Extending Particle Number Limits to below 23 nm: First Results of the H2020 DownToTen Project

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Project Objectives

• Quantitatively describe the nature and the characteristics of particles <23 nm
• Develop and set up a synthetic aerosol bench and use it for fundamental studies at instrument level
• Evaluate existing, proposed and under development particle measurement instruments
• Analyze and compare a large number of possible sampling and sample conditioning configurations
• Set-up an appropriate particle number - portable emission measurement system (PN-PEMS) demonstrator
• Explain the nature of particles not included eventually in the method
• Develop and propose an appropriate sampling and measurement methodology for sub-23 nm particle emissions for both constant volume sampling (CVS) and real driving emissions (RDE)
• Model the particle transformation (tailpipe-out to the inlet of the measurement equipment)

Issue to Address

Current legislation limit at 23 nm potentially leaves out a large fraction of exhaust particles observed in real vehicle operation [1]. Figure 1 shows the sub-23 solid particle fraction for different technologies.

Results

Evaluation of different components to design a sampling system for particles <23 nm with low losses and high volatile removal efficiency.

Particle Losses

• Thermophoretic losses (Figure 2) are mainly caused by cooling down the sample with an ejector diluter (ED). Using a porous tube diluter (PTD) reduces thermophoretic losses to almost zero.
• The catalytic stripper (CS) is the dominating source of diffusional losses (Figure 3). They are reduced by downsizing the CS.

Artefact Formation

• Particle growth experiments (Table 1) showed that artefact formation is very low for all systems tested.

Table 1: Solid silver particle growth from re-condensed material downstream of the thermal pre-treatment units for different sampling systems. The growth values are below the resolution of the method used.

Summary and Outlook

Based on experiments at the aerosol bench a prototype DownToTen sampling system (Figure 4) was designed that shows very low losses, low artefact formation and is suitable for secondary aerosol characterizations.

As a next step tests at the CVS tunnel are performed to evaluate sampling conditions and appropriate test protocols.

Figure 1: Sub-23 nm fraction of solid particles for different technologies without loss correction (a factor of 1.7-2.0). Estimation based on the difference of 10 nm and 23 nm cut size CPCs. The dashed lines indicate the current 6x1021 p/km limit for particles <23 nm (vertical) and particles <10 nm. Figure taken from [1] (w. permission).

Figure 2: Thermophoretic losses of different dilution systems.

Figure 3: Diffusional losses of different sampling systems.

Figure 4: Schematic (top) and photo (bottom) of the designed sampling system.

Table 1: PMP-37-G3 IRC exhaust particles work items status Presentation for the PMP group. Available at: https://wiki.unece.org/display/trans/PMP+37th+session


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Technologies for low emission light duty powertrains
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