

The background features a large, light blue watermark of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology seal. The seal is circular and contains the text "MASSACHUSETTS" at the top and "INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY" at the bottom. In the center, there are two figures flanking a central emblem that includes a lamp and the year "1861".

**Teaching Sponges New Tricks:
Designer Porous Materials for
Energy, Catalysis, and the Environment**

Mircea Dincă

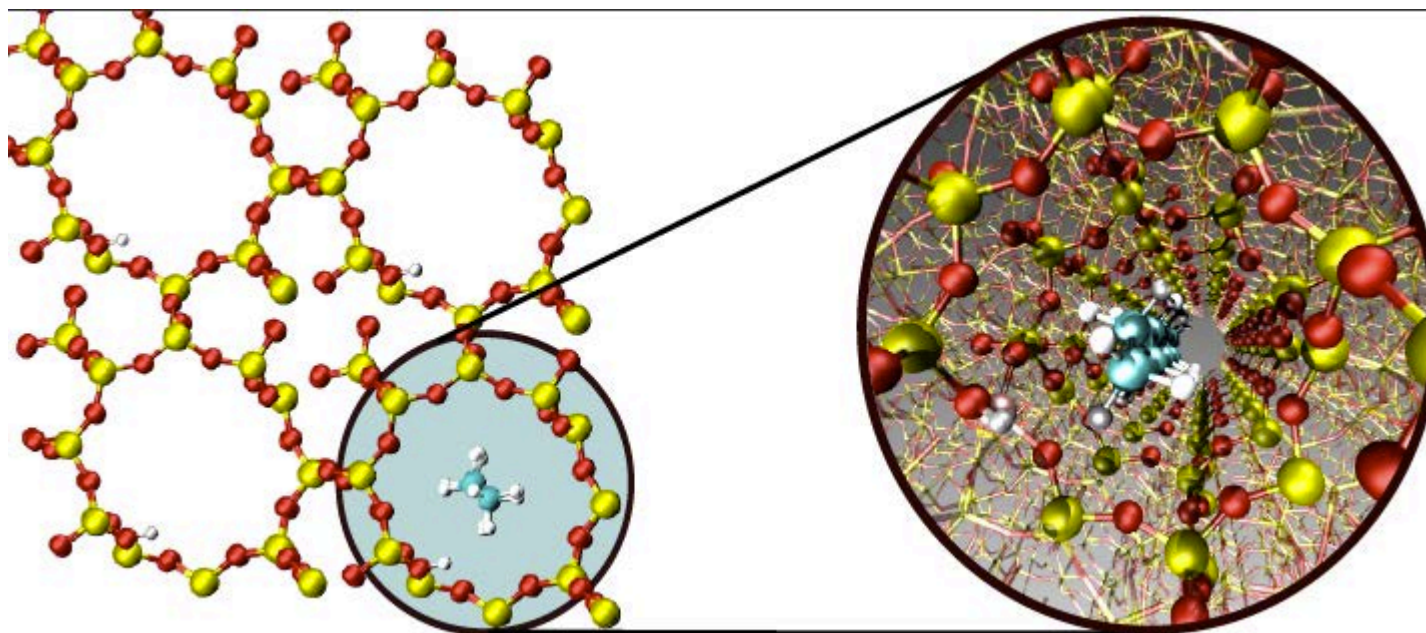
Department of Chemistry

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Material design is key to modern chemistry and industry

In catalysis:

Heterogeneous catalysts represent the vast majority of catalytic processes in the industry

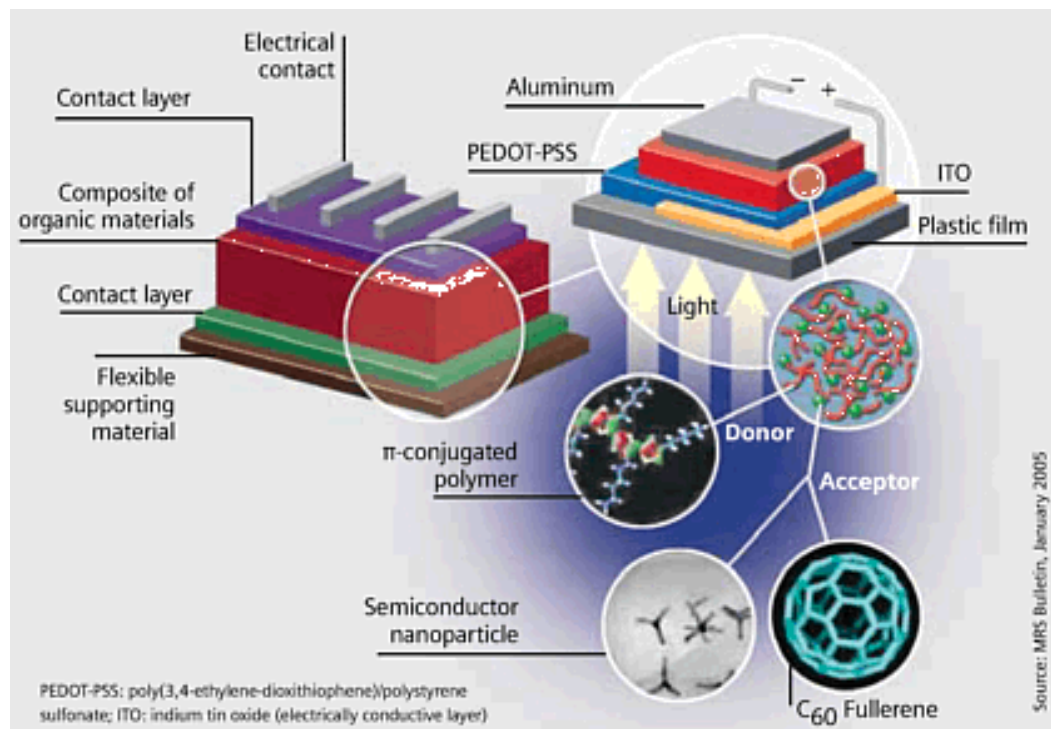


but despite the many levels of improvements, still do not offer good structural control, unlike homogeneous catalysts which offer control but not long-term stability

Material design is key to modern chemistry and industry

In materials for renewable energy:

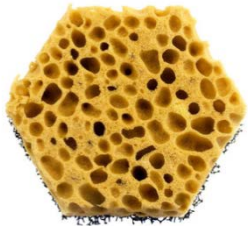
Organic solar cells have come a long way in the past decade



But efficiency is still plagued by lack of control over the macromolecular/interfacial structure!

From sponges to tunable high-surface area adsorbents

10^{-2} m

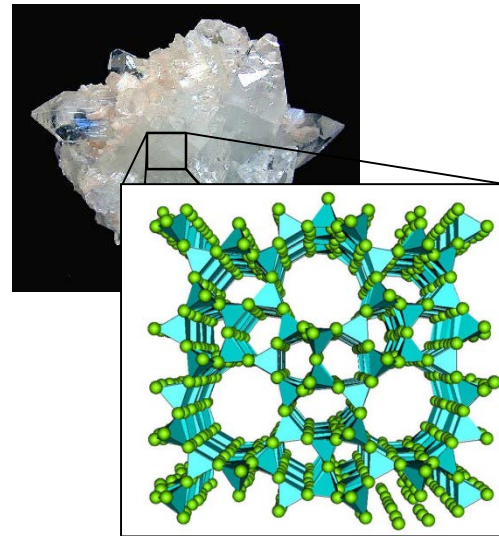


10^{-3} mm



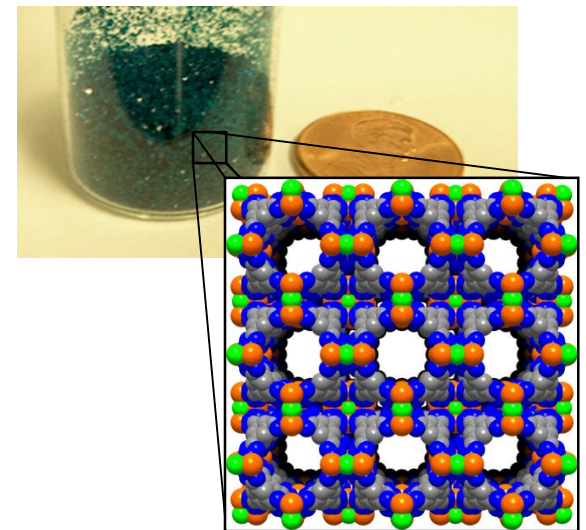
Zeolites

10^{-9} m

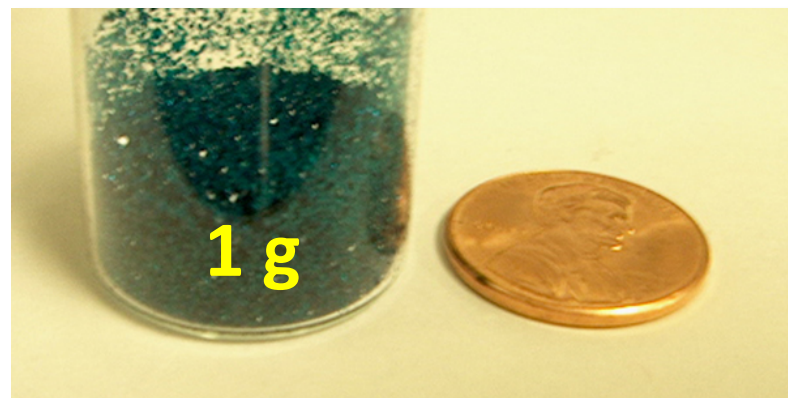
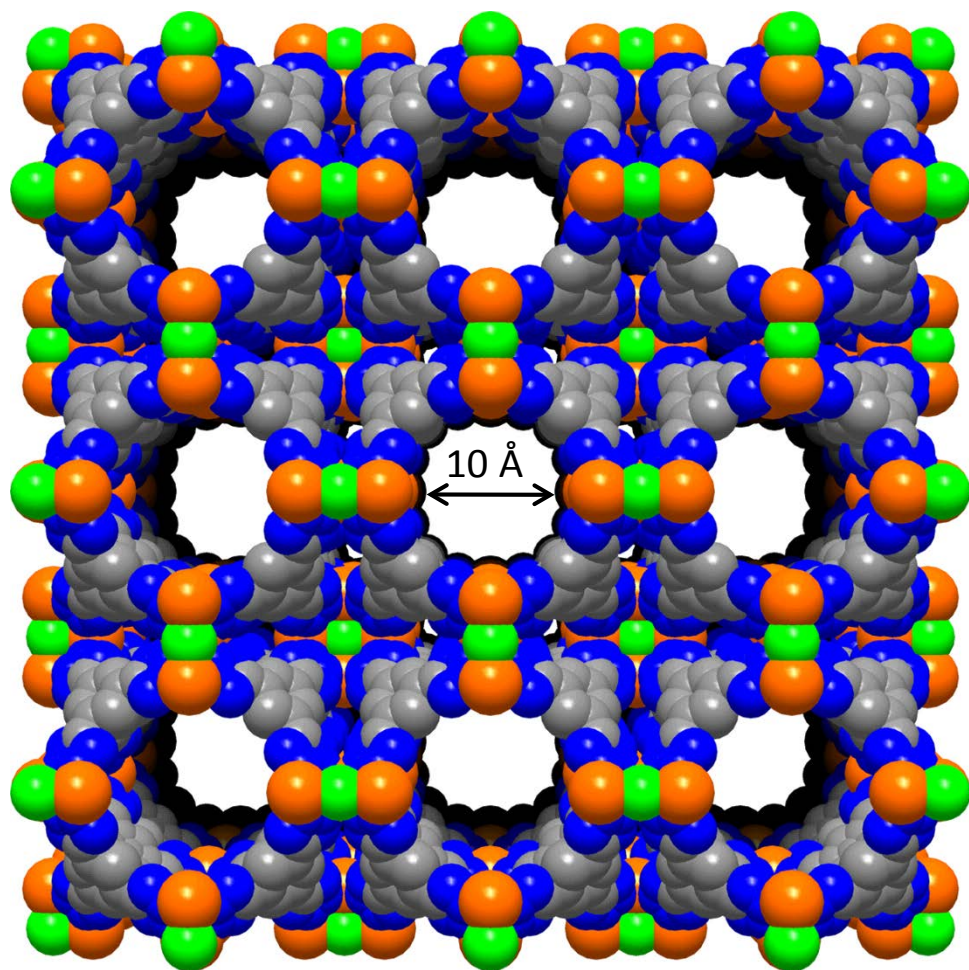


Metal-organic Frameworks

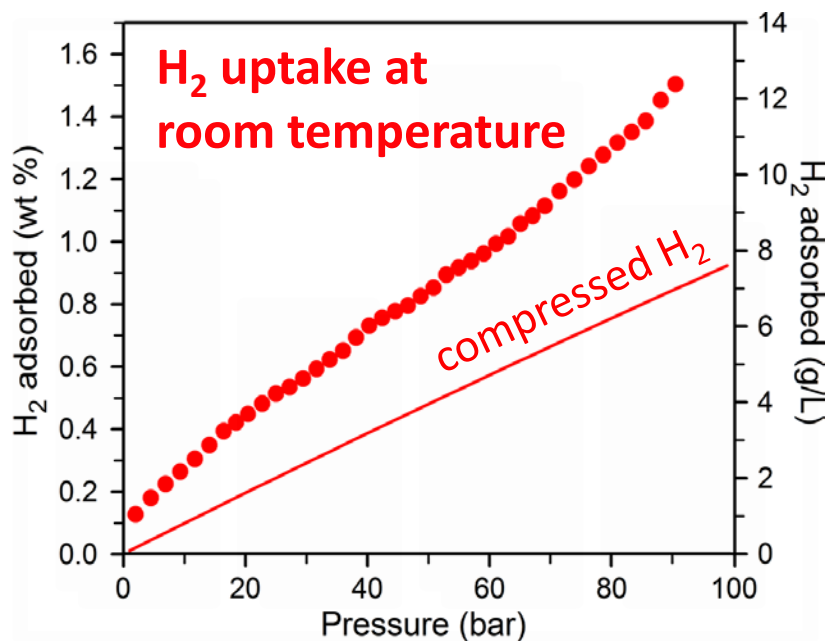
10^{-9} m (1 atom $\sim 10^{-10}$ m)



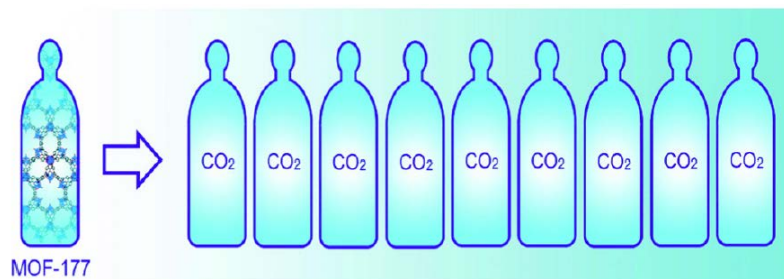
MOFs have the highest surface areas known to mankind



... and they store more gas than any other materials



**CO₂ uptake:
9 times that of a cylinder!**



MOFs could be **ideal platforms** for **new** heterogeneous catalysis

Weak ligand fields

Biomimetic functionality?

Site isolation

Eliminates deleterious reactions

Multiple open metal sites

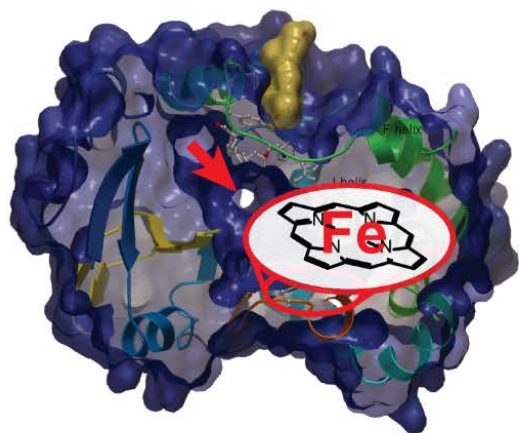
Substrate binding

1. Are MOFs dynamic, like enzymes?

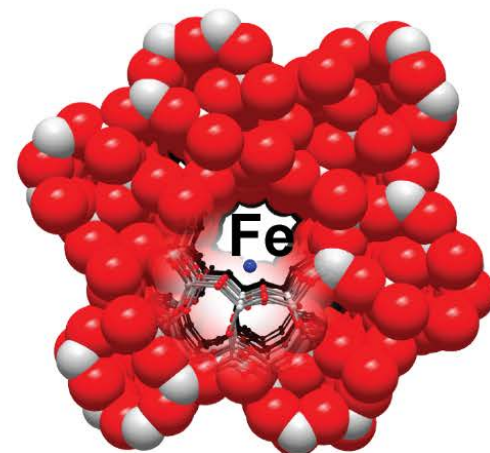
2. Are MOFs tunable, rationally?

3. Do metal sites in MOFs provide unique reactivity?

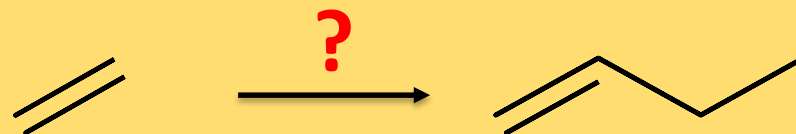
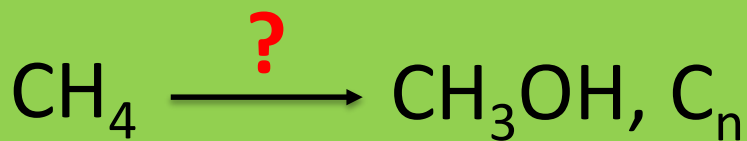
Marrying enzymatic and heterogeneous catalysis: getting the best of both worlds



Heme protein

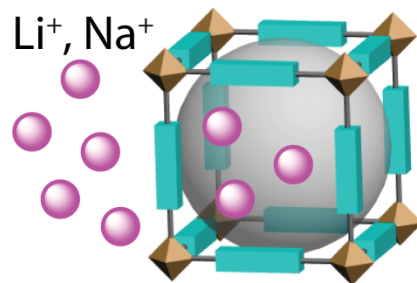
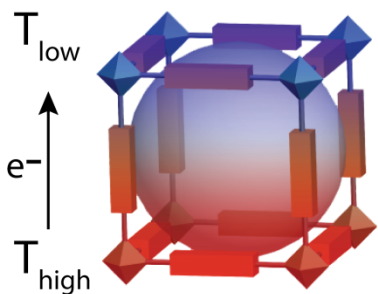


Iron Zeolite



Why conducting metal-organic frameworks?

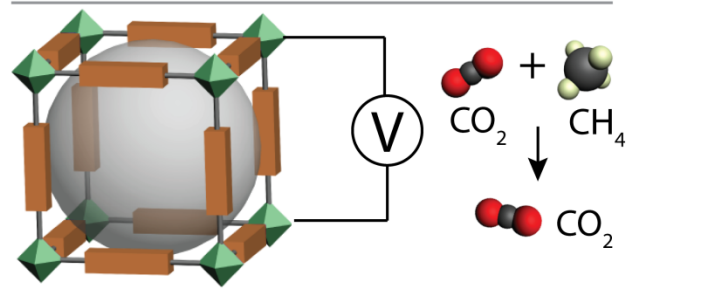
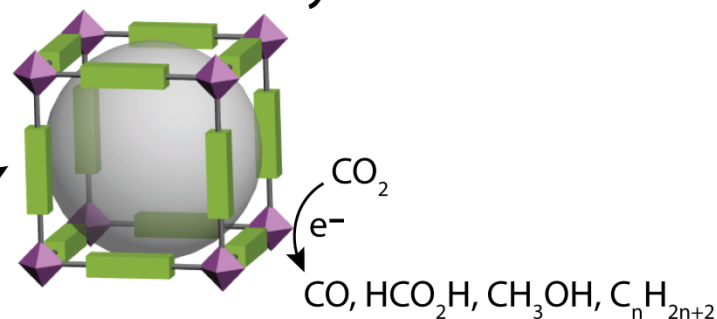
Thermoelectric Cooling



Ion Conductors

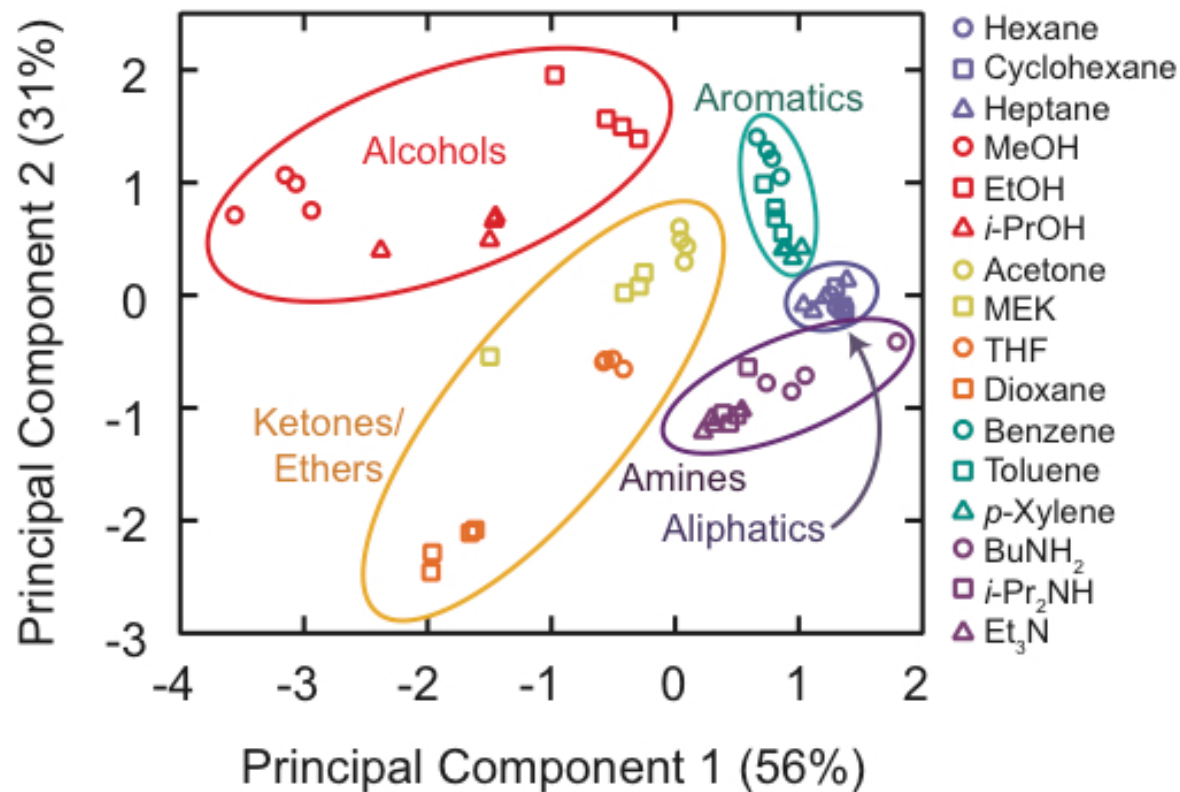
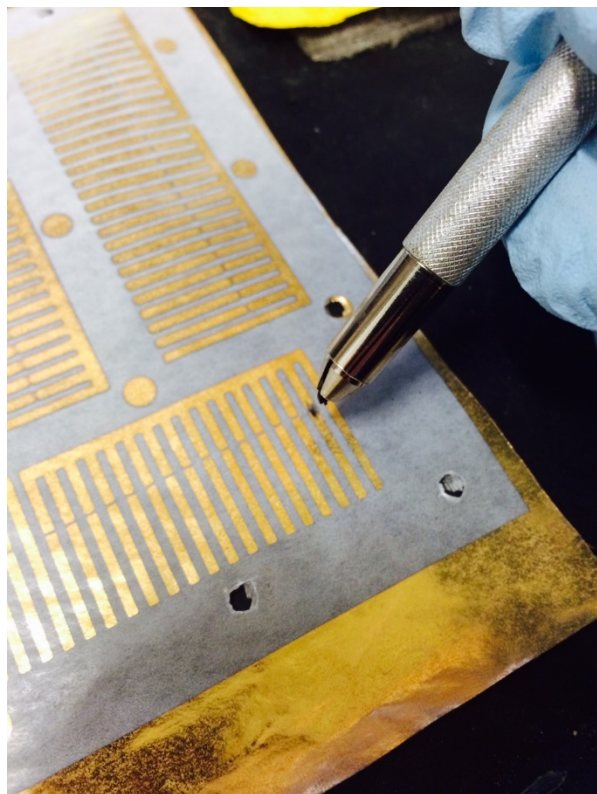
Porous Conductive MOFs

Electrocatalysis



Potential-Swing Separations

Making devices: as easy as drawing on paper



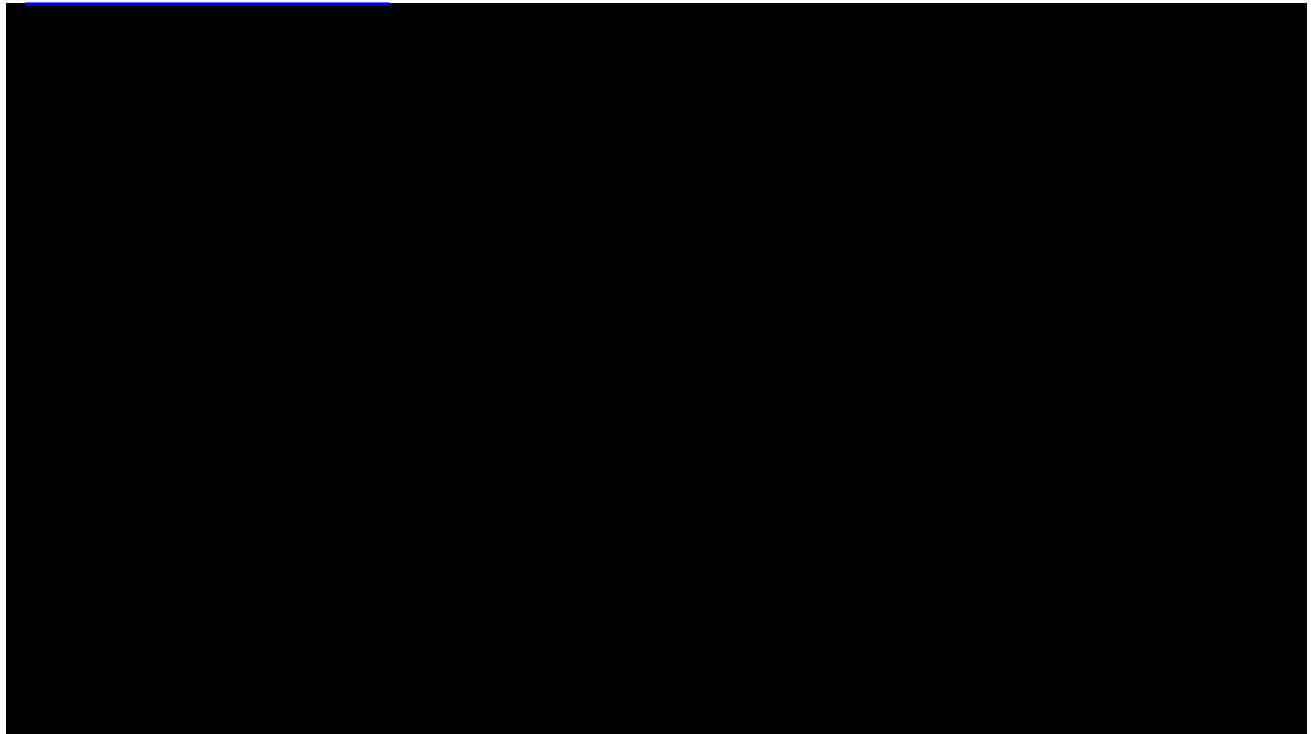
Campbell, Sheberla, Liu, Swager, Dincă, M. *Angew. Chem. Int. Ed.* **2015**, *54*, 4349-4352.

Campbell, Liu, Swager, Dincă, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.* **2015**, *137*, 13780.

World's first **non-carbon** based supercapacitor!

Watch at

[https://nsf.gov/nsb/meetings/2016/0505/Presentations/
DincaSlide11Video](https://nsf.gov/nsb/meetings/2016/0505/Presentations/DincaSlide11Video)



Nothing would get done without them!

