coating for touchscreens

### Objectives

- Creation of anti-pathogen surface on polymer film
- Prevention of healthcare-associated infections

### Technology

- High-energy sputtering of oxides on polymer films
- Photo-fixation of sulfur radicals by flash lamp annealing



# Contact

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Dr. Matthias Fahland  
Department R2R Technologies  
p. +49 0351 2586 135  
[Matthias.fahland@fep.fraunhofer.de](mailto:Matthias.fahland@fep.fraunhofer.de)

Fraunhofer FEP  
Winterbergstraße 28  
01277 Dresden  
[www.fep.fraunhofer.de](http://www.fep.fraunhofer.de)

Thank you  
for your attention

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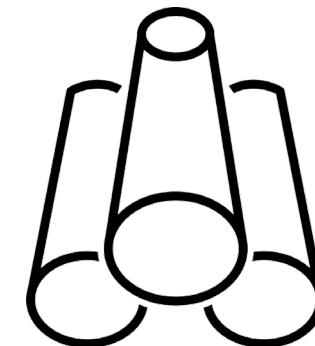
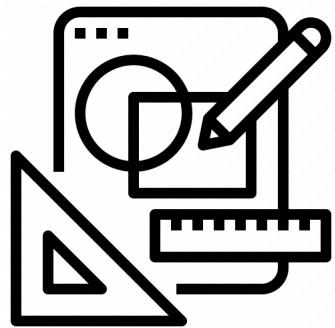
Micro-Optics: Support of Metrology and Design

## ACCELERATE TRANSITION FROM DESIGN TO PILOT PRODUCTION

HELP DESIGNS COMPLY WITH  
MANUFACTURING  
CONSTRAINTS

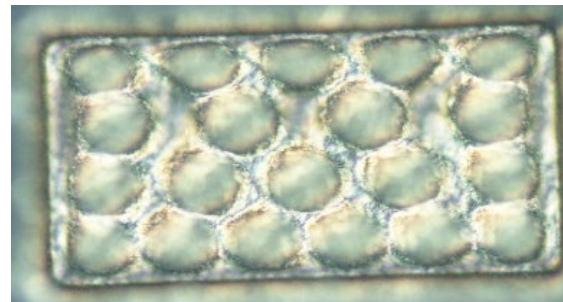
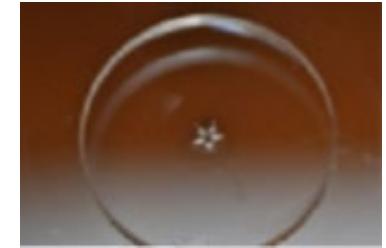
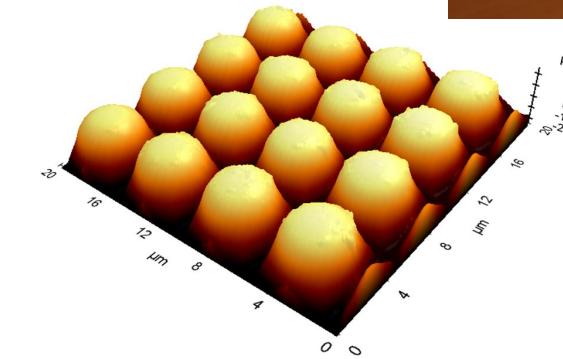
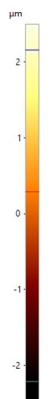
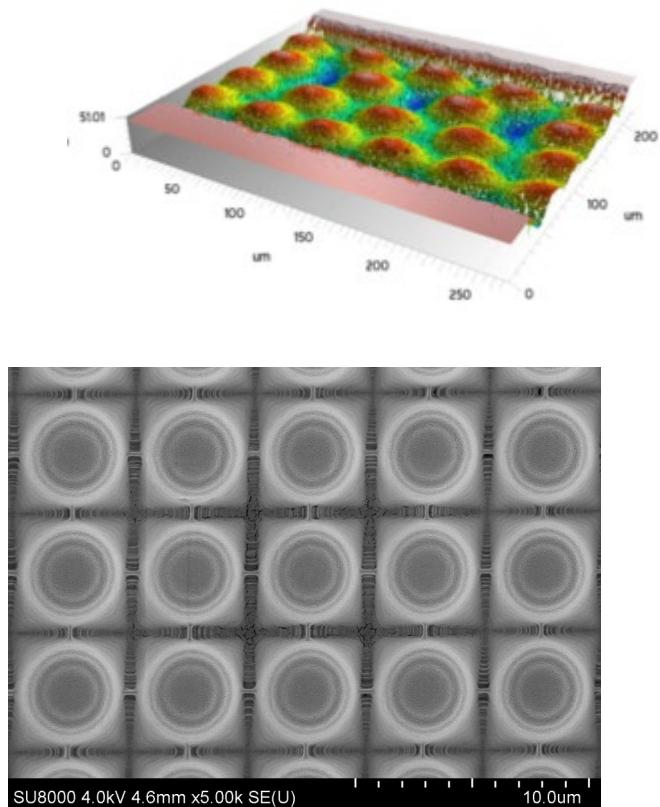
COMPLETE  
CHARACTERIZATION  
PORTFOLIO

OPTIMUM MATERIAL  
FORMULATIONS



# About PHABULOUS

## Metrology Expertise



- Different surface metrology techniques
- Know how of the partners integrated
- Verified in Round-Robin Tests
- Complemented by Inline Metrology

# About PHABULOUS

## Phabulous Design Approach

