

# Swerea KIMAB & French Corrosion Institute

General presentation & possibilities to study  
microbiologically induced corrosion

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# Content

1. Swerea KIMAB & IC in brief
2. Experience related to MIC
3. Discussion
4. Corrosion – domains of expertise (appendix)
5. Relevant experimental techniques, methods, equipments (appendix)

# Swerea KIMAB in short

- Industry is majority owner
- Approx 180 member companies
- 600 customers
- 180 employees
- Office and laboratories in Kista, Stockholm
- One subsidiary in France (French Corrosion Institute)

!  
Swerea KIMAB is a  
non profit research  
organisation





## Institut de la Corrosion

**43 employees**

**Turnover 2016 ~ 7 M€**

**Brest**  
**25 employees**

**Saint Etienne**  
**18 employees**

# Swerea KIMAB



CORROSION

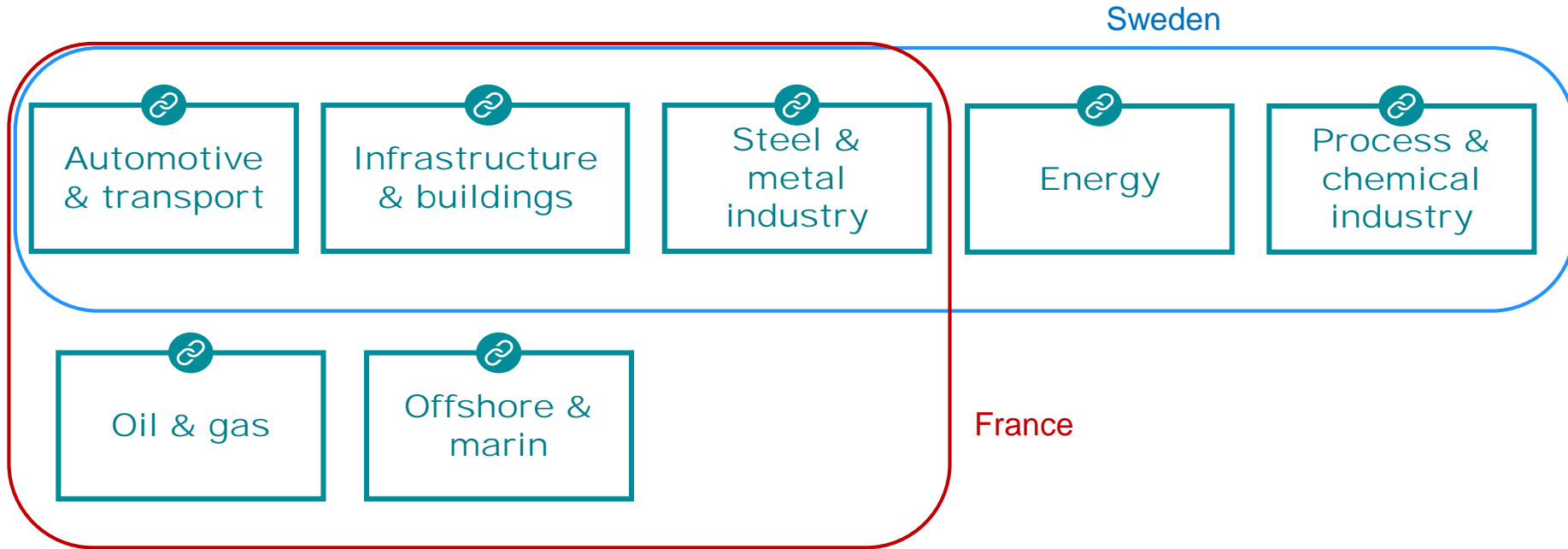


MATERIAL & PROCESS  
DEVELOPMENT



PRODUCTION  
TECHNOLOGY

# Our corrosion different segments



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# MIC: biofilm and corrosion

The biofilm can have a beneficial or detrimental effect on the corrosion properties depending on the bacteria type, some examples:

- *Desulfovibrio desulfuricans* (Sulphate reducing bacteria (SRB)), *Pseudomonas sp.* and *Bacillus sp.* can accelerate corrosion
- *Bacillus subtilis* can decrease the corrosion of aluminum by secreting polyaspartate and polyglutamate
- *Pseudomonas flava* can decrease corrosion by forming a phosphate film



# MIC: biofilm and corrosion

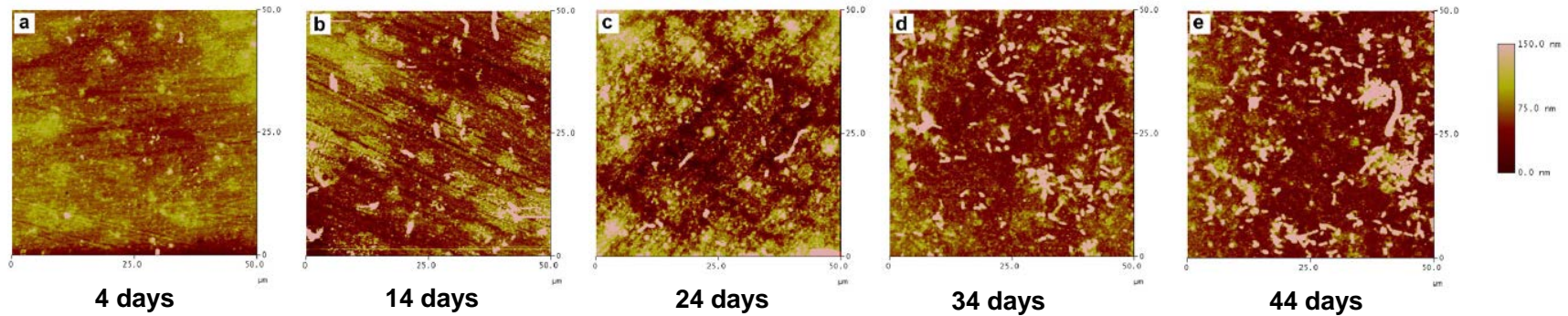
Parameters that influence the effect of the biofilm on the corrosion resistance are:

- **Morphology of the biofilm**
  - **Porous biofilm:** can lead to localized corrosion on the metal surface by trapping harmful components generated by the bacteria and create gradients of dissolved oxygen content, pH and chloride.
- **Temperature**
- **Oxygen content**
- **pH**

# AFM for MIC studies

AFM is a potent tool for studying biofilm/substratum interaction, for example:

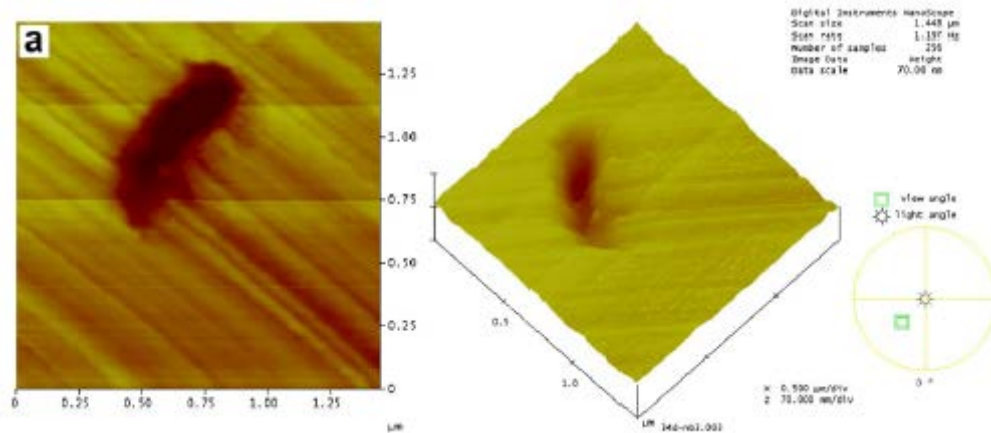
- **AFM images of stainless steel AISI 316 with desulfovibrio desulfuricans (Sulphate reducing bacteria) biofilm. The proliferation of the biofilms can be seen:**



*X.sheng et al. Corrosion Science 49 (2007)*

## AFM for MIC studies

**Topography map of the surface after removal of the biofilm:**



*X.sheng et al. Corrosion Science 49 (2007)*

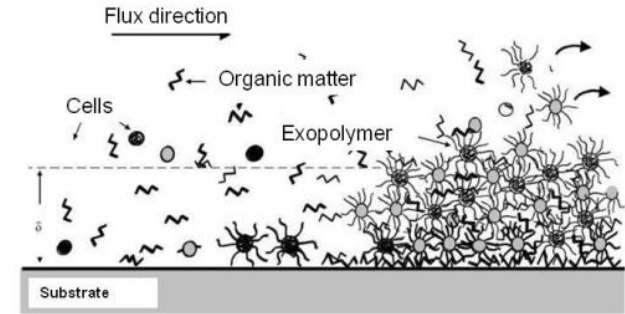
SRB can induce faster corrosion on AISI 316.

Pitting could occur due to a depletion of elements (Fe/Ni ratio) in the passive film beneath the bacteria.

SRB produces hydrogen sulfide, which can enhance the dissolution of Fe.

# MIC in natural seawater

❑ Biofilms naturally forms on surfaces exposed in natural seawater.

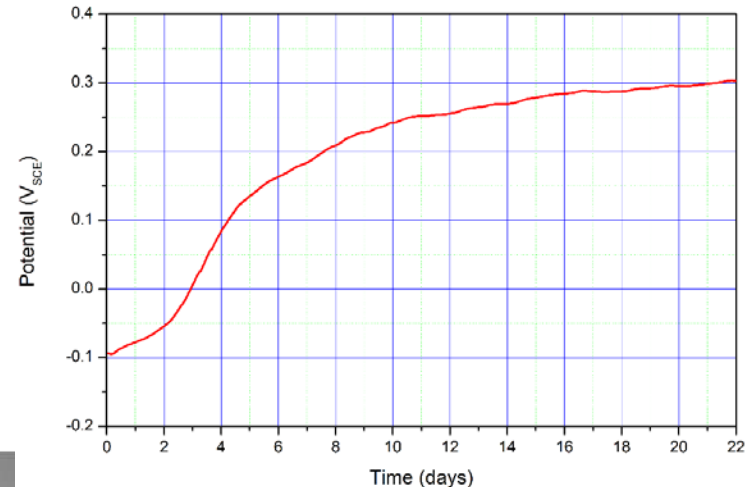


E. S. Beardwood, 1995

❑ The practical consequences of biofilms on stainless steel

→ **Potential ennoblement of stainless steel**  
(risk of localized corrosion)

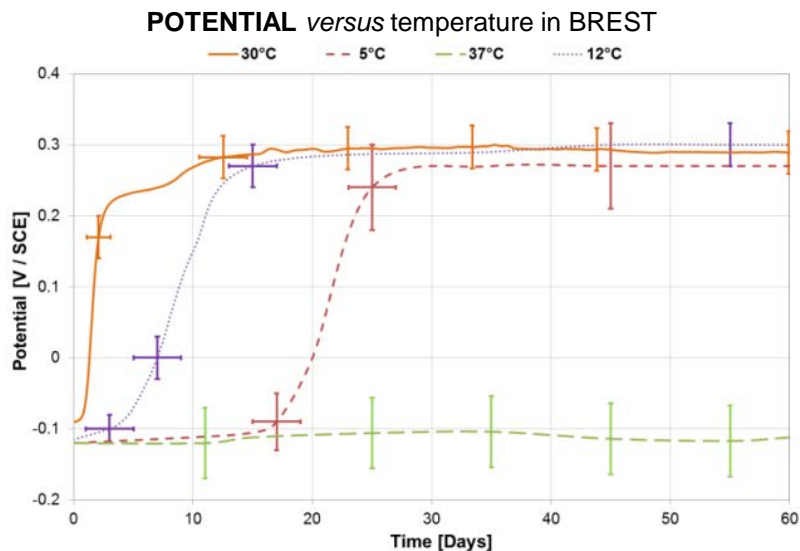
→ **Increase the cathodic reduction of oxygen**  
(higher risk of corrosion propagation)



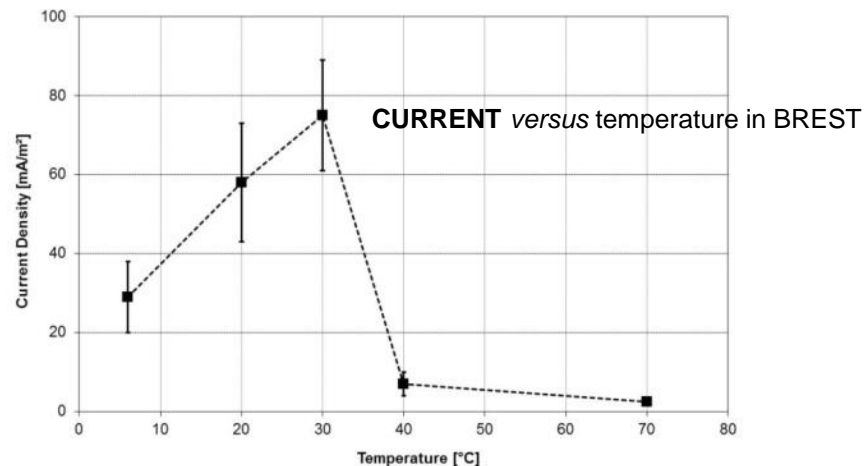
# MIC in natural seawater

## RESULTS: EFFECT OF TEMPERATURE IN TEMPERATE SEAWATER *BiofoulCORR JIP*

Joint Industry Program on the effect of TROPICAL BIOFILMS on Crevice Corrosion of stainless steels  
(including Sandvik)

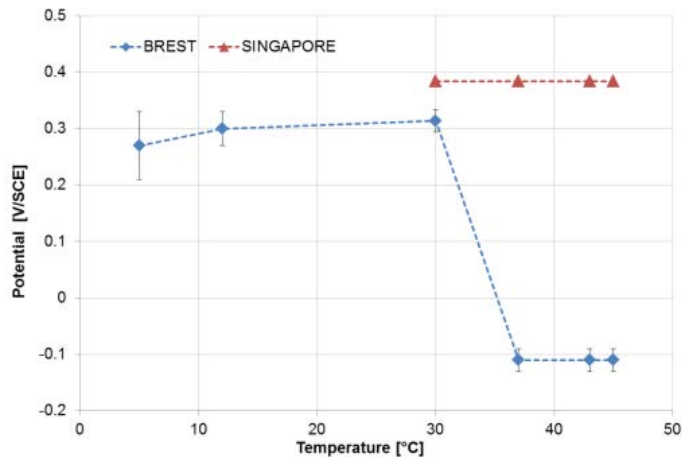


- Potential ennoblement at  $\approx +300$  mV from 5°C to 30°C
- (occurs faster with temperature  $\rightarrow$  bacterial activity)
- No potential ennoblement at 37°C in Brest (temperate seawater)



Many similar studies [Corr. of SS versus biofilming conditions in natural seawater]

# MIC in natural seawater



Very different behavior in **TROPICAL** seawater  
when heated



Potential ennoblement still occurs at 46°C



Expected higher corrosivity in heated TROPICAL Seawater

*BiofoulCORR JIP*

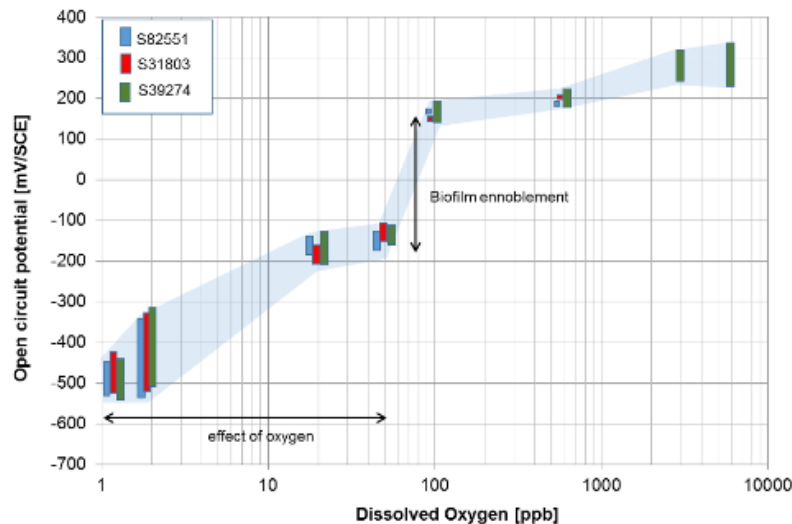


Critical Temperature for optimal ennoblement seems connected to a delta Temperature from Ambient

*“average ambient +15 to 18°C”*

# MIC in TREATED seawater

## Effect of OXYGEN on MIC risk



No potential difference between the 3 tested alloys

At **DOC > 70-100 ppb**, significant potential increase to 200-300mV/SCE



**INCREASE CORROSION RISK**

*Study for Statoil & Sumitomo  
(published at NACE & EUROCORR)*

The potential increase to values >200mV/SCE in natural seawater is due BIOFILM formation

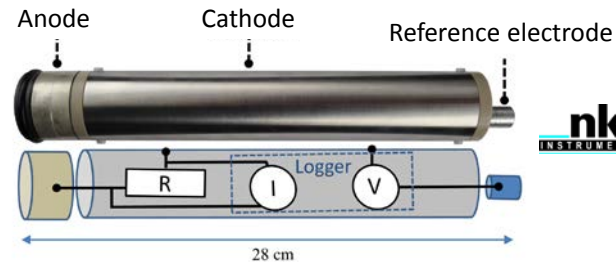
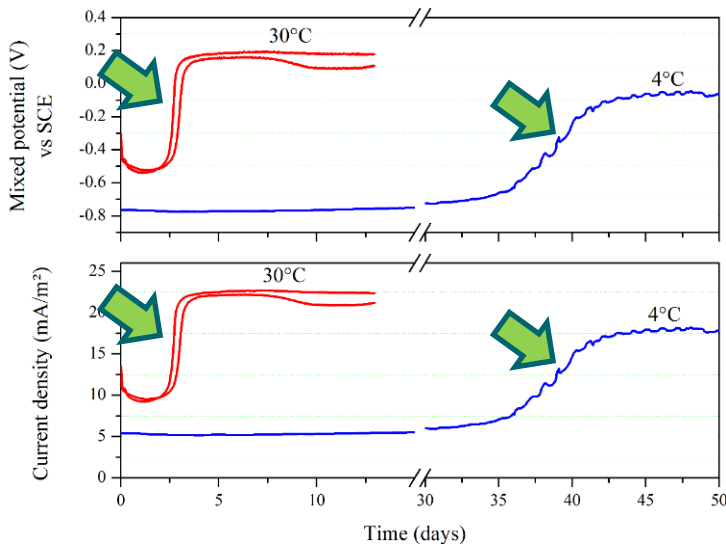
From these results BIOFILM is not active on OCP when DOC < 50ppb in renewed seawater (confirmed by several studies at IC)

# MIC in DEEPSEA water

## Development and use of BIOFILM SENSORS

Effect of natural seawater biofilm on open-circuit potential and current

Biofilm growth



Have been used successfully in deepsea water (<2000m) to evaluate MIC risk & Crevice corrosion risk of stainless steels in these environments (Joint Industry Program, **including SandvikMT**)



# CREVICE ASSEMBLIES for CORROSION TESTS

## CREVCORR tubes

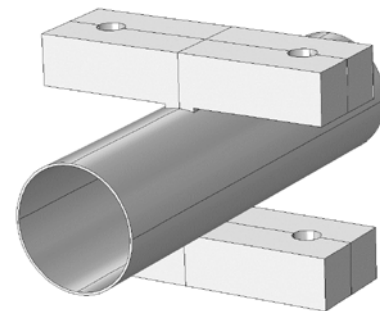
Two types of “CREVCORR” assemblies :

- **Usual geometry** used for the crevice former set-up on tube
- **New geometry** for tubes develop at IC
  - Crevice former in PVDF with the same curvature as the tube
  - Bolt, nuts and disc springs in titanium (Gr2)
  - Applied pressure on the tube surface : 3 and 20 N/mm<sup>2</sup> (MPa)

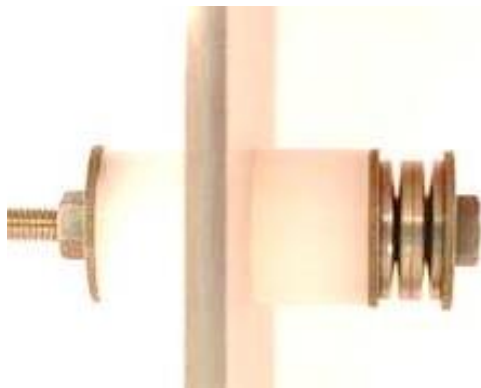
*Usual Crevcorr*



*New Crevcorr*

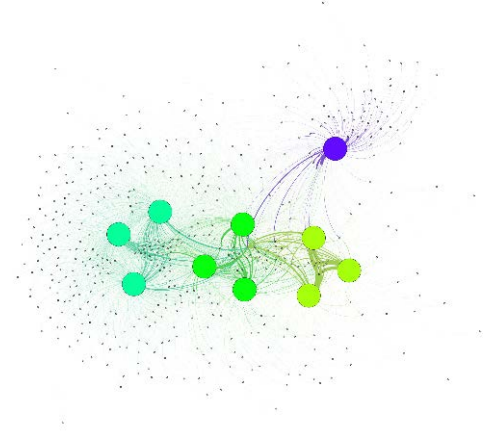
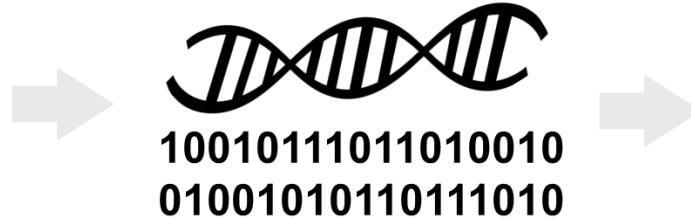
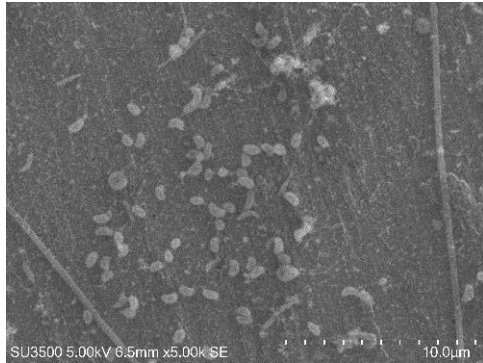


## CREVCORR plate



# Fundamental investigation of seawater Biofilms

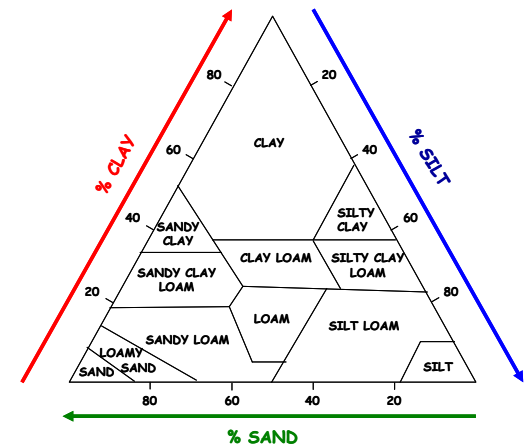
pHD – thesis on **Electrochemical and molecular characterization of electro-active biofilms on stainless steel in seawater**



**Correlation between bacteria nature (DNA/RNA sequencing) and their effect on stainless steels**

# MIC in anaerobic SOILS

Study = application for Nuclear Waste Storage Program with Andra



**Objective is to develop and investigate experimental protocols to evaluate and characterize the risk of Microorganism Influenced Corrosion (MIC)** for carbon steel, under the simulated service conditions of an HA waste disposal application (**Deep Ground environment**, with filler material in contact with Callovo-Oxfordian clayey rock).

For this purpose, microbiological investigations are performed in the relevant environment, and a methodology for corrosion testing in the presence of these bacteria is tested and evaluated.

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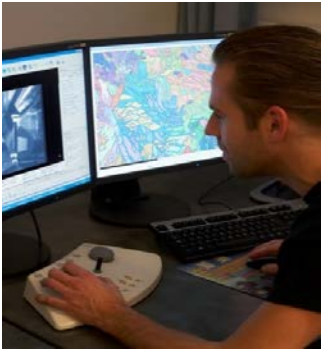


**Scientific Work for Industrial Use**  
**[www.swerea.se](http://www.swerea.se)**

# Competence area - material



Material  
analysis



Process  
monitoring



Stainless  
steels



Powders and  
AM



Low alloy  
steels and  
casting



# Competence area - production



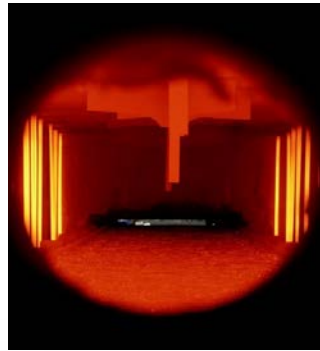
Joining



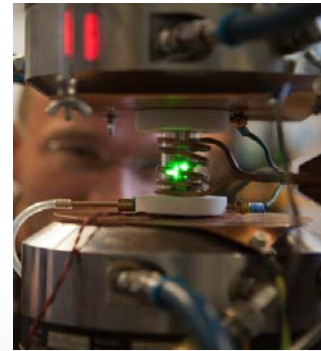
Metal  
machining



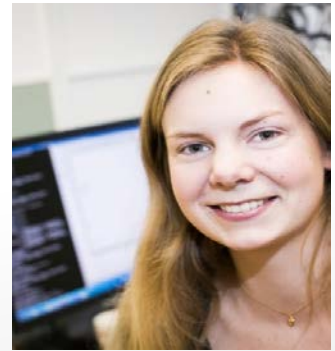
Heat  
treatment



Mechanical  
testing



Virtual  
methods

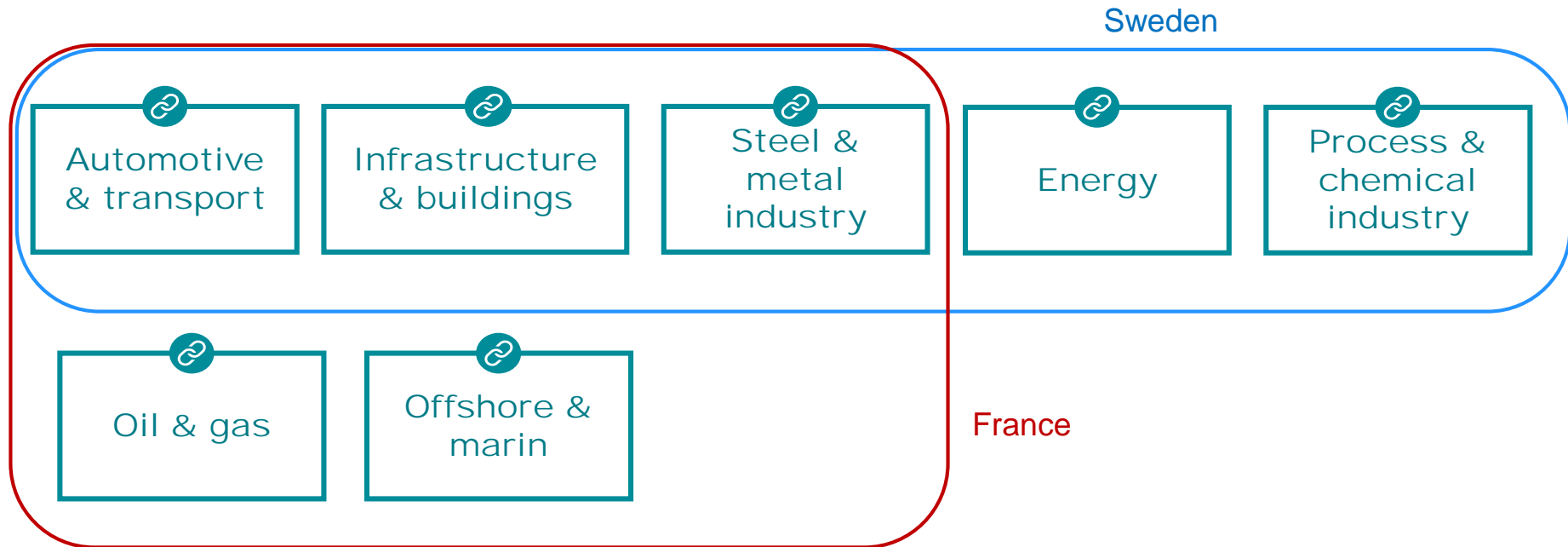


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# Our corrosion different segments



# Automotive & transport

- Corrosion testing of automotive materials
- Mobile and stationary field testing
- Corrosion testing and evaluation of coatings
- Corrosion of multimaterial lightweight structures
- Corrosion testing of materials used in the aerospace industry
- Hydrogen embrittlement of advanced high-strength steels
- Testing of materials for biofuels



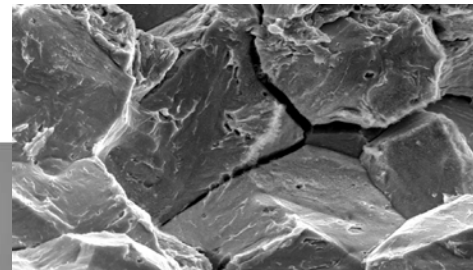
# Infrastructure & buildings

- Corrosion in soils
- Development of sensors for corrosion monitoring
- Cathodic protection and heavy organic coatings
- Corrosion of steel reinforcement in concrete
- Water & sewage (plastic pipes for water distribution, disinfection, welding and inspections, relining)
- Consulting, inspection, failure selection and corrosion protection



# Steel & metal industry

- Fundamental knowledge about corrosion mechanisms
- Development and standardization of test methods
- Advanced localized electrochemical techniques
- Understanding and modeling of the interaction between material and solution
- Relation microstructure – corrosion properties
- Hydrogen embrittlement
- Corrosion properties of coil coated materials and stainless steel
- Corrosion issues related to welding of stainless steel and weld oxides



# Energy

- Combustion & gasification
- High temperature corrosion
- Nuclear industry & nuclear waste storage
- Energy storage (corrosion in batteries, electrochemistry)
- Corrosion in molten salts
- Corrosion in wind power plants
- Pilot plant for polymers in flue gas stacks





# Process & chemical industry

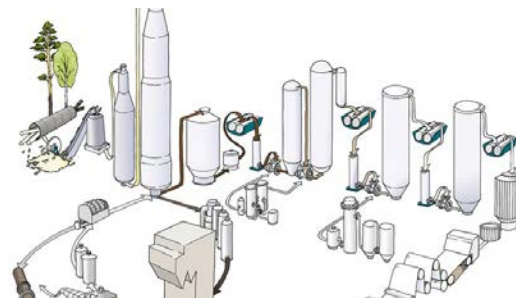
Polymeric and metallic material in corrosive environment

- Pulp & paper industry
- Chlor/alkali
- Chemical industry
- Steel industry pickling

Laboratory techniques to investigate corrosion

- In different solutions and gases
- At high temperatures
- At elevated pressures

FIELD exposures and expertises



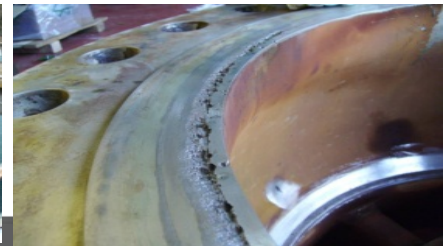
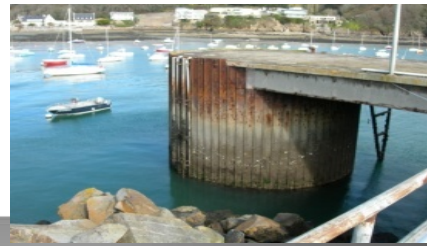
# Oil & Gas Production

- Corrosion properties of materials and equipments in sour environments (e.g. containing  $H_2S$ )
- Corrosion resistance of materials in super-critical  $CO_2$  environments
- Development of new testing methods
- Design of fit-for-purpose testing devices
- Fatigue corrosion in sour environment
- Testing at High temperature and High pressure (up to 300 bar)
- Testing in explosive atmosphere
- Industrial segments :
  - ✓ Oil & Gas (predominately)
  - ✓ Chemical engineering / Energy



# Offshore & marine corrosion

- Corrosion properties of stainless steel and Ni based alloys in seawater (and aqueous media)
- Corrosion properties of copper and copper alloys in seawater
- Fatigue corrosion in seawater
- Cathodic protection in seawater
- Modeling





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# Testing Facilities: outdoor at Brest

- **Natural flowing seawater**
  - Immersion, tidal zone, splash ..
  - Temperate area (Atlantic ocean) / Tropical zone (Singapore)
- **Natural seawater regulated from 4°C to 90°C**
  - Chlorination regulation system,
  - Oxygen control, pollution, etc.
- ***In-situ* corrosion monitoring**
  - Measurements of electrochemical potential, current and cathodic protection
- **From lab to full scale experiments**
  - Heat exchangers, umbilicals, connectors, chlorination full units, pumps....
- **Cathodic disbonding test**
  - ISO 15711



# Testing Facilities: indoor (France & Sweden)

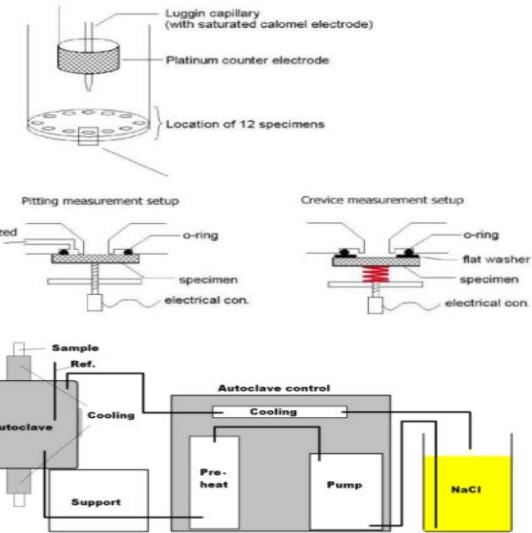
- **Fatigue Corrosion**
  - **In seawater:** hydraulic assist power machines ( $\pm 25\text{kN}$ ), tensile-compression; 4 points bending device; 10kN. Titanium chambers for chloride-containing media, temperature  $5^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $80^{\circ}\text{C}$ , dissolved oxygen control, possibility to polarize specimens
  - **In atmosphere:** a unique tool enabling fatigue cycles in an accelerated corrosion test. Performances: 0-3.5 kN ; 0-5 Hz, with or without cycle
  - **Rotary bending; Alternative bending** (Saint Etienne)
- **Stress corrosion cracking tests (Saint Etienne)**
  - **Static:** 4 points bending devices  
Constant load tensile tests (limited to 40 bar)  
C-rings ; Other loading methods (U-bends, spring loaded specimens) ; Fracture mechanics specimens DCB, CT, WOL
  - **Dynamic:** SSRT, Slow-strain-rate tensile tests (limited to 40 bar)



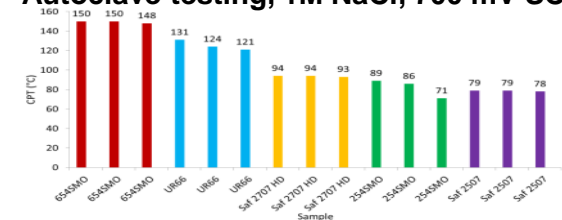
# Methods used to investigate the corrosion resistance



- Immersion test in different solutions
- Immersion test at higher temperature and pressure
- Electrochemical measurements

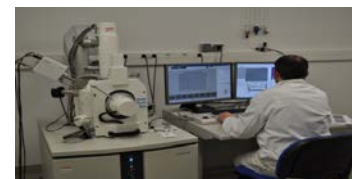
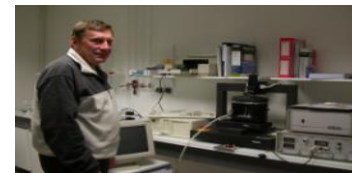
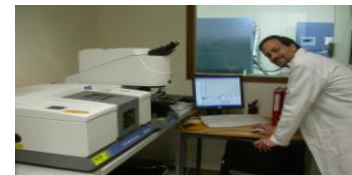


Autoclave testing, 1M NaCl, 700 mV SCE



# Methods of Investigations (France)

- Paint adhesion testing
- Colour and gloss measurements
- Contact angle measurements
- Electrochemical techniques: Potentiostats, scanning Kelvin probe
- Optical and metallographic microscopy and image analysis
- Light confocal profilometry
- Infrared spectroscopy and micro-spectroscopy
- Raman spectrometry
- Ion chromatography
- SEM/EDS/WDS
- (AFM/SKPFM, XPS and SIMS)
- Hydrogen analyser
- Fluorescence X spectrometer



# Methods of Investigations (Sweden)

Electrochemical DC and AC techniques

SKP (IC)

Local electrochemistry;  
SVET:

- Surface reactivity
- Oxide film properties
- Corrosion behavior

SEM-EBSD/EDS/WDS:

- Microstructure
- Residual stresses
- Grain sizes
- Elemental analysis

ICP-MS / OES:

- Wet chemistry method
- Elemental analysis
- LA-ICP-MS (solids and surfaces)

FT-IR:

- Molecular and phase analysis
- Thin film analysis
- Metal / polymer interfaces
- FTIR-imaging
- Tribo corrosion; Surface and tribo films

XRD:

- Phase analysis
- Residual stresses
- Thin film analysis

TEM-EDS/EELS:

- Elemental analysis
- Grain boundaries
- Recrystallization
- Inclusions, dislocations etc.

Stylus

- Surface roughness

Confocal microscope

Surface structure

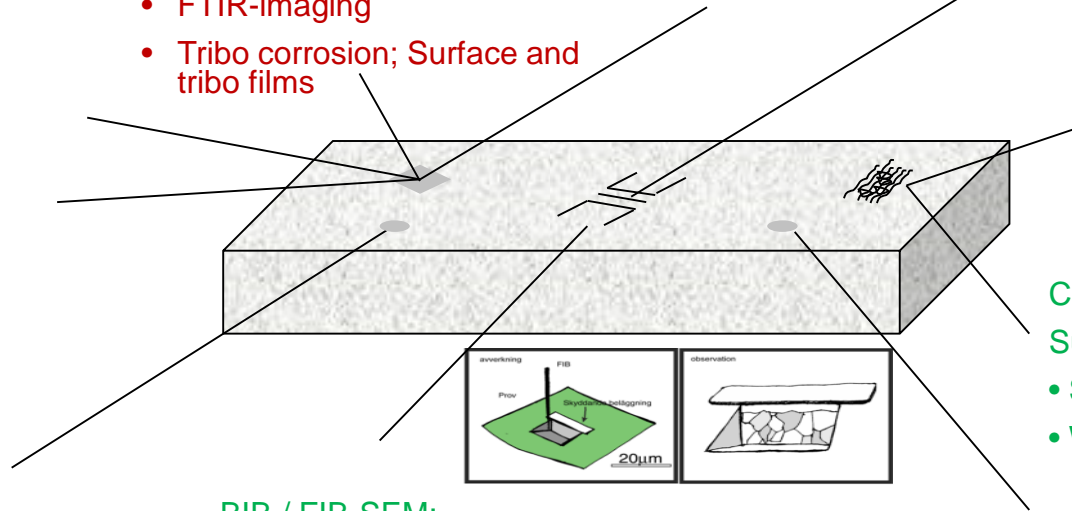
- Surface roughness
- Wear measurements

BIB / FIB-SEM:

- Cross sectional analysis in desired areas
- Analysis of cross section and top surface
- FIB: Sample preparation for TEM study

GD-OES:

- Elemental analysis
- Depth analysis at very high resolution





# Scanning Vibrating Electrode Technique

- Used for study in-situ corrosion phenomena.
- Measurements of DC current density distribution over the surface scanned in a solution.
- Resolution up to  $5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ .
- Possibility of testing in different conducting solutions.

