

**Serbian Ceramic Society Conference  
ADVANCED CERAMICS AND APPLICATION II  
New Frontiers in Multifunctional Material Science and Processing**

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Institute for Technology of Nuclear and Other Raw Mineral Materials  
Institute for Testing of Materials  
Archeological Institute of SASA**

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results. Results revealed that particles have clustered inner structure and are composed from primary nanounits in form of nanoparticles or nanotubes. Such hierarchically organized particles are expected to have potential application not only in the field of photovoltaics but also in various branches of photocatalysis.

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### **Characterization of mechanically activated ZnO powder**

A. Peleš<sup>1</sup>, V. P. Pavlović<sup>2</sup>, N. Obradović<sup>1</sup>, J. Živojinović<sup>1</sup>, M. Mitrić<sup>3</sup>, V. B. Pavlović<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Institute of Technical Sciences of SASA, Knez Mihailova 35/4 11000 Belgrade, Serbia

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

<sup>3</sup>Institute of Nuclear Sciences Vinca, Laboratory of Solid State Physics, 11001 Belgrade, Serbia

Materials based on ZnO structure have more frequently application as fillers in polymer ceramics nanocomposites. Performances of these materials depends on fillers morphology, surfaces texture and particles size. According to this, in this paper, the authors investigated the influence of mechanical activation of ZnO powder on crystal and micro structure. Commercially available ZnO powder was activated in a planetary ball mill for 2, 5, 10 and 30 minutes. Characterization of such obtained powders was performed using XRD, SEM and Raman spectroscopy. XRD patterns indicated at lowering of peak intensities along with its broadening which is related to partial fragmentation and amorphization. Micrographs show irregularly shaped particles at the beginning and with prolonged milling time, particles gained uniformed distribution, while after 30 minutes of activation agglomerates started forming. The results we got by investigation of dynamical structure by Raman spectroscopy are in correlation with the other results of structures analysis. Results presented here enable further optimization of, polymer nanocomposite based on ZnO and PVDF, making process.

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### **ZnO/Ag hybrid nanocubes in alginate matrix**

Lidija V. Trandafilović<sup>1</sup>, Radovan Dojčilović<sup>1</sup>, Suzana Dimitrijević-Branković<sup>2</sup>,  
Vladimir Djoković<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Vinča Institute of Nuclear Sciences, University of Belgrade, P.O. Box 522, 11001 Belgrade, Serbia

<sup>2</sup>Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, University of Belgrade, Belgrade, Serbia

Ag/ZnO heterostructure of ZnO nanocubes decorated with spherical Ag nanoparticles were prepared in the presence of alginate biopolymer. It has been shown that nanostructures of two or more distinct components and geometries may exhibit additional properties due to an anisotropic distribution of surface functional groups and charges. The obtained ZnO/Ag nanostructures were characterized by UV-vis absorption and photoluminescence spectroscopy, as well as scanning electron microscopy (SEM) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM). The photocatalytic activity of ZnO/Ag-nanohybrids was significantly improved with respect to the bare ZnO particles. Antimicrobial activities ZnO/Ag-alginate nanocomposites were tested against gram-positive (*S. aureus*) and gram-negative (*E. coli*) types of bacteria.