



# Fate and behaviour of nanomaterials in incineration processes

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Federal Ministry  
of Education  
and Research

# Outline

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- Introduction
- Project NanoEmission
- Basic research
- Measurement campaign in WtE plant Weisweiler
  - Methods
  - Results
- Conclusions

# Introduction

# Definition

Ag



Quantum Dots



TiO<sub>2</sub>

CNT



**Nanomaterial:** „A natural, incidental or manufactured material containing particles, in an **unbound state** or as an **aggregate or as an agglomerate** and where, for 50 % or more of the particles in the number size distribution, one or more external dimensions is in the size range **1 nm - 100 nm**. ...”[1]



BaSO<sub>4</sub>



ZnO

CeO<sub>2</sub>

Source: Recommendation on the definition of a nanomaterial (2011/696/EU), 18.10.2011 (updated on 08.06.2016)  
[http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/nanotech/faq/definition\\_en.htm#top-page](http://ec.europa.eu/environment/chemicals/nanotech/faq/definition_en.htm#top-page)

# Project NanoEmission

# Approach

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Extension of the knowledge in the field of emission behavior of nanoparticles in waste incineration process:



Characterization of the emission behaviour of nanoparticles during combustion



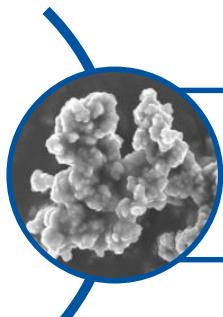
Evaluation and optimization of filter media with focus on reduction of nanoparticles in exhaust gases



Human- and ecotoxicological assessment of nanoparticle fractions found in exhaust gases

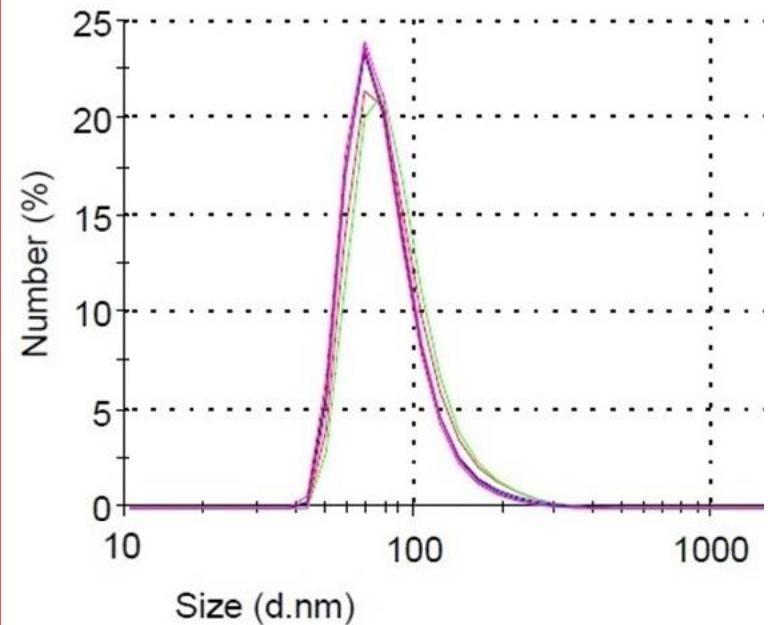
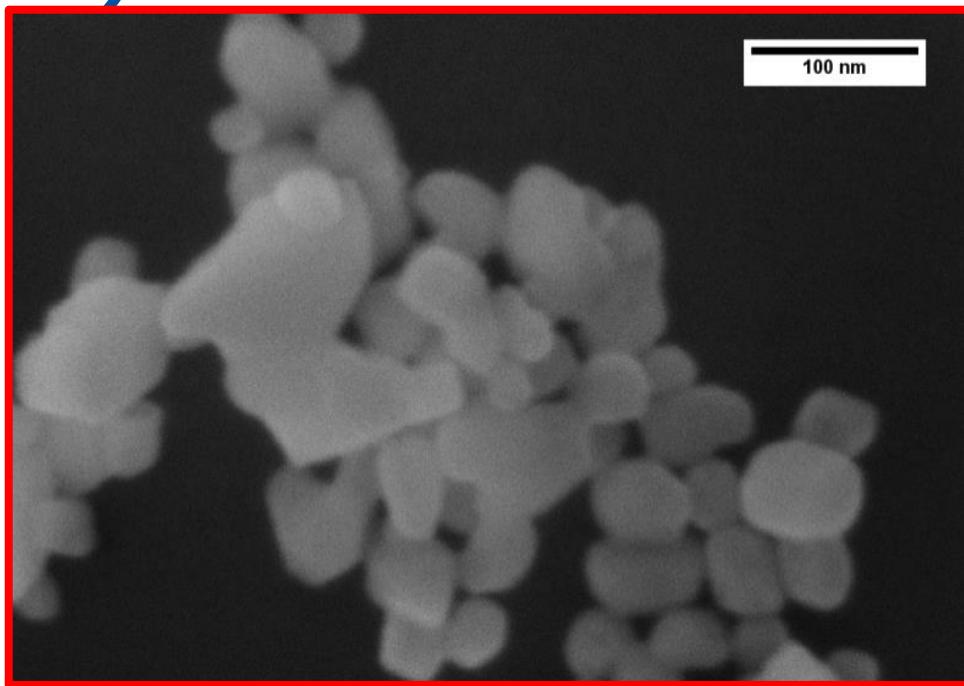
# Basic research

# Project-specific nanomaterial



## Barium sulfate

The primary particle size: ~40 nm;  
Particle size distribution:  $d_{50} = \sim 100$  nm



Source: LFG Erlangen, MLU Halle

Fig. 2: SEM picture of BaSO<sub>4</sub> agglomerates and particle size distribution by number in aqueous suspension (0,7% Ecodis P-30) (DLS)

# Sintering behaviour of BaSO<sub>4</sub>

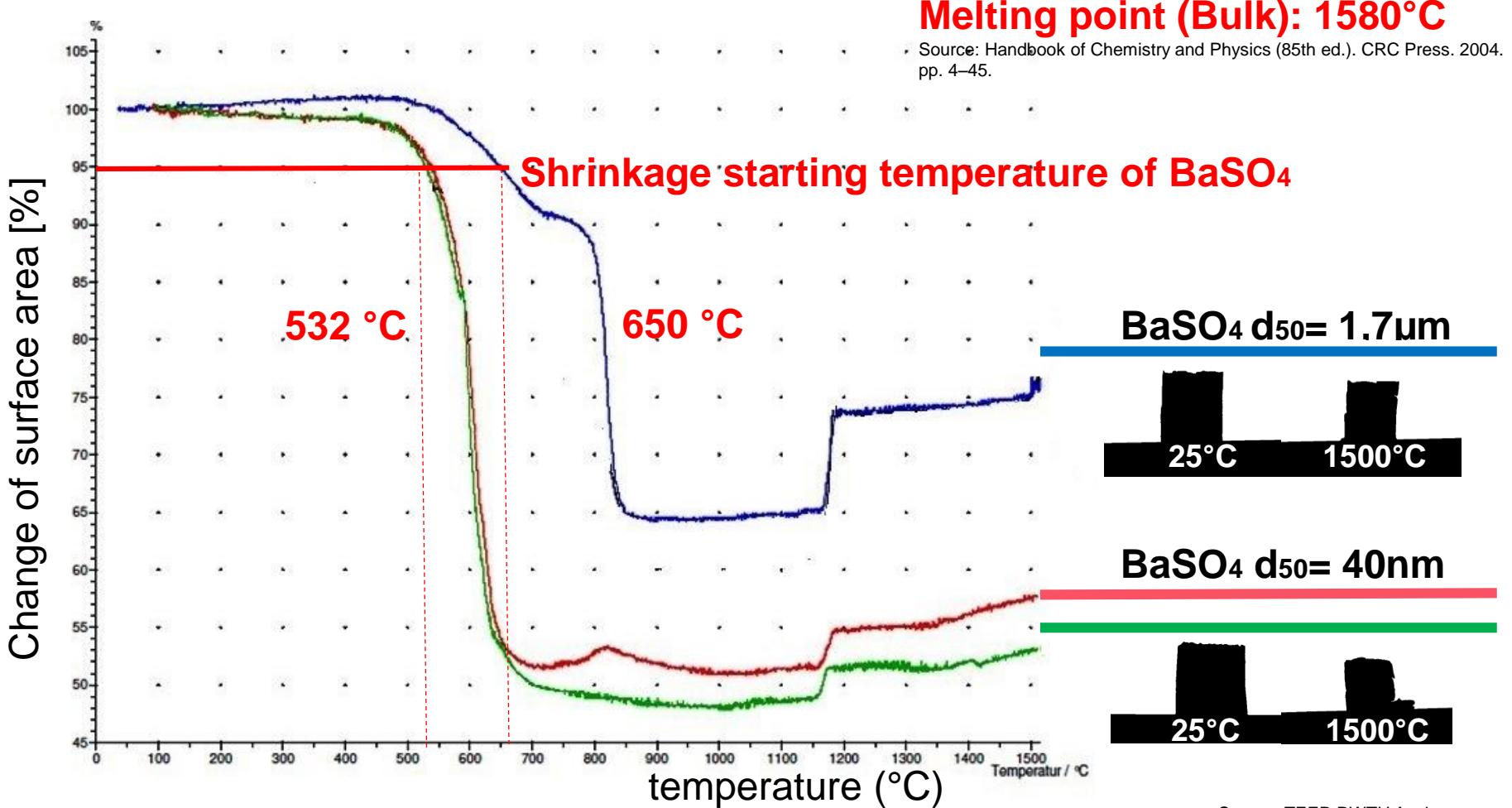


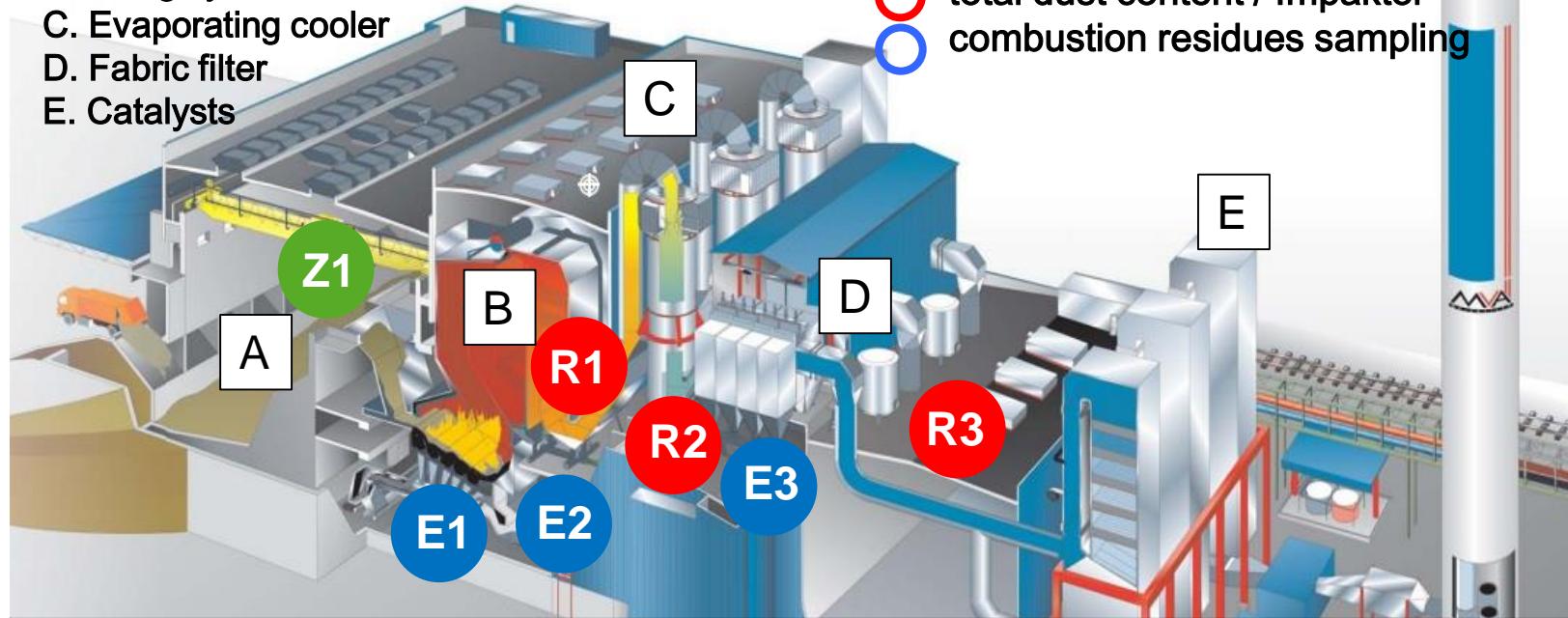
Fig.3 Change of the test samples' surface area during heating in the presence of air (heating microscope)

# Measurement campaign in WtE plant Weisweiler (Germany) (16-20.11.2015)

# Experiments in waste incineration plant Weisweiler

- A. Waste bunker
- B. Firing system
- C. Evaporating cooler
- D. Fabric filter
- E. Catalysts

- BaSO<sub>4</sub> dosing system
- total dust content / Impaktor
- combustion residues sampling



## Measurement points

R1. after boiler	E1. Bottom ash discharger
R2. after evaporating cooler	E2. Boiler ash discharger
R3. after fabric filter	E3. Residue from fabric filter

# Methods

## Z1: Addition of nanomaterial



Fig.4: Production and dosing of nanosuspension

# E1-3: Sampling points for combustion residues

E1: Bottom ash



E2: Boiler ash



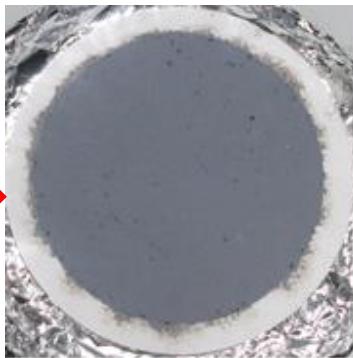
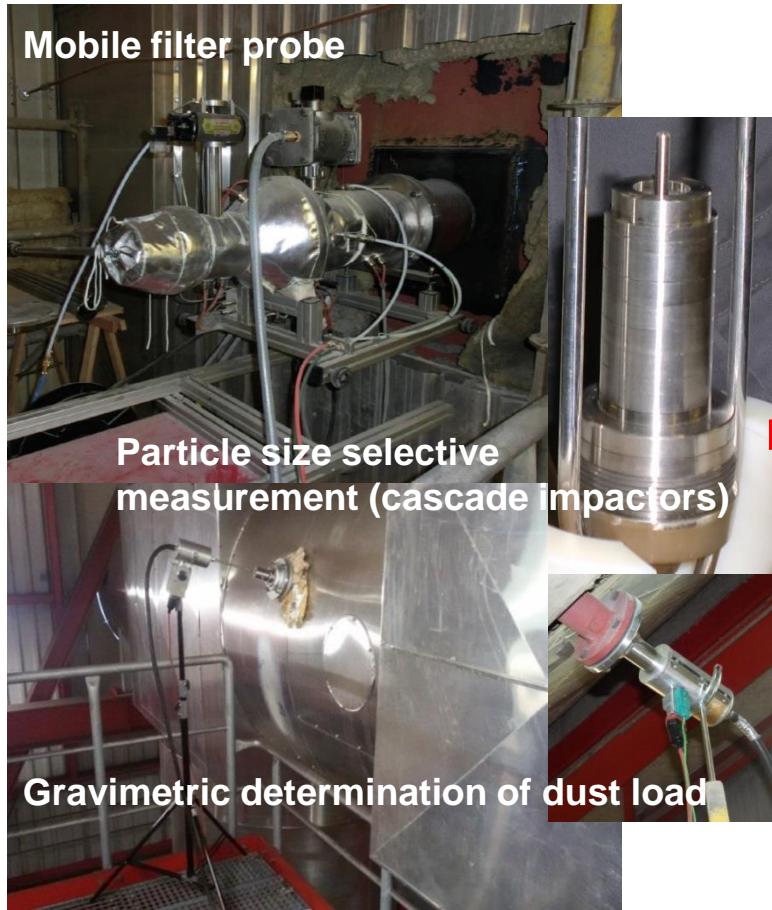
E3: Residue from fabric filter



Fig.5: Sampling und preparation of combustion and filtration residues conducted according to DIN 22022 and DIN 51701

Determination of Ba concentration → ICP-MS Analysis

## R1-3: Dust measurement techniques

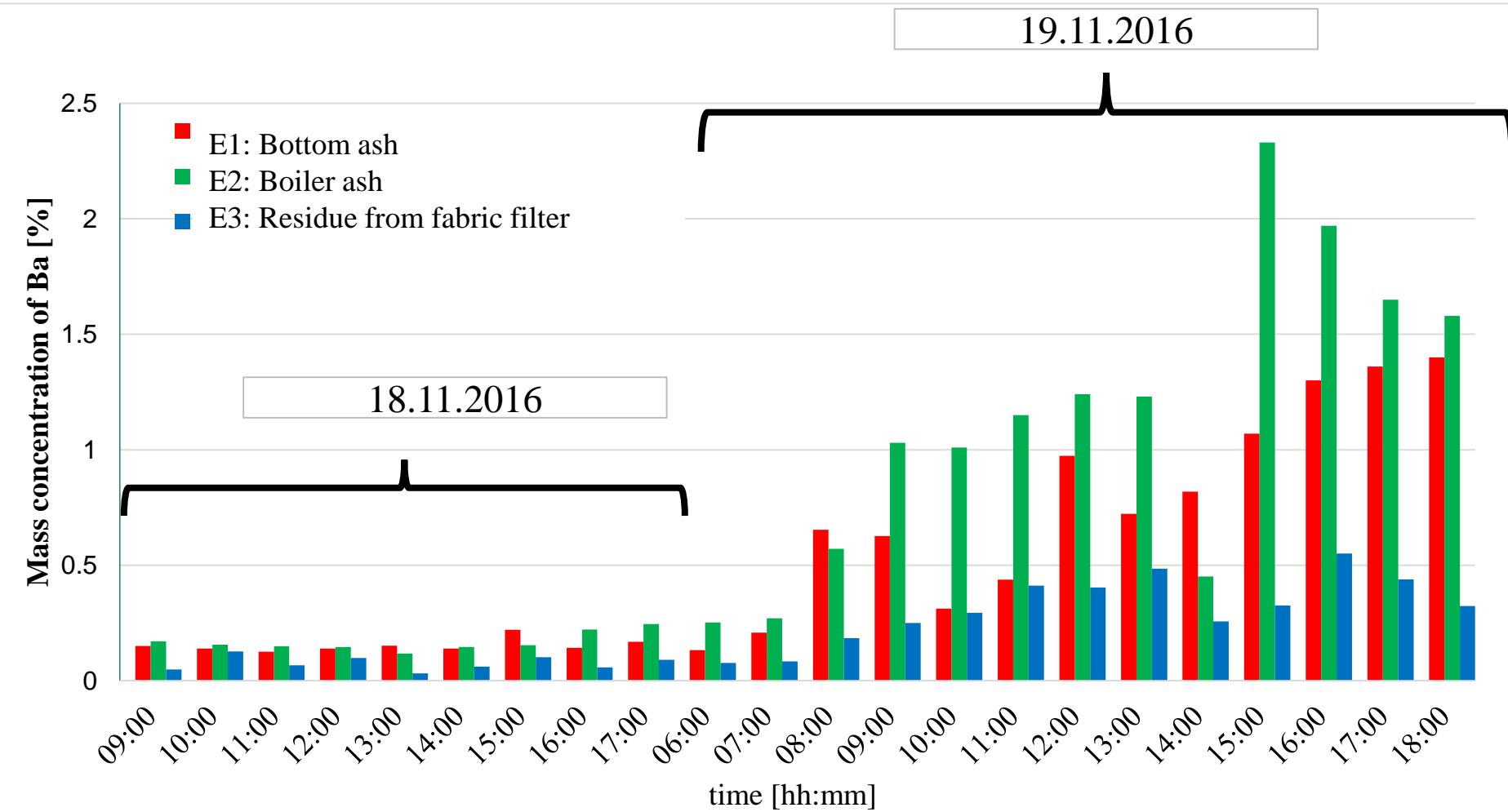


- Determination of Ba concentration → ICP-MS Analysis
- Determination of dioxin and heavy metals content
- toxicological examinations

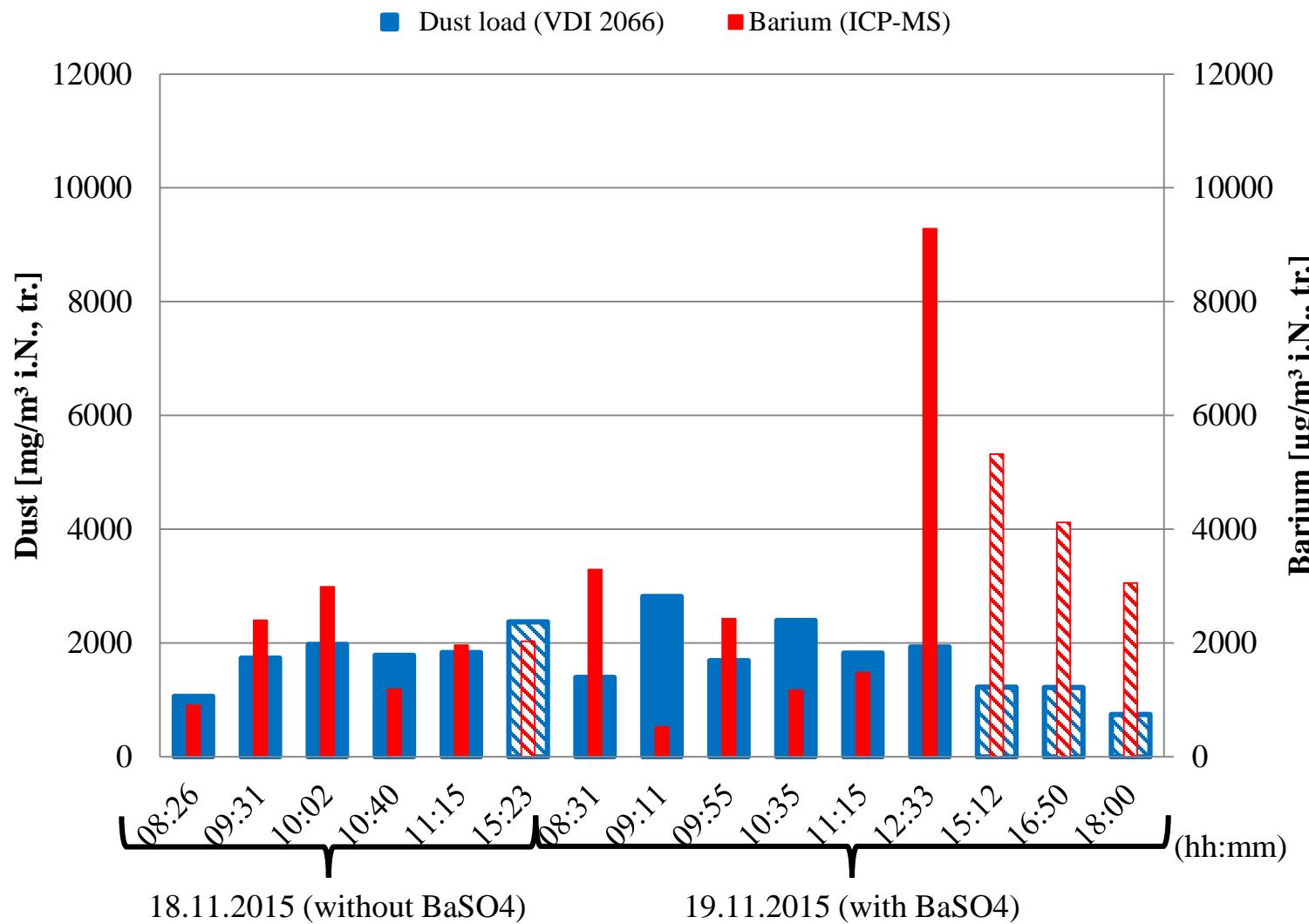
Fig.6: Devices for the dust measurement (left), principle of particle impaction (right, above) and precipitator with collected dust (right, below).

# Results

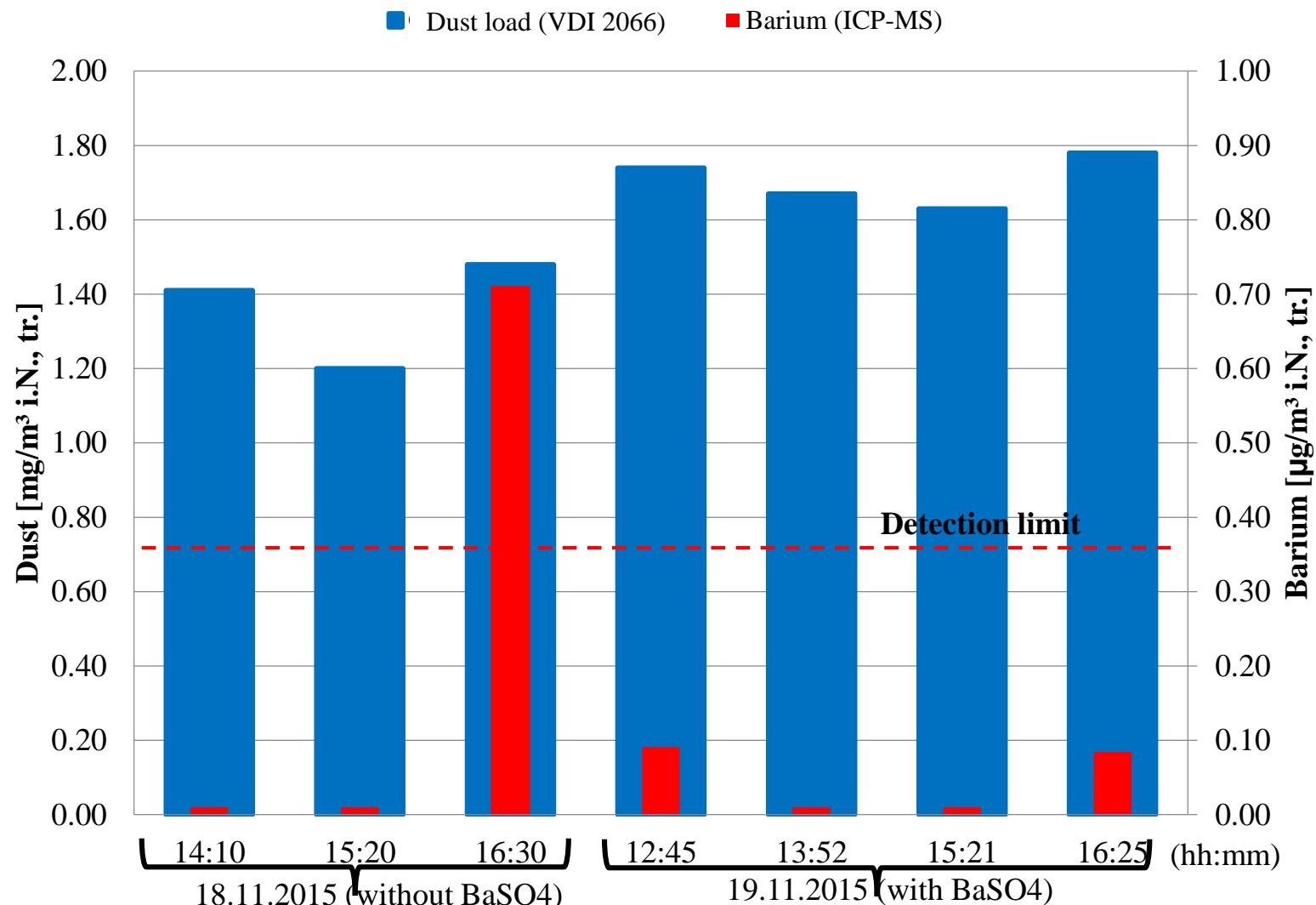
## E1-3: Mass concentration of Ba in combustion residues



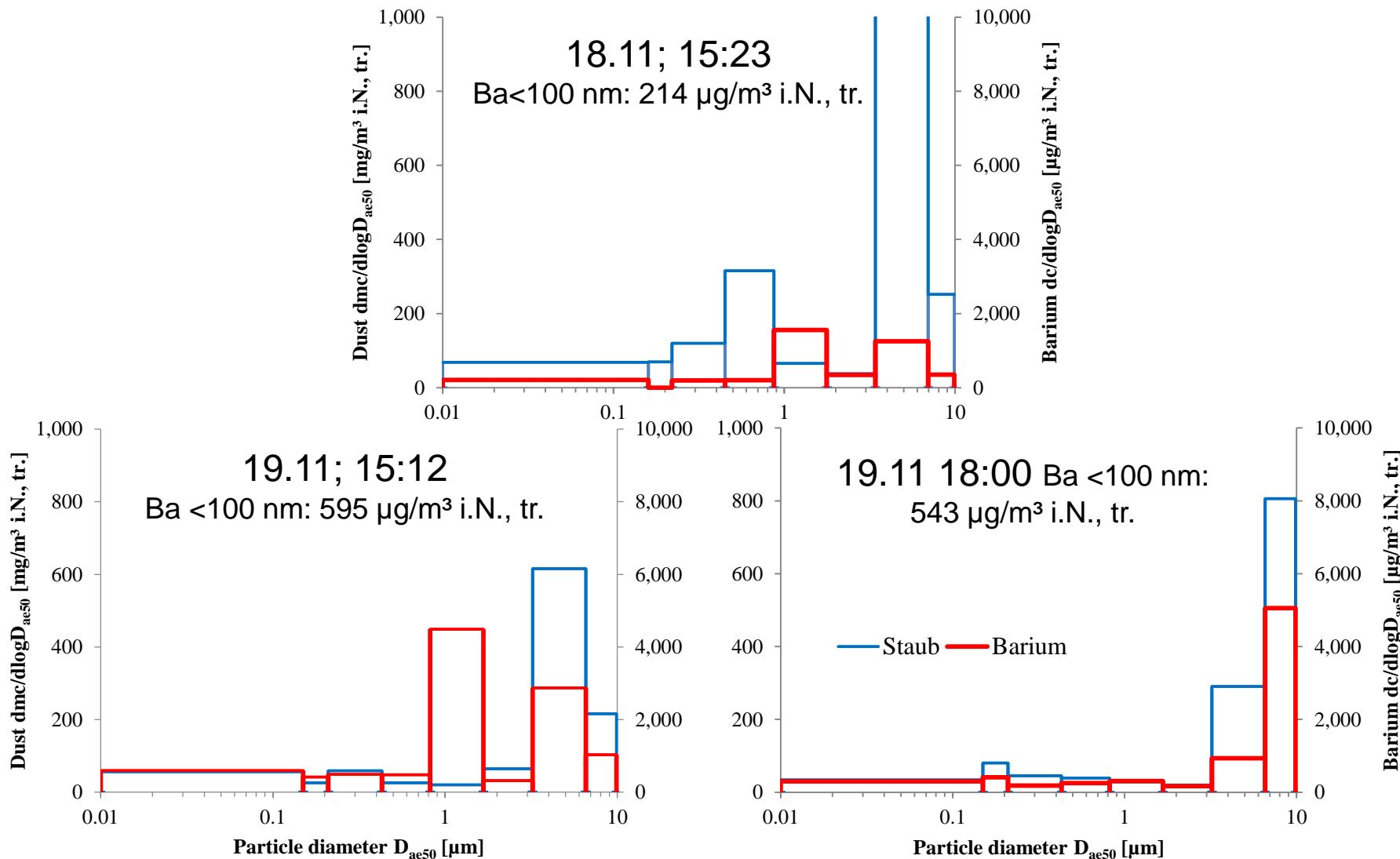
# R1: Gravimetric determination of particle mass concentration flue gas after boiler



## R4: Gravimetric determination of particle mass concentration clean gas after fabric filter



# R1: Determination of particle size distribution (cascade impactor) flue gas after boiler



# Mass balance

Z1: Waste 16,2 t/h, Ba: 44,2 kg/h

100%

5,8%

59,1%

(1,2 %)

3,2%

(1,3 %)

E1: Ash 3,95 t/h, Ba: 26,2 kg/h

E2: Ash 0,27 t/h, Ba: 2,6 kg/h

E3: Filtration residue 0,6 t/h Ba:  
1,4 kg/h

0,14 ppm

Recovery rate 68,1 %

separation efficiency of filter:

Dust: 99,87 – 99,94%

Barium: 99,98 – 99,99%

<100 nm: 99,97 – 99,99%

\*Barium background concentration has been substracted

# Comparison

Research group / Incineration plant	ENM	Mass distribution			Separation efficiency
ETH Zürich / Municipal waste incineration plant *	nano-CeO <sub>2</sub>	Slag: 81% Ce	Fly ash: 19% Ce	Quench water: 0,02% Ce	Electrostatic precip. C1: 99,9 % (Ce)
KIT Karlsruhe / Hazardous waste incineration plant **	nano-CeO <sub>2</sub>	Boiler: 10,6 %Ce	Quench water: 68,7 % Ce	Fly ash: 0,1% Ce	Electrostatic precip. 99,99 % (Ce)
Fraunhofer Umsicht / sewage-sludge-incineration plant	nano-TiO <sub>2</sub>	Bottom ash & boiler: 89,9% Ti	Adsorber & fabrik filter residue: 10,7% Ti		Fabrik filter: 99,99% (Ti)
NanoEmission / Municipal waste incineration plant	nano-BaSO <sub>4</sub>	Bottom ash: 59,1% Ba	Boiler: 5,8% Ba	Fabrik filter res 3,2 % Ba	Fabrik filter: 99,98% (Ba)

Source:

Walser, T.; Limbach, L. K.; Brogioli, R.; Erismann, E.; Flamigni, L.; Hattendorf, B.; Juchli, (2012) Persistence of engineered nanoparticles in a municipal solid-waste incineration plant.

Liesen, I.-M., Baumann W., Hauser M., Mätzing H., Paur H.-R., Seifert H., Untersuchung zur Freisetzung von synthetischen Nanopartikeln bei der Börner et al. Abfallverbrennung , Energie aus Abfall Band 12, 2015 Tagungsband

Untersuchung möglicher Umweltauswirkungen bei der Entsorgung nanomaterialhaltiger Abfälle in Abfallbehandlungsanlagen

# Conclusions

# Conclusions

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- Emission behaviour dependent on thermochemical properties of ENMs
  - High total dust content → agglomeration tendency
  - Fluctuating background concentration of trace elements in waste and long residence time of NP → difficulties in accurate estimation of the nanoparticle's path distribution
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- Most significant distribution pathway of ENMs is the bottom ash (50 – 90%)
  - High separation efficiency in existing flue gas cleaning systems
  - Fate and behavior of ENMs in combustion residues is still to clarify

# Thank you for your interest!

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