

## Silica fibrous material for sorption, separation, catalytic and battery applications

### Development status

#### Phase 3

**Technology validation and implementing it in real environment.** Testing the technology outside of the laboratory and its adjustment to external conditions.

### IP protection status

CZ patent granted

### Partnering strategy

Co-development, licensing

### Institution



UNIVERSITY  
OF PARDUBICE

University of Pardubice

### Challenge

Silica ( $\text{SiO}_2$ ) fibrous material is a special functional material with unique properties represented by amorphous fiber structure. These silica fibers can adsorb significantly more water than commercially available silicagel of the same mesoporous character. This feature is especially apparent in the range of medium relative humidity (30-70 % RH), which is industrially the most important range for adsorption (in electronics, food, chemical industries, and numerous others). Owing to its porosity the fibrous sorbent can be desorbed for its next use at significantly lower temperature (at least  $20^\circ\text{C}$  lower), which has positive effect on the cost figure of the process. High specific surface area and mesoporosity are the main advantages and make the material especially suitable for sorption and catalytic applications. The material can be used as an adsorbent, catalytic carrier, battery electrolyte etc.

### Description

Silica fibrous material is a special functional material with unique properties represented by amorphous fiber structure. This very fine material is produced by Centrifugal Spinning technology which enables to produce fibers with diameters between 800-1200 nm. Fibers can be delivered in different modifications, either as COTTON or POWDER (after milling that leads to fiber shortening to several microns) and can be produced in large volumes with easy and fast upscaling capacity. The  $\text{SiO}_2$  fibers have a great chemical and thermal resistance, tremendous surface to volume ratio ( $800\text{m}^2/1\text{ gram}$ ) and show mesoporous characteristics. All these parameters make the fibers excellent sorbents e.g. for absorbing undesired air moisture which is an important process in many industries (electrical engineering, food processing, chemistry). At the same time, it is possible to easily and effectively desorb them and use them repeatedly. In addition, the material can adsorb various VOCs, heavy metals and other compounds. This material has already found uses in catalytic applications, as a highly resistant battery separator or as a special

chemically and thermally resistant filtration material.

## Commercial opportunity

We offer a license to produce the presented materials and we look for a cooperation in the development of specific applications for use of the material.