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YOUNG SCIENTISTS in CERAMICS**

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BOOK OF ABSTRACTS**

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Prof. Dr. Vladimir V. Srdić
Dr. Andraž Kocjan
Dr. Maria Canillas Perez

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PHOTOACTIVITY OF VANADIUM OXIDE TiO₂ NANOTUBES

Jelena Vujančević¹, Vlada Blagojević¹, Pavao Andričević², Vera P. Pavlović³,
Endre Horváth⁴, László Forró², Branislav Vlahović⁵,
Vladimir B. Pavlović¹, Đorđe Janačković⁶

¹*Institute of Technical Sciences of SASA, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia*

²*Ecole Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne, Laboratory of Physics of Complex Matter (LPMC), CH-1015 Lausanne, Switzerland*

³*University of Belgrade, Faculty of Mechanical Engineering, 11120 Belgrade, Serbia*

⁴*Haute école du paysage, d'ingénierie et d'architecture de Genève – HEPIA, Genève, Switzerland*

⁵*North Carolina Central University, Department of Physics, North Carolina 27707, USA*

⁵*NASA University Research Center for Aerospace Device Research and Education and NSF Center of Research Excellence in Science and Technology Computational Center for Fundamental and Applied Science and Education, North Carolina, USA*

⁶*University of Belgrade, Faculty of Technology and Metallurgy, 11120 Belgrade, Serbia*

e-mail: jelena.vujancevic@itn.sanu.ac.rs

The aim of this study was to investigate the influence of vanadium oxide photosensitive surface layer on the photoactivity of TiO₂ nanotubes. Nanotube arrays were synthesized by anodization of titanium foil at different voltages, and vanadium-oxide was deposited by wet chemical deposition. Deposition of the vanadium-oxide layer was confirmed by XPS analysis, which provided the chemical composition of the sample surface. Photovoltaic characteristics and photocatalytic performance for photodegradation of methyl orange dye of modified TiO₂ nanotubes were correlated with the nanotube morphology (and anodization voltage). Optimal anodization voltage was determined, in conjunction with the deposition of the surface vanadium oxide layer, in order to achieve maximum performance of the modified TiO₂ electrodes. This has been correlated with changes in the optical properties of the TiO₂ electrodes, the nanotube length and diameter, as they occur with the change in the anodization voltage, as well as the changes in the vanadium-oxide content in the samples, where the vanadium-oxide content was found to be determined by the nanotube morphology. The photovoltaic performance of the optimized modified TiO₂ electrode with the surface vanadium-oxide layer was found to be significantly better than both the performance of the corresponding TiO₂ electrode, and the performance of all the other TiO₂ electrodes included in the study.