

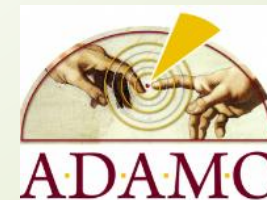
# Hybrid devices based on nanostructured sensors for gas and VOCs monitoring

Antonella Macagnano, Papa Paolo, Emiliano Zampetti, Andrea Bearzotti, Joshua Avossa,  
Fabrizio De Cesare

INSTITUTE OF ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION RESEARCH-NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

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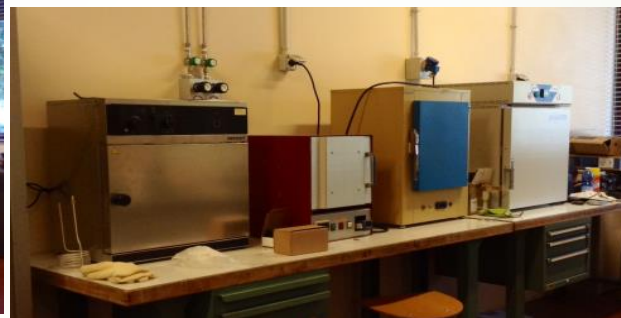
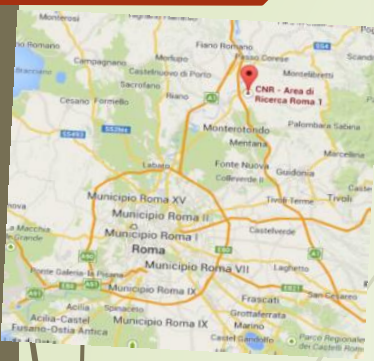
00016 Monterotondo (Rome) Italy







# CNR - Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche Istituto sull'Inquinamento Atmosferico





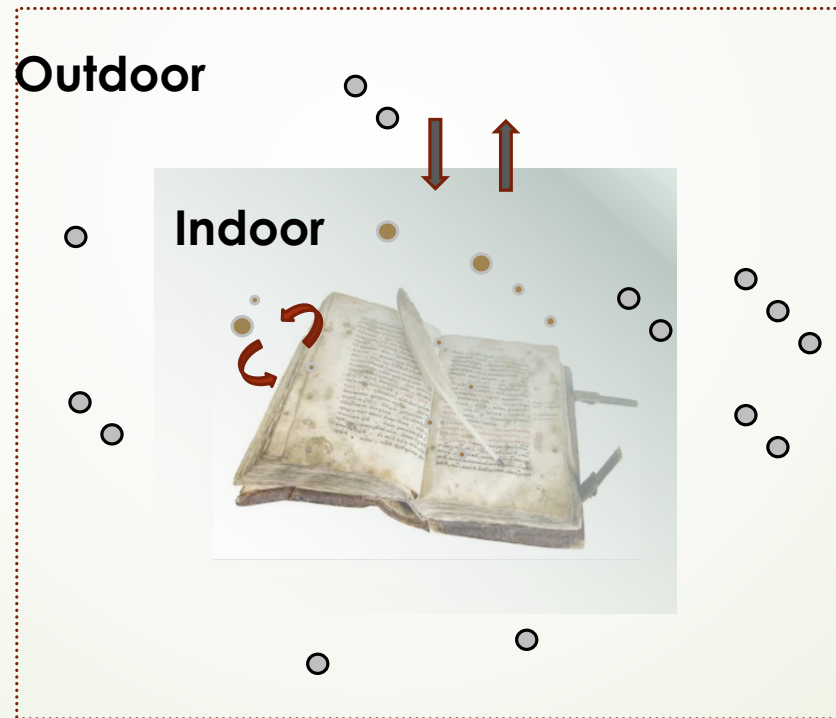


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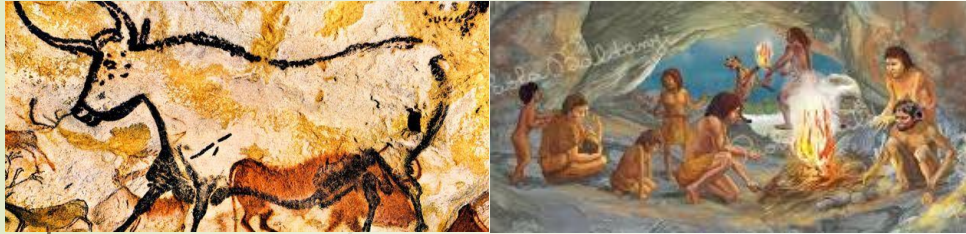
- DEFINING THE SCENARIOS OF MONITORING
- SELECTING SOME COMMON POTENTIAL DANGEROUS POLLUTANTS
- INTRODUCING A HYBRID DEVICE SUITABLE FOR ADAMO PROJECT
- CREATION OF CUSTOMIZED NANOFIBROUS SENSORS FOR DANGEROUS POLLUTANTS
- CREATION OF SENSORS FOR COMPLEX ENVIRONMENTAL MATRICES
- APPLICATIONS
- PERSPECTIVES

## Defining the scenario:

- Can the monitoring environment surrounding cultural heritage prevent damages?
- Are there pollutants responsible for any damage?

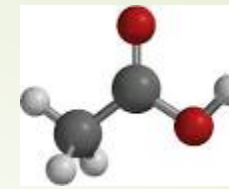


# AIR POLLUTION AND ITS EFFECT ON ARTS



- ✓ **Prehistoric era: smoke from cave fires** obscured the details of art applied to cave walls.
- ✓ Wall paintings in the Chapels were dulled by **smoke from centuries of burning candles**
- ✓ New chemicals from **industrial revolution** damaged both statues (marble, metal..), buildings, paintings, frescoes, textiles, books....
- ✓ **Global wind currents spread pollutants far from their sources.**

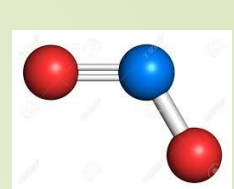
# INDOOR POLLUTION



Acetic acid

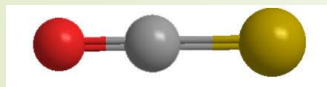


Sulfur dioxide



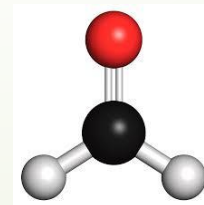
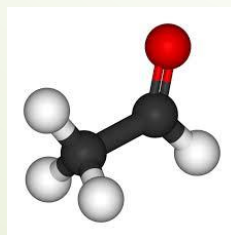
Nitrogen dioxide

- Dangerous outdoor pollutants: sulfur dioxide, **nitrogen dioxide**, nitrogen oxide, ozone, and reduced sulfur gases such as hydrogen sulfide
- ✓ Naturally ventilated buildings = indoor pollutants concentrations = outdoor levels.
- ✓ Buildings with filtering systems (heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning) reduce the indoor level up to 5% of the outdoor concentration.
- Indoor-generated gases that pose a serious risk to cultural property are **acetic acid**, **formic acid**, **acetaldehyde**, **formaldehyde**, **hydrogen sulfide**, **carbonyl sulfide**, and **ozone** (*paints, boards, carpets, and cleaners, plastics, as well as many other materials and products*)



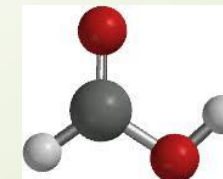
Carbonyl sulfide

Acetaldehyde

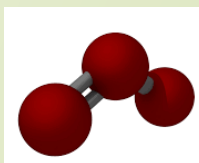
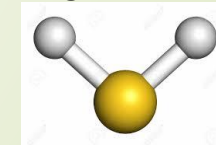


Formaldehyde

Formic acid



Hydrogen sulfide



Ozone



# FOR INSTANCE: MUSEUM ENVIRONMENT MONITORING

- Common sensors in museums: relative humidity and temperature (play a role in the chemical reactions).
- Low concentration of pollutants to make **irreversible chemical changes**
- Sensors should have extremely **low detection limits**, typically on the order of parts per billion (**ppb**)
- Sensing devices should be able to detect **a mixture of pollutants**



# Indoor monitoring: the first step for preventing chemical EFFECTS (acid compounds)

Designing sensors highly selective and ultra-sensitive to the main common chemical agents in deterioring:

**Paper** is caused by many factors (molds, insect and bacteria) such as acid hydrolysis (**ACETIC ACID**), oxidative agents (**NO<sub>2</sub>**, ozone), light, air pollution, or the presence of microorganisms.

**Metals** :very small amounts of acetic acid (500 ppb. or less) can promote corrosion of **metals** at moisture levels of 80% R.H. and above.

**Calcareous** materials (acceptable damage concentration (ADC)) (**NO<sub>2</sub>** and organic acids)

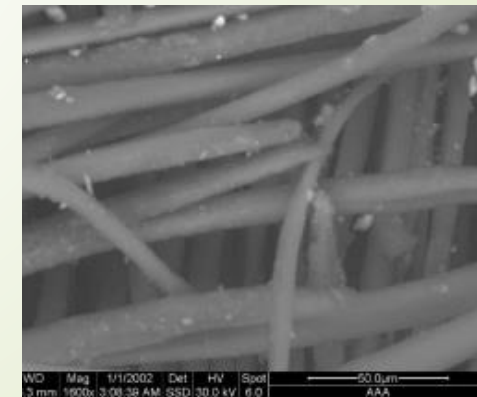
**Textiles** are deteriorated by heat, exposure to ultra-violet light, dye photochemical degradation, exposure to noxious gases (e.g. **formaldehyde converted to acid**), microorganisms.



In 1944



At present





# Sensors array or ENOSE: could be useful for cultural heritage monitoring?

- The concept of the electronic nose as a tool made up of sensors used to classify odors was introduced for the first time by Persaud and Dodd in 1982
  - Usually the **electronic nose** does not recognize the individual odor-generating compounds, but rather **provides an olfactory signature** (fingerprint) of the analyzed air. To do this, the instrument must be trained, *i.e.*, it must be provided with a database of olfactory fingerprints relating to the odors to which it may be exposed to during the analysis
  - Depending on the type of application involved, various types of systems have been developed and are used to deliver gas samples to the inside of the electronic nose
- **ENOSE COMPOSITION:**
  - (I) a **matrix of sensors to simulate the receptors** of the human olfactory system;
  - (II) a **data processing unit** that would perform the same function as the olfactory bulb;
  - (III) a **pattern recognition system** that would recognize the olfactory patterns of the substance being tested, a function performed by the brain in the human olfactory system

# HYBRID PROTOTYPE for INDOOR MONITORING BASED ON COMMERCIAL AND NANOSTRUCTURED SENSORS: from EXPO to ADAMO PROJECT

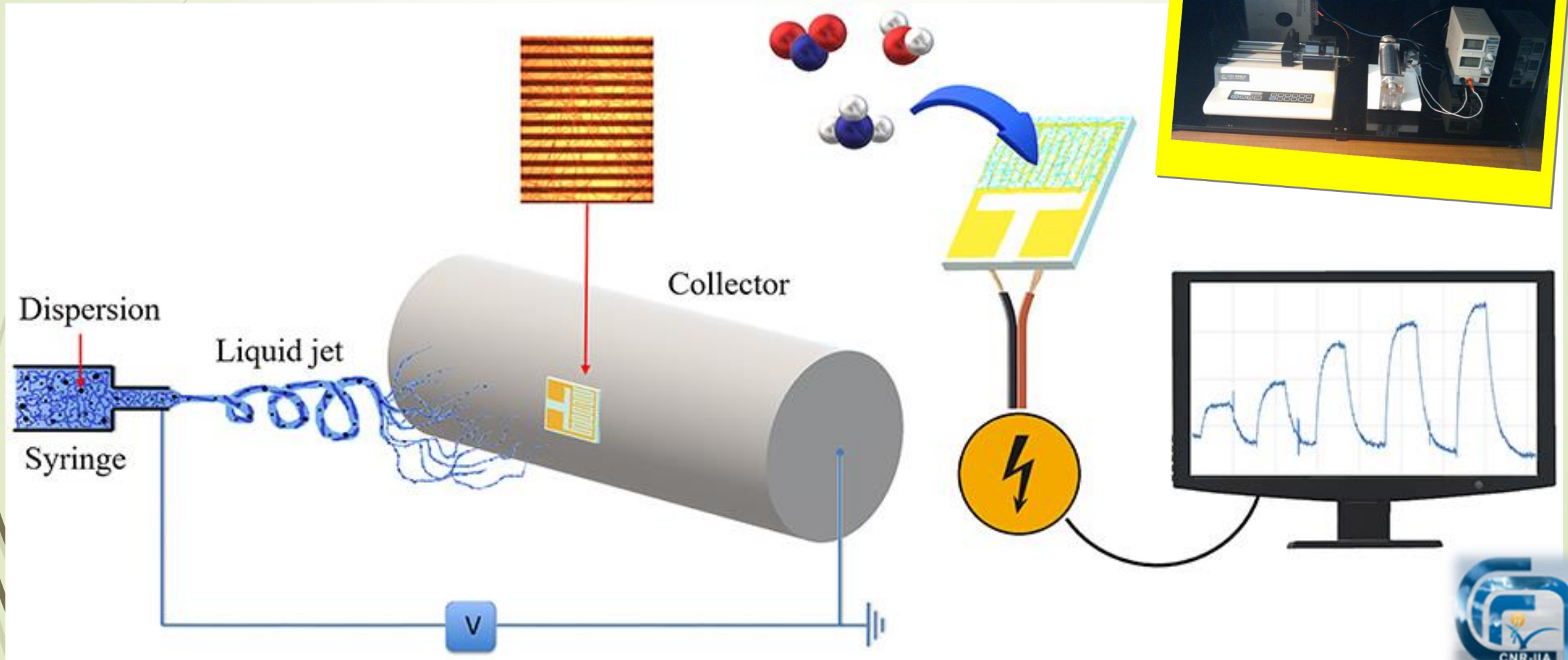


## Interchangeable Modular Systems:

- ✓ QCMs
  - ✓ IDEs
  - ✓ Electrochemical sensors (CO, NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub>, H<sub>2</sub>S)
  - ✓ Nondispersive Infrared sensor CO<sub>2</sub>
  - ✓ LM35 and HIH406 T and %RH
  - ✓ Micropump and mass-flow sensor
  - ✓ Analog and digital interface circuits
  - Controller Unit (16 bit A/D, 1 Gb, WiFi)
  - ✓ Power supply
  - ✓ Controller unit on single board computer
  - ✓ OS Linux based
- ✓ Suitable for: **wireless transmission of data**

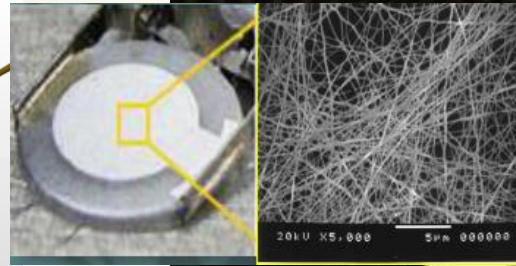
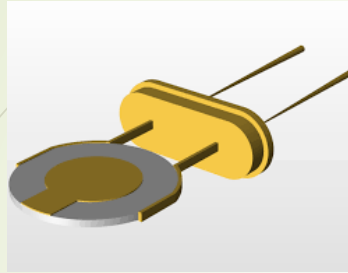
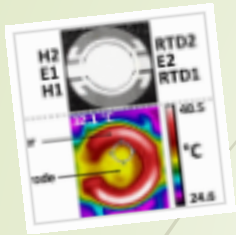


# Fabrication of Ultrasensitive Nanostructured Sensors: Electrospraying Technology

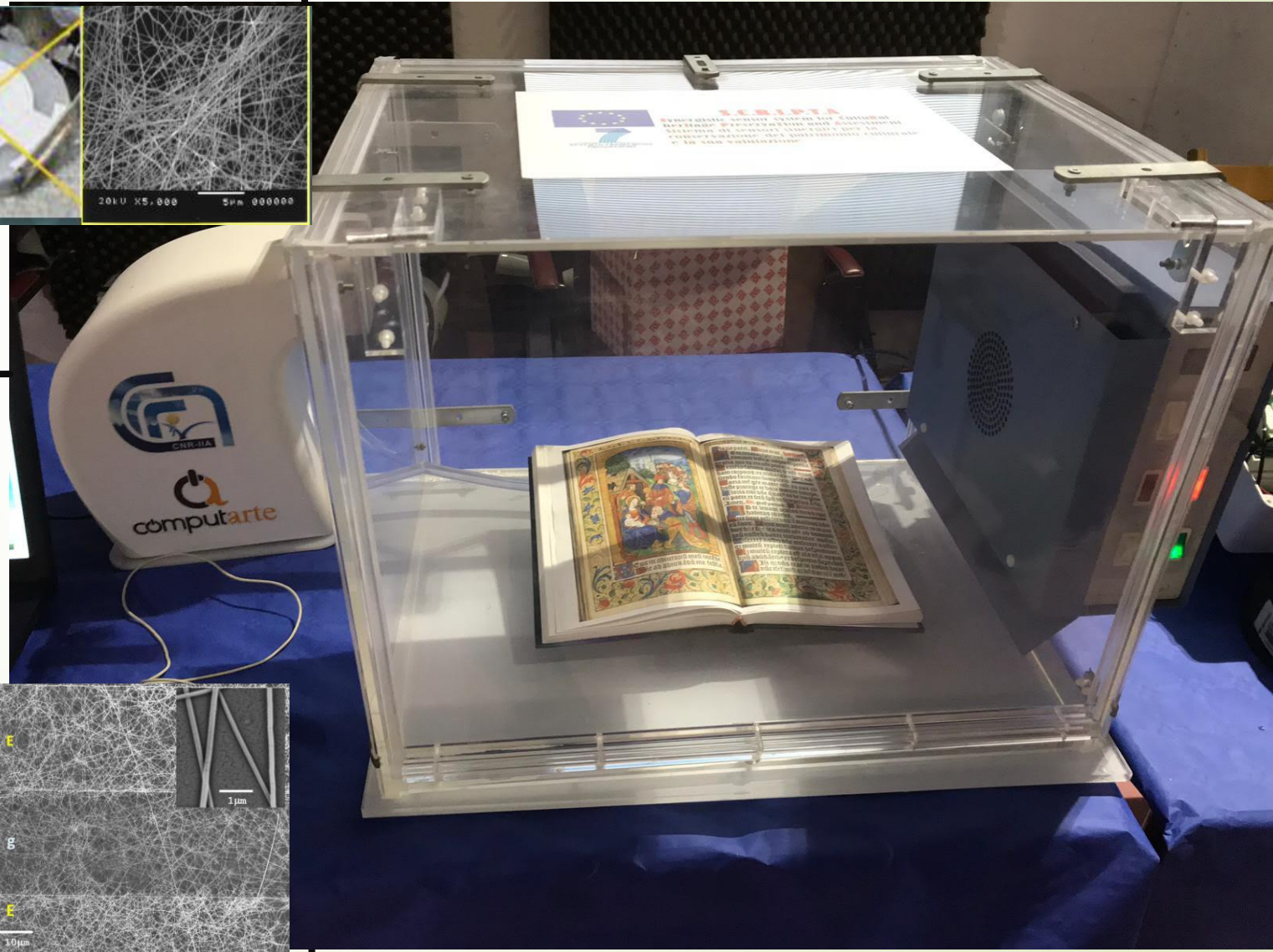
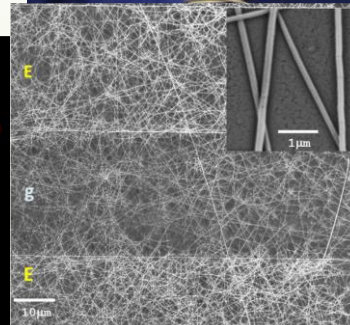
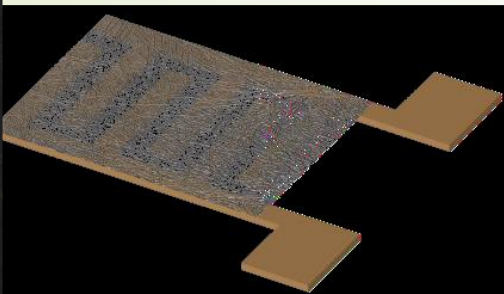
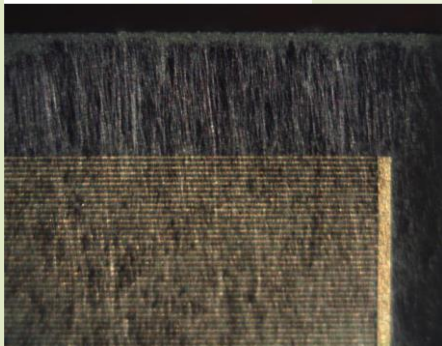
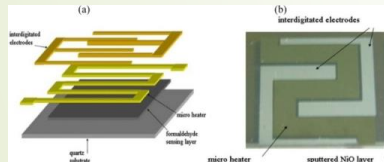


# CUSTOMIZATION TO A CULTURAL HERITAGE MICROCLIMATE

QCMs



IDES

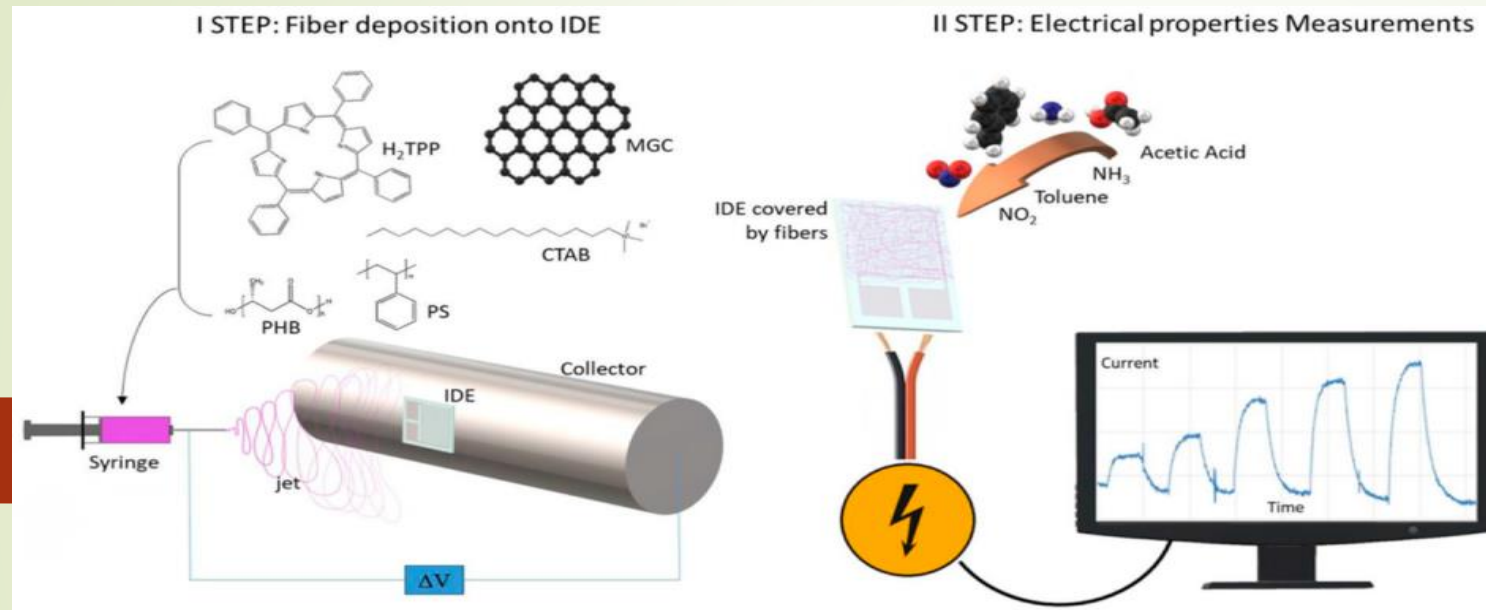




# ENOSE FEATURES

- The **number and type of sensors** in an electronic nose is generally selected on the basis of the **specific application**  
**(indoor monitoring)**.
- First and foremost, the **sensors have to be partially selective** *i.e.*, sensitive to the substance of interest  
**(selective to acids but taking into accounts all the surrounding environment)**.
- Sensors have to be **ultra sensitive**  
**(a few ppm to ppb concentration)**
- Furthermore, their response has to be:  
**fast, stable, reproducible** and **reversible**

# FABRICATION OF A BATCH OF ULTRA SENSITIVE SENSORS TO ORGANIC ACIDS



**POLYMER BLEND +  
MESOPOROUS GRAPHENE+  
Me-H2TPP**

POLYMER BLEND

- ✓ Thermally resistant
- ✓ Low environmental impact (biodegradable and recyclable)
- ✓ Low cost
- ✓ Widely used

**Polystyrene + Polyhydroxybutyrate**

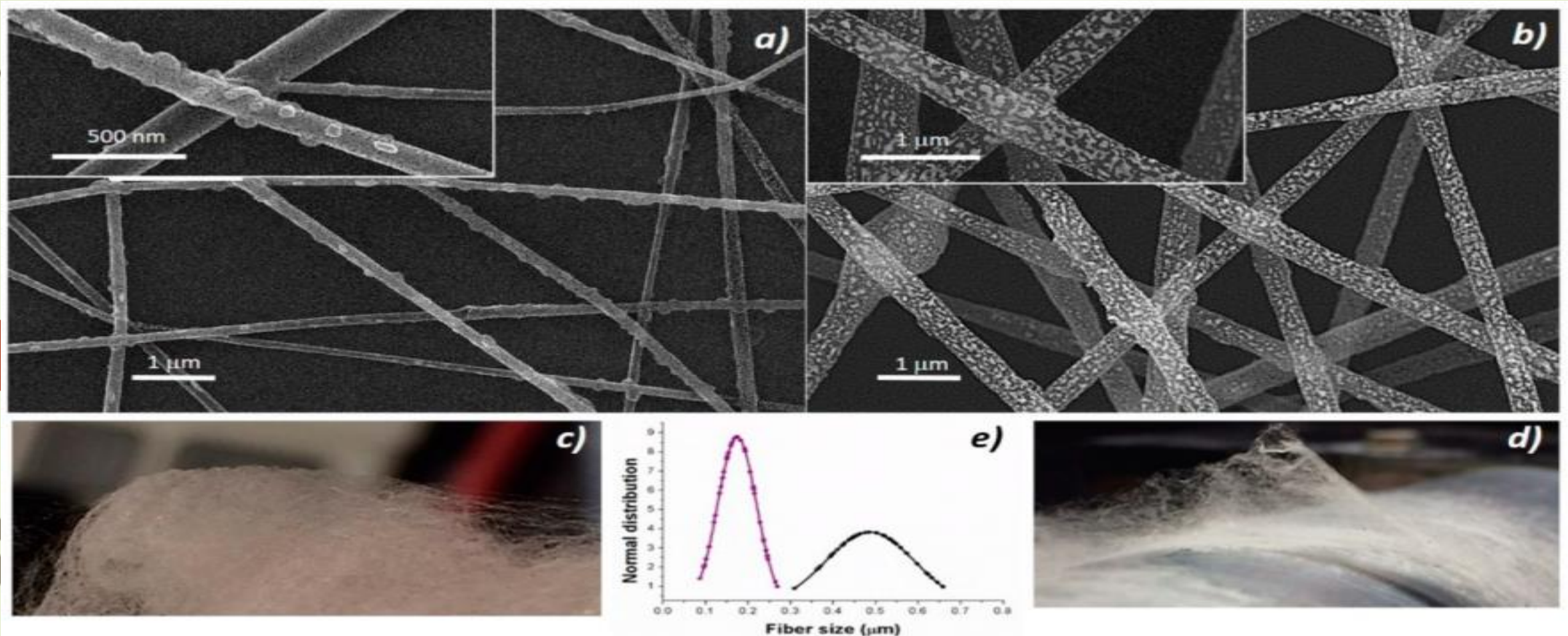
## PORPHYRIN

The **sensitivity** of PORPHYRINS is usually correlated with their structure and in particular with the kind of **metal ion, aromatic system, and peripheral substituents**.

## MESOPOROUS GRAPHENE

- ✓ G is theoretically a zero-bandgap semiconductor with **excellent r. t. electrical conductivity**, with a charge carrier mobility of about  $10^4 \text{ cm}^2 \text{ V}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$
- ✓ **Mesopores** make the structure highly **adsorbing small polar and oxidizing molecules**

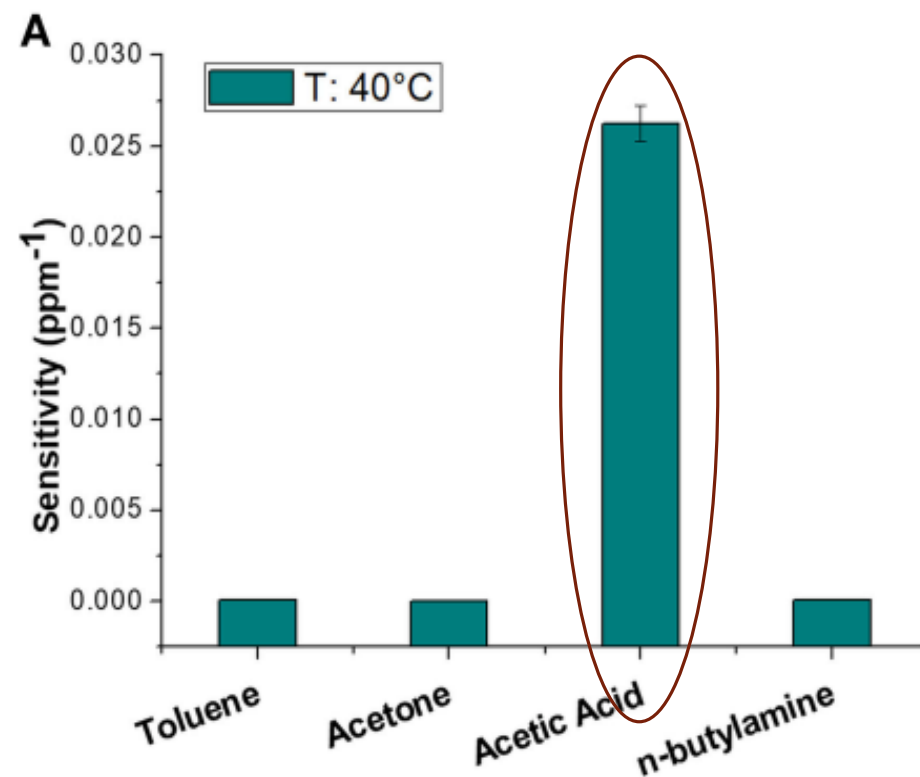




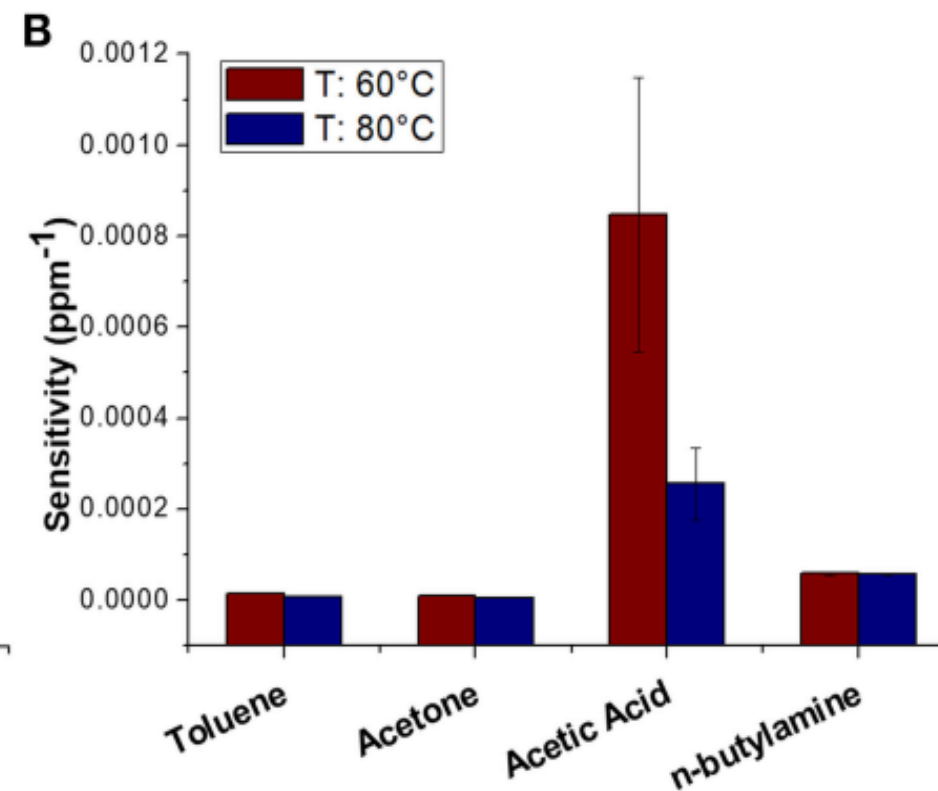
SEM micrographs of H<sub>2</sub>TPP-PsB-MGC (**a**) and PsB-MGC (**b**) and their respective pictures placed under (**c,d**). Diameter distribution graph (**e**) of H<sub>2</sub>TPP-PsB-MGC (purple) (**a**) and PsB-MGC fibers (black) (**b**). (Avossa et al., *Nanomaterials* 2019, 9(2),280)

# SENSOR SELECTIVE TO ACETIC ACID (T:40°C)

## PHB+PS+G



LOD: a few ppb

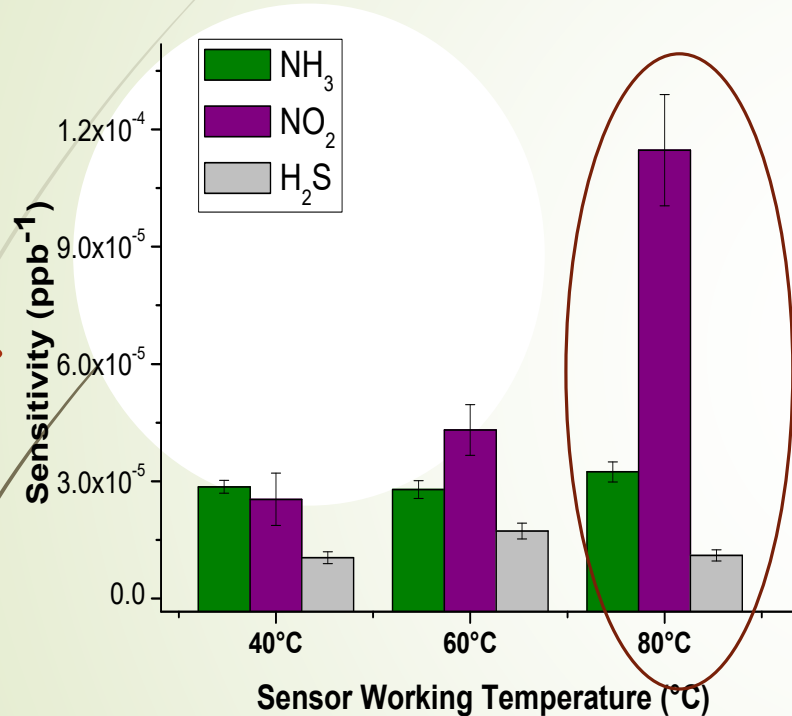


Avossa et al., Front. Chem, 2018, 6, 432



# SENSOR SELECTIVE TO NO<sub>2</sub> (T=80°C)

## PHB+PS+G



**SENSOR SELECTIVE TO NO<sub>2</sub>**

**T=80°C** Sensitivity 4 times higher than at 40°C.

The increase in sensitivity could be due to:

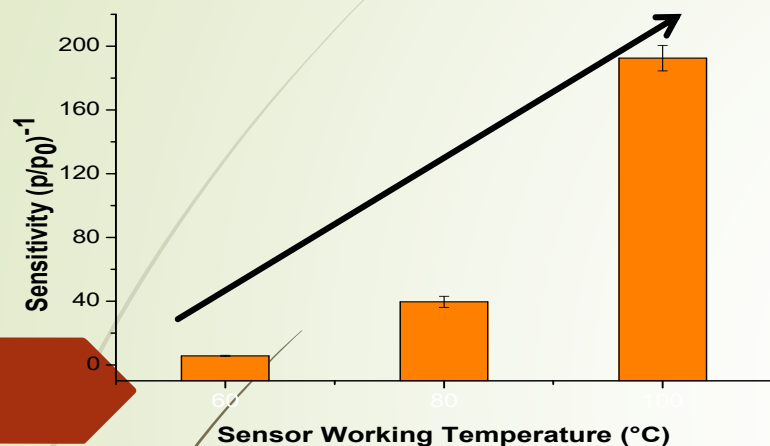
**redistribution and orientation of graphene** within polymer fibers due to the heating, allowing the gas adsorption onto a larger number of exposed binding sites, despite of the unfavorable energies involved in the phenomena of adsorption.

The LOD<sub>80°C</sub> (defined as 3 \* standard deviation of the blank) has been calculated to be ~**2 ppb**.

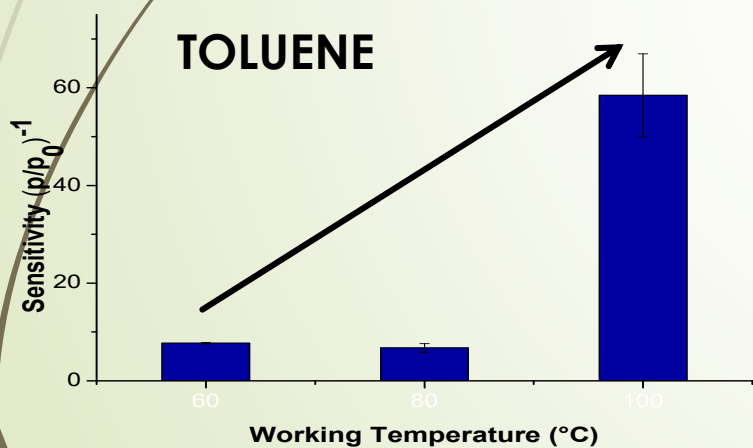
# VOCs measurements COMPARISON

**G+PP+Porf**

**ACETIC ACID**

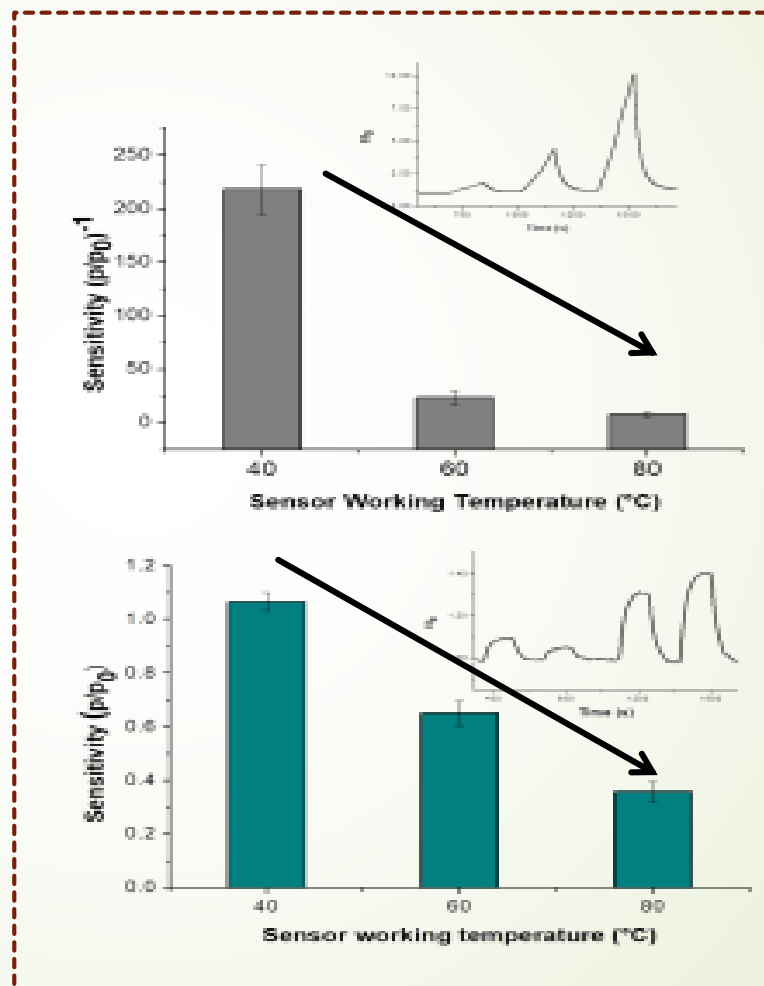


**TOLUENE**



LOD: 3 ppm

**G+PP**



Completely different effects of temperature to VOCs responses:

- ✓ Kinetics
- ✓ Sensitivity values

Temperature looks to favor VOCs interaction when porphyrin is inside fibres



# ...changing the Metal, Porphyrin selectivity and sensitivity change too

## PRELIMINARY CONCLUSIONS for Conductive sensors Based on Polymers, Graphene and Porphyrins

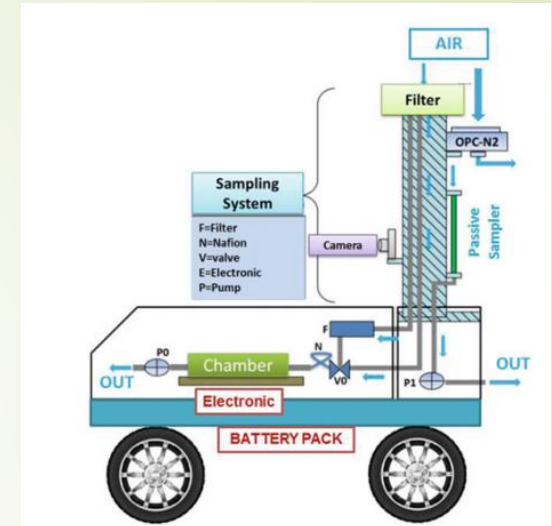
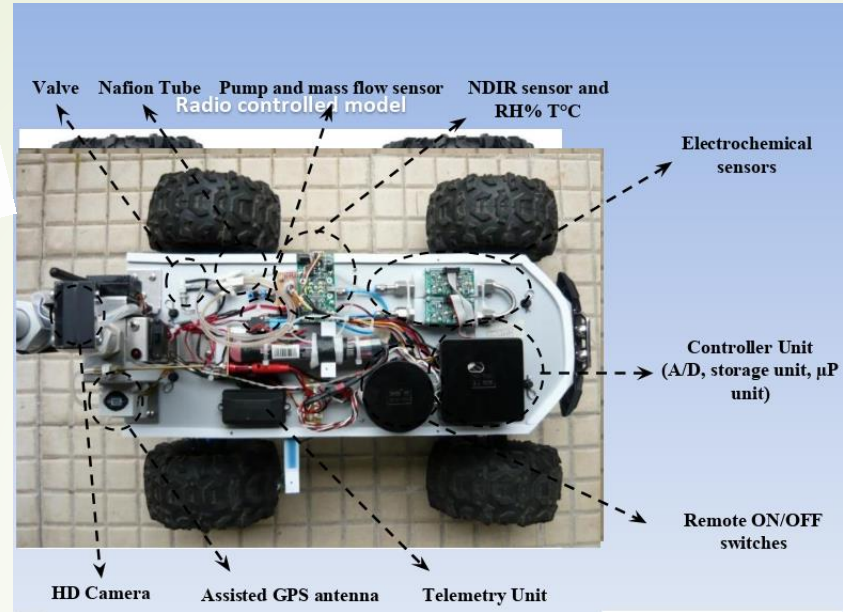
- able to work alone or in array (ENose),
  - no-expensive,
  - with fast responses,
  - easy to be produced in large-scale,
- 
- ultrasensitive to acetic acid and NO<sub>2</sub>
- 
- able to create ultrasensitive sensors with a good selectivity to be applied for multifaceted environments of artworks

# ENOSE outdoor monitoring and mapping

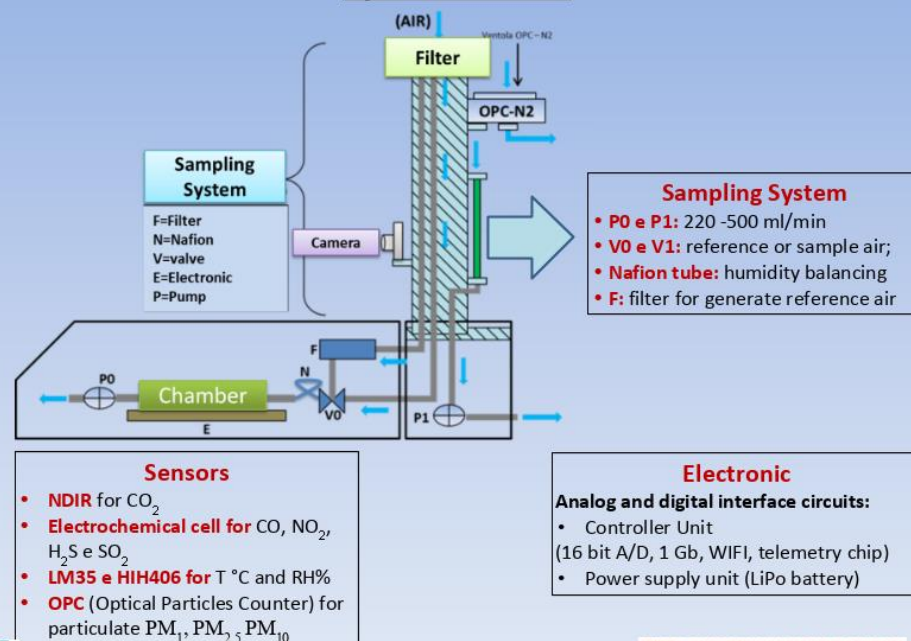
## Remotely Controlled Terrestrial Vehicle Integrated Sensory System for Environmental Monitoring

Emiliano Zampetti<sup>(✉)</sup>, Paolo Papa, Francesco Di Flaviano,  
Lucia Paciucci, Francesco Petracchini, Nicola Pirrone,  
Andrea Bearzotti, and Antonella Macagnano

© Springer International Publishing AG 2018  
B. Andò et al. (eds.), *Sensors*, Lecture Notes in Electrical Engineering 431,  
DOI 10.1007/978-3-319-55077-0\_43



### System sketch:





# CONCLUSIONS and PERSPECTIVES

- Air monitoring is the first step to prevent damages
- Electronic noses or hybrid devices sound as good choices to check the chemicals where cultural heritages have been exposed
- A modular system provides a good versatility to the sensing device improving the application scenarios (indoor, outdoor, microclimate, etc.)
- Further step: measurements in field



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*University of Tor Vergata, Rome*

Work co-funded by a 2-Year National Project, BRIC ID.12 2016 - National Institute for Insurance against Accidents at Work (INAIL), titled: "Design and development of a sensory system for the measurement of volatile compounds and the identification of job-related microorganisms (2017-2019)"

# THANKS TO:





*Natural painting composed of protein aggregates on nanofibres (optical micrograph)*



# THANK YOU

