

# Development of nuclear quality components using metal additive manufacturing

**RadiaBeam Systems, LLC**  
**The University of Texas at El Paso**  
**W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation**



# RadiaBeam Systems – Introduction

- RadiaBeam has two core missions:
  - To manufacture high quality, cost-optimized accelerator systems and components
  - To develop novel accelerator technologies and applications
- Currently > 50 employees and growing & 30,000 sq. ft.
  - Consists of PhD Scientist (10), Engineers (18), Machinists (10), Technicians (8), and Administrative (4)



# W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation - Introduction



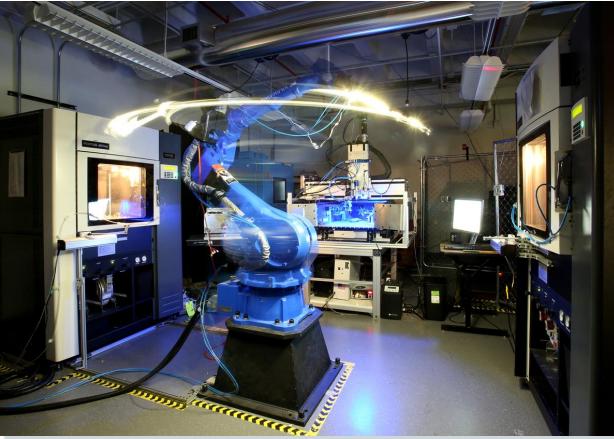
- 13,000 sq. ft. of space with world-class capabilities in additive manufacturing
- Over 50 AM machines (polymers, metals, ceramics, electronics, composites)
- Multi-disciplinary research team with over 50 faculty, staff, and students
- Involved in education, research, outreach, technology development and commercialization and industrial partnership

# Capabilities

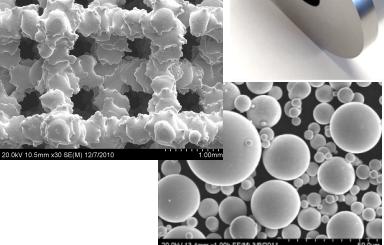


- Design (RF, magnetic, thermal-mechanical)
- Engineering
- Fabrication
- Assembly
- Testing
- Installation
- Service



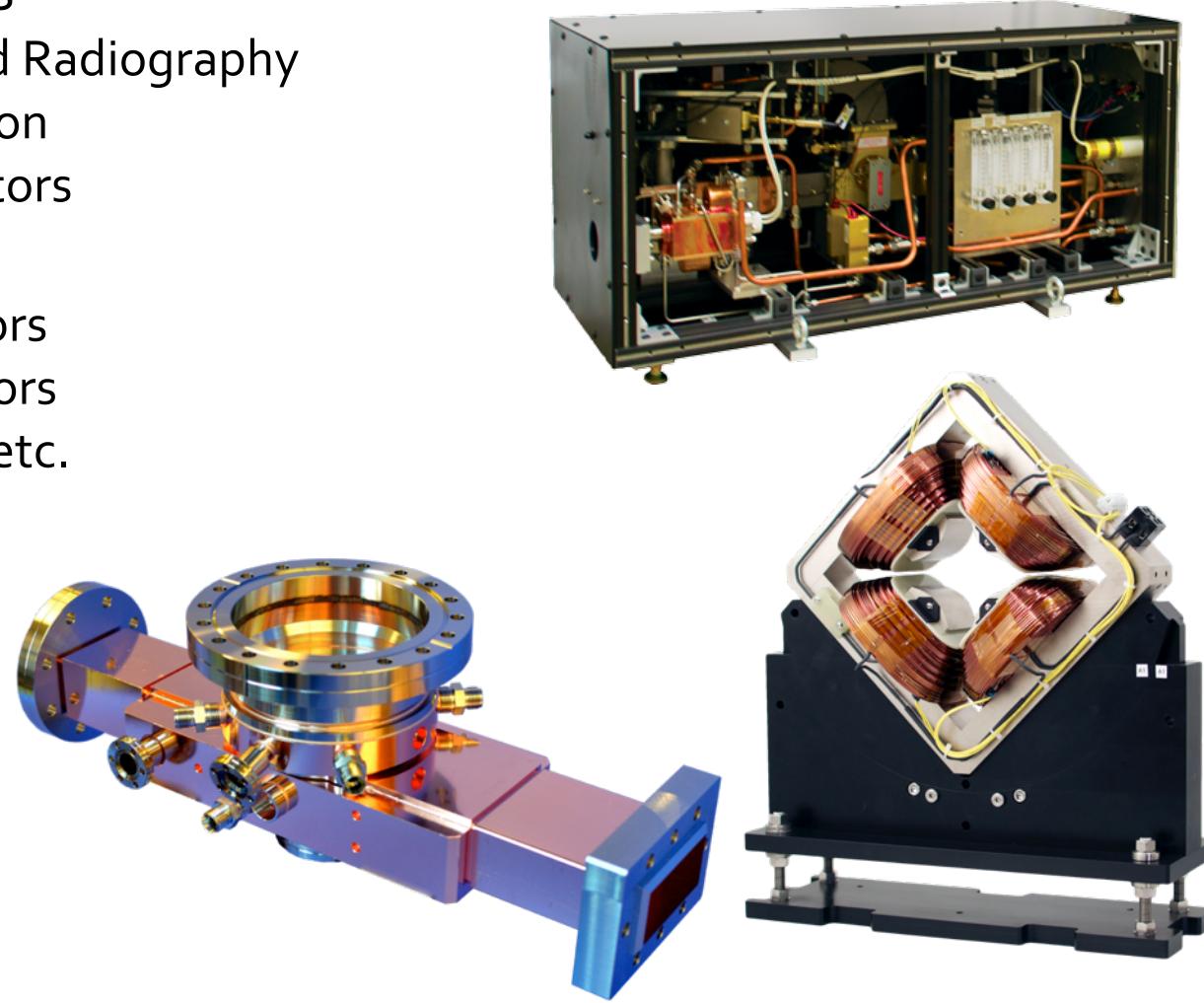
- W.M. KECK CENTER FOR 3D INNOVATION
- Design for additive manufacturing
  - Reverse engineering
  - Mechanical Testing
  - Materials characterization
  - Hybrid manufacturing
  - Materials processing
- 



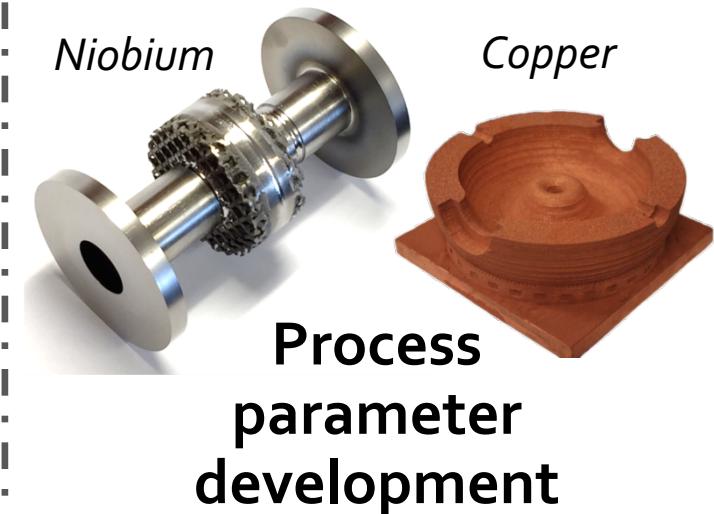
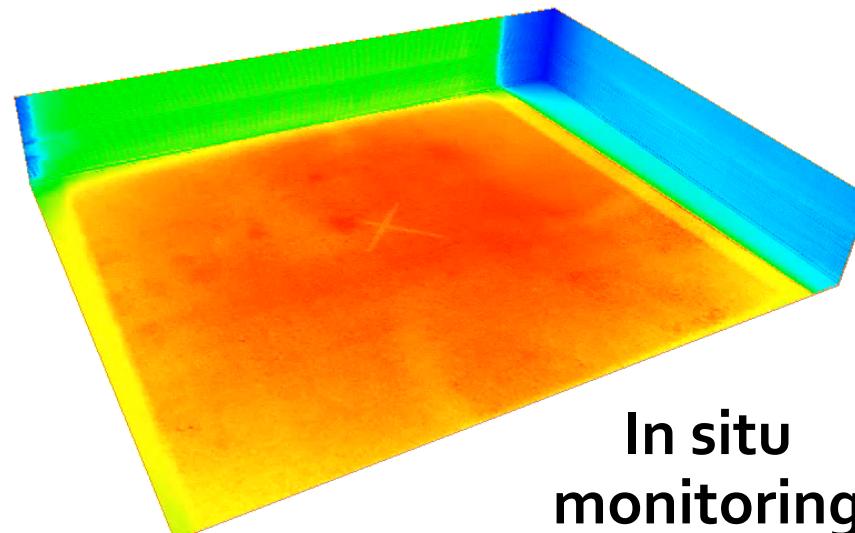
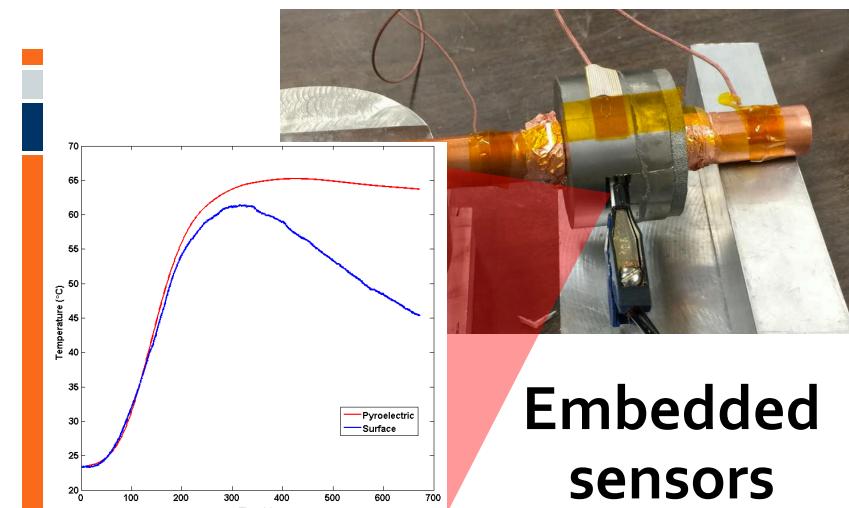
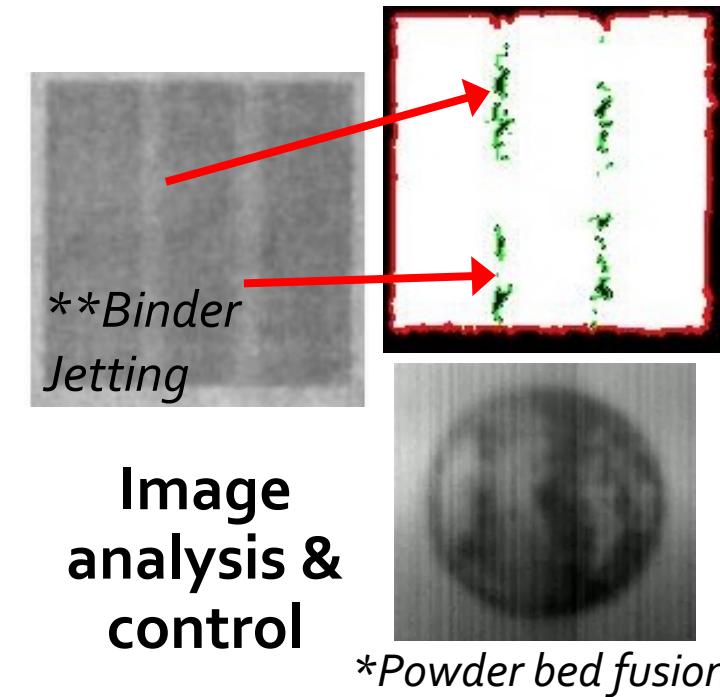
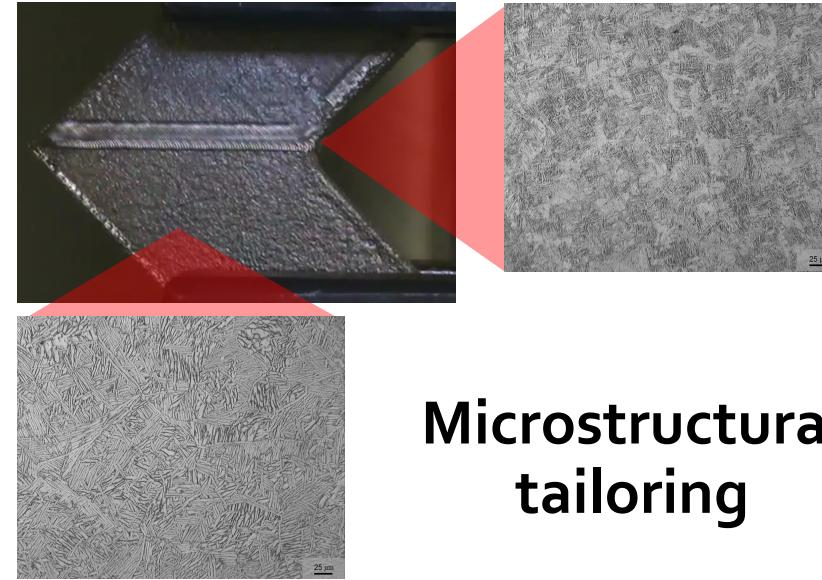
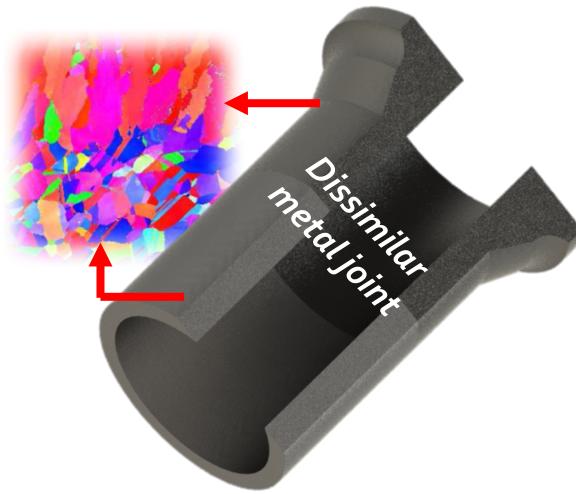


# Products

- Turnkey accelerators
  - Cargo inspection and Radiography
  - High-power Irradiation
  - Self-shielded irradiators
- E-beam diagnostics
  - Beam profile monitors
  - Bunch length monitors
  - Charge, emittance, etc.
- RF structures
  - RF photoinjectors
  - Bunchers
  - Linacs
  - Deflectors
- Magnetic systems
  - Electromagnets
  - Permanent magnets
  - Systems (chicanes, final focus, spectrometers)



# Accomplishment in R&D of metals



# Growing list of customers for RadiaBeam...



# Growing list of small businesses for Keck Center



and continues to grow....

# Facilities



- Machine shops
  - Magnetic measurement lab
  - Optics Lab
  - Clean room
- Hot test cell (up to 9MeV)
  - Chemical processing
  - RF test lab



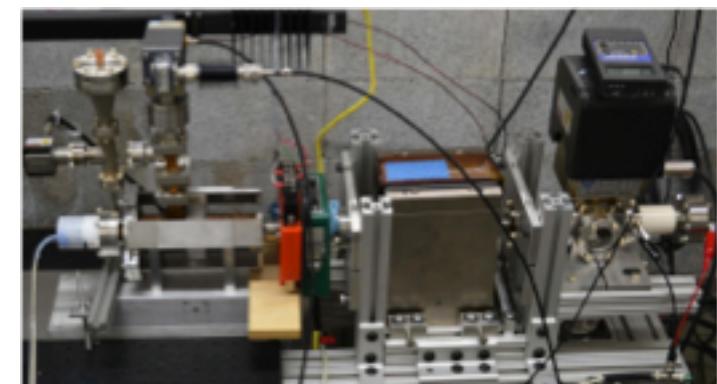
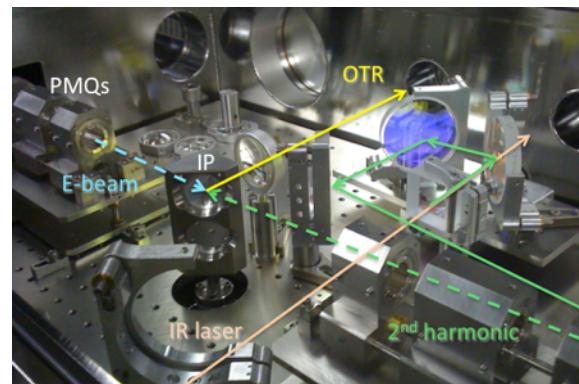
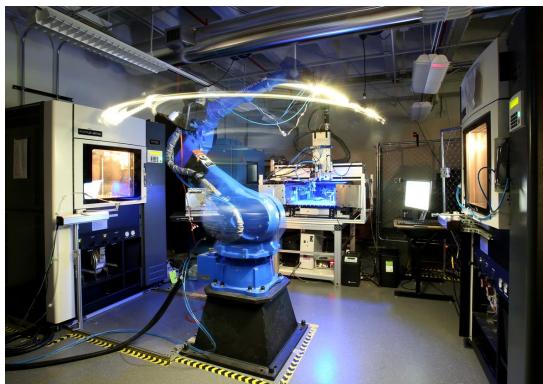
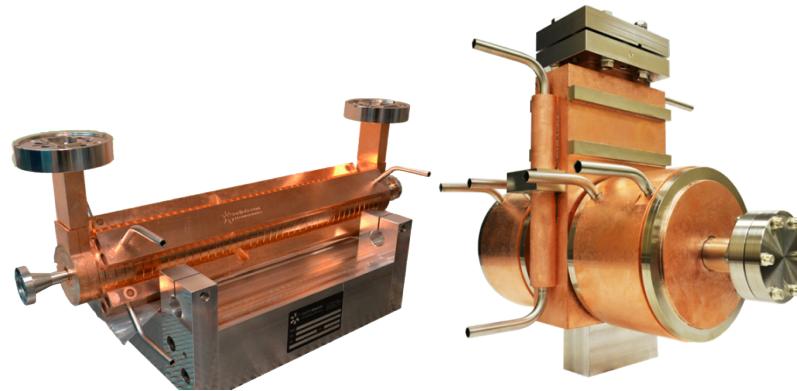
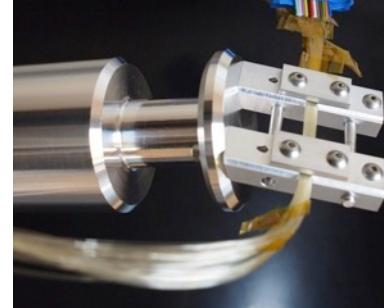
W.M. KECK CENTER FOR 3D INNOVATION

- CNC machining
  - Mechanical testing
  - Materials characterization
- Post-processing (heat treating, finishing)
  - >50 additive manufacturing machines



# Multiple funding agencies

- SBIR/STTR, BAA, commercial funded and self-funded R&D to develop new products and technical solutions



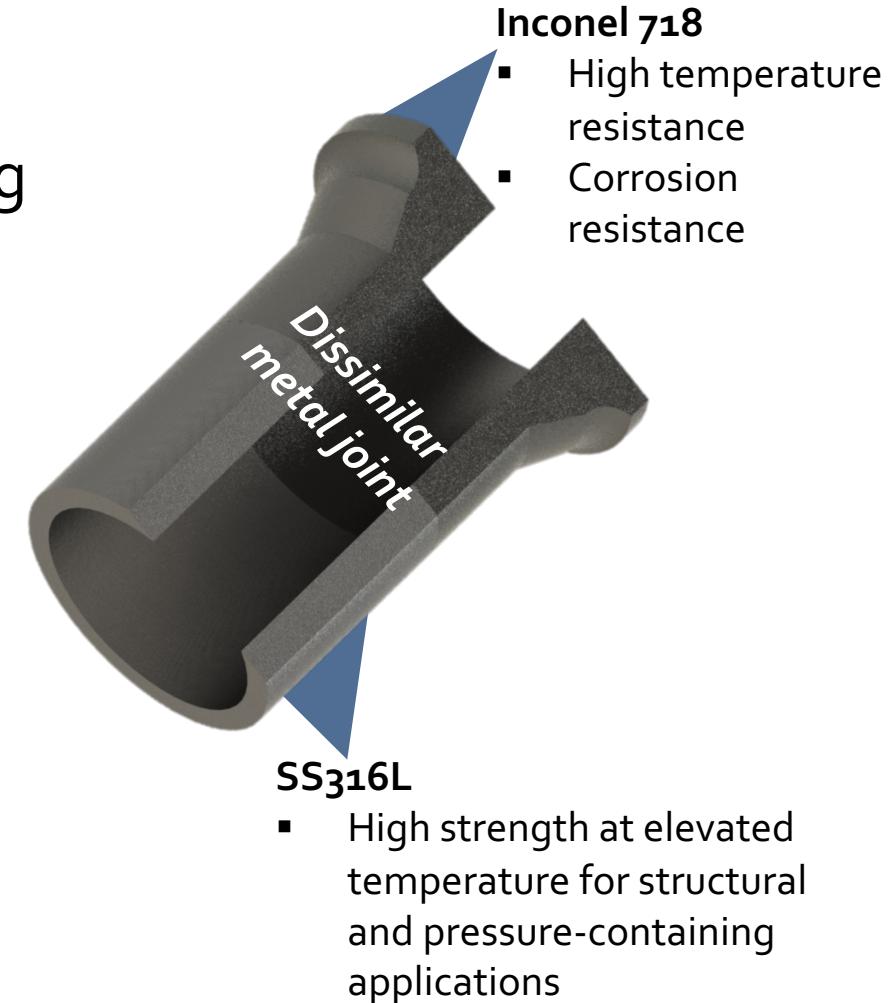
# Project Goals and Relevance to DOE Nuclear Power

## ■ Project Goal

- Phase I – Experimentally demonstrate feasibility of joining dissimilar metals using EBM AM.
- Phase II – Further the fundamental understanding of dissimilar metal joining using EBM AM

## ■ DOE NE Relevance

- Avoids use of filler materials
- Vacuum ( $\sim 10^{-4}$  Torr) limits contamination of oxides and nitrides
- High quality joint while minimizing the thermal damage to surrounding material
- Promise of realizing complex multi-material part



# Joining dissimilar metals – Directed Energy Deposition



- Sciaky's Electron Beam Additive Manufacturing
- Wire feedstock is fed onto a substrate and melted using an electron beam



- Optomec's Laser Engineered Net Shaping
- Powder is directed onto a substrate and melted using a laser beam

# Research Focus: Electron Beam Melting (EBM)

A2



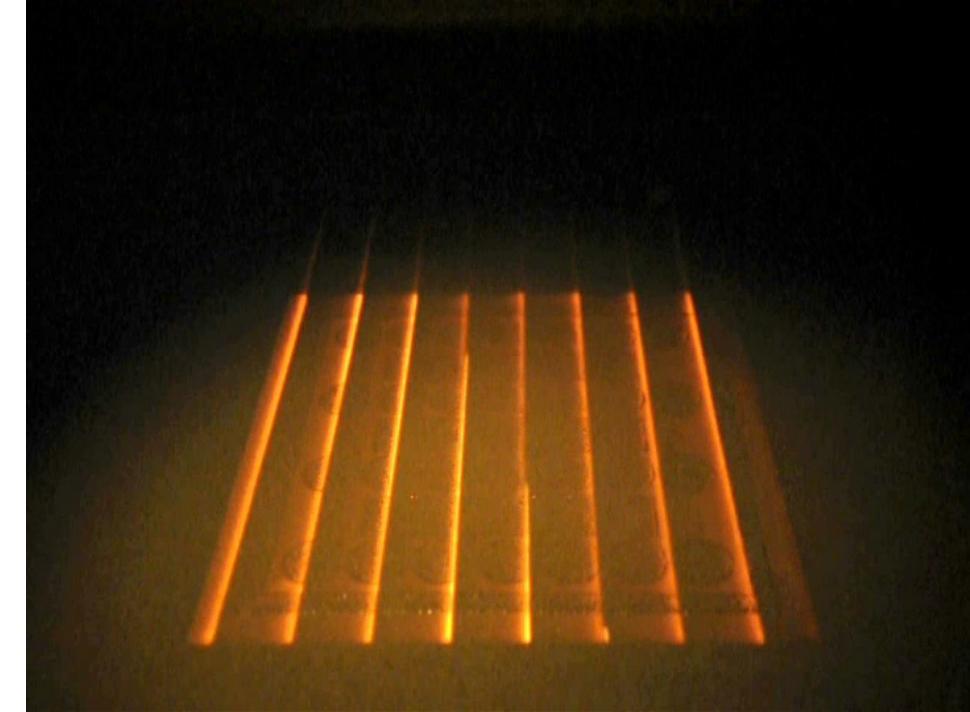
*Two Build Tanks*  
 $200 \times 200 \times 350\text{mm}$   
( $7.8 \times 7.8 \times 13.75$  in.)  
 $\varnothing = 300\text{mm}$ ,  $h = 200\text{mm}$   
( $\varnothing = 11.81$ ,  $h = 7.8$  in.)

S12

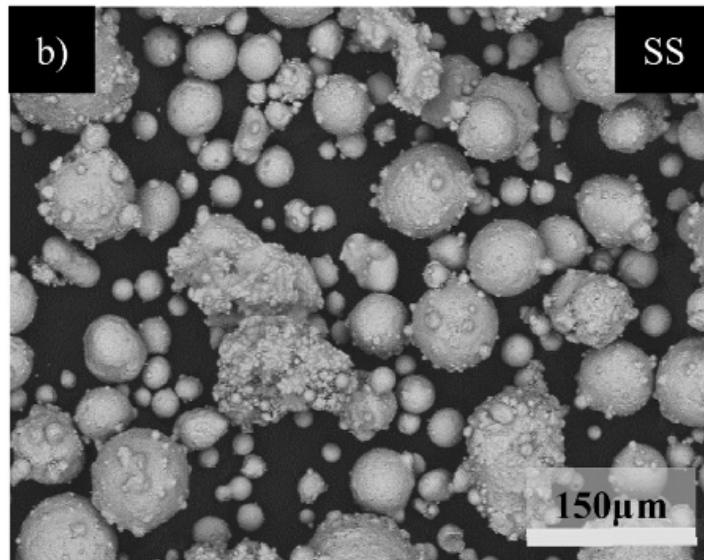
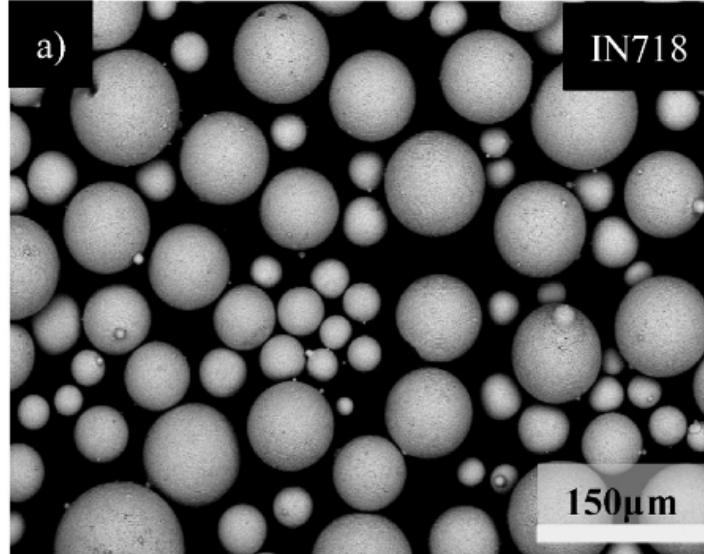
*(modified for high temperatures)*



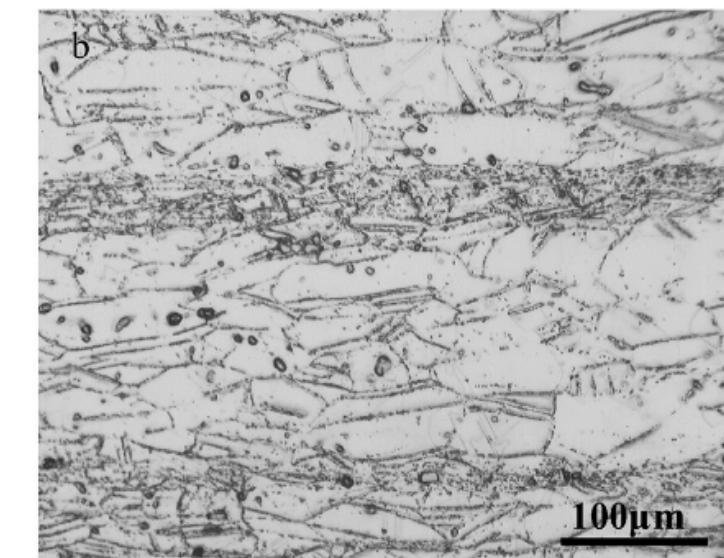
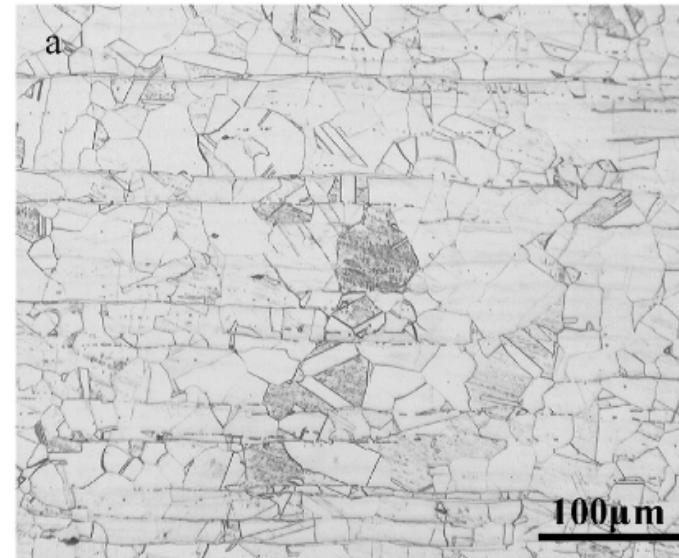
*One Build Tank*  
 $200 \times 200 \times 180\text{mm}$   
( $7.8 \times 7.8 \times 7.0$  in.)



# Joining dissimilar metals using EBM AM technology



- Purchased and characterized wrought and powder precursor material composed of SS316L and IN718
- Goal was to join precursor material onto dissimilar wrought material and characterize joint interface



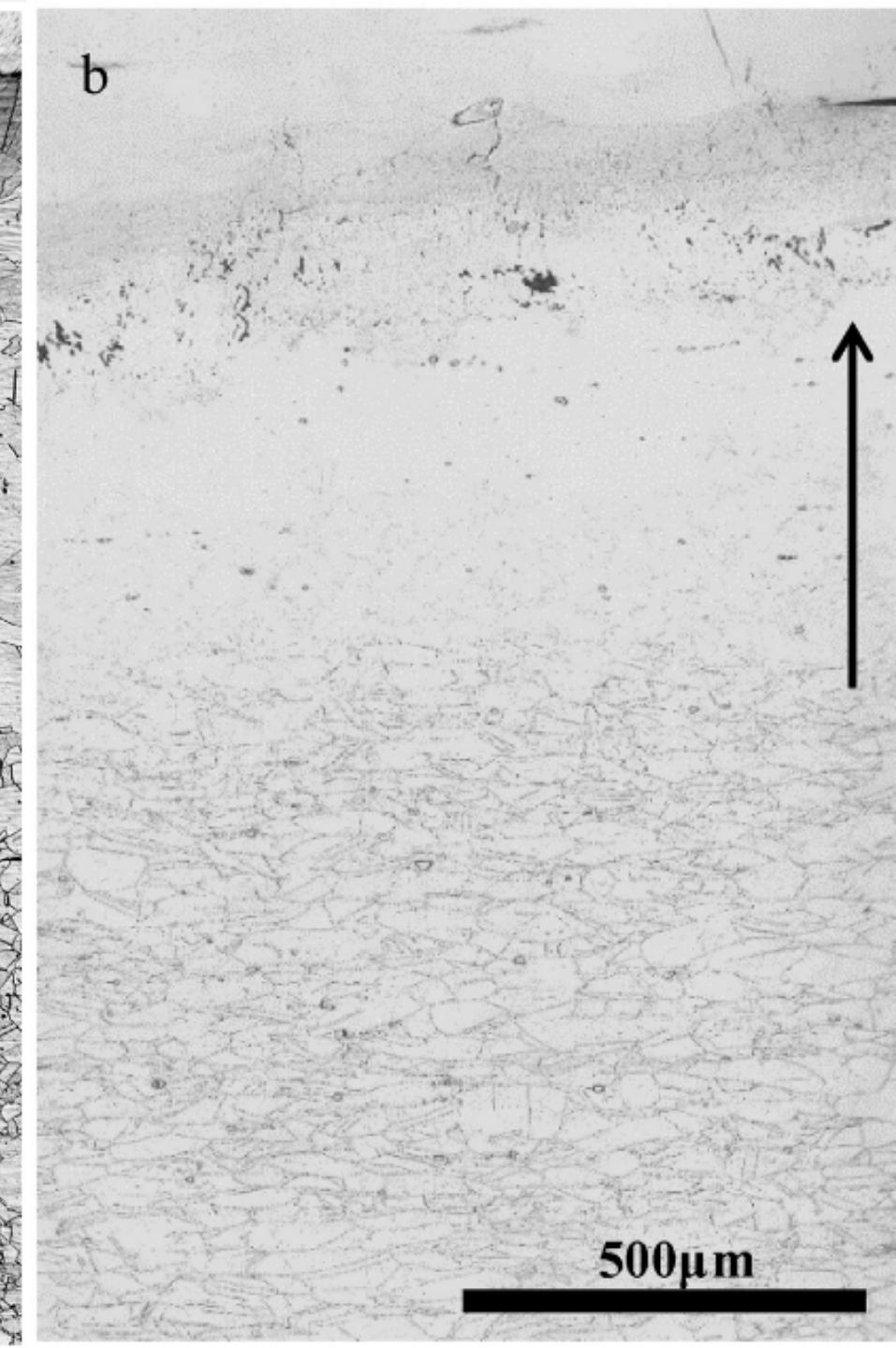
Hinojos, A., Mireles, J., Reichardt, A., Frigola, P., Hosemann, P., Murr, L.E., Wicker, R.B., (2016). *Joining of Inconel 718 and 316 Stainless Steel using electron beam melting additive manufacturing technology*. Materials and Design 94, 17-27.

# HAZ

- HAZ of SS316L had an average penetration depth of  $2.61 \pm 0.4\text{ mm}$  and  $443 \pm 56\mu\text{m}$  for IN718 substrate
  - Features are smaller in comparison to classic joining techniques such as GTAW

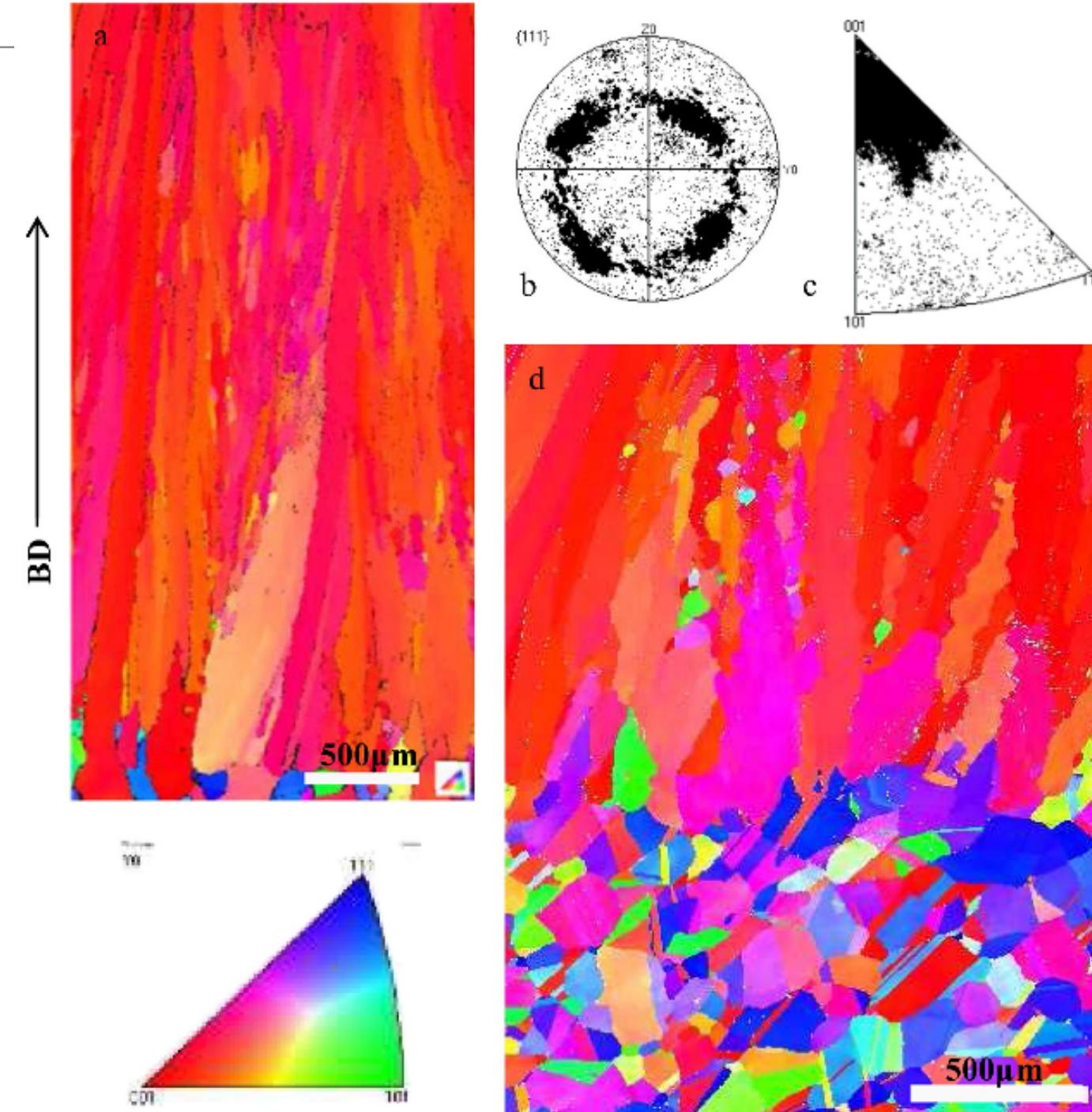


b



# EBSD

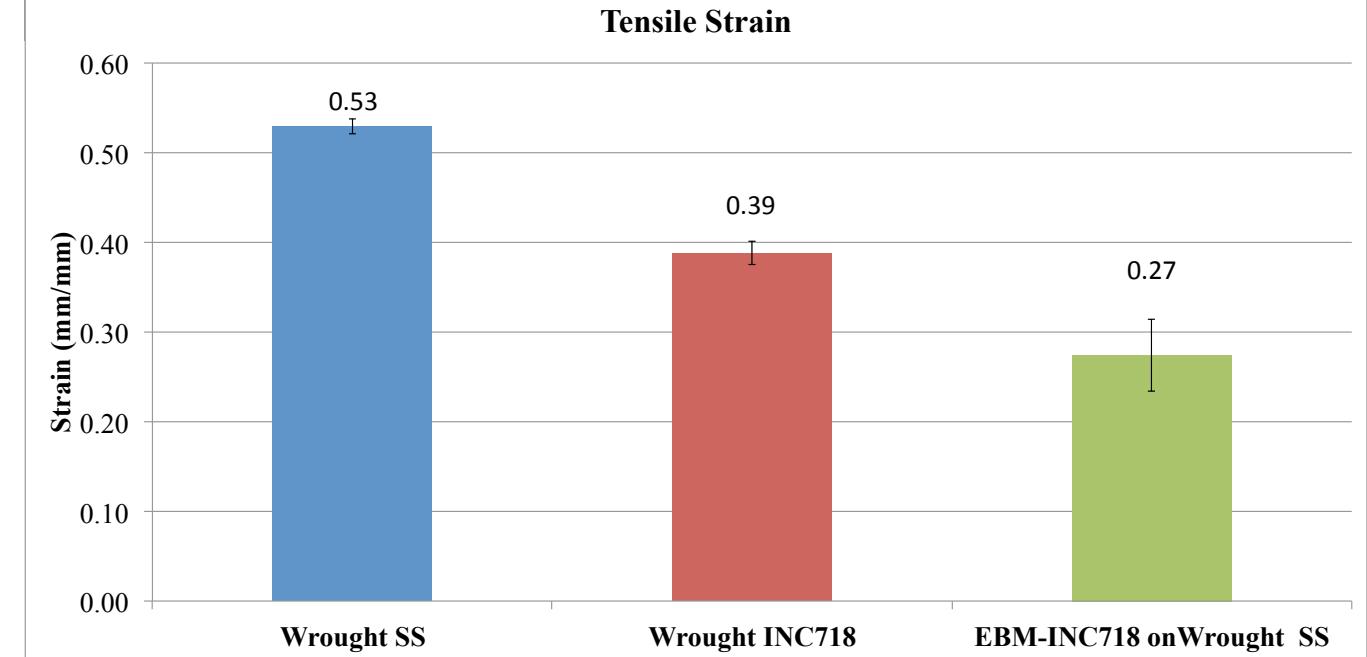
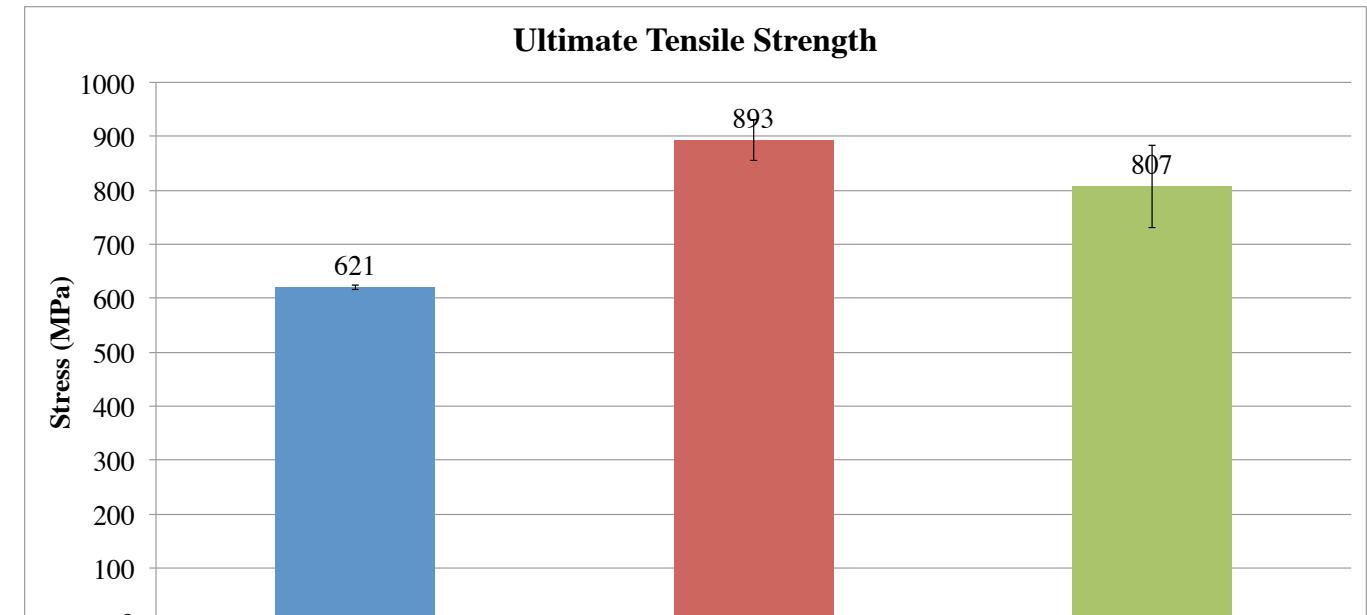
- Pole figures shown right of IN718 on SS316L
- Fabrication shows large columnar grains and strong texturing in the  $001$  direction
- Figure on right depicts joint interface where fabricated material grows from substrate grains



# Phase 1 - Project summary

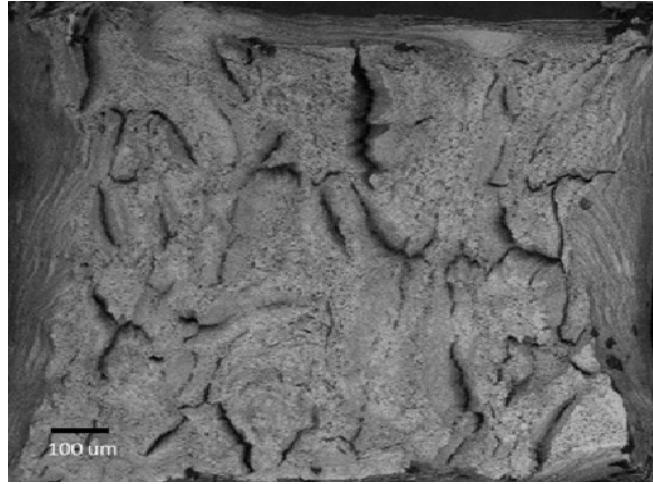
- Research explored the feasibility of joining Inconel 718 and 316L SS using EBM AM.
- Simple geometries suitable for material testing were fabricated (Inconel 718 on 316L and 316L on Inconel 718) using Arcam EBM, and the joints characterized
- Material testing showed reduced presence of precipitates and narrower HAZ when compared to traditional welding processes
- Change in mechanical properties in the HAZ and the substrate were not greatly affected
- A. Hinojos et. al., *Joining of Inconel 718 and 316L Stainless Steel using powder bed fusion additive manufacturing technology*, Materials and Design, 2016

# Mechanical Properties

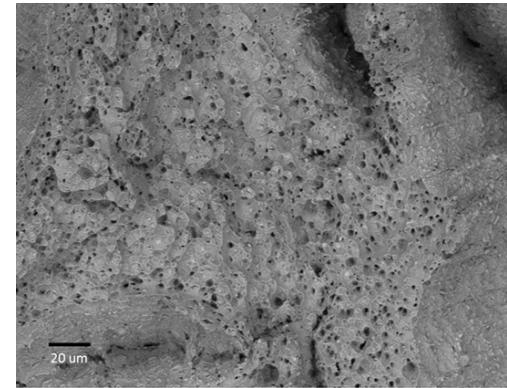


# Fracture of EBM-fabricated IN718 on wrought SS316L

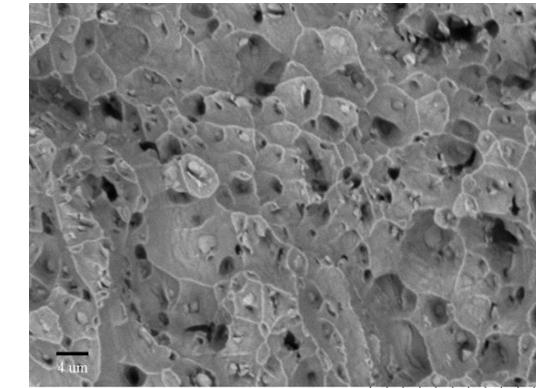
TOP Sample 1



x1000



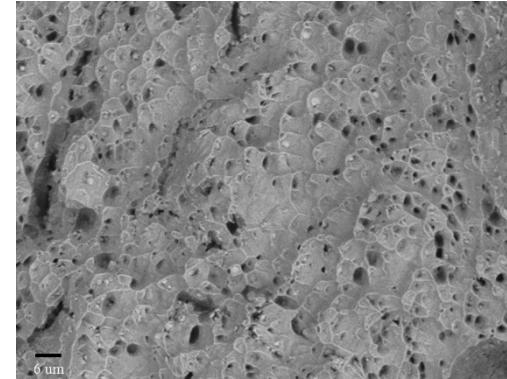
x4000



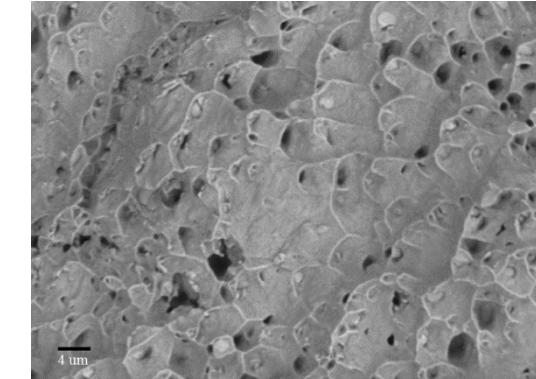
BOTTOM Sample 1



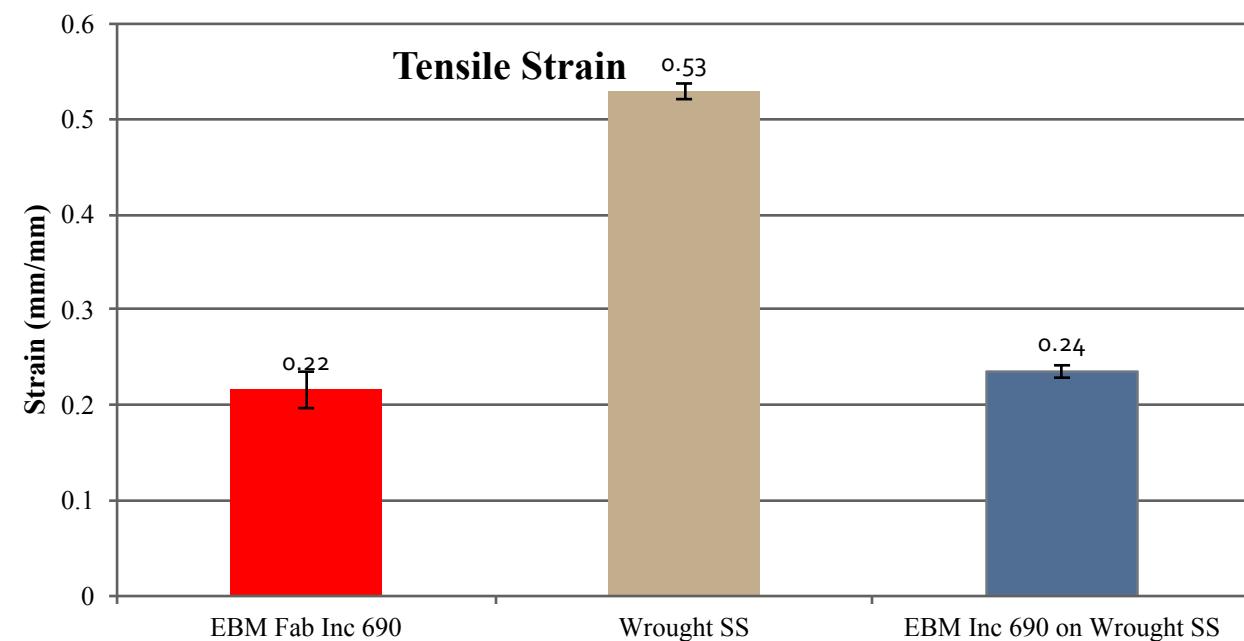
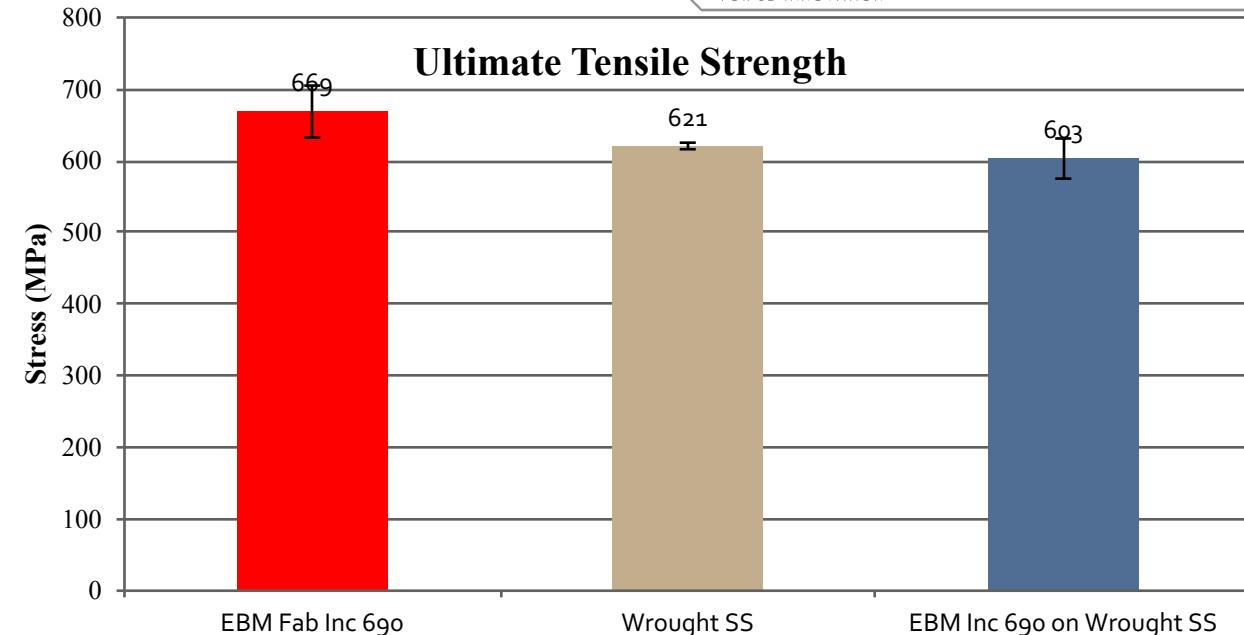
x2000



x4000

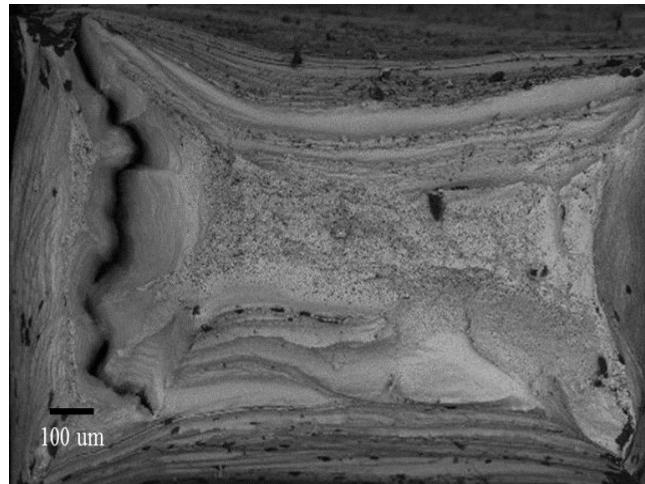


# EBM-fabricated Inconel 690 on Wrought SS316L



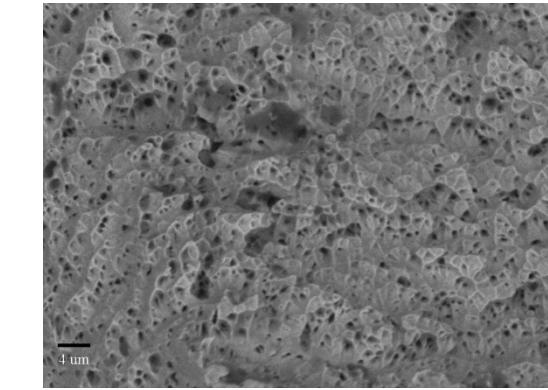
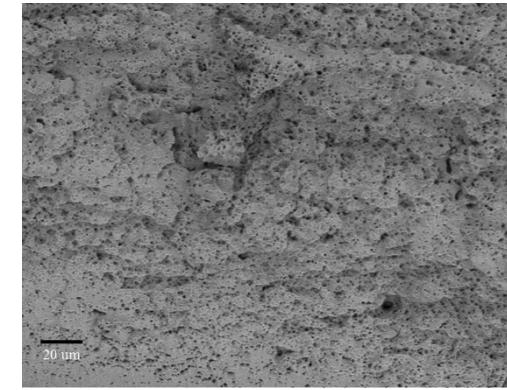
# Fracture of EBM-fabricated IN690 on SS316L

TOP Sample 3

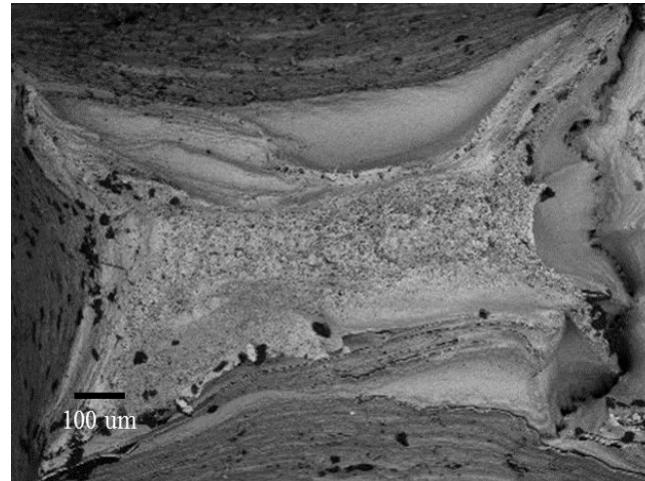


x1000

x4000

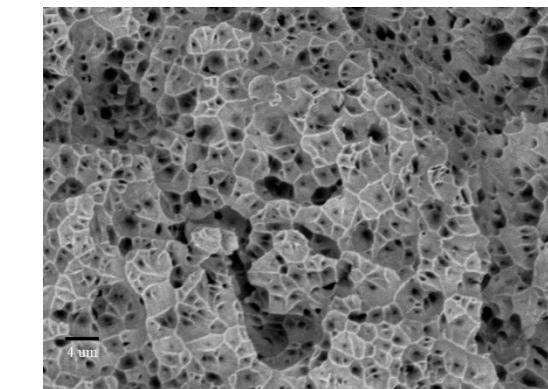
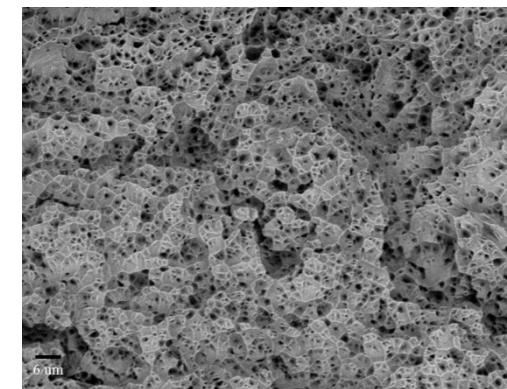


BOTTOM Sample 3



x2000

x4000

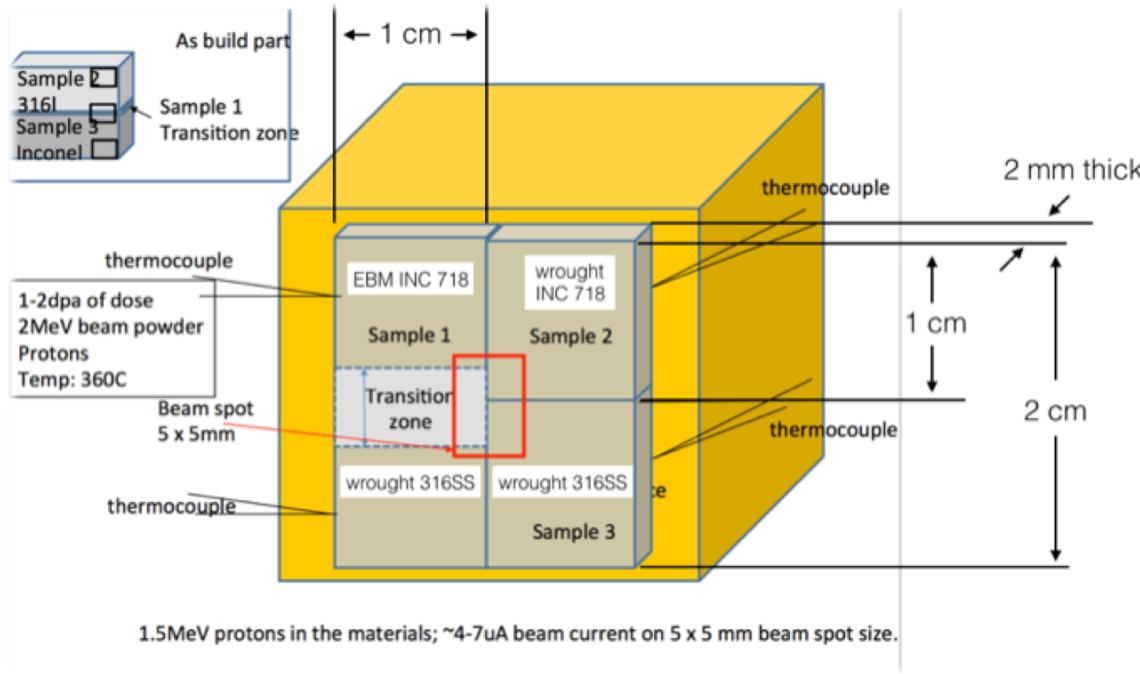


# Phase II – Update summary

- Phase II goal: Further the fundamental understanding of dissimilar metal joining using EBM AM
  - Detailed materials testing
  - Introduce simulations to guide material choice in joint design and extend EBM processing to ferritic alloys
  - Extend material testing to nuclear reactor environmental conditions (high temperature, pressure, radiation)

# Current research objective

- Continue mechanical testing and materials characterization
- Execute plan for irradiation studies



# Acknowledgements

Thank you to DOE Nuclear Energy for supporting the work presented here (STTR DE-SC0011826)

## STTR Collaborators:

- Alejandro Hinojos, Jorge Mireles, Sara M. Gaytan, Lawrence E. Murr, Ryan B. Wicker, W.M. Keck Center for 3D Innovation at the University of Texas at El Paso
- Ashley Reichardt, Peter Hosemann, Department of Nuclear Engineering at the University of California Berkeley
- Stuart Maloy, Ion Beam Materials Laboratory at Los Alamos National Laboratory

# QUESTIONS/COMMENTS



**radiabeam**  
SYSTEMS

