

# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub> glass advancing the path to carbon-neutral container manufacturing

IPGR

## 86TH GLASS PROBLEMS CONFERENCE

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Version: 01/2025

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# How-to?

Motivation – Transforming the industry to a carbon neutrality



...in the lab

Glass characterization  
Combustion trials  
Forming almost impossible



...in the plant

Customer interests  
Controlled conditions?  
Scale of operation

- Formation of a consortium
- Funding application
  
- Creation of a pilot facility
- Benefits of flexibility and consistency for trials in respect of
  - batch composition,
  - type of combustion,
  - electrical boosting and
  - forming trials

# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass Project

## Consortium and project partners

### Technology partner



- Research institute in the field of packaging glass with worldwide networking
- Project consortium coordinator

### R&D partner



- High research expertise in the field of glass and melting technology
- Close connection between basic research and industrial application



- High research and industry expertise in furnace engineering and heat transfer
- Simulation and modelling

### Industry partner



- One of the world's leading large-scale furnace manufacturers in all areas of the glass industry
- Technology carrier in the project

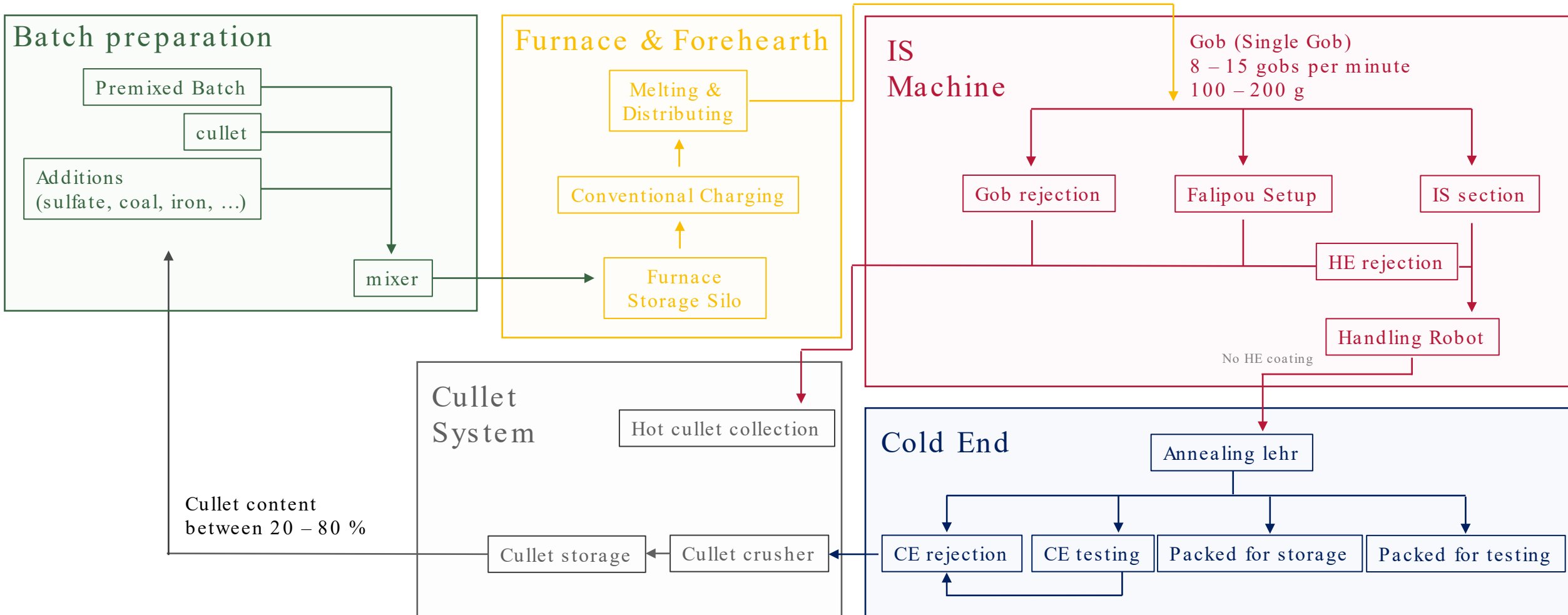


**Wiegand-Glas**

- One of the largest glass packaging manufacturers in Germany, > 2.9 billion bottles per year
- End user of the technology

# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass

## Plant Organisation



# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass

## Pilot plant

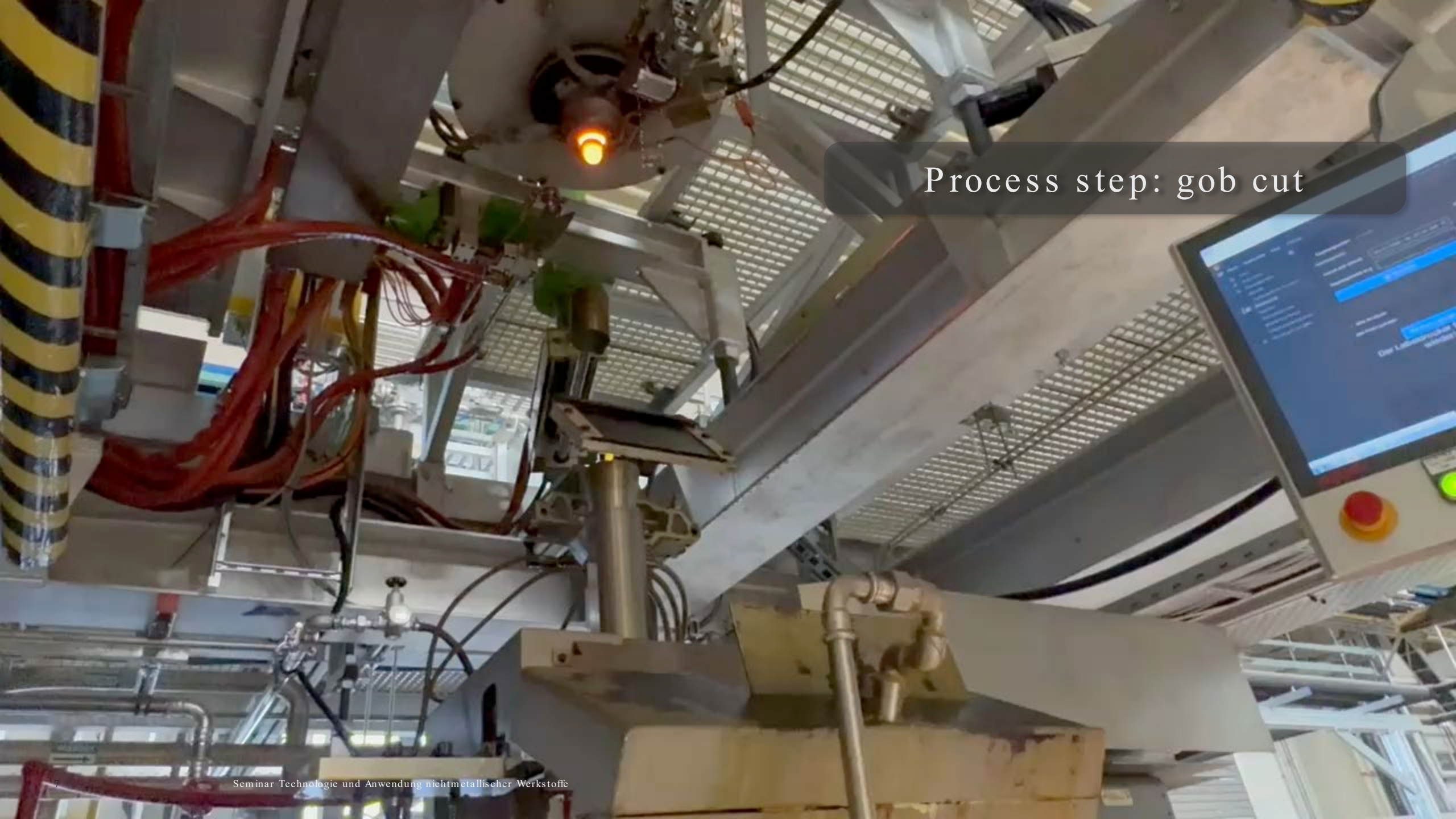
### Furnace:

- 3,5 m<sup>2</sup> melting area, 2.4 tpd
- 12 electrodes in the melting area
- Flexible electric boosting between 20 % and >50 %
- Oxyfuel and H<sub>2</sub>-O<sub>2</sub> heating
- Batch mixing tower

## Forming:

- AIS Machine
- Pick-and-place robot
- Full-electric annealing lehr
- Measurements
  - Gob camera
  - High speed thermal camera
  - 3D wall thickness measurement



A photograph of an industrial machine, likely a CNC lathe or mill, during a 'gob cut' process. The machine is made of grey metal and has a glowing orange light on top. A bundle of red cables is visible on the left. On the right, there is a control panel with a large monitor displaying a blue interface, a red emergency stop button, and a green indicator light. The background shows a factory ceiling with a grid of lights.

Process step: gob cut



Process step: Bottle forming

# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass

Process step:  
loading  
annealing lehr



# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass

Process step: sorting and crushing

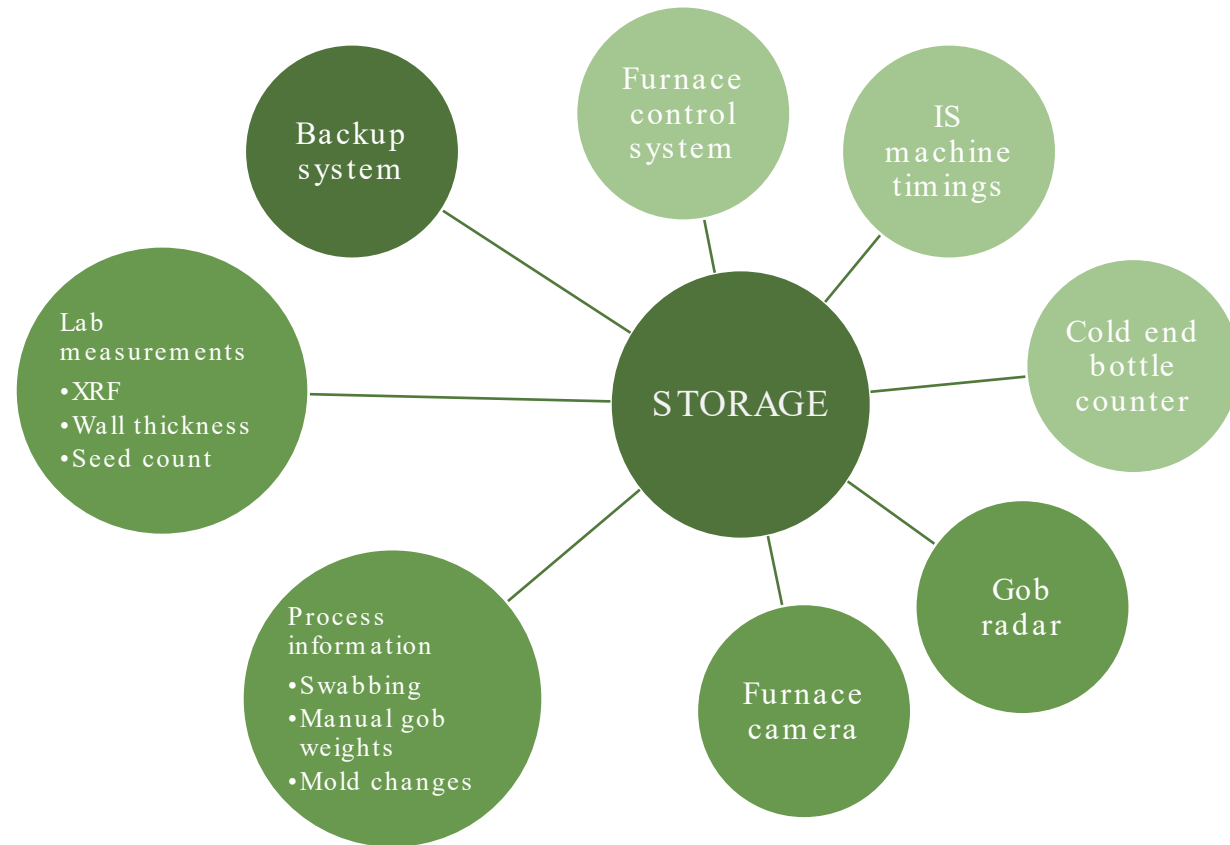
# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub> Glass – Pilot Plant Operation

## Data lake

- Incorporation of all available equipment data and process information from hot end, cold end and quality control

### → Central data lake

- Implementation of different algorithms for data evaluation
  - For example seed count
  - Glass temperature from IR pictures
- Visualization with Grafana Dashboards



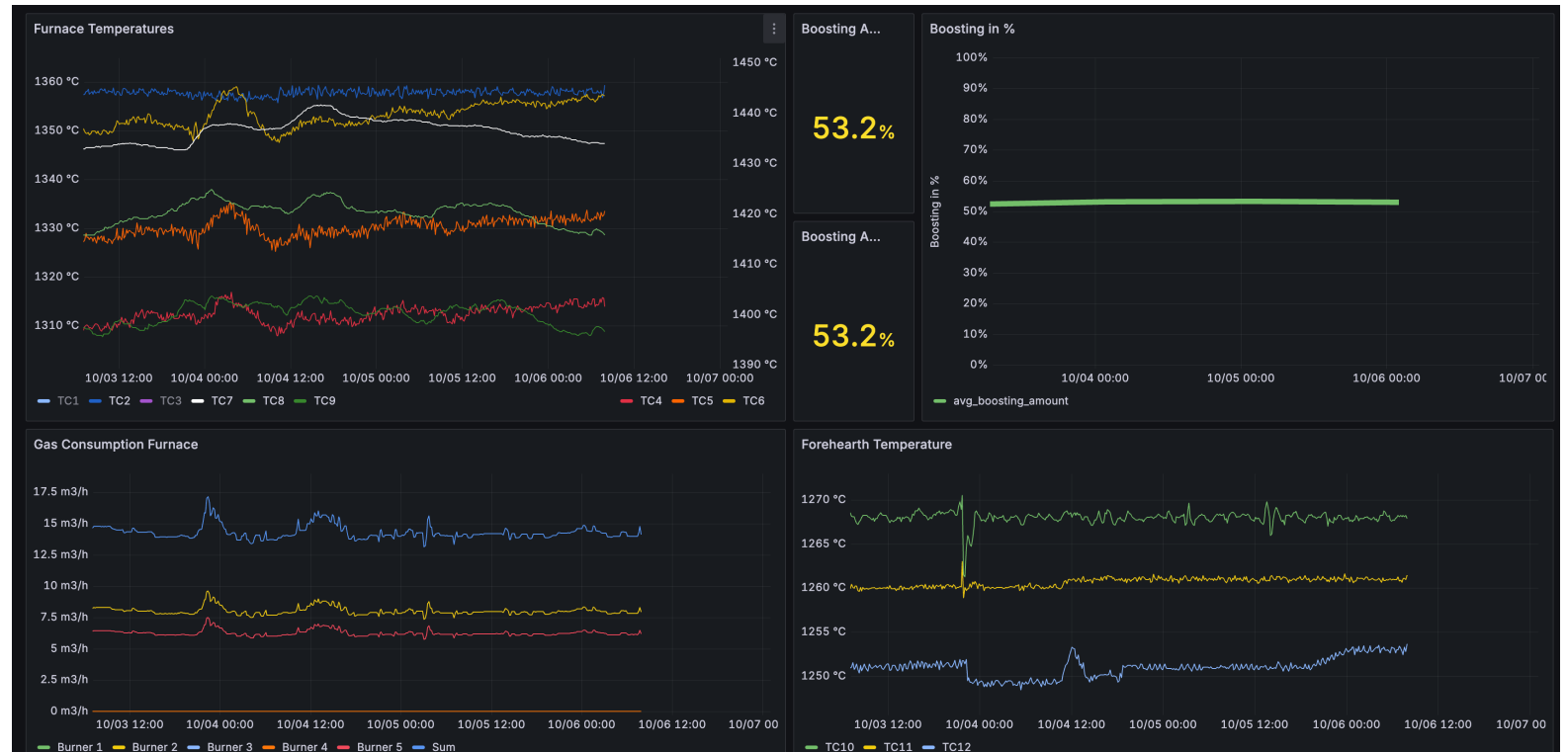
# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub> Glass – Pilot Plant Operation

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# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub> Glass – Trial Plan

## Electrical energy intake

- Increase of the boosting from 20 % to 50 % and >70 %

## Hydrogen/ oxygen combustion

- Switch from oxyfuel combustion to a hydrogen-oxygen combustion

## CO<sub>2</sub> free batch compositions

- Test of soda and carbonate free compositions for melting and forming performance

## Evaluation of a forming model

- Create a viscosity-driven forming model

# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub> Glass – Trial Plan

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# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub> Glass – Project

Trial: Boosting Increase from 20 % to 70 %

- Achievement of 50 % electrical boosting since May 9th
- Achievement of >75 % boosting in July



# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass – Investigations on Meltability of CO<sub>2</sub>-free Glasses

86th Glass Problems Conference and Symposium  
07.10.2025 Toledo

Tomasz Engemann\*, Prof. Dr. Christian Roos

Institute of Mineral Engineering  
Chair of Glass and Glass-Ceramic

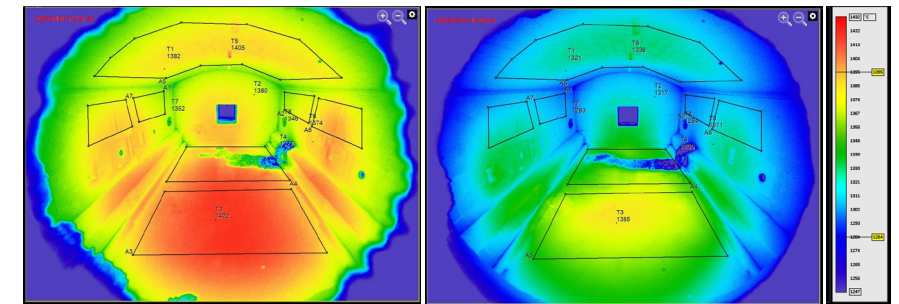
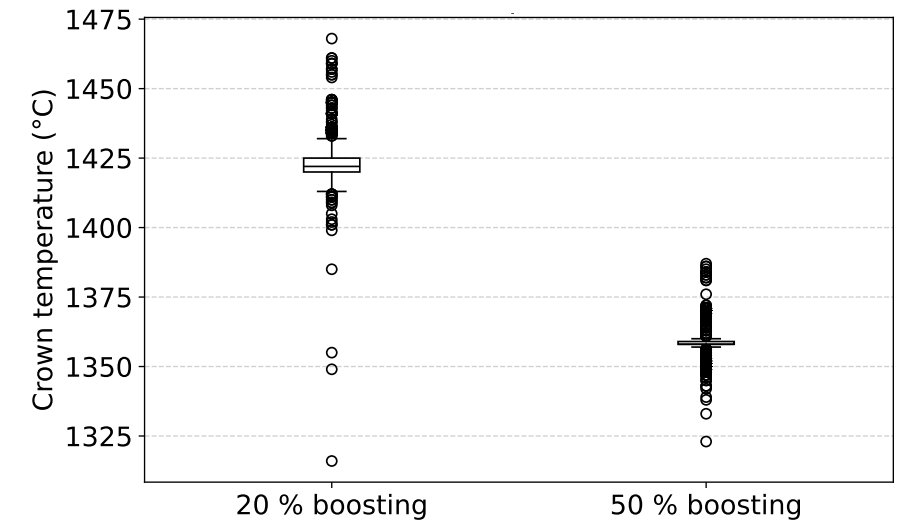
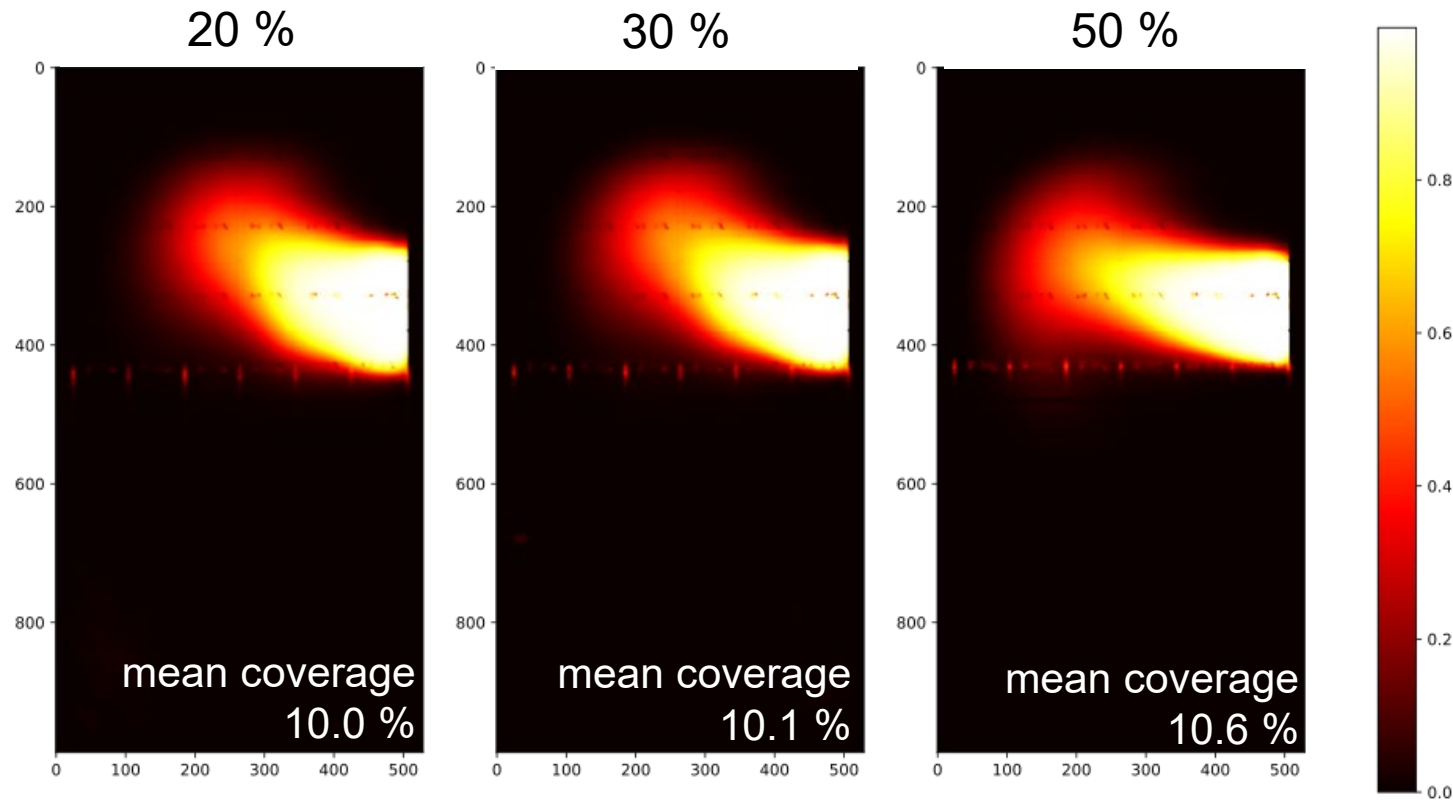
\*t.engelmann@ghi.rwth-aachen.de



# Evaluation of electrical boosting increase

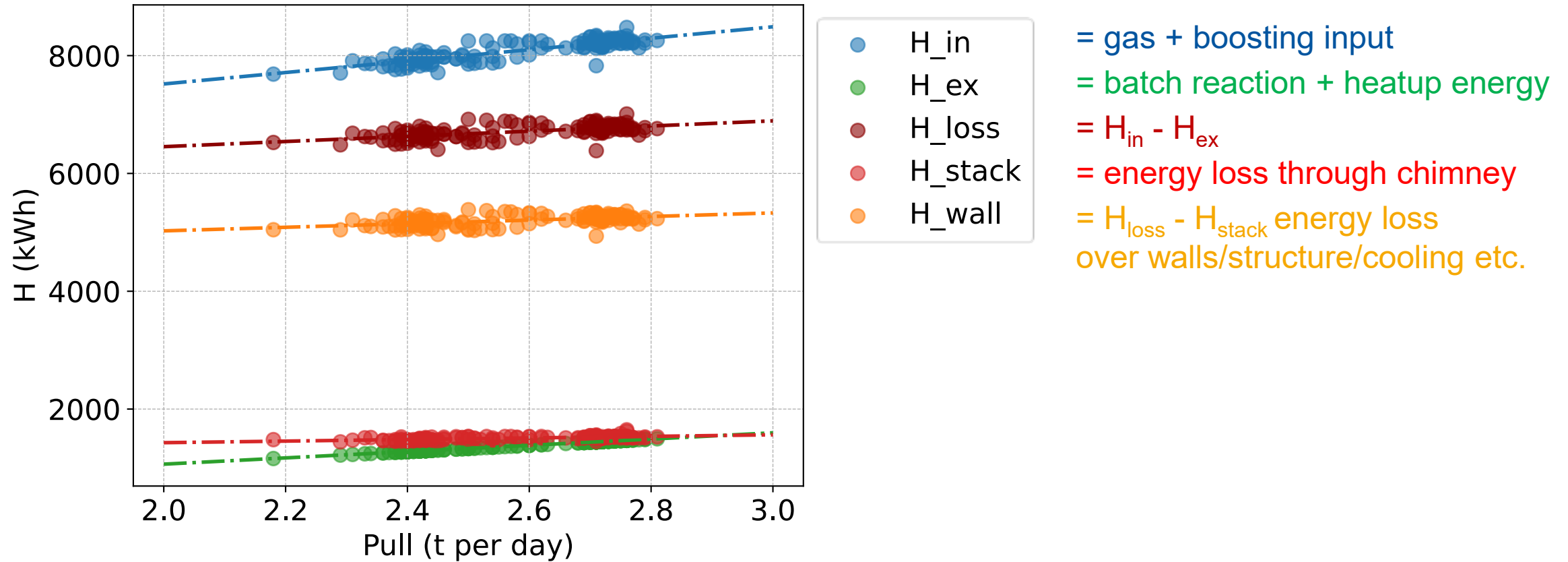
# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass – Investigations on Meltability of CO<sub>2</sub>-free Glasses

## Electrical Boosting increase – Batch coverage



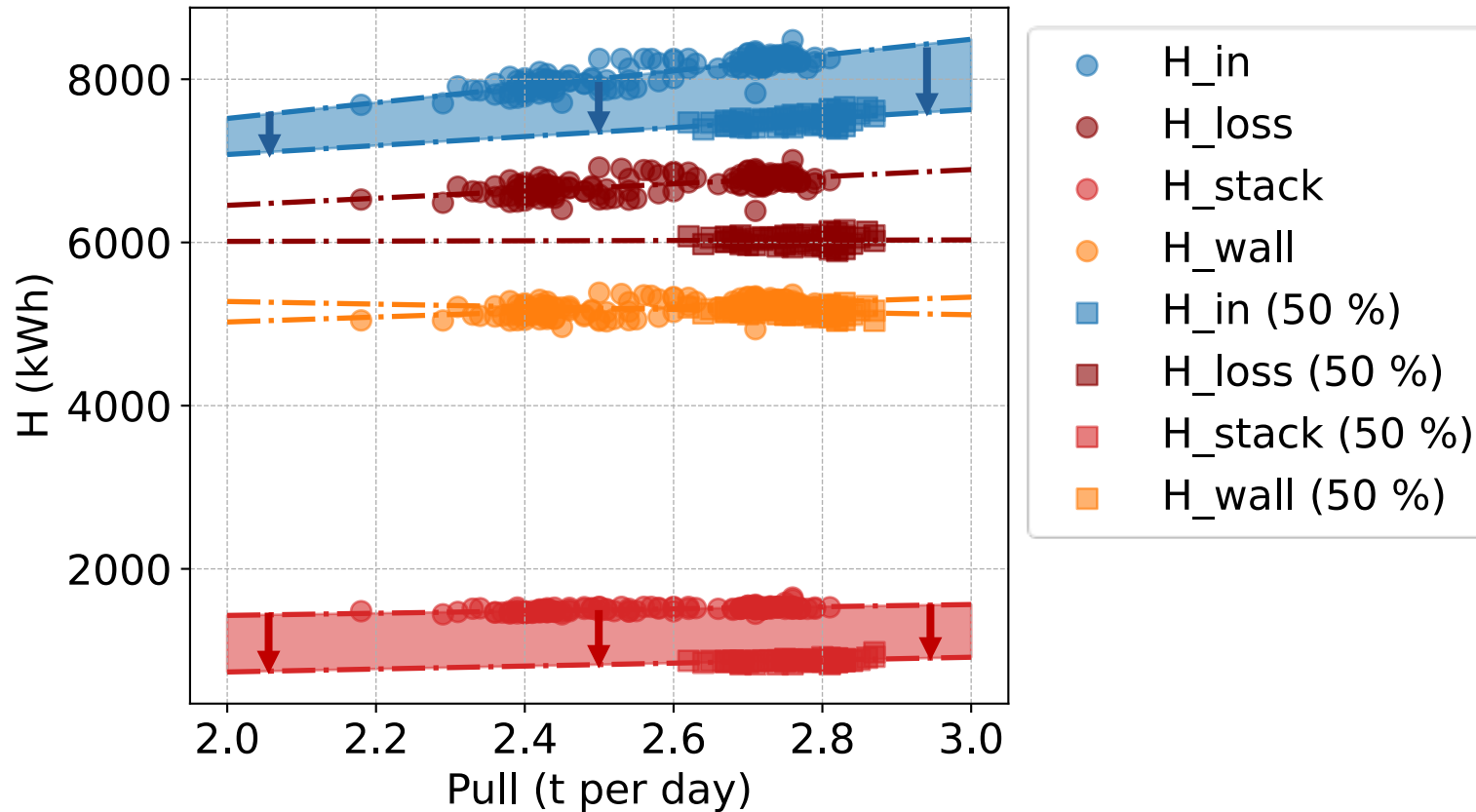
## Electrical Boosting increase – Furnace Performance

Reference Case



## Electrical Boosting increase – Furnace Performance

Reference Case vs. 50 % boosting



Energy consumption decrease by >10%

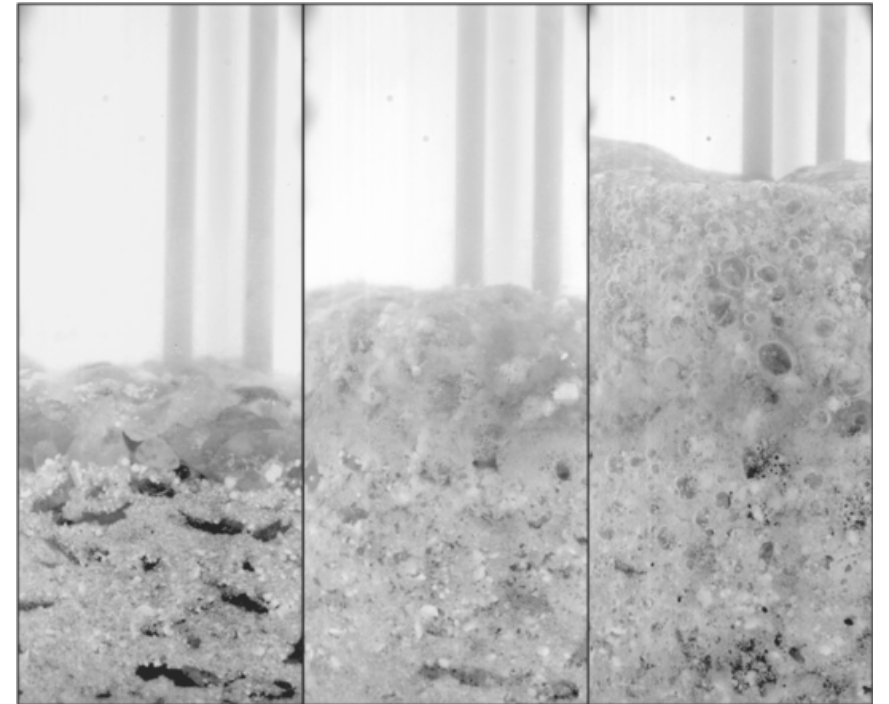
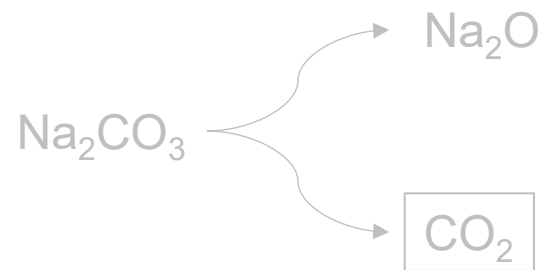
Wall losses stable ->  
Relative energy consumption decrease even higher on larger furnace due to lower proportion of wall losses

Energy loss through waste gas cut by half!

# Alternative glass chemistry

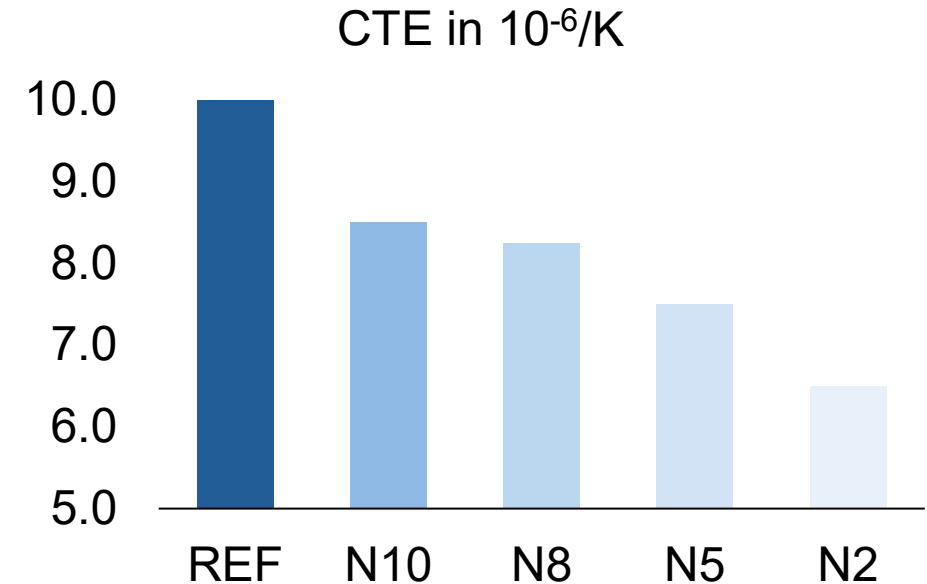
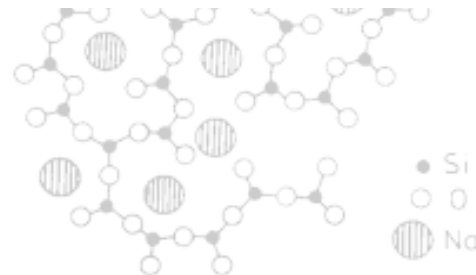
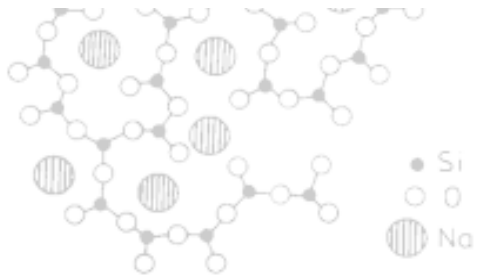
## Motivation – Alternative Glass Chemistry

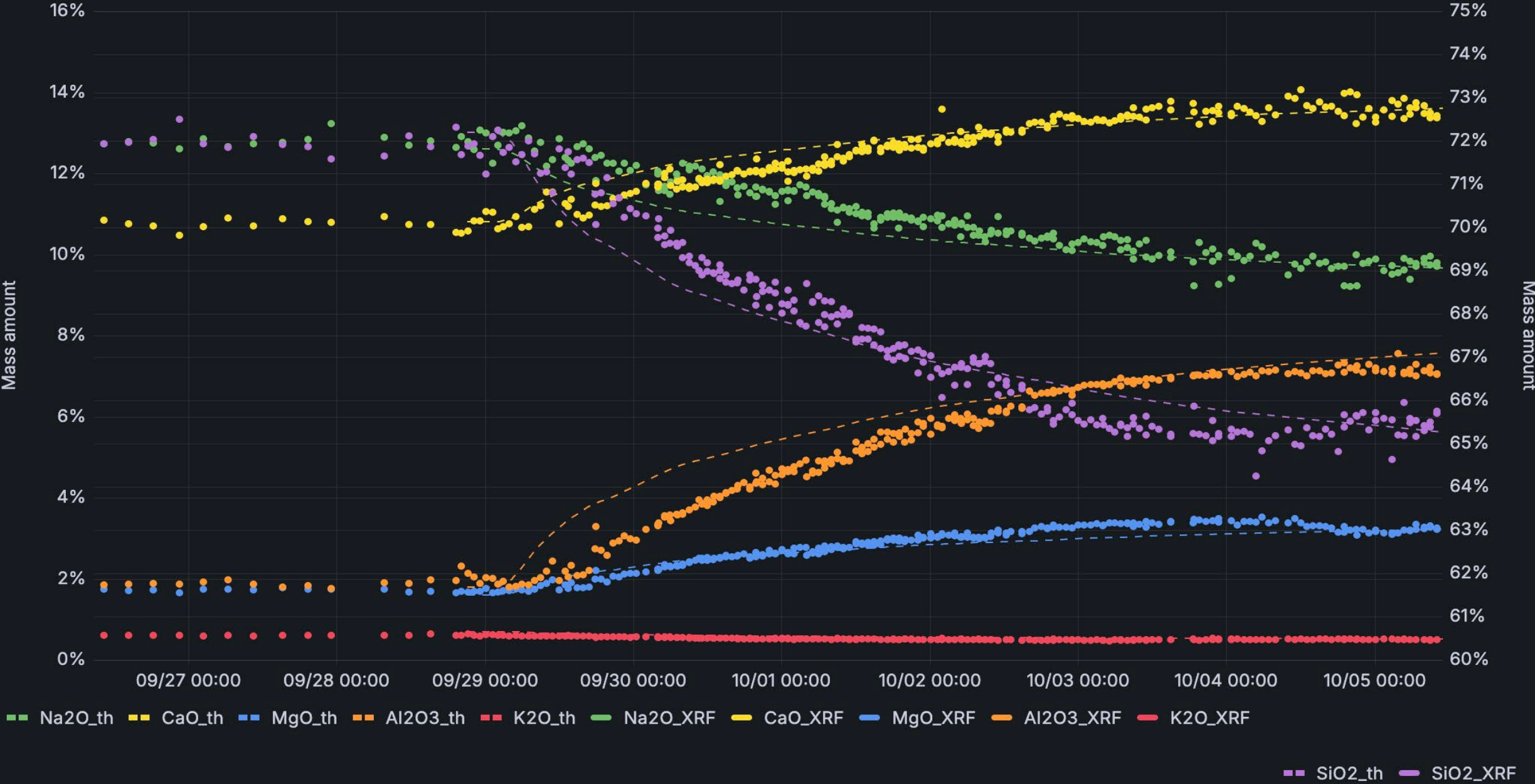
- Why to remove soda from batch?
  - **synthetic** raw material
  - **most expensive** raw material
  - soda **releases CO<sub>2</sub>** during decomposition in the melting tank



## Motivation – Alternative Chemistry and Melting

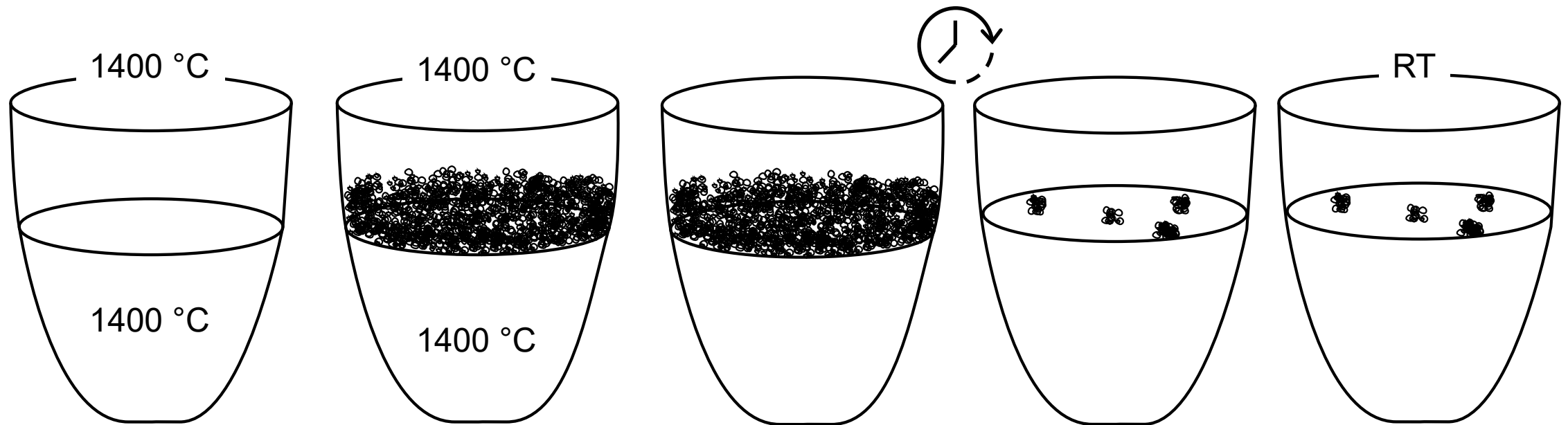
- Why to reduce Na<sub>2</sub>O content of glass?
  - Na<sub>2</sub>O "weakens" the glass structure
  - reducing Na<sub>2</sub>O can improve glass properties:
    - **strength**
    - **hydrolytic stability**
    - lower **coefficient of thermal expansion (CTE)**
    - **shown in lab trials**



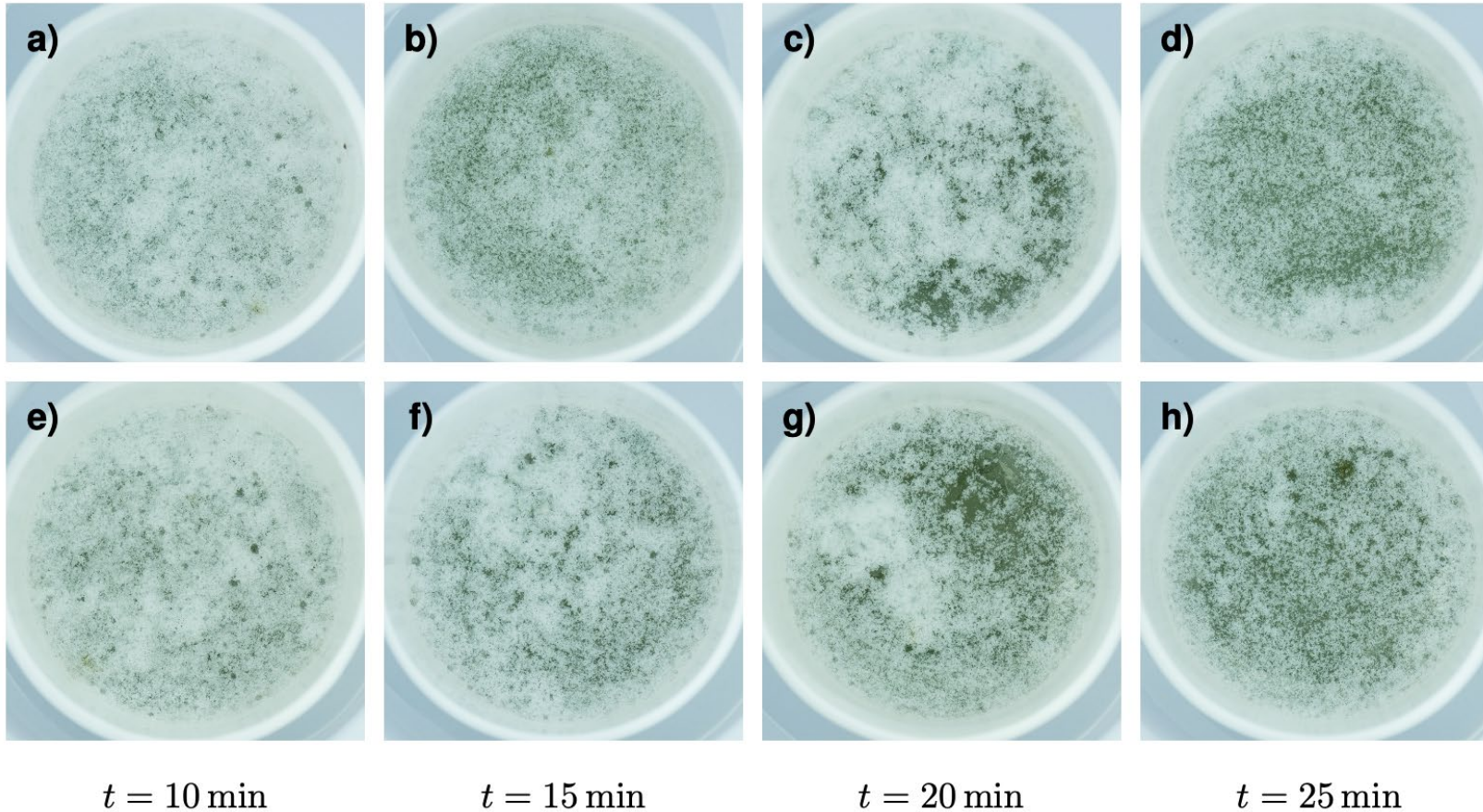


## Evaluation of batch melting

- 50 g batch charged on 250 g of melt at 1400 °C **inside furnace** to avoid cooling of melt reservoir
- fixed dwell time
- **air-quenched to RT** to prevent further batch reactions

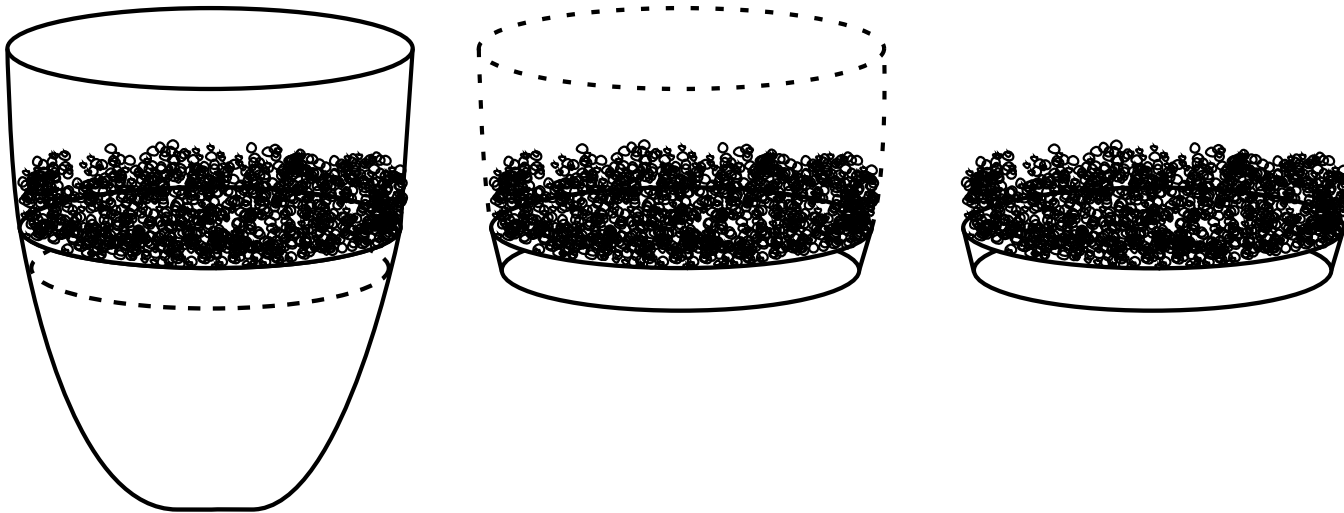


## Evaluation of batch melting – SLS Reference



## Evaluation of batch melting

- Separate batch blanket
- Milling <125 µm
- XRD Rietfeld analysis with K-factor method to determine quantity and type of unmelted batch



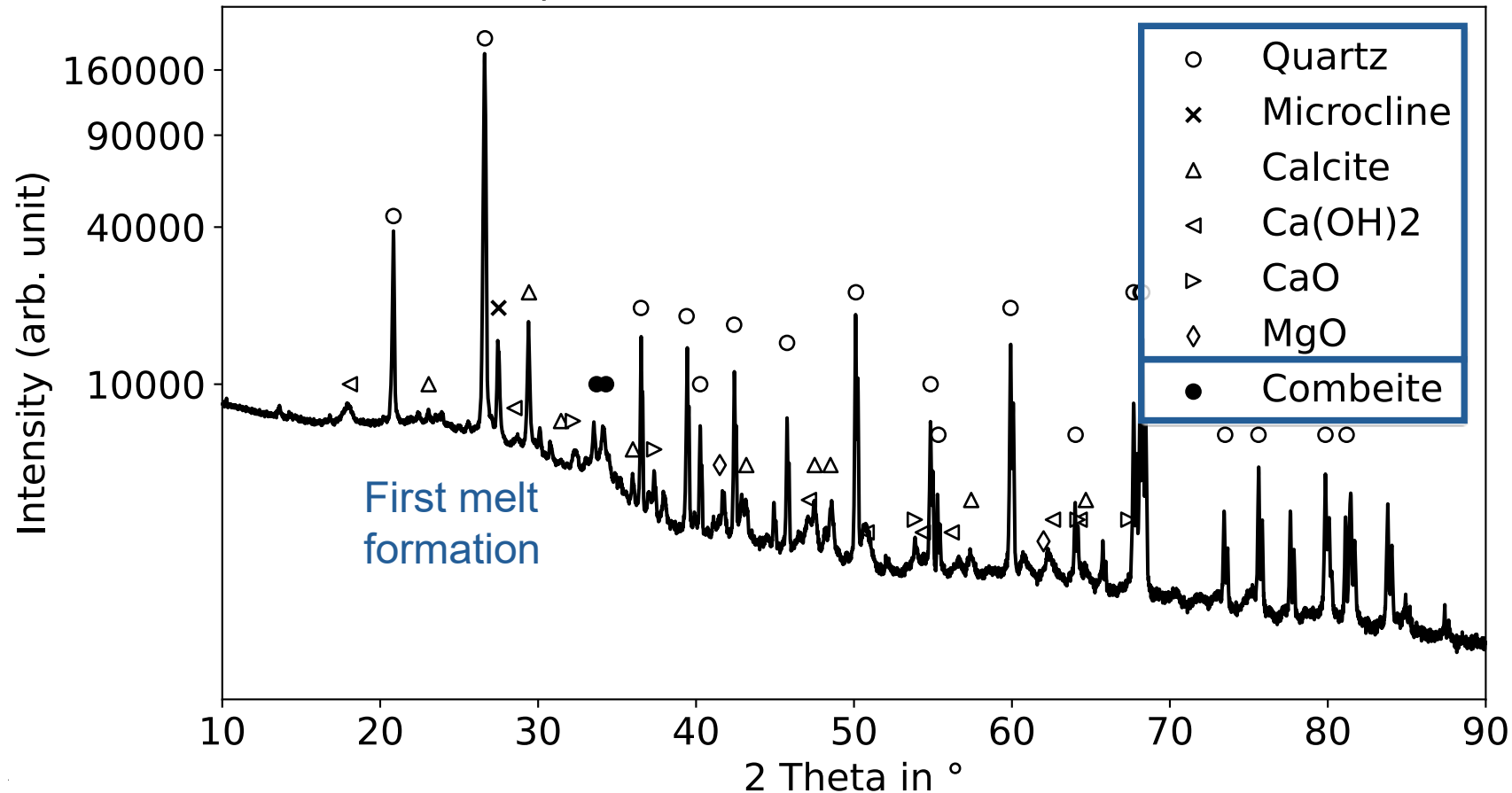
# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass – Investigations on Meltability of CO<sub>2</sub>-free Glasses

## Evaluation of batch melting



## Evaluation of batch melting – Rietveld refinement

XRD pattern of batch at 1400°C, dwell 30 s

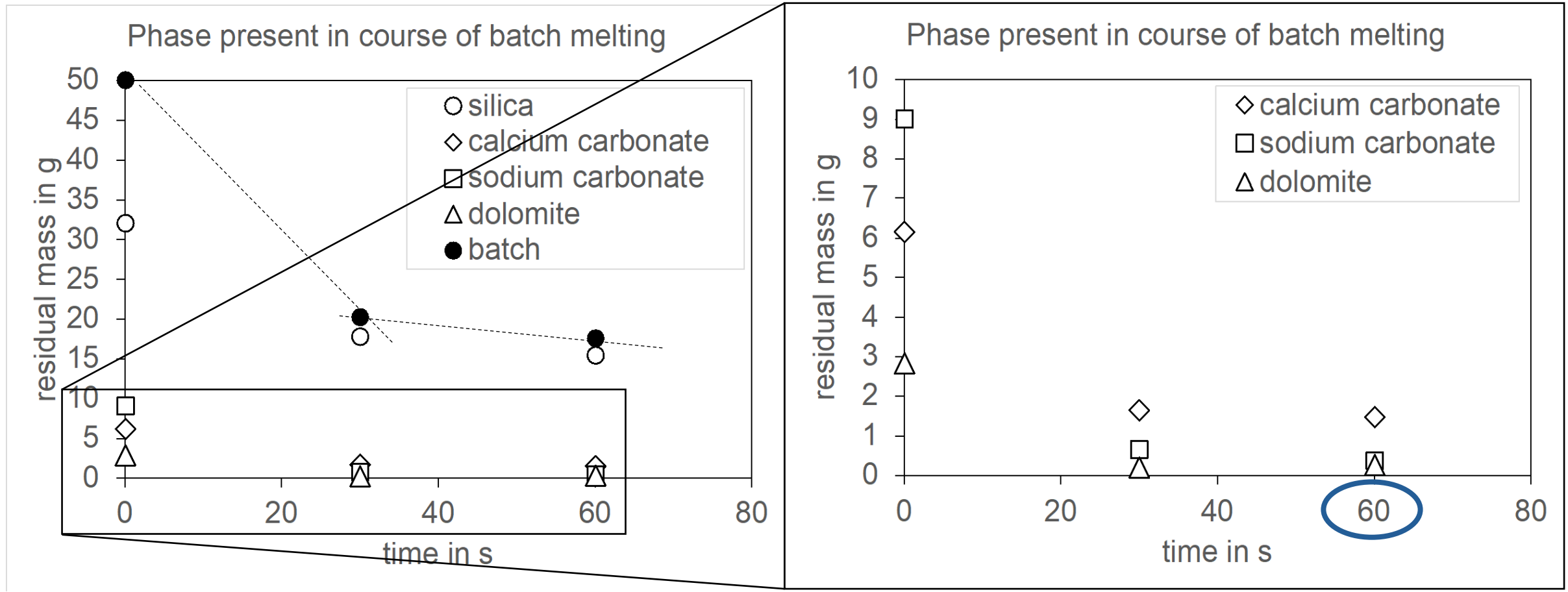


Sand  
Limestone  
Dolomite  
Soda

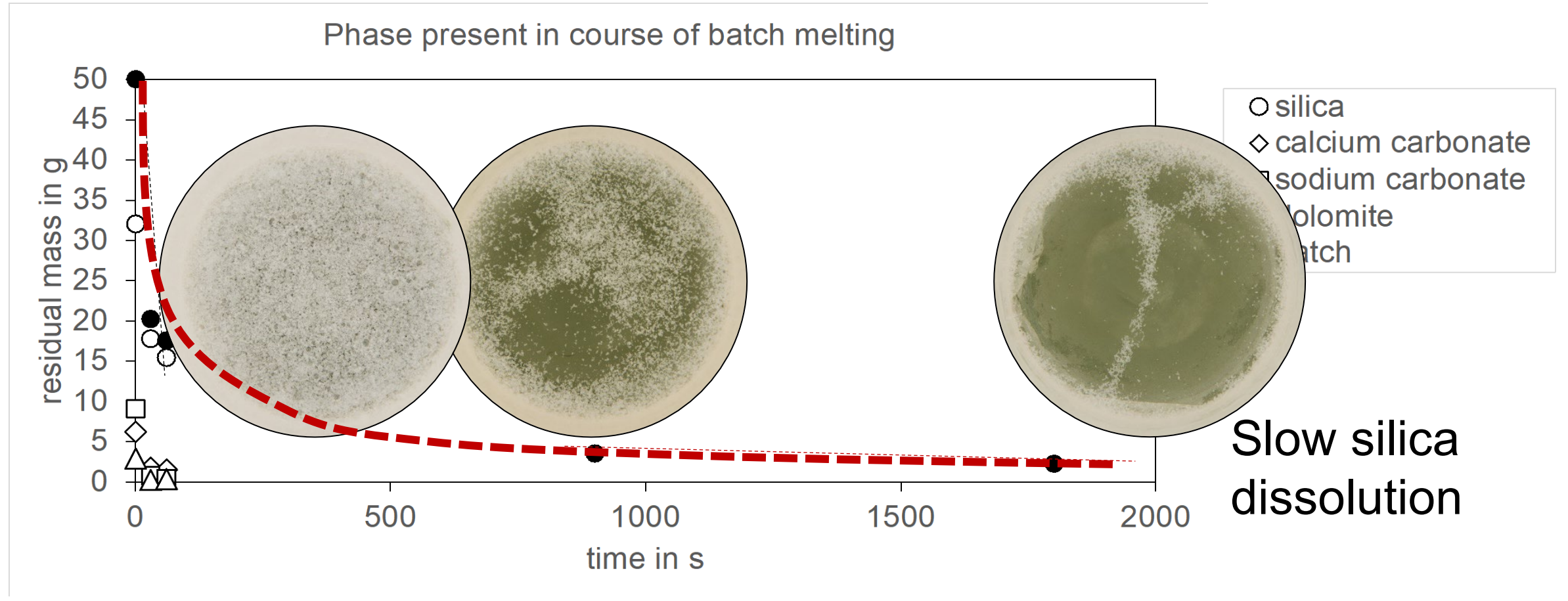
Raw Materials

$\text{Na}_4\text{CaSi}_3\text{O}_9$  Solid state  
 $\text{Na}_2\text{Ca}_2\text{Si}_3\text{O}_9$  reactions

## Evaluation of batch melting – SLS Reference

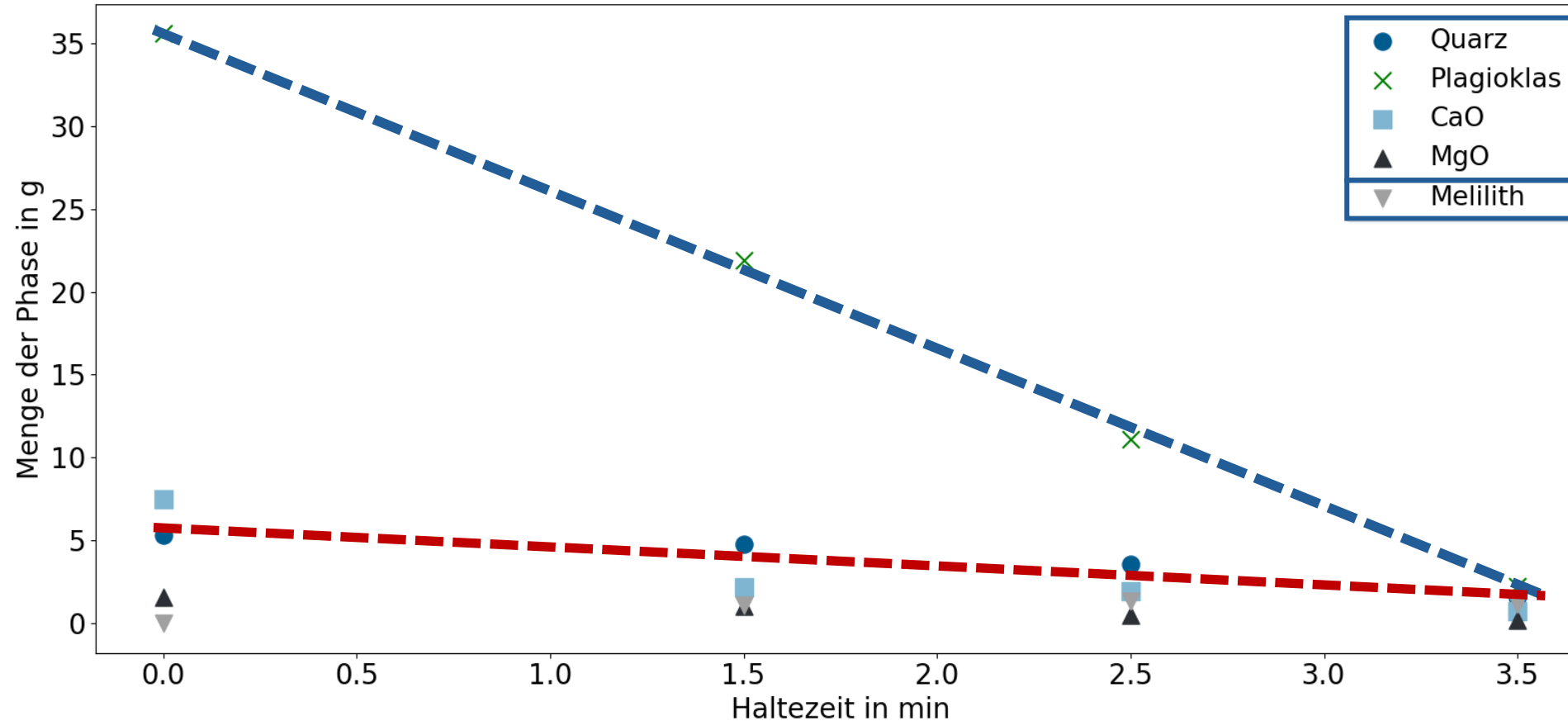


## Evaluation of batch melting – SLS Reference



# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass – Investigations on Meltability of CO<sub>2</sub>-free Glasses

## Evaluation of batch melting – CO<sub>2</sub>-free batch 8 % Na<sub>2</sub>O



Raw Material

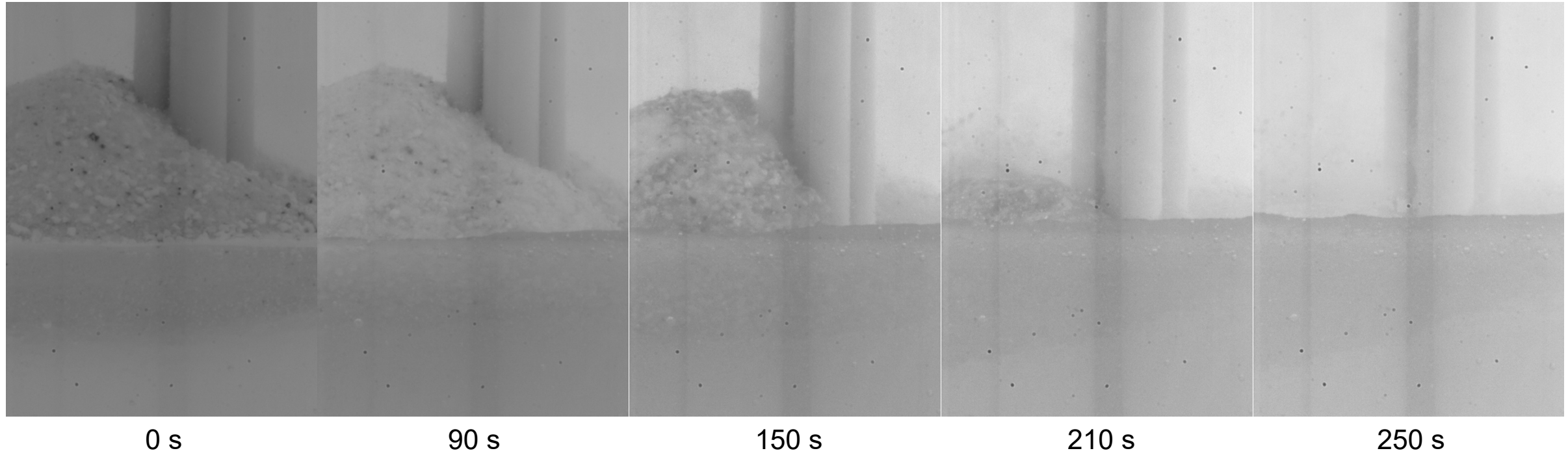
Melilite formation  
uncritical due to  
liquidus lower than melt  
temperature

Avoiding sand/silica  
accelerates melting-in

Silica from impurities  
remains problematic

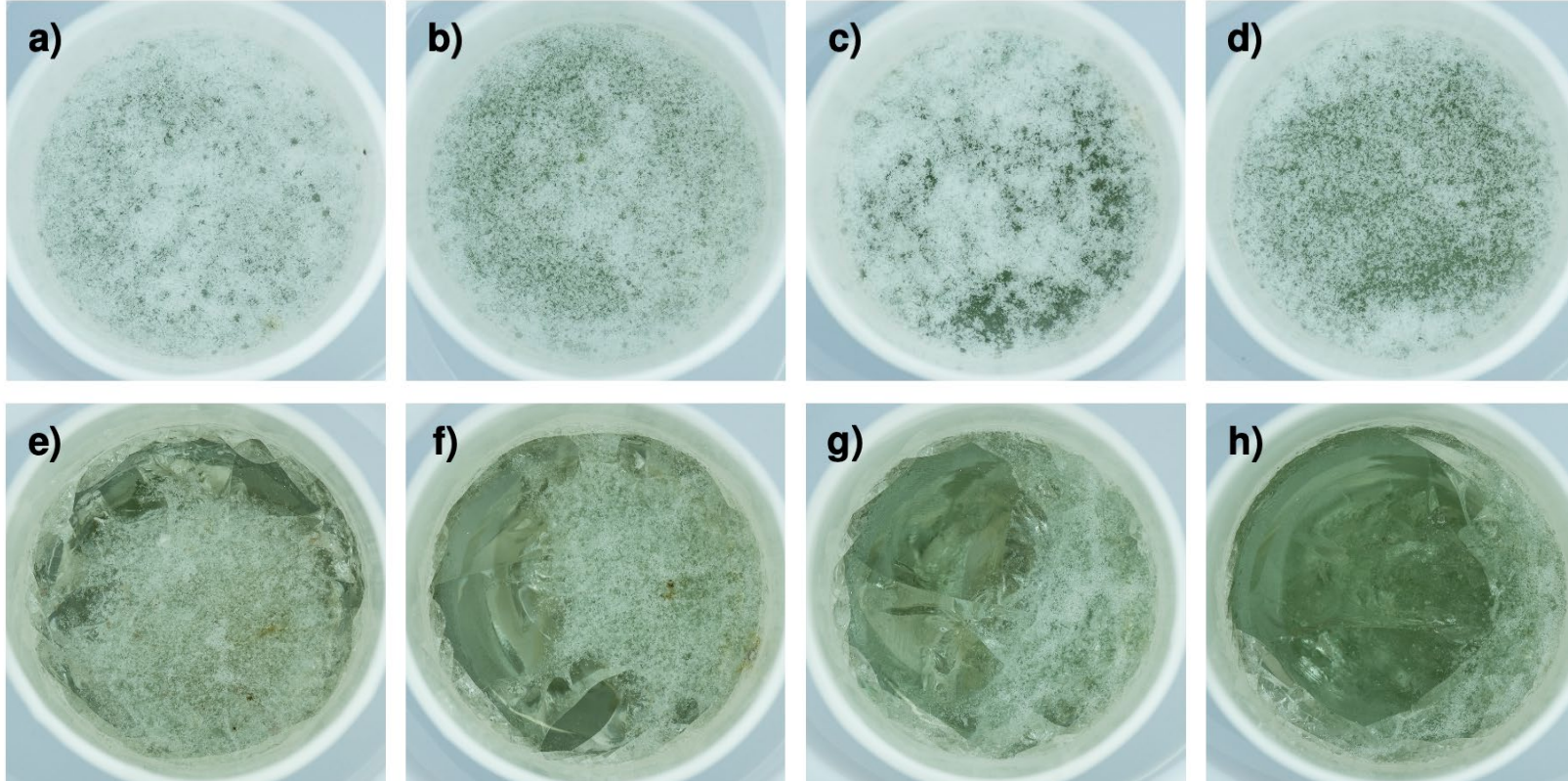
# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass – Investigations on Meltability of CO<sub>2</sub>-free Glasses

## Evaluation of batch melting – CO<sub>2</sub>-free batch 8 % Na<sub>2</sub>O



# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub>-Glass – Investigations on Meltability of CO<sub>2</sub>-free Glasses

## Evaluation of batch melting – CO<sub>2</sub>-free batch 5 % Na<sub>2</sub>O



SLS reference batch

soda-ash and CO<sub>2</sub>-free batch  
5 % Na<sub>2</sub>O by weight

$t = 10 \text{ min}$

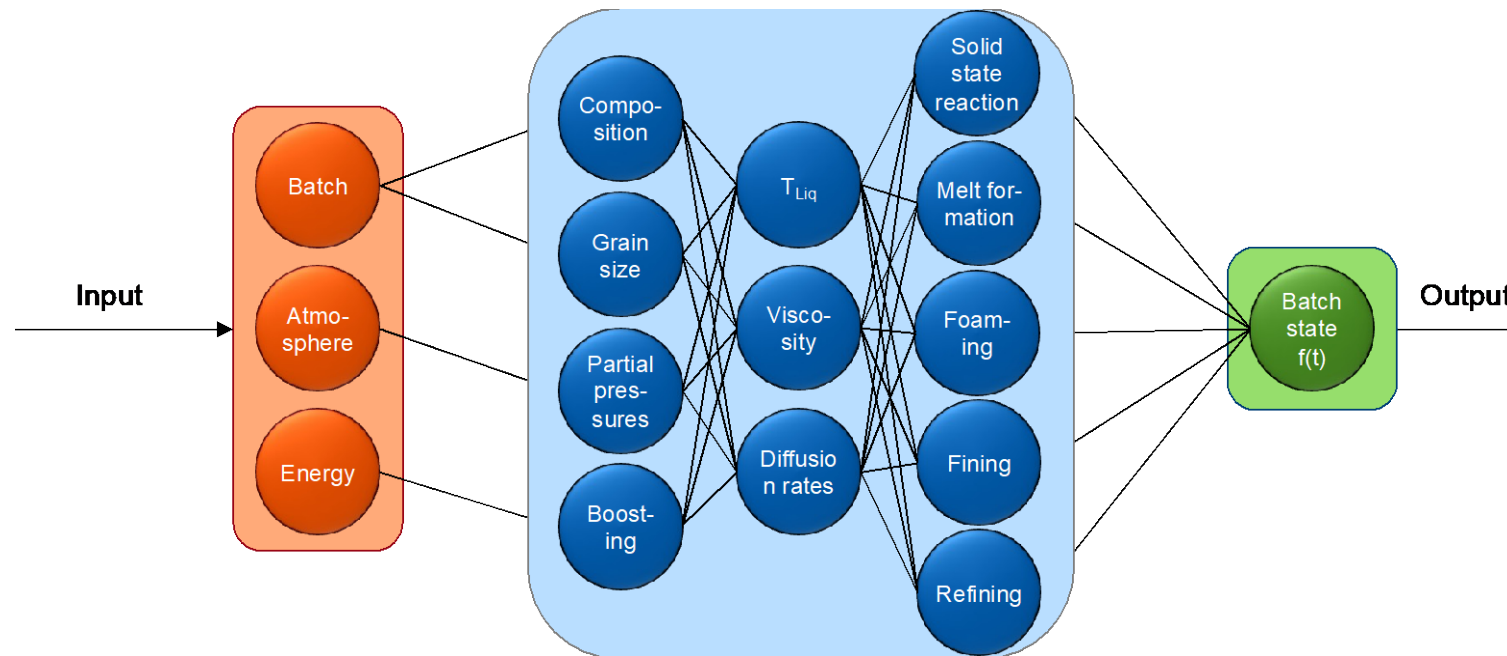
$t = 15 \text{ min}$

$t = 20 \text{ min}$

$t = 25 \text{ min}$

## Outlook — Understanding the batch melting

- Use furnace camera and batch monitoring system to evaluate batch melting in 2.5 tpd pilot plant
- Gain a **profound understanding** of the **melting and fining behaviour** based on **batch and glass properties** in **interaction with the energy input and furnace atmosphere**.



# ZeroCO<sub>2</sub> Glass – Trial Plan

## Acknowledgement

Thank you to all contributors to this project!

- IPGR Members
- ZeroCO<sub>2</sub> consortium
  - Chair of Glass and Glass Ceramics – Institute of Mineral Engineering (Prof. Roos)
  - Department for Industrial Furnaces and Heat Engineering (Prof. Wuppermann)
  - Horn Glass Industries
  - Wiegand-Glas
- Prof. Conradt



# Thank you for your attention

**HORN**  
GLASS INDUSTRIES



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